



MIAMI-SOUTH FLORIDA

National Weather Service Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/miami>

January 2017 Weather Summary

Warmer Than Normal

February 2nd, 2017: 2017 started off in much the same way 2016 ended, with mainly warmer than normal temperatures across South Florida. Only 5 cold fronts moved through South Florida in January, three of these coming in the last 8 days of the month. This resulted in an extended stretch of warm temperatures from the 10th through the 27th. All sites recorded an above normal amount of 80+ degree days, including 22 days at Miami International Airport which is the 3rd highest number of 80+ degree days in January on record. Except for a brief cool snap on the 8th and 9th, the only extended period of cool weather occurred from the 28th through the end of the month.

The relative lack of cold fronts affecting South Florida also resulted in drier than normal conditions for many areas, especially in Broward and Palm Beach counties as well as most of Southwest Florida.

One episode of severe weather occurred during the pre-dawn hours of January 23rd when a squall line driven by a strong low pressure area aloft swept across South Florida. The squall line [spawned tornadoes of EF-1 intensity \(winds 90 to 107 mph\) in northern Palm Beach County and northern Miami-Dade County](#). In addition, winds of 40-50 mph were recorded over most of South Florida as the line of thunderstorms moved through.



Damage pictures from NWS survey of January 23rd tornadoes in Palm Beach Gardens (left) and Miami Springs (right)

January Precipitation

Rainfall was mostly 1 to 2 inches below normal along and north a line from Naples to West Palm Beach (Figures 1 and 2). South of this line, rainfall tended to be near to above normal, except for sections of southern Miami-Dade County where it was slightly below normal. The combination of January dryness as well as dryness dating back to last fall has led to abnormally dry conditions for a large part of the peninsula (Figure 3).

Below the images is a table of monthly rainfall and departure from normal for official reporting sites across South Florida:

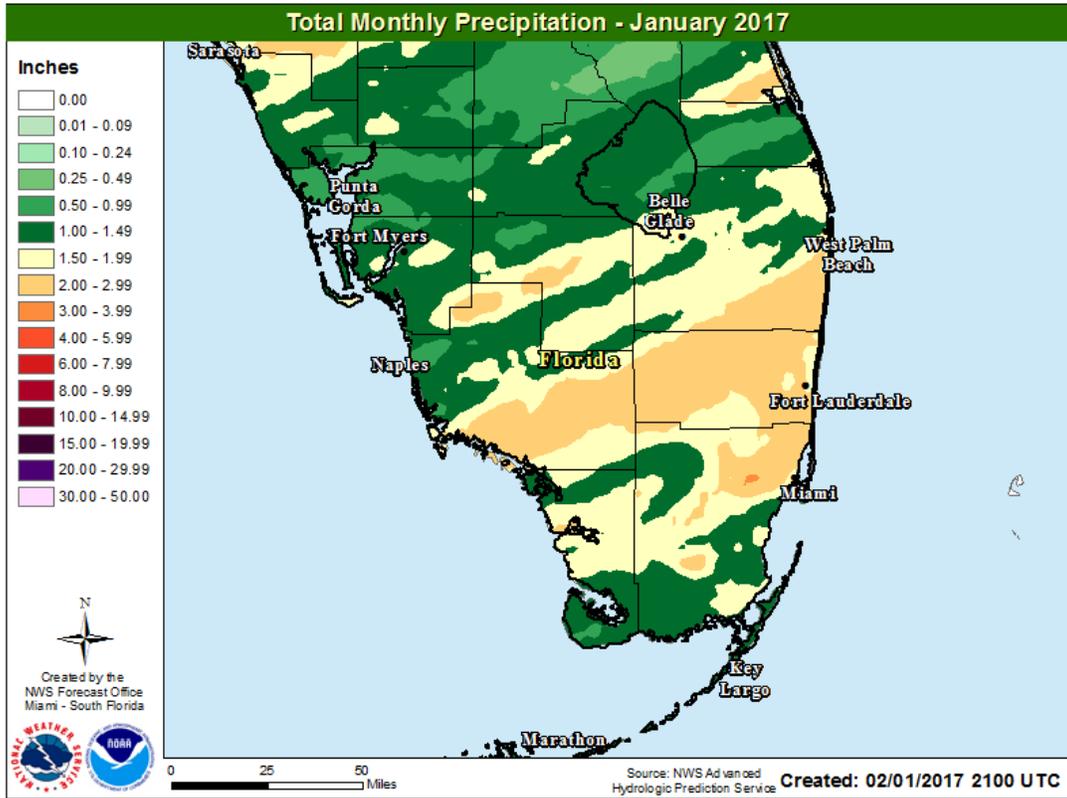


Figure 1

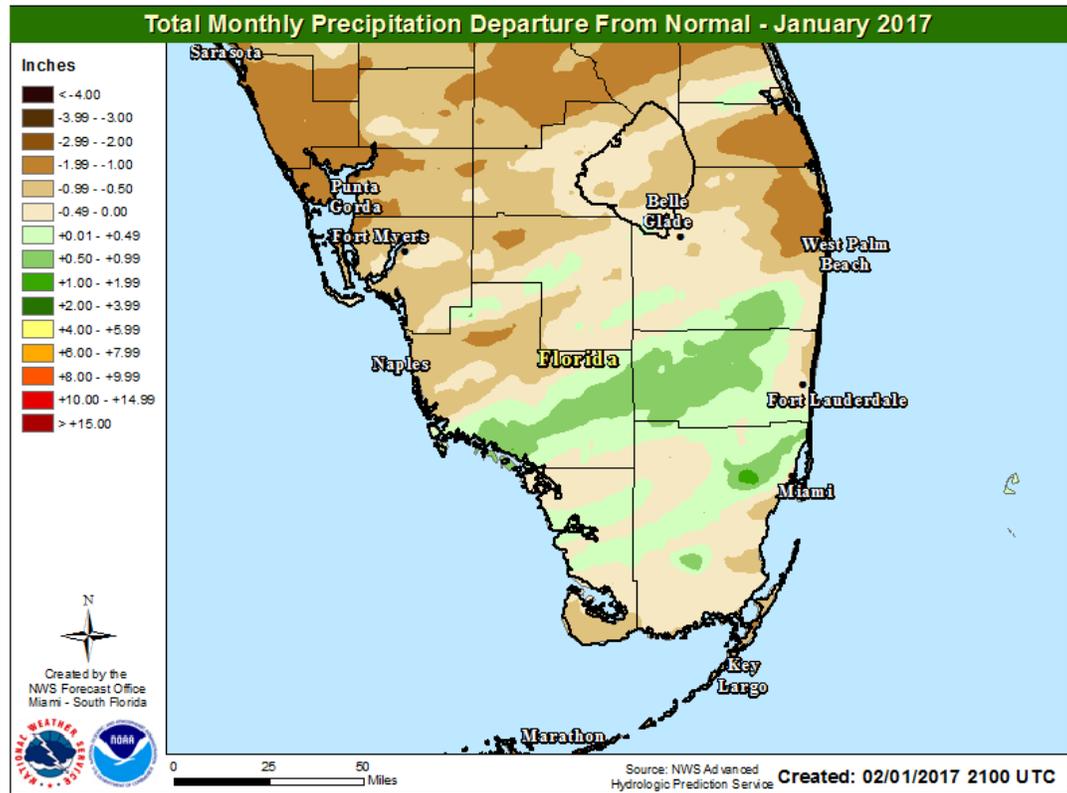
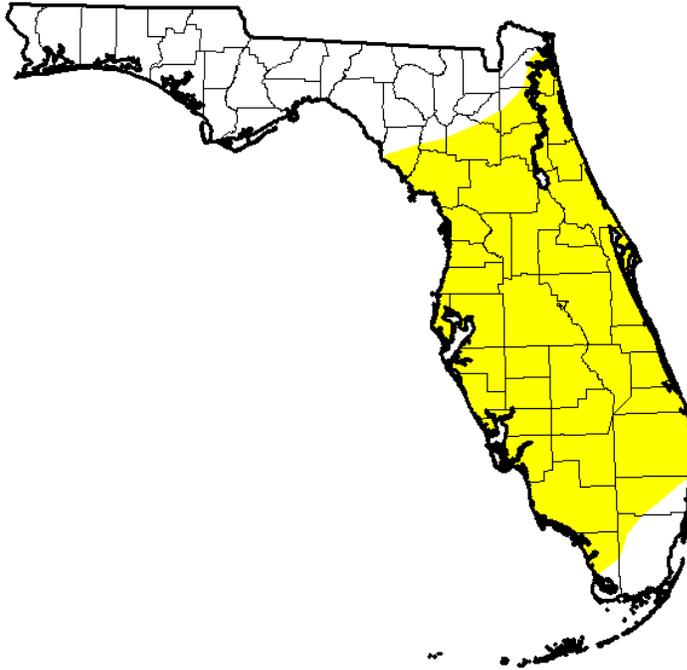


Figure 2

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida**

January 31, 2017
(Released Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	37.90	62.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>1/24/2017</i>	37.90	62.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11/1/2016</i>	83.01	16.99	14.64	0.14	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>1/2/2017</i>	14.17	85.83	6.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>9/27/2016</i>	92.99	7.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>2/2/2016</i>	98.59	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Figure 3

Location (Beginning of Period of Record)	January 2017 Rainfall (inches)	Departure from Normal	Rank (top 20)
Big Cyoress Seminole Reservation	1.36		
Brighton Reservation – Glades County	1.00		
Canal Point (1941)	1.76	-0.39	
Cape Florida	1.01		
Everglades (1924)	2.82	+1.08	
Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Int'l Airport (1913)	1.71	-1.92	

Fort Lauderdale Beach	3.63		
Fort Lauderdale Dixie Water Plant	1.70	-0.92	
Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport	2.17		
Hialeah (1940)	3.54	+1.62	
Hollywood Waste Water Plant	2.67	-0.96	
Homestead General Airport (1990)	1.35	-0.07	
Immokalee (1970)	2.13	-0.05	
Juno Beach	2.08		
LaBelle (1929)	1.02	-1.02	
Marco Island	1.83		
Miami Beach (1927)	2.30	+0.21	
Miami International Airport (1911)	3.40	+1.78	
Moore Haven (1918)	1.01	-0.74	
Muse	1.80		
Naples East/Golden Gate	1.71		
Naples Municipal Airport (1942)	0.79	-1.06	
North Miami Beach	3.30		
NWS Miami – Sweetwater	4.12		
Oasis Ranger Station (1978)	2.01	+0.17	
Opa-Locka Airport	1.76		
Ortona	1.21		
Palm Beach Gardens	1.67		
Palm Beach Int'l Airport (1888)	1.00	-2.13	
Pembroke Pines – North Perry Airport	2.37		
Pompano Beach Airpark	1.88		
The Redland - Miami-Dade County (1942)	1.66	-0.48	
South Bay/Okeelanta	1.93		
West Kendall – Miami Executive Airport	1.70		

January Temperatures

Outside of two cool episodes on January 8th and 9th and from the 28th through the end of the month, January was a warmer than normal month with temperatures averaging about 2 to 4 degrees above normal. A total of 12 daily record warm temperatures were recorded from the four main climate sites below (5 record highs, all at Miami International Airport, and 7 record warm minimums). Three record cold temperatures were recorded, all of them being cool maximums on January 29th at Fort Lauderdale, Naples and West Palm Beach.

Warmest recorded temperature for the month was 87 degrees at several sites on January 7th and 22nd, with widespread readings in the mid 80s on at least 8 days during the month. The coldest temperature was 36 degrees in LaBelle and Ortona on January 31st, with unofficial readings between 33 and 35 degrees across interior sections of Southwest Florida.

- ***Miami International Airport*** had an average January temperature of 72.6 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 4.4 degrees above the 30-year normal **and is the 13th warmest January on record**. The average high temperature was 81F and the average low temperature was 65F. The warmest January temperature was 87 degrees on the 7th and 22nd and the coolest was 51 on the 8th and 30th.

- ***Palm Beach International Airport*** had an average January temperature of 68.9 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 3.2 degrees above the 30-year normal. The average high temperature was 77F and the average low temperature was 60F. The warmest January temperature was 86 degrees on the 3rd and 22nd and the coolest was 43 on the 31st.

- ***Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport*** had an average January temperature of 70.7 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 1.7 degrees above the 30-year normal **and is the 15th warmest January on record**. The average high temperature was 78F and the average low temperature was 64F. The warmest January temperature was 85 degrees on the 7th and 22nd and the coolest was 48 on the 8th.

- ***Naples Municipal Airport*** had an average January temperature of 68.2 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 3.7 degrees above the 30-year normal **and is the 14th warmest January on record**. The average high temperature was 78F and the average low

temperature was 59F. The warmest January temperature was 86 degrees on the 2nd and the coolest was 42 on the 8th.

Outlook for February-April and Potential Hazards

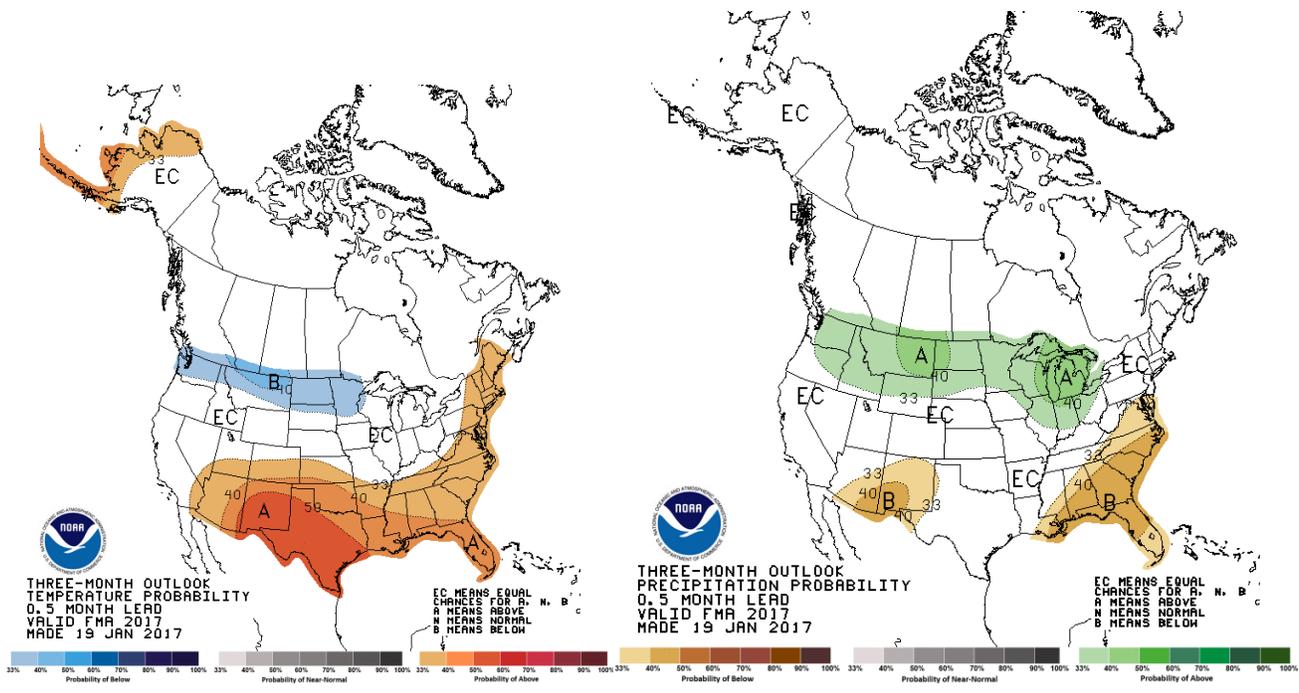
Latest outlooks by the [NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#) (CPC, **Figures XX and XX**) indicate a continuation of the winter pattern of increased odds of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

Although the outlooks calls for increased odds of warmer than normal temperatures, cold snaps can still occur and lead to freezing conditions over parts of South Florida in February and early March.

Rip currents become an increasing concern in March and April as warmer waters and an increase in beach attendance combine with typical springtime east winds.

Wildfire season begins to peak in March and April. The potential for drier-than-normal conditions this spring may cause an active wildfire season, as well as lead to drought conditions.

For the latest South Florida weather information, including the latest watches, advisories and warnings, please visit the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office's web site at weather.gov/southflorida.



Figures 4 and 5: February-April temperature probability (left) and precipitation probability (right) from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC).