Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid January 8, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA

Contact Information: sr-ffc.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated January 22, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ffc/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ffc/drought for additional resources.

SEVERE DROUGHT EXPANDS OVER NORTH GEORGIA

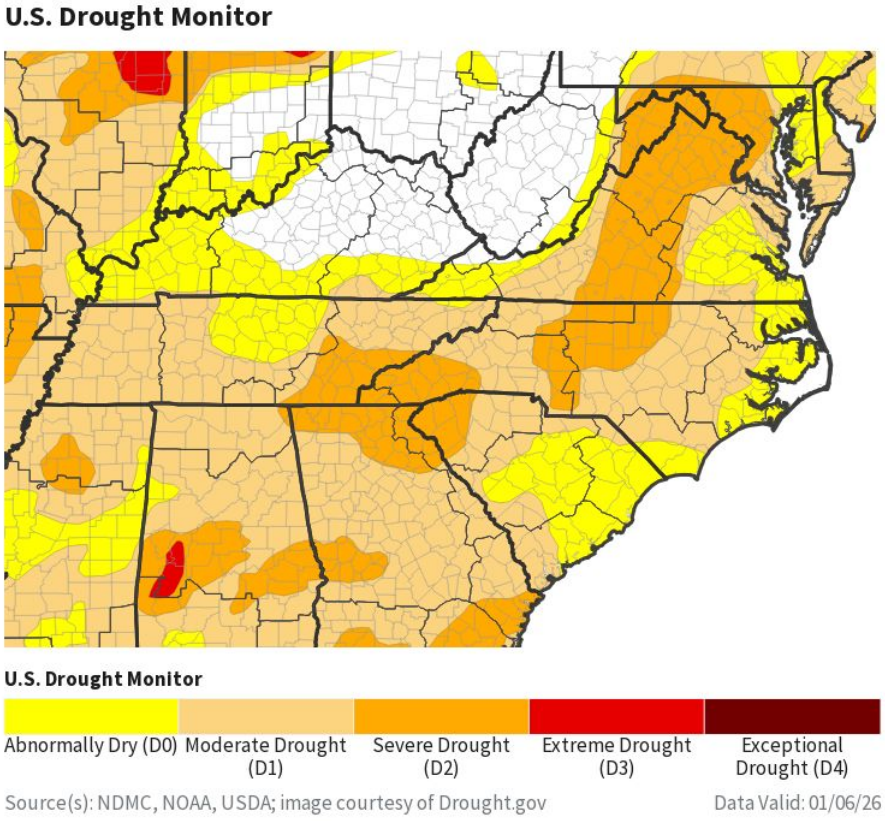
- Over the last two weeks, D2 Severe Drought has spread over north Georgia.
- Warm and dry conditions continue to impact soils and river levels.
- Some improvements are possible over the next 1-2 weeks as rainfall impacts the area.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for North and Central Georgia

Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: None.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Banks, Barrow, Catoosa, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Crawford, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Harris, Houston, Jackson, Lumpkin, Macon, Madison, Marion, Meriwether, Murray, Muscogee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pickens, Schley, Talbot, Taylor, Towns, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, White, Whitfield
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Baldwin, Bartow, Bibb, Bleckley, Butts, Carroll, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crisp, DeKalb, Dodge, Dooly, Douglas, Emanuel, Fayette, Glascock, Greene, Hancock, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, North Fulton, Oconee, Paulding, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, South Fulton, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Taliaferro, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Twiggs, Walton, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: None.



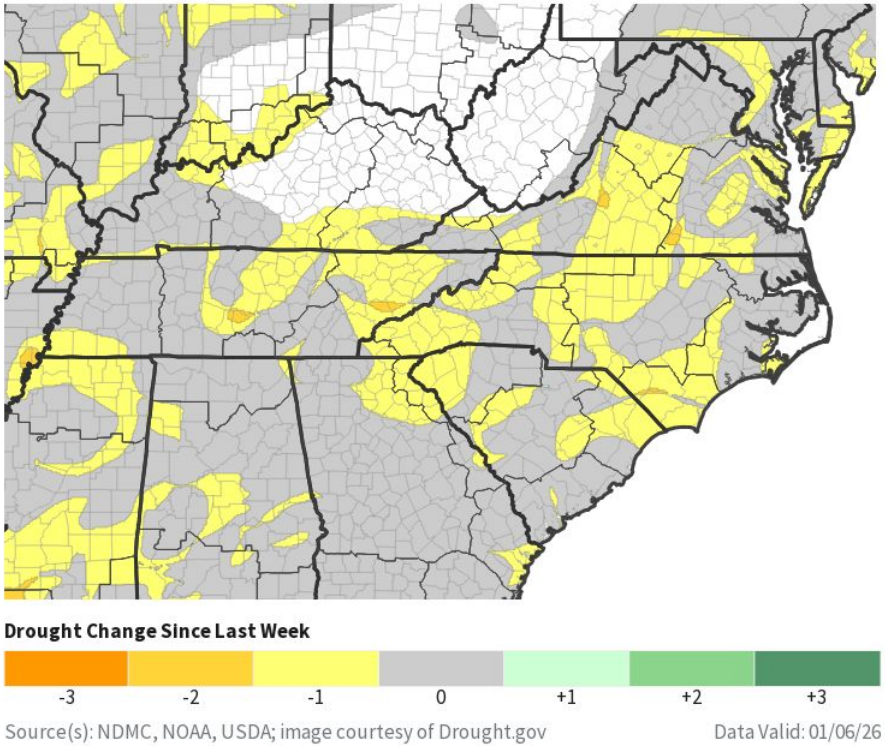
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 2-week and 4-week change map for Georgia.

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened:** Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Harris, Heard, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Pickens, Polk, Rockdale, Towns, Troup, Union, Walker, Walton, White, Whitfield, Wilkes
- **No Change:** Butts, Chattahoochee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Haralson, Henry, Jasper, Muscogee, Paulding, Putnam, Talbot, Taliaferro
- **Drought Improved:** Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Clayton, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Emanuel, Fayette, Glascock, Hancock, Houston, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Montgomery, Peach, Pike, Pulaski, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Taylor, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Twiggs, Upson, Warren, Washington, Webster, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilkinson

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

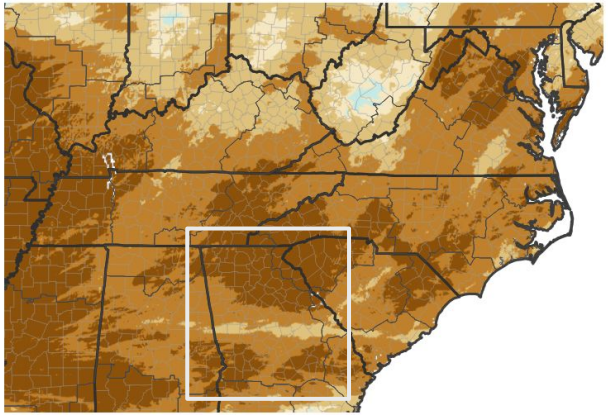


Precipitation - Past 30 Days

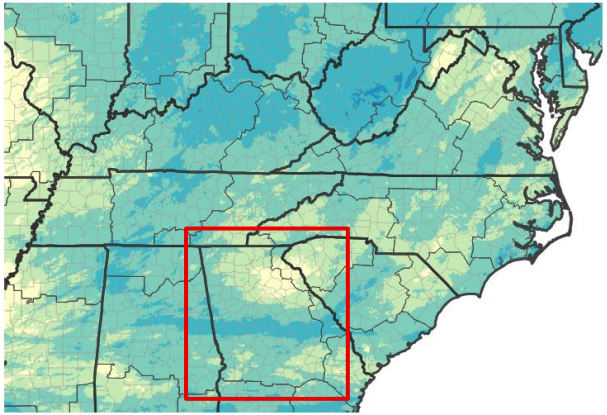
Through Thursday, January 8, at 8 AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall	% Normal	Rainfall	% Normal
Rome (KRMG)	0.79"	16%	3.27"	35%
Athens (KAHN)	0.39"	9%	2.48"	30%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	0.71"	16%	3.2"	37%
Fulton County (KFTY)	1.08"	25%	3.53"	44%
Atlanta (KATL)	1.44"	32%	4.43"	52%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	1.61"	35%	4.9"	58%
Macon (KMCN)	1.26"	28%	2.93"	36%
Columbus (KCSG)	0.68"	14%	3.1"	35%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Over the last 30 days, rainfall over Georgia has generally ranged from 0.3 to 3.0 inches (6 to 70 percent of normal). A narrow of heavier rainfall stretched across middle Georgia, receiving 2 to 3 inches (55 to 70 percent of normal), but a large portion of north and northeast Georgia received less than 1 inch (18 percent of normal). Rain has generally occurred over 1-2 days, with large dry periods in between events.

The Additional Rainfall Information product (MISATL) is available online at weather.gov/ffc.

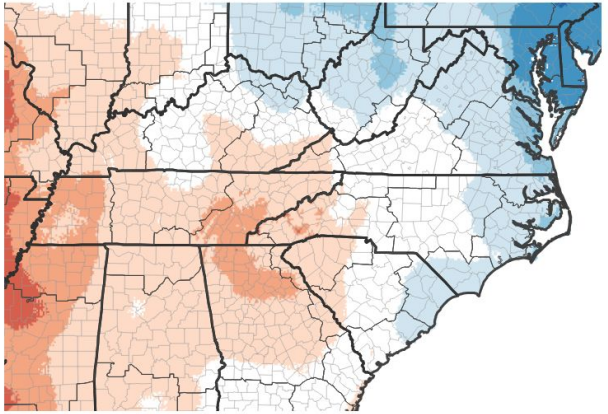
Temperature

Through January 4.*

	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	62.5° (+7.3°)	38.3° (+3.7°)
Athens (KAHN)	60.0° (+3.8°)	37.0° (+0.6°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	60.3° (+5.5°)	37.4° (+1.3°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	59.0° (+3.1°)	35.7° (-0.4°)
Atlanta (KATL)	60.2° (+4.4°)	40.2° (+1.7°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	59.2° (+2.3°)	35.4° (+0.6°)
Macon (KMCN)	62.9° (+2.1°)	36.4° (-1.4°)
Columbus (KCSG)	62.3° (+2.0°)	40.1° (-0.4°)

**Note, the table values are for the period December 5, 2025 - January 4, 2026, matching the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).*

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

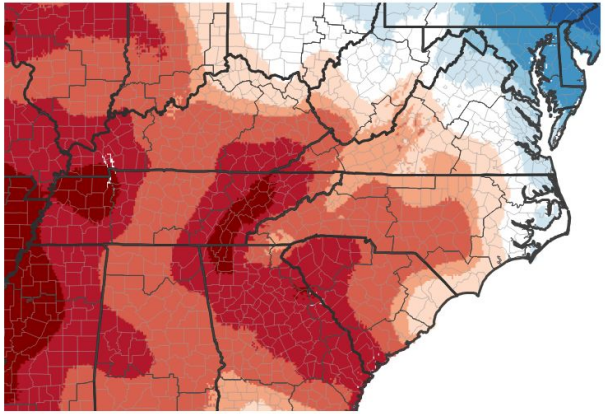
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/03/26

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/03/26

Over the 30 day period ending January 4 (left image), average high temperatures over north and central Georgia were generally 1 to 4 degrees above normal. The table includes the average low temperature trends for the 30 day period, which were largely 0 to 4 degrees above normal for most climate locations.

For the 7 days ending January 4 (right image) average high temperatures were generally 3 to 8 degrees above normal, highlighting the recent unseasonably warm conditions over the area.

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- River levels have struggled to recharge following recent rains, signaling a shift to a more hydrologic-type drought rather than just agricultural or meteorological. Most river basins are experiencing Below Normal to Much Below Normal streamflows compared to climatology for this time of year. See slide 7 for additional details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Harvesting has completed, and though some farmers have reported supplemental feeding is needed, cover crops have been planted for grazing. Water sources (e.g., holding ponds) remain low or mostly dry in many areas.
- The Crop Progress & Condition report is available through November 2025.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire risk continues to be high enough that leaf and yard waste burning continues to be discouraged. Some counties have noted an uptick in fire-related emergency calls. See slide 9 for more details.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Warm and dry conditions have continued to produce anomalously low flows across the majority of Georgia river basins. Most basins have Much Below Normal to Below Normal streamflows.
- Some Normal streamflows are present in the Ogeechee River Basin.
- Lake and Reservoir levels reflect a combination of the winter drawdown period and the persistent dry conditions. The available elevation curves for USACE projects in the NWS Peachtree City area show:

	USACE Lakes	
	Current Action Zone	Forecast Action Zone
Carters	Zone 1	Zone 2
Lanier	Zone 2	Zone 3
Allatoona	Top of Conservation	Zone 3
West Point	Top of Conservation	Zone 3

*Action zones used in some charts are defined here.

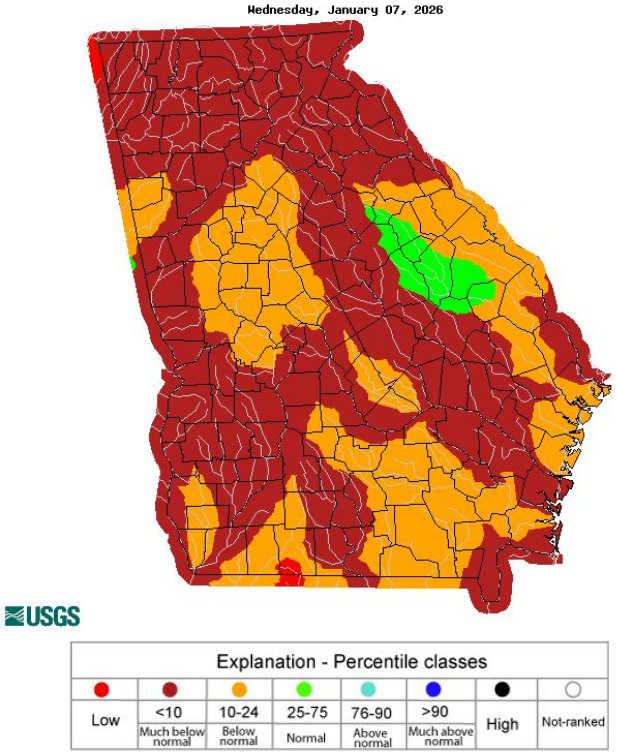
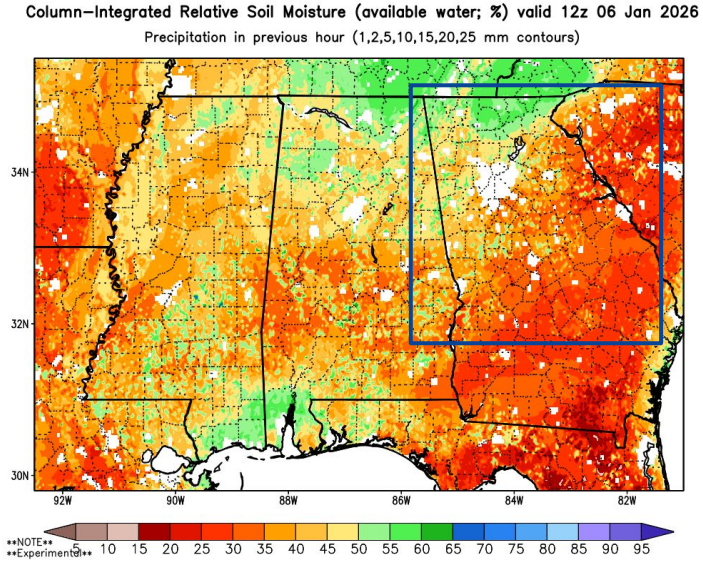


Image Caption: USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid January 7, 2026.

Agricultural Impacts

- Though soil moisture has recovered over north Georgia, soils remain quite dry across the central and eastern Georgia (image right).
- An active weather pattern in the last week provided sufficient rainfall in a narrow band across central Georgia show improvement in soil moisture week to week. (image far right).



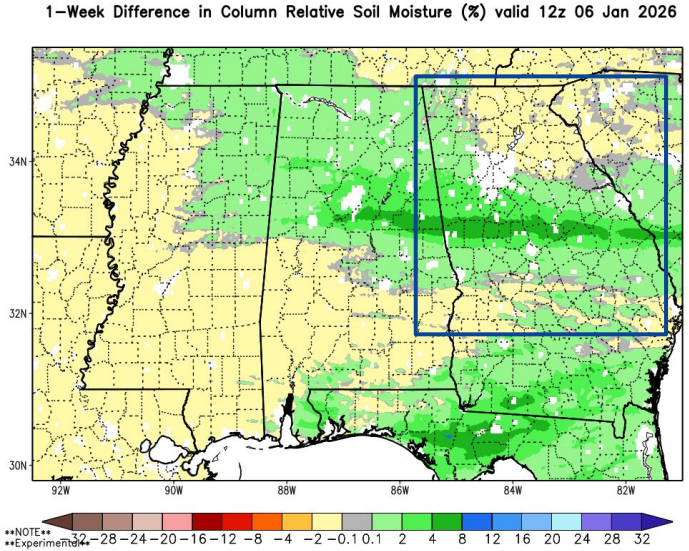


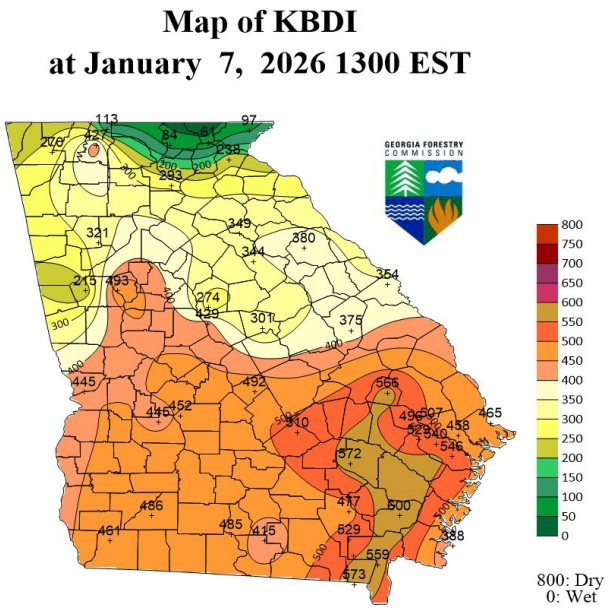
Image Captions:
Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT valid January 6, 2026.
Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from NASA SPoRT valid January 6, 2026.

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values over central and south Georgia continue to be n the 400 to 600 range, with values over north Georgia generally under 350. Far northeast Georgia has values of 0 to 200.

- At this time, above normal wildland fire potential is expected for Georgia for January 2026, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). This above normal potential is expected to continue into February and March.



- The Wildfire Potential Outlook for next week indicates Little or No Risk (level 1 of 3) for Georgia.

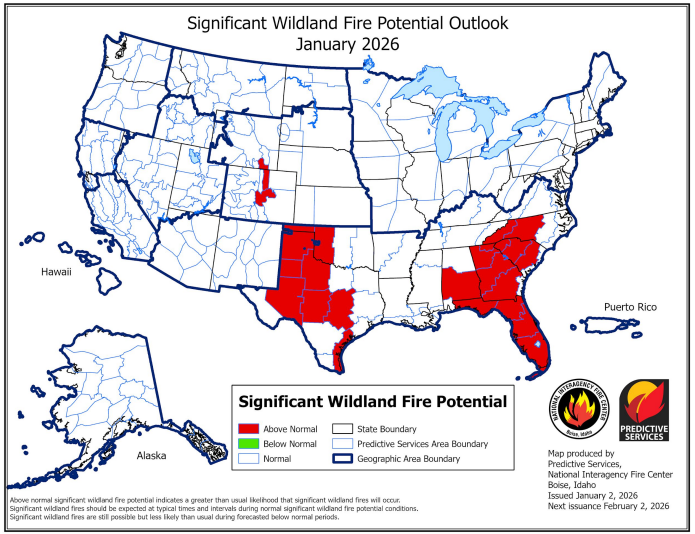
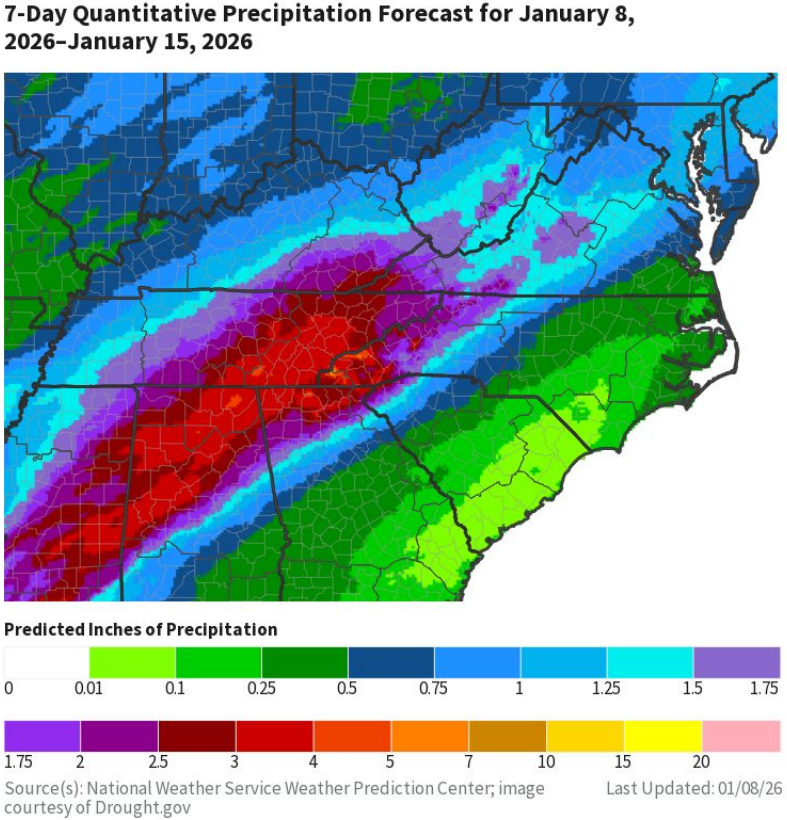


Image Captions:
Above: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for January 2026.
Left: Keetch Byram Drought Index for January 7, 2026.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

The 7-day outlook (through Thursday, January 15):

- Over the next seven days, rain is currently forecast for late Friday through early Sunday.
- Rainfall amounts could be sufficient enough to improve drought conditions over north Georgia.
- At this time, rainfall amounts of 2.5 to 4 inches are possible over north Georgia, with isolated higher amounts. Generally south and east of I-85, rainfall amounts will be limited to 0.25 to 0.75 inches.



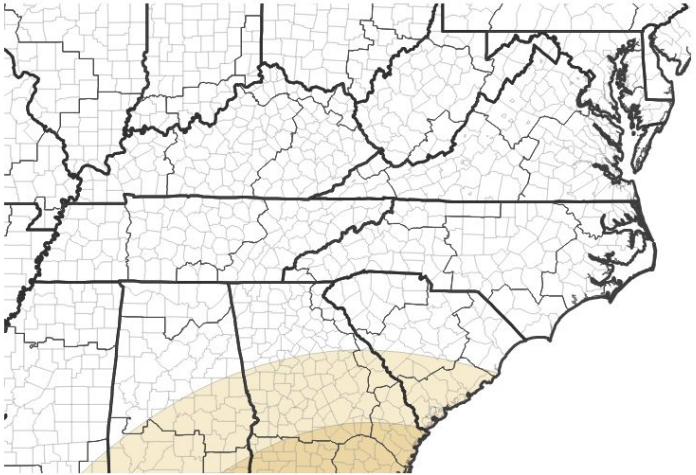
Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

For January:

- Below normal precipitation is expected over south and central Georgia (right).
- Above normal temperatures are expected over Georgia (far right).

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

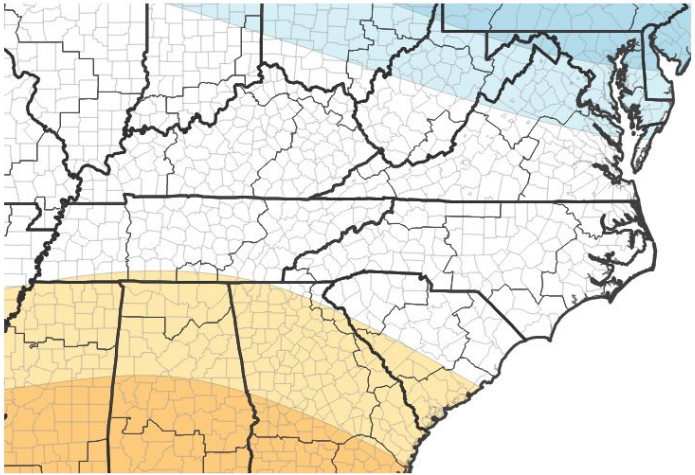
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/31/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

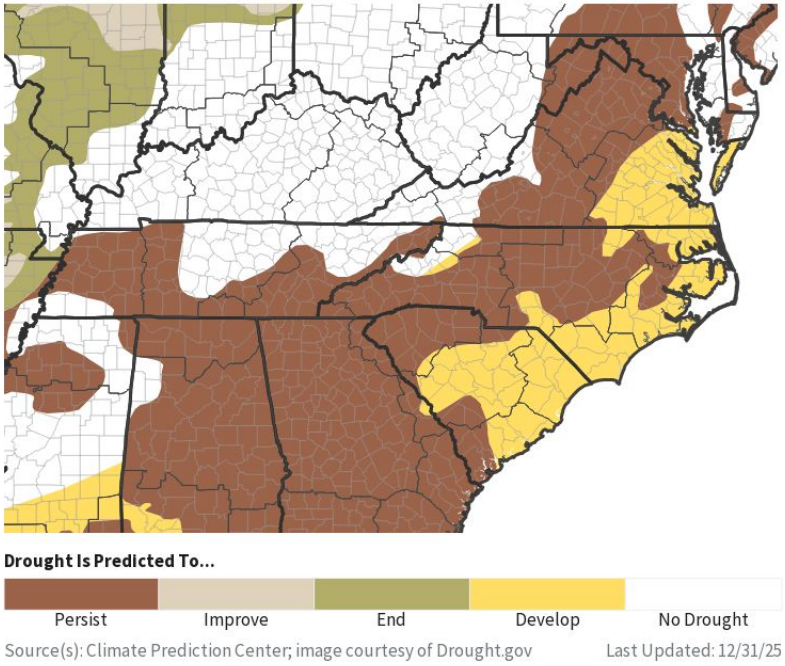
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/31/25

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought is expected to persist into early Spring.
- Drought Information Statements will be updated every two weeks while D2 Severe Drought (or worse) continues in north and central Georgia.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 31, 2025–March 31, 2026



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook