



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid January 22, 2026

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

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

- This product will be updated February 5, 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.

EXTREME DROUGHT RETURNS TO GEORGIA, DESPITE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

- Over the last two weeks, D3 Extreme Drought was added to a small area in both eastern and west central Georgia.
- D2 Severe Drought was removed from far north Georgia due to recent rainfall.
- Some improvements are possible over the next 1-2 weeks with new precipitation.



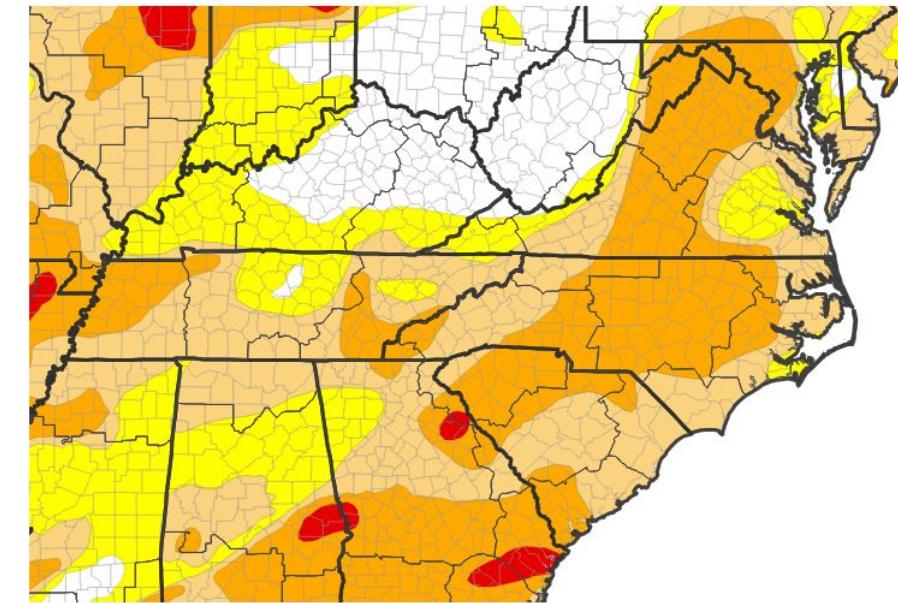
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for North and Central Georgia

Drought intensity and Extent

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/20/26



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

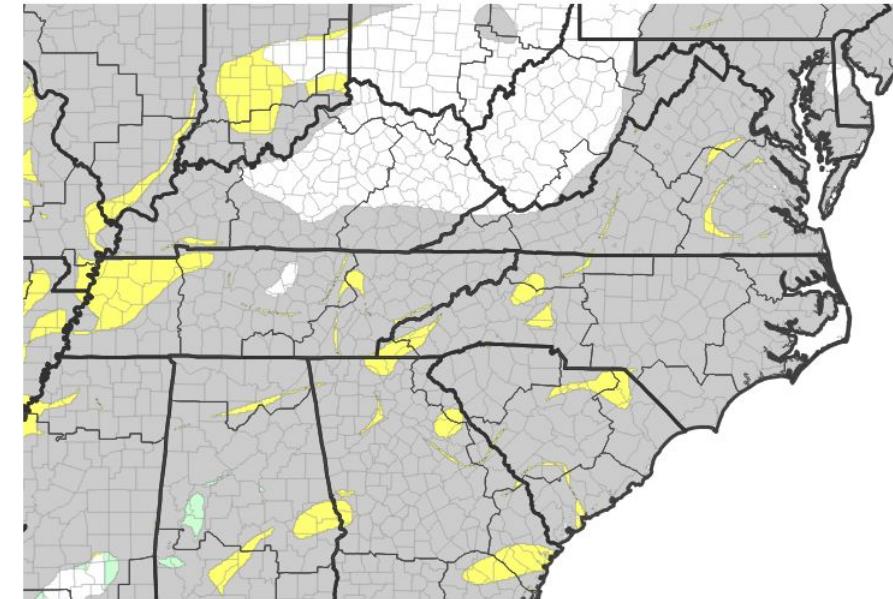
Link to the latest [2-week](#) and [4-week](#) change map for Georgia.

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

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

The 4-week change map is available [here](#).

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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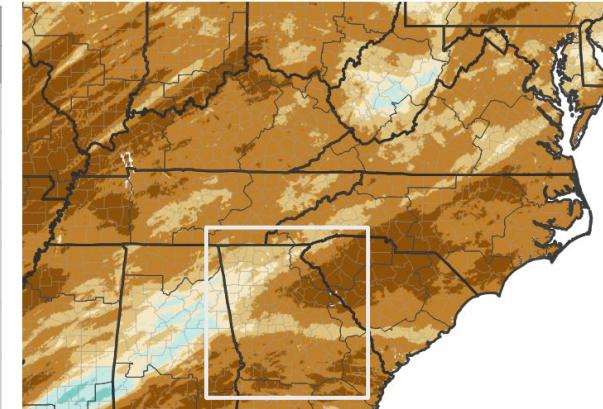


Precipitation - Past 30 Days

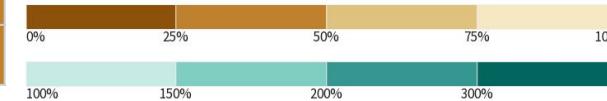
Through Thursday, January 22, at 8 AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall	% Normal	Rainfall	% Normal
Rome (KRMG)	4.43"	94%	6.69"	70%
Athens (KAHN)	0.79"	18%	3.05"	36%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDF)	1.54"	35%	4.21"	49%
Fulton County (KFTY)	1.65"	40%	4.17"	52%
Atlanta (KATL)	2.03"	46%	4.16"	48%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	2.23"	52%	5.69"	67%
Macon (KMCN)	1.46"	34%	3.66"	44%
Columbus (KCSG)	1.55"	36%	4.16"	47%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

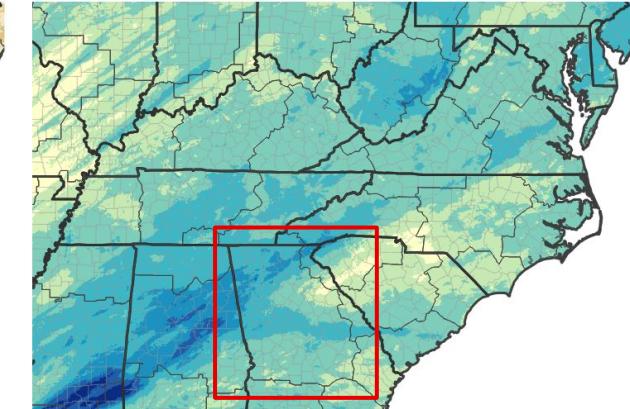


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

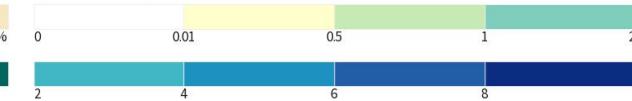


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/22/26

Over the last 30 days, rainfall over Georgia has generally ranged from 1.0 to 5.0 inches (30 to 95 percent of normal), with outliers on each side of this range. A narrow band of heavier rainfall stretched across northwest Georgia, generally oriented from Cedartown to Helen. This area received 4.5 to 6.0 inches (90 to 110 percent of normal). Over far eastern Georgia, rainfall amounts ranged from 0.4 to 1.1 inches (12 to 40 percent of normal).

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



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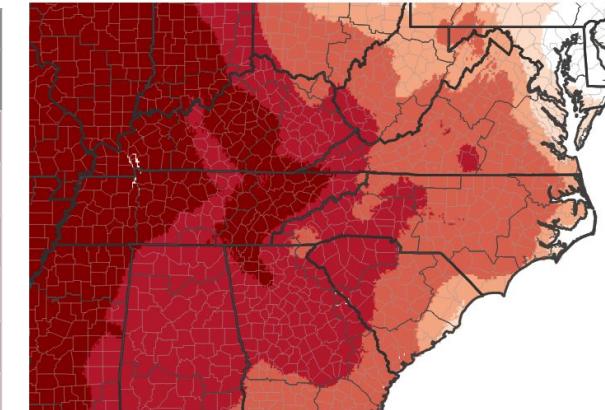
Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

Through January 17*.

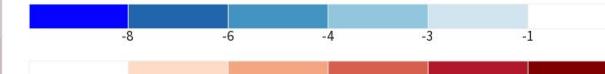
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	64.5° (+10.3°)	41.4° (+8.0°)
Athens (KAHN)	62.6° (+7.2°)	40.3° (+5.1°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	62.6° (+8.9°)	41.2° (+6.4°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	62.4° (+7.5°)	39.7° (+5.0°)
Atlanta (KATL)	62.3° (+7.6°)	43.5° (+6.4°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	61.7° (+5.9°)	38.2° (+4.7°)
Macon (KMCN)	66.2° (+6.4°)	39.5° (+2.9°)
Columbus (KCSG)	64.4° (+5.3°)	42.9° (+4.0°)

*Note, the table values are for the period December 18, 2025 - January 17, 2026, matching the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).

30-Day Temperature Anomaly

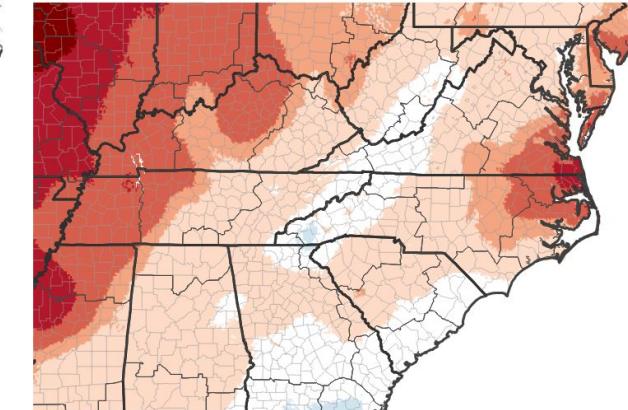


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

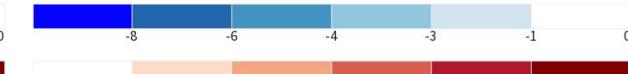


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 01/17/26

Data Valid: 01/17/26

Over the 30 day period ending January 17 (middle image), average high temperatures over north and central Georgia were generally 4 to 8 degrees above normal. The table (left) also includes the average low temperature trends for the 30 day period, which were largely 2 to 8 degrees above normal for most climate locations.

For the 7 days ending January 17 (right image) average high temperatures were generally 0 to 3 degrees above normal, highlighting the recent seasonal conditions over the area in comparison to the abnormally warm 30-day period.



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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.





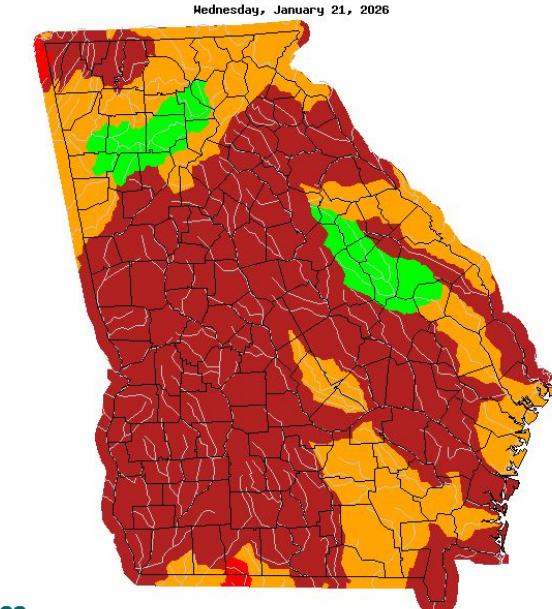
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Warm and generally dry conditions have continued to produce anomalously low flows across the majority of Georgia river basins in the last 30 days. Despite the rainfall in the last week, streamflows show little improvement. Most basins have Much Below Normal to Below Normal streamflows.
- Some Normal streamflows are present in the Ogeechee and Coosa River Basins.
- [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	Top of Conservation	Zone 1
Lanier	Zone 2	Zone 3
Allatoona	Top of Conservation	Zone 3
West Point	Top of Conservation	Zone 1

*Action zones used in some charts are defined [here](#).



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	Much above normal	High

Image Caption: USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid January 21, 2026.



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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 some 1-week change improvements over central Georgia (image far right), but far north Georgia, particularly in the northeast Georgia mountains have shown drying during this period.

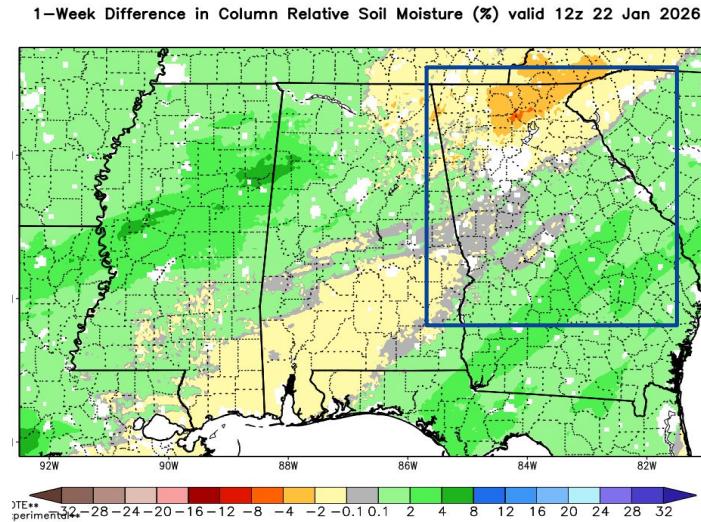
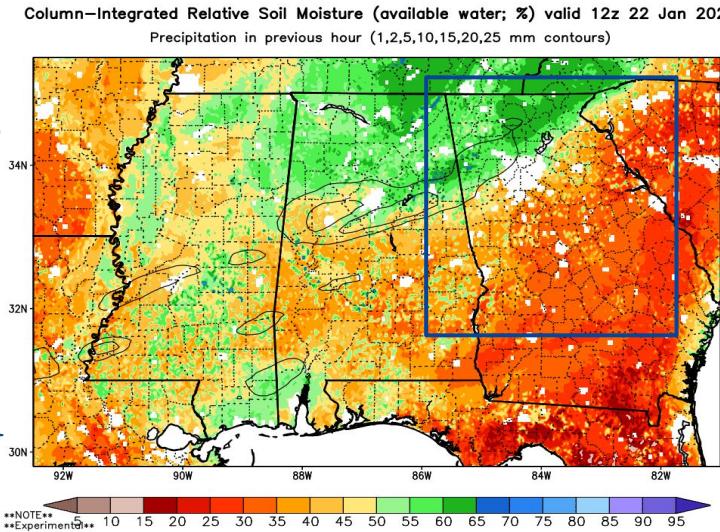


Image Captions:

Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid January 22, 2026.

Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid January 22, 2026.



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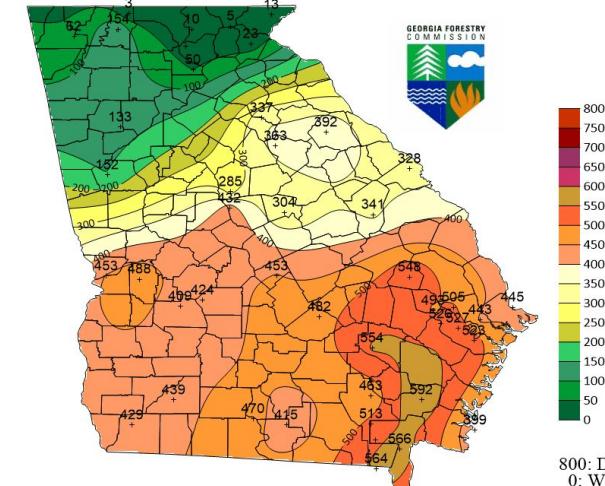


Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values over central and south Georgia continue to be in the 400 to 600 range, with values over north Georgia generally under 200. Far northeast Georgia has values of 0 to 60.
- At this time, above normal wildland fire potential is expected for Georgia for February, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). This above normal potential is expected to continue into March.

Map of KBDI
at January 21, 2026 1300 EST



- The Wildfire Potential Outlook for next week indicates Little or No Risk (level 1 of 3) for Georgia through the next 5 days.

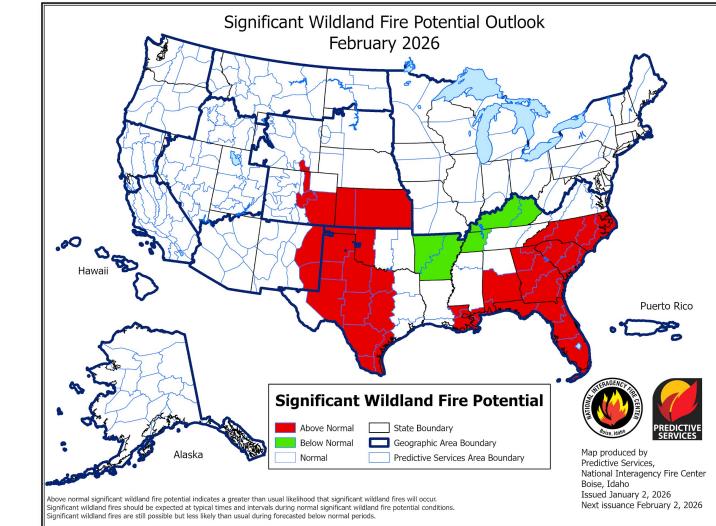


Image Captions:

Above: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for February 2026.
Left: [Keetch Byram Drought Index](#) for January 21, 2026.



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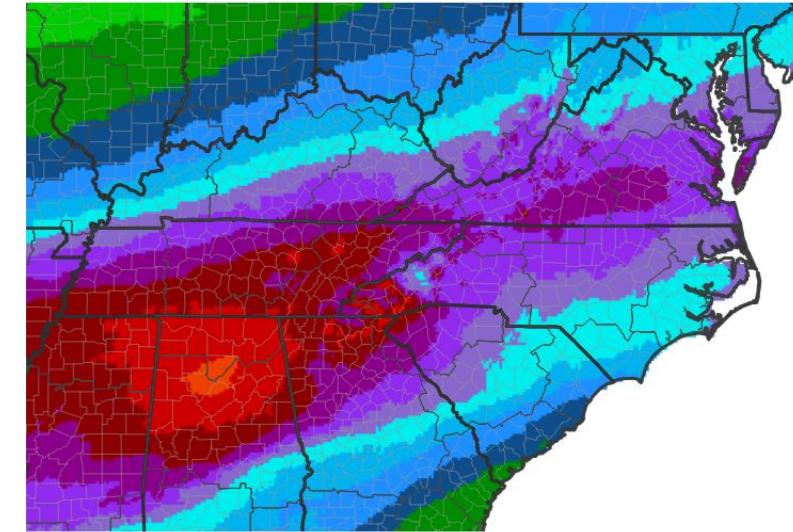


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

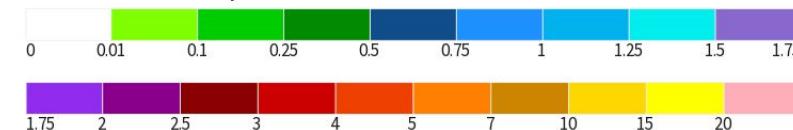
The 7-day outlook (through Thursday, January 29):

- Over the next seven days, precipitation is currently forecast for today through early Monday. Some of this may fall as sleet or accumulate as freezing rain.
- Precipitation amounts could be sufficient enough to improve drought conditions over north Georgia.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 22, 2026–January 29, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/22/26



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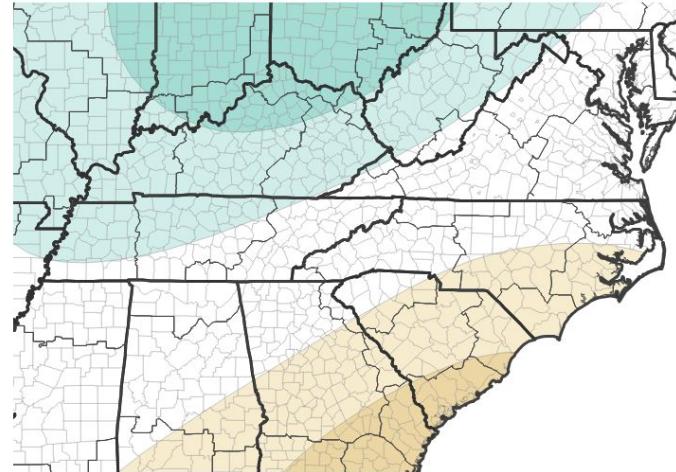
Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

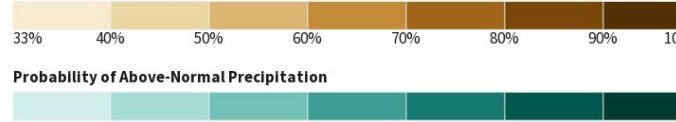
For January:

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

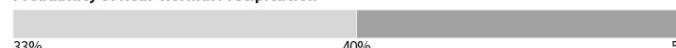
Monthly Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



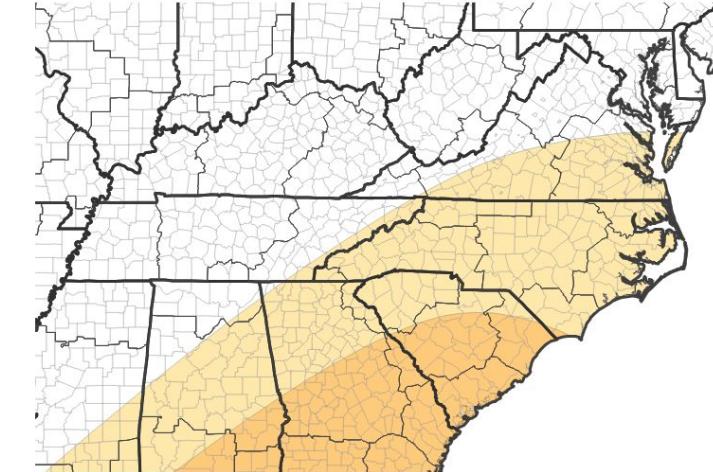
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



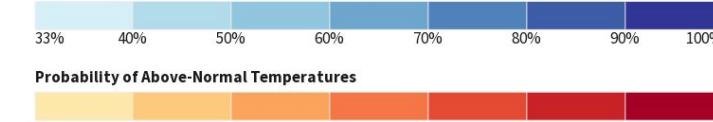
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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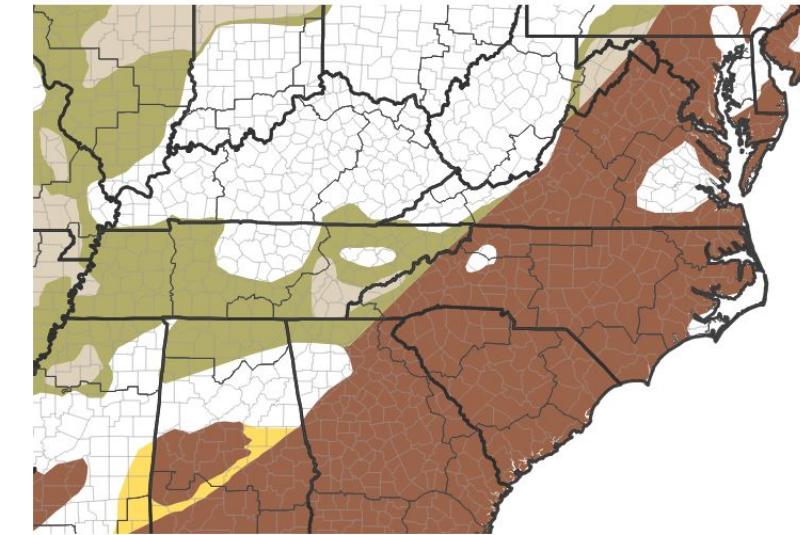


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought is expected to persist across most of Georgia into early Spring. Improvement is expected over far north Georgia.
- 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 January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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