



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid December 24, 2025

Issued By: NWS Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA

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

- This product will be updated January 8, 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 IMPROVES IN CENTRAL GEORGIA, MODERATE DROUGHT WORSENS OVER NORTH GEORGIA

- Rainfall in the last 14 days improved drought conditions over central Georgia, cutting back Severe Drought to generally west central Georgia.
- Recent dry conditions have led to an expansion of the Moderate Drought over far north Georgia.





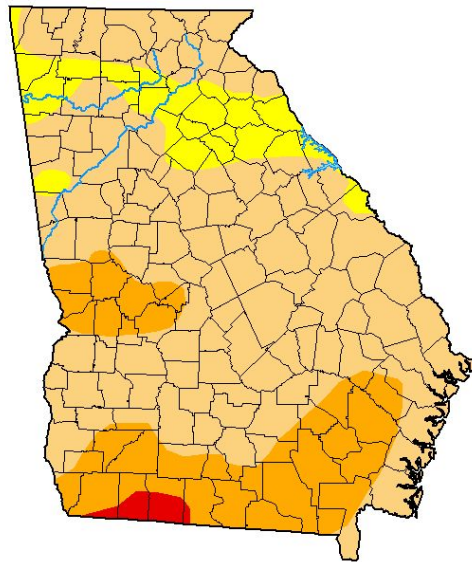
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought intensity and extent for north and central Georgia:

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

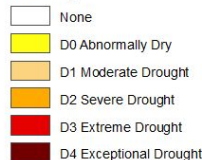


December 23, 2025

(Released Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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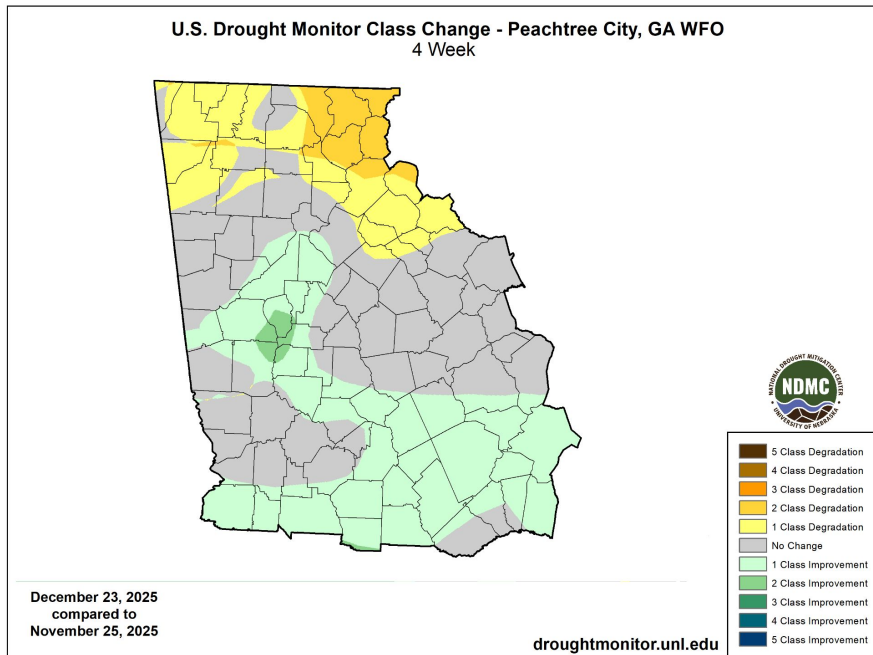


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

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



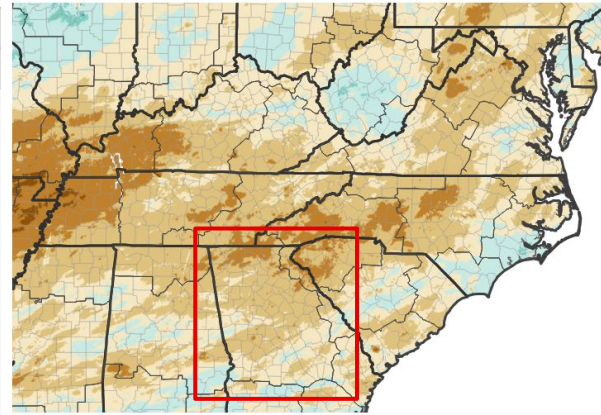


Precipitation - Past 30 Days

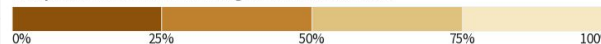
Through Tuesday, December 23, at 8 AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall	% Normal	Rainfall	% Normal
Rome (KRMG)	2.36"	49%	5.25"	60%
Athens (KAHN)	2.29"	57%	5.52"	73%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	2.67"	64%	5.9"	74%
Fulton County (KFTY)	2.52"	64%	5.71"	76%
Atlanta (KATL)	2.13"	50%	7.04"	87%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	3.46"	83%	6.03"	77%
Macon (KMCN)	2.21"	54%	3.09"	44%
Columbus (KCSG)	2.65"	59%	3.55"	45%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



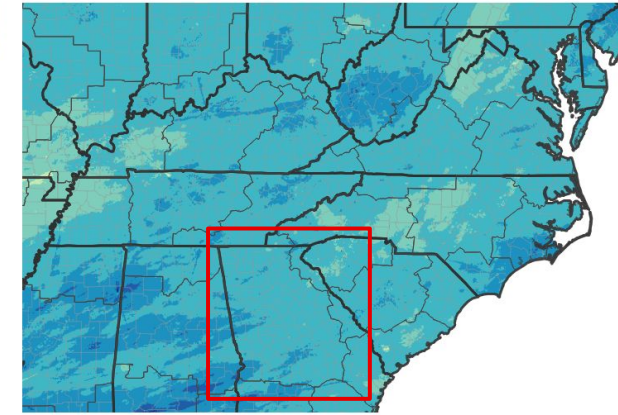
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



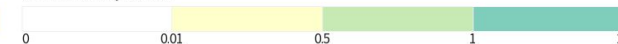
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/23/25

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: 12/23/25

Over the last 30 days, rainfall over Georgia has generally ranged from 1.5 to 4 inches (30 to 75 percent of normal), with isolated areas of western Georgia receiving 3 to 6 inches (90 to 120 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.



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Temperatures - Past 30 Days

Through December 19*.

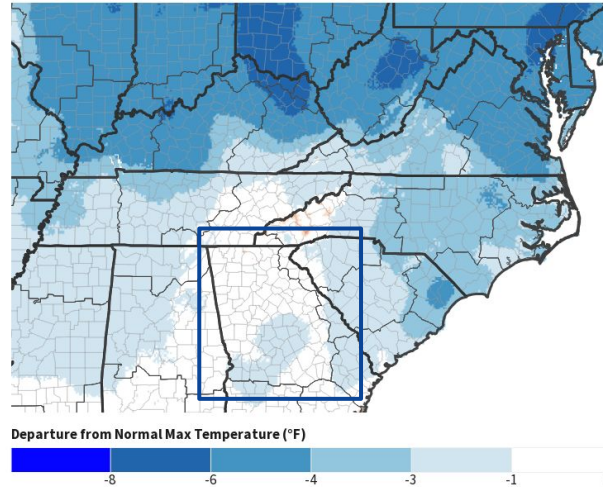
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	60.3° (+1.8°)	38.9° (+3.2°)
Athens (KAHN)	58.3° (-1.1°)	37.9° (-0.1°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	58.8° (+1.1°)	37.4° (+0.1°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	57.7° (-1.1°)	35.7° (-1.2°)
Atlanta (KATL)	58.7° (-0.3°)	40.4° (+0.1°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	58.2° (-1.8°)	36.3° (+0.5°)
Macon (KMCN)	61.9° (-1.8°)	38.0° (-0.8°)
Columbus (KCSG)	60.8° (-2.4°)	41.6° (-0.4°)

*Note, the table values are for the period November 20-December 19, 2025, matching the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).

Over the 30 day period ending December 19 (left image), high temperatures over north and central Georgia were near to slightly below normal across the area. The table includes the average low temperature trends for the 30 day period, which were also near normal for most climate locations.

For the 7 days ending December 19 (right image) high temperatures generally 1 to 3 degrees above normal.

30-Day Temperature Anomaly

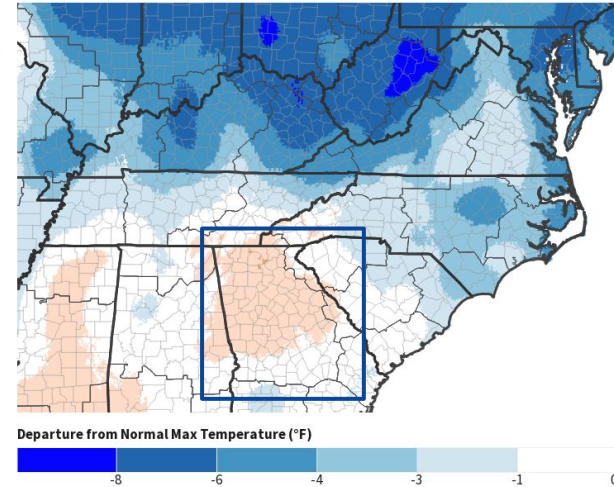


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

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

Data Valid: 12/19/25

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: 12/19/25





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter \(DIR\)](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Light rain and cooler conditions have allowed soil moistures to rebound slightly, but the hydrologic environment worsened over the last 7 days. The 7-day streamflow averages statewide are very dry for this time of year, with most basins in the Much Below Normal to Below Normal categories. 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.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire risk continues to be high enough that leaf and yard waste burning continues to be discouraged, despite the improvements in soil moisture and recent rainfall. 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.





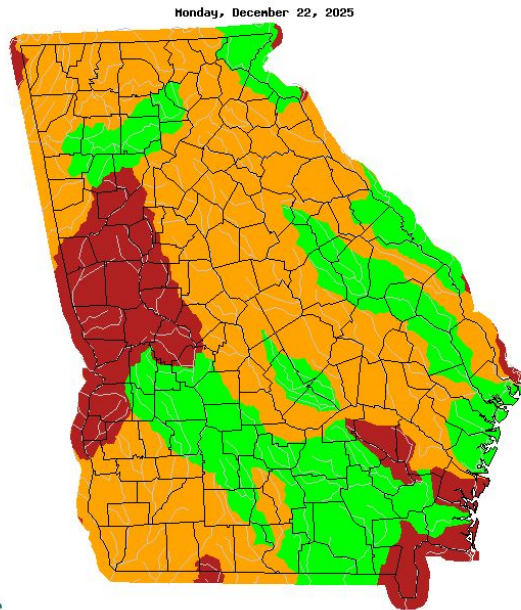
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Streamflows have struggled to recover even with the cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall. Most basins have Much Below Normal to Below Normal streamflows. The lowest percentile classes are present in the Middle Chattahoochee and Upper Flint River Basins.
- Some Normal streamflows are present in the Coosa, lower Flint, lower Ocmulgee and Ogeechee 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	Zone 1	Zone 2
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 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	No Data

Image Caption: USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid December 22, 2025.

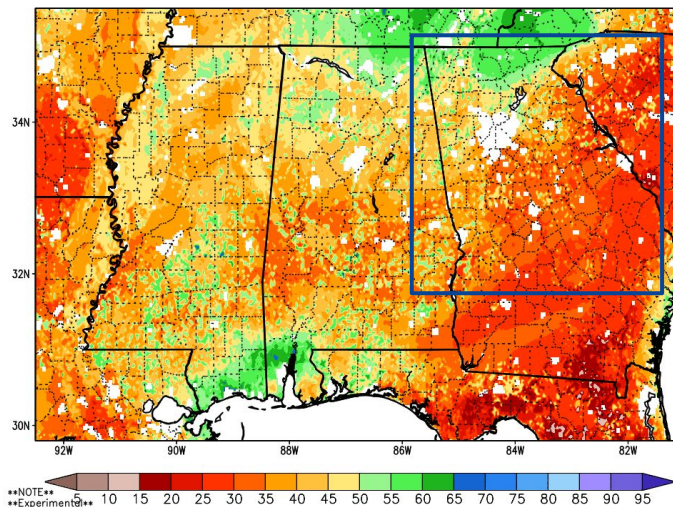




Agricultural Impacts

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

Column—Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 24 Dec 2025
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 24 Dec 2025

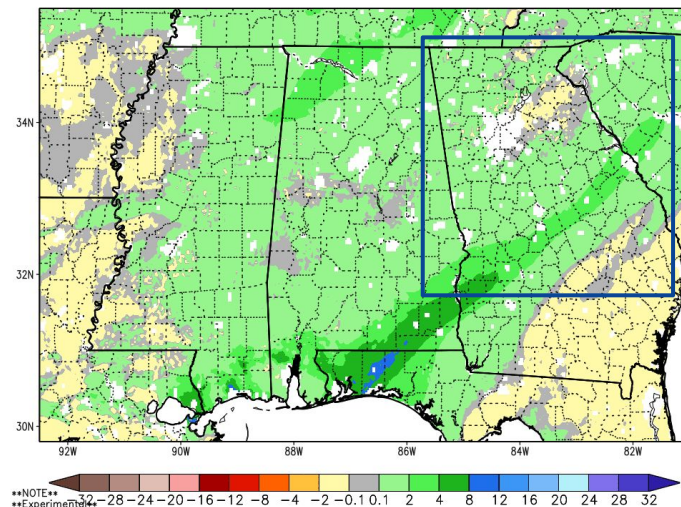


Image Captions:

Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid December 24, 2025.

Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid through December 24, 2025

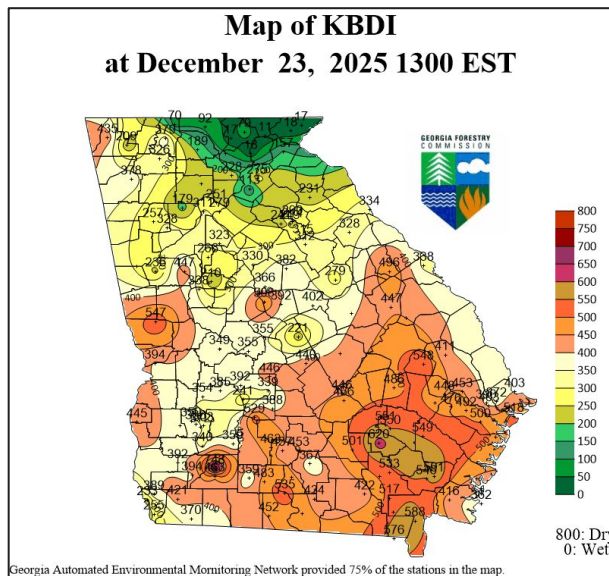




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) remain low over northeast Georgia, but have started to increase over portions of central Georgia where values of 400-550 are common.
- At this time, normal wildland fire potential is expected for the northwestern two-thirds of Georgia for January 2026, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). South and east central Georgia have an above normal wildland fire potential.



- The [Wildfire Potential Outlook](#) for next week indicates Little or No Risk (level 1 of 3) for north Georgia, and Low Risk (level 2 of 3) for east central Georgia.

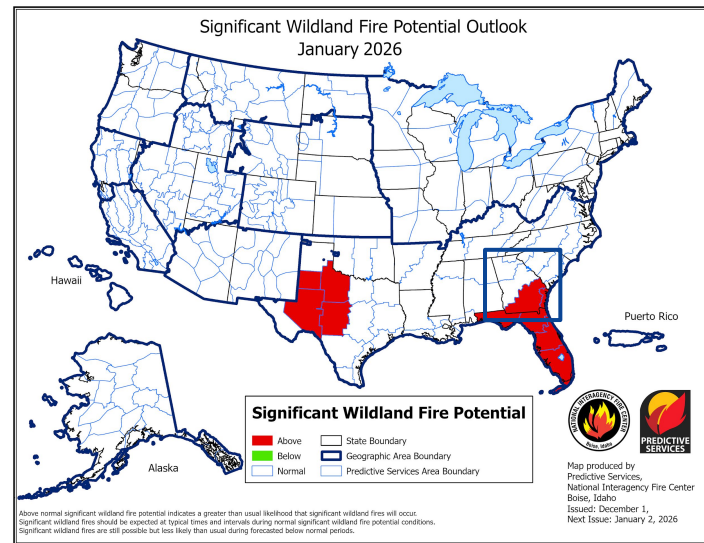


Image Captions:

Above: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2026.

Left: [Keetch Byram Drought Index](#) for December 23, 2025.



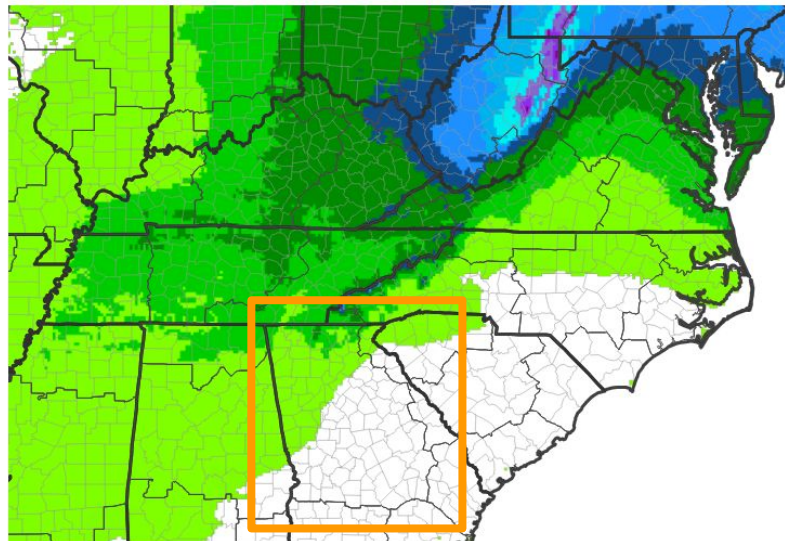


Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast

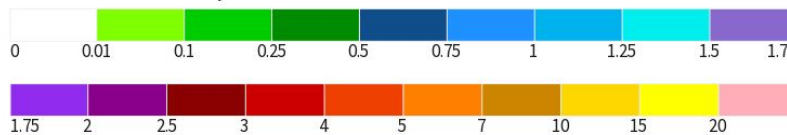
The 7-day outlook (through Tuesday, December 30):

- Over the next seven days, rain is only forecast Sunday and Sunday night as a cold front impacts Georgia.
- Rainfall amounts are limited with this front, with the current amounts expected to be under 0.25 inches, and generally along and north of I-85. Isolated amounts to 0.50 inches are possible over far north Georgia.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for December 23, 2025–December 30, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 12/23/25



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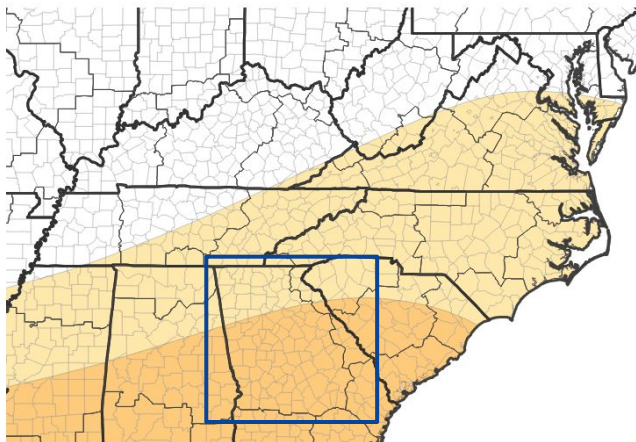
Long-Range Outlooks

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

For January:

- Above normal temperatures are expected for north and central Georgia (right).
- Near normal conditions are expected over north Georgia, while below normal precipitation is expected for the southern two-thirds of Georgia (far right).

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



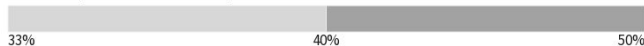
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



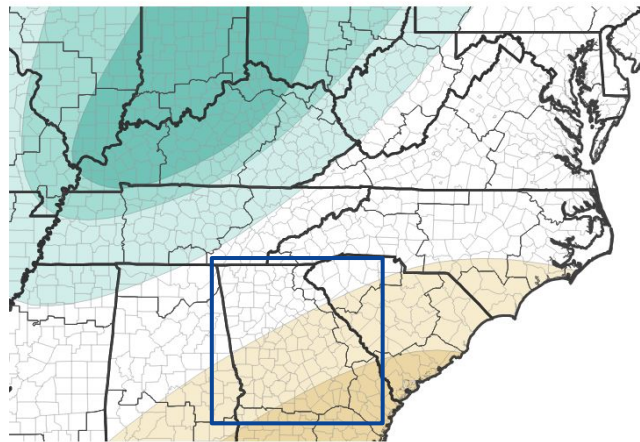
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 12/18/25

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



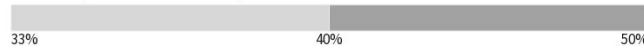
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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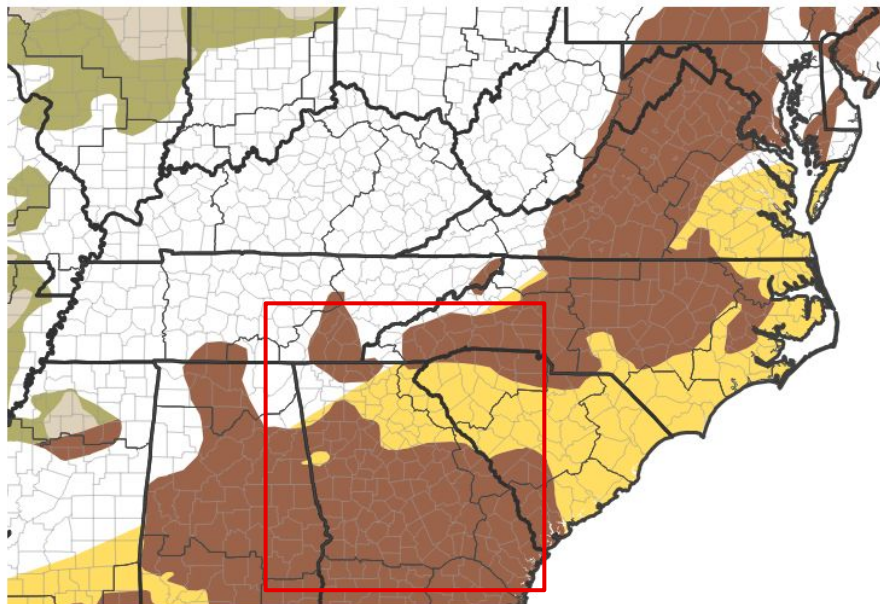


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist or develop through Winter.
- 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 18, 2025–March 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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