



THE MID-SOUTH
CLIMATE REPORT

JAN 2018

NWSMemphis
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Mid-South Climate Summary : January 2018

The first month of 2018 was much cooler than normal for the Mid-South. Precipitation totals varied from near to drier than normal, while snowfall totals also varied.

TEMPERATURE

Climatologically, January is the coldest month of the year for the Mid-South, and January 2018 was no exception. Temperatures were well below normal, with average monthly temperature departures from normal between 2.8° and 3.8° below normal at all four official sites. Tupelo recorded the warmest average monthly temperature for the month with 38.1°, or 3.6° cooler than normal for the site. Memphis was the site with the largest departure from normal, ending the month 3.8° cooler. Jonesboro had the least departure from normal, finishing January 2.8° cooler than normal. Jackson and Tupelo ended January at 3.2° and 3.6° cooler than normal, respectively. Jackson recorded the coolest low temperature for the month with 1.0°, while Tupelo recorded the warmest high temperature for January with 70.0°

	Memphis	Jackson	Jonesboro	Tupelo
Average Temperature (MONTH)	37.4	35.0	34.7	38.1
Normal Avg. Temp (MONTH)	41.2	38.2	37.5	41.7
Departure from Normal (MONTH)	-3.8	-3.2	-2.8	-3.6
Maximum Temperature	68.0	69.0	65.0	70.0
Minimum Temperature	7.0	1.0	7.0	4.0

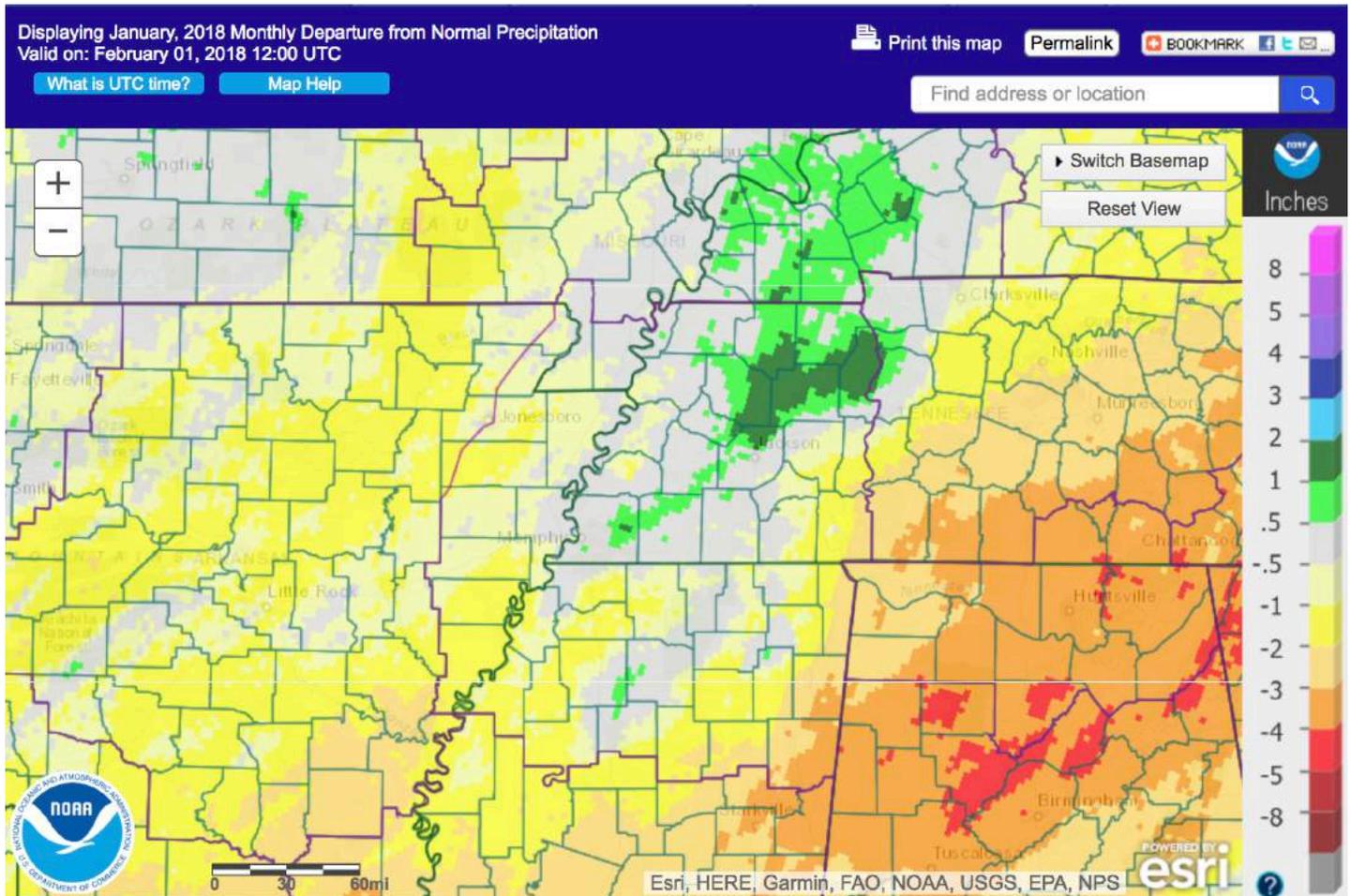


PRECIPITATION

Precipitation totals varied from near to slightly drier than normal for January. Jonesboro was the driest site, recording 2.51” of precipitation, which was 0.92” below the normal. While Tupelo received more precipitation than Jonesboro, with 3.37”, its departure from normal of 1.11” below normal was the greatest of the four official sites. Memphis and Jackson both received just over 4.00” of precipitation for January, ending the month 0.04” and 0.10” drier than normal, respectively.

Some of the area received above normal snowfall for the month, with two big winter storm systems moving through the region around the middle of the month. Jackson led the snowfall totals, recording 4.0” for the month, or 1.7” above normal. Similarly, Memphis recorded 2.5” of snow for the month, a departure of 0.6” above normal. Tupelo had a near normal amount of snowfall for the month, recording 0.8”, which was just 0.1” below normal. Jonesboro recorded 1.1” of snow during January, a departure of 1.1” below normal.

	Memphis	Jackson	Jonesboro	Tupelo
Total Precipitation (MONTH)	4.02	4.17	2.51	3.37
Normal Precipitation (MONTH)	3.98	4.07	3.43	4.48
Departure from Normal (MONTH)	0.04	0.10	-0.92	-1.11
Percent of Normal	101%	102%	73%	75%
Total Snowfall (MONTH)	2.5	4.0	1.1	0.8
Normal Snowfall (MONTH)	1.9	2.3	2.2	0.9
Departure from Normal (MONTH)	0.6	1.7	-1.1	-0.1
Maximum Snow Depth	2.0	3.0	1.0	Trace



January precipitation departures from normal for the Mid-South indicate near to wetter than normal conditions existed across much of west Tennessee. Portions of north Mississippi were near to drier than normal, while most of eastern Arkansas and the Missouri Bootheel was drier than normal.



Climate Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues monthly and seasonal climate forecasts based on climate signals. The latest one month outlook, for the month of February paints equal chance of above, near, or below normal temperatures for the region. This means there is no clear, strong climate signal to provide a more certain forecast at this time, hence odds are split equally amongst the three categories. Similarly, the one month outlook for February precipitation also has equal chances of above, near, or below normal totals for the region.

The three month outlooks, currently encompassing the months of February, March, and April collectively, are a bit more decisive. The current three month outlook for temperature has the northern half of the Mid-South (northwest Tennessee and northeast Arkansas) in equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures, with the southern half having enhanced odds of warmer than normal temperatures. Meanwhile, the three month precipitation outlook generally has enhanced odds for wetter than normal conditions for the entire region. The three month outlooks can be found below, with the temperature outlook on the left and the precipitation outlook on the right.

