



# Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 10/19/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated October 26, 2023 (or sooner) if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at [drought.gov/drought-information-statements](https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements).
- Please visit [weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement](https://weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.



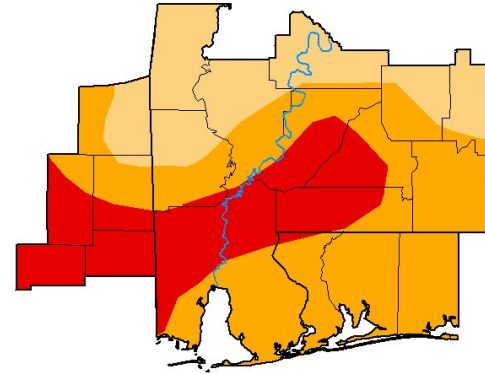


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Severe to extreme drought holds for much of the area along and south of U.S. Highway 84.
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Persists across portions of southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Persists for a larger area mainly along and south of the U.S. Highway 84 corridor.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** For areas primarily north of US Highway 84.

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Mobile, AL/  
 Pensacola, FL WFO**



**October 17, 2023**  
 (Released Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	75.31	27.03	0.00
Last Week 10-10-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	89.56	27.86	2.45
3 Months Ago 07-18-2023	99.96	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	46.95	53.05	17.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2022	0.00	100.00	89.36	74.41	16.63	1.45
One Year Ago 10-18-2022	10.38	89.62	42.05	2.73	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

*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>*

**Author:**  
 Rocky Bilotta  
 NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

*Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor for the NWS Mobile/Pensacola Forecast Area valid 8am EDT October 19th.*





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **No Change:** Much of the local area experienced no change in the drought intensity compared to the past week.
  - **Drought Improved:** A one class improvement occurred from eastern Wayne Co. MS, east to northern Washington Co., northeast to northern Clarke and into Wilcox Co's in Alabama.
- For reference, the 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change shows a 1-2 class degradation for most areas southeast of the I-65 corridor.

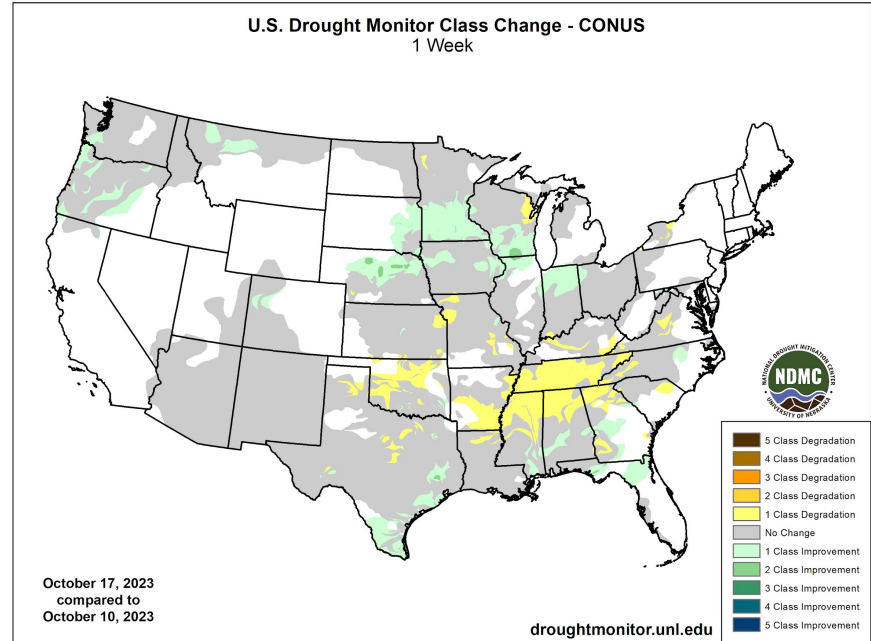


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT October 17th.





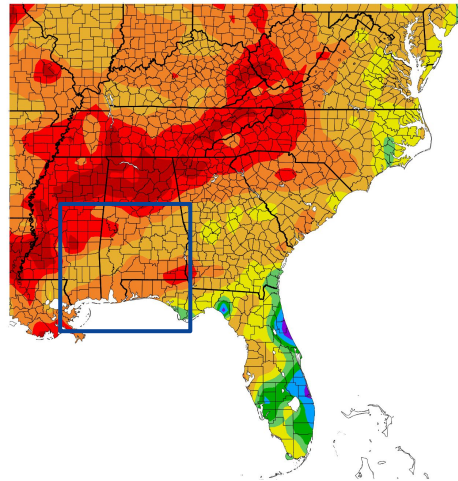
# Precipitation

## Table of Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Period: August 1 to October 18, 2023

Station	Observed	Normal	Departure
Brewton AL 3NNE (COOP) *	4.38	16.02	-11.64
Fairhope AL 2NE (COOP)	5.89	16.22	-10.33
Atmore AL (COOP)	3.40	13.13	-9.73
Pensacola FL (ASOS)	7.49	16.96	-9.47
Pensacola FL 7NNE (COOP)*	6.64	15.40	-8.76
Niceville FL (COOP)	10.49	18.94	-8.45
Crestview FL (ASOS)	5.40	13.75	-8.35
Mobile AL (ASOS)	6.24	14.52	-8.28
Beaumont MS (COOP)*	3.98	12.16	-8.18
Bay Minette AL (COOP)	8.89	16.91	-8.02
Evergreen AL (ASOS) *	3.90	11.69	-7.79
Dauphin Island AL (COOP)	5.83	13.36	-7.53
Downtown Mobile AL (ASOS)	7.83	13.82	-5.99
Leakesville MS 6WSW (COOP)	6.76	11.98	-5.22
Waynesboro MS 2W (COOP)	6.37	10.39	-4.02

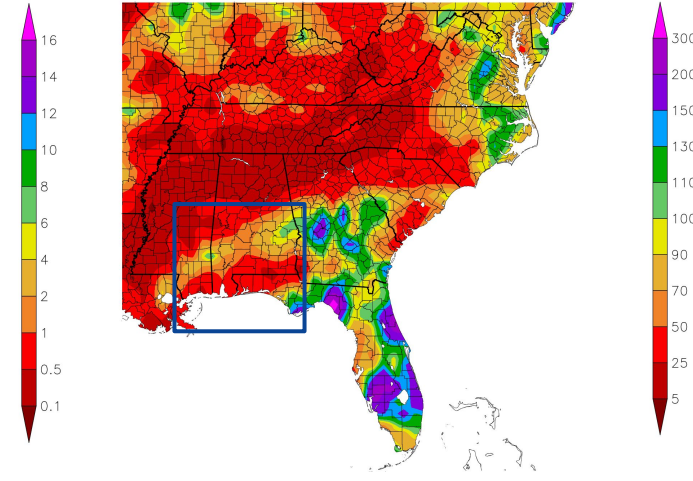
\* Indicates Record Lowest Amount Recorded for Period

Precipitation (in)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



ated 10/19/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers<sup>23</sup> at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

*Image Captions: Left - The box inset shows a general 1-2 inches over the central Gulf coast for the period. Right - The box inset shows 25 to 70% of normal. A small pocket of near normal for the period noted in the northwest zones.*

*Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.  
Data over the past 30 days ending October 18, 2023*





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Many local streams/ivers remain in low flow and stage at below or much below normal levels. Typically, deeply submerged objects will likely be closer to the water's surface or in some cases exposed presenting a waterway hazard for recreational boating and commercial navigation.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas remains poor to very poor and pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- The risk of significant wildfire remains above normal over southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama.

## Societal Impacts

- Increase in air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

## Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Select River/Stream Points at Below Normal Levels - Valid 8AM October 12, 2023

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Cyprus Creek at Janice MS	9	5.71	21, Below Normal
Red Creek at Vestry MS	147	4.26	15, Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd 63 near Wilmer AL	15	1.63	12, Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	55	2.93	18, Below Normal
Styx River near Elsanor AL	111	1.64	13, Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	37	2.39	20, Below Normal
Alabama River at Claiborne L&D	5090	34.70	9, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Bradley AL	36	0.72	21, Below Normal
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	23	4.71	6, Much Below Normal
Perdido River at Barrineau Park FL	235	1.31	9, Much Below Normal
Shoal River near Crestview FL	290	2.37	5, Much Below Normal
Yellow River at Milligan FL	252	0.77	16, Below Normal

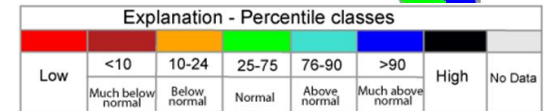
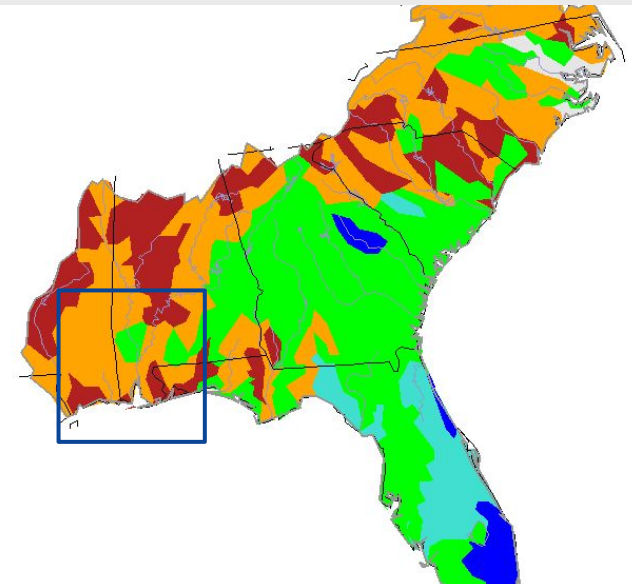


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 10/19/2023. Box Inset - Below to much below normal stream/river flow persists over much of the central Gulf Coast.





# Agricultural Impacts

- Severe to excessively dry crop moisture continues for much of the local area. In these areas, crop condition is very poor. Crop disease and insect damage elevated.
- Pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Parched sub-soil moisture is leading to very poor crop conditions.
- The latest topsoil moisture content short to very short metrics vs 5-year means (Depth 6", courtesy of USDA 10/08/23):
  - MS: 74% Dry (Avg: 39.6%)
  - AL: 77% Dry (Avg: 37.4%)
  - FL: 25% Dry (Avg: 24.4%)

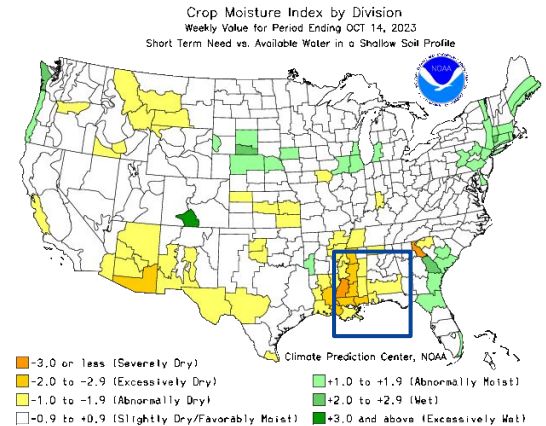
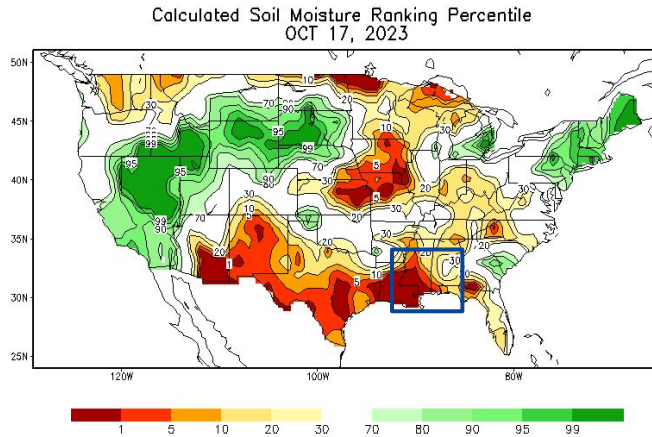


Image Captions: Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 17, 2023. Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 14, 2023.





# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands pose an above normal risk for significant wildfire potential over the entire state of Mississippi and Alabama.
- Local park campers are strongly urged to follow park instructions on campfires. Keep camp fires contained in enclosed screens if available. Ensure fires are put out before going to bed.
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

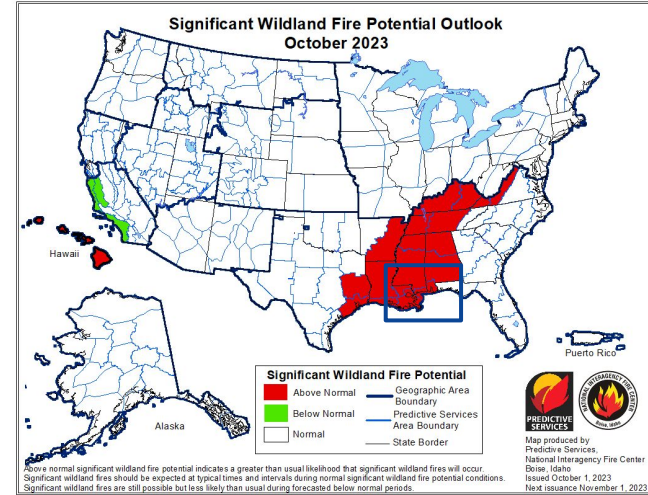


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023. Image updates are the first of each month or the first work day of each month.

Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State: [Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)







# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Less than a tenth of an inch of rain is forecast for the central Gulf coast.

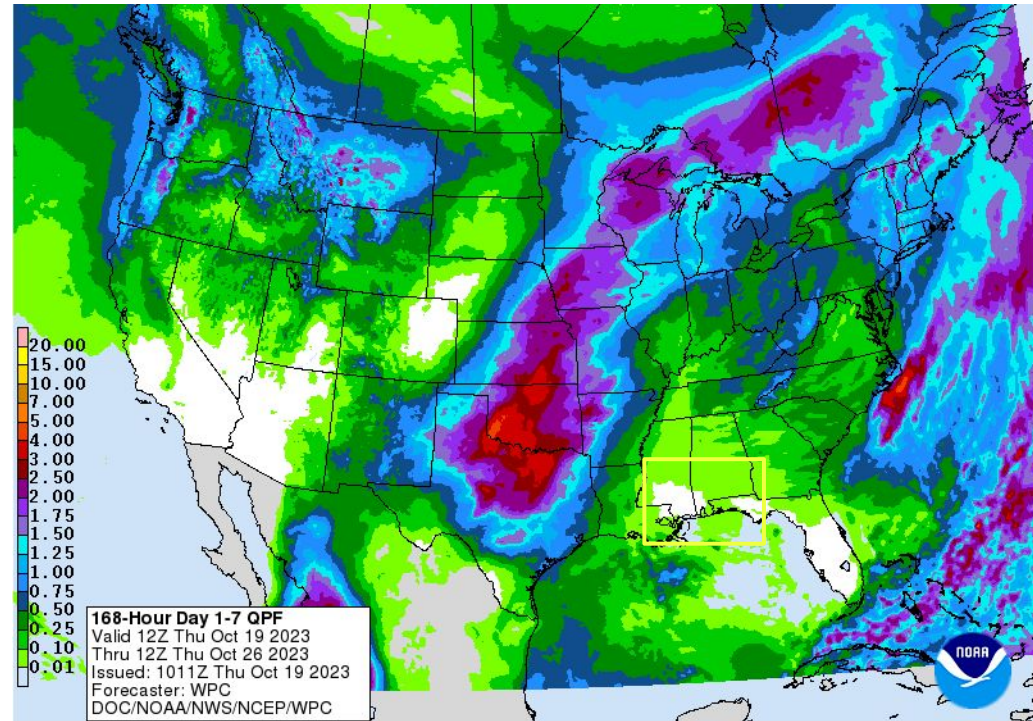


Image Caption: NWS Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday October 19-26, 2023 shows only light precipitation through the next 7 days.





# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures are favored to lean above normal from the Mid-Atlantic Coast down into parts of the Southeast US and across the Gulf Coast through the end of 2023.
- The potential for above normal precipitation is favored from the Mid-Atlantic down into much of the Southeast and Deep South.

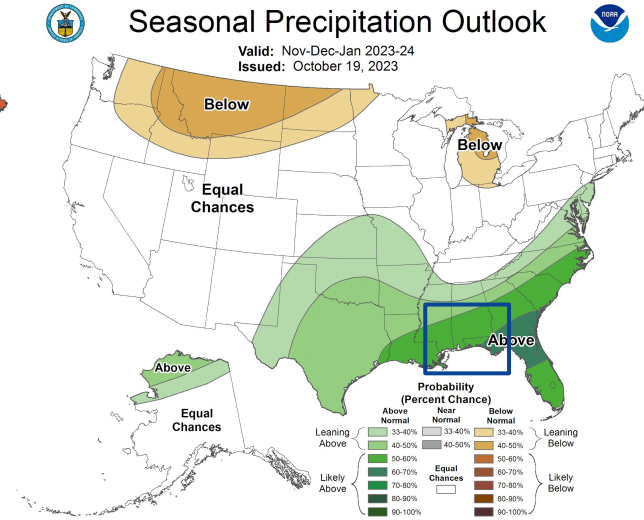
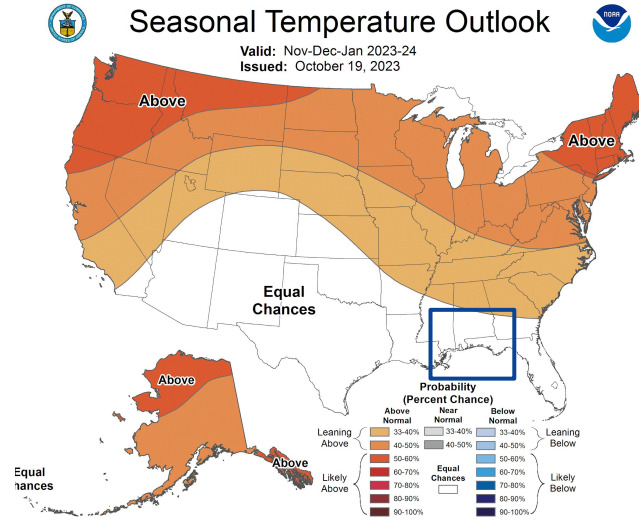


Image Captions: Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#). Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#). Valid October-November-December 2023.





# Drought Outlook

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

- Through the month of October, drought is favored to persist over much of the local area.
- The drought is favored to remain across the region through the remainder of the season, however, it is favored to improve slightly across much of the region by the end of 2023.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2023  
Released September 30, 2023

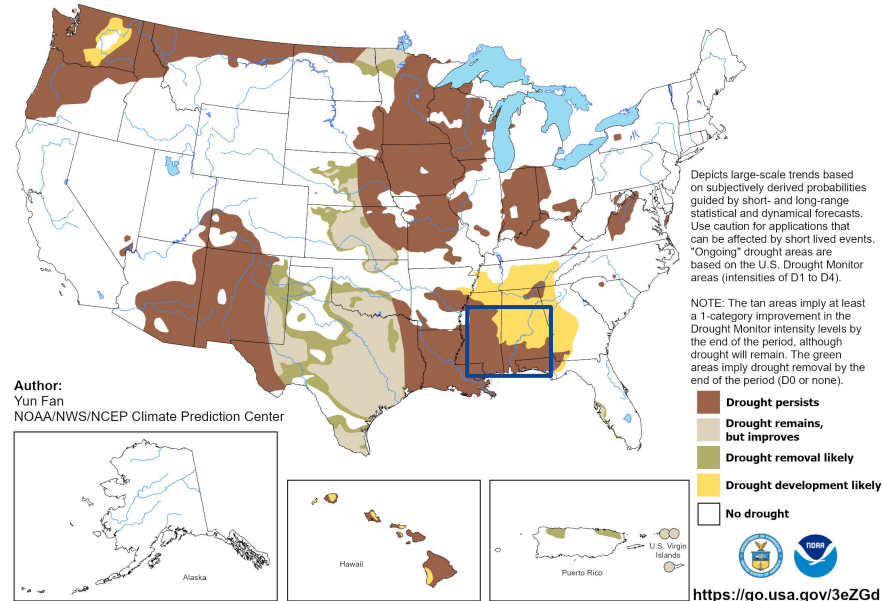


Image Caption: Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook  
Released September 30, 2023 valid for October 2023.

### Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Mobile/Pensacola