

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 6, Number 4, January 2016



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

After a rather dramatic December, January turned out to be ... well, just another January. Our sample of stations around the state says January was a bit cooler than normal (on average) and somewhat drier than normal. But January, at least, was generally short on drama.

It is worth noting that both December and January were months under the influence of the ongoing El Nino Pacific Ocean warming event. While there are some weather patterns related to El Nino, they are more general trends than specific forecasts. Which is why two El Nino-influenced months back-to-back can be so very different.

On an unrelated topic, a conversation overheard this week here at UAH reminded me how important our CoCoRAHS volunteers are to our weather enterprise. One of our students was talking to a faculty member about an experimental rain gauge set out in front of the storms that went through earlier this week.

The gauge, it seems, measured what seemed like not enough rain that night. The official rain gauges at the airport and at UAH weren't close enough to compare to the experimental gauge. A CoCoRAHS volunteer station, however, was apparently close at hand, and the data from that gauge was trusted ... and it showed there had been significantly more rain in that immediate area than was recorded by the experimental rain gauge.

So, back to the drawing board and another chance to get it right.

The important thing, however, is that the dense network of rain gauges here in Madison County had a very real impact on the work we do. Which is the long way around to say we appreciate the volunteers who are devoted to collecting and reporting accurate rain data around the state. And we could use more.

Raw numbers show that between January 2015 and January 2016 we lost about 20 CoCoRAHS volunteers statewide. There are 21 counties in which we have no CoCoRAHS gauges, and another 13 where there is only one. That's more than half of the state.

It isn't an expensive thing to do. The official CoCoRAHS rain gauge costs only \$25. There is a link on the state climatologist website that includes information on ordering the gauge and what is needed to report the data. More data, especially accurate reliable data, is always better.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

February 2, 2016
(Released Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 1/26/2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11/2/2015	63.77	36.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	37.12	62.88	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2/2/2015	61.06	38.94	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

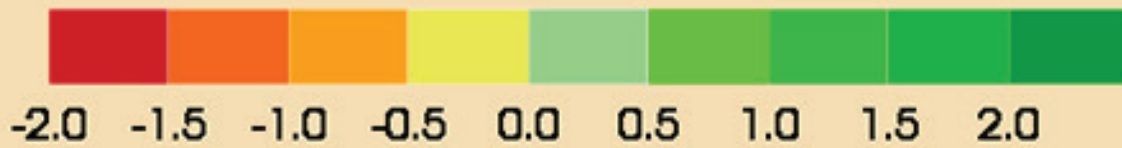
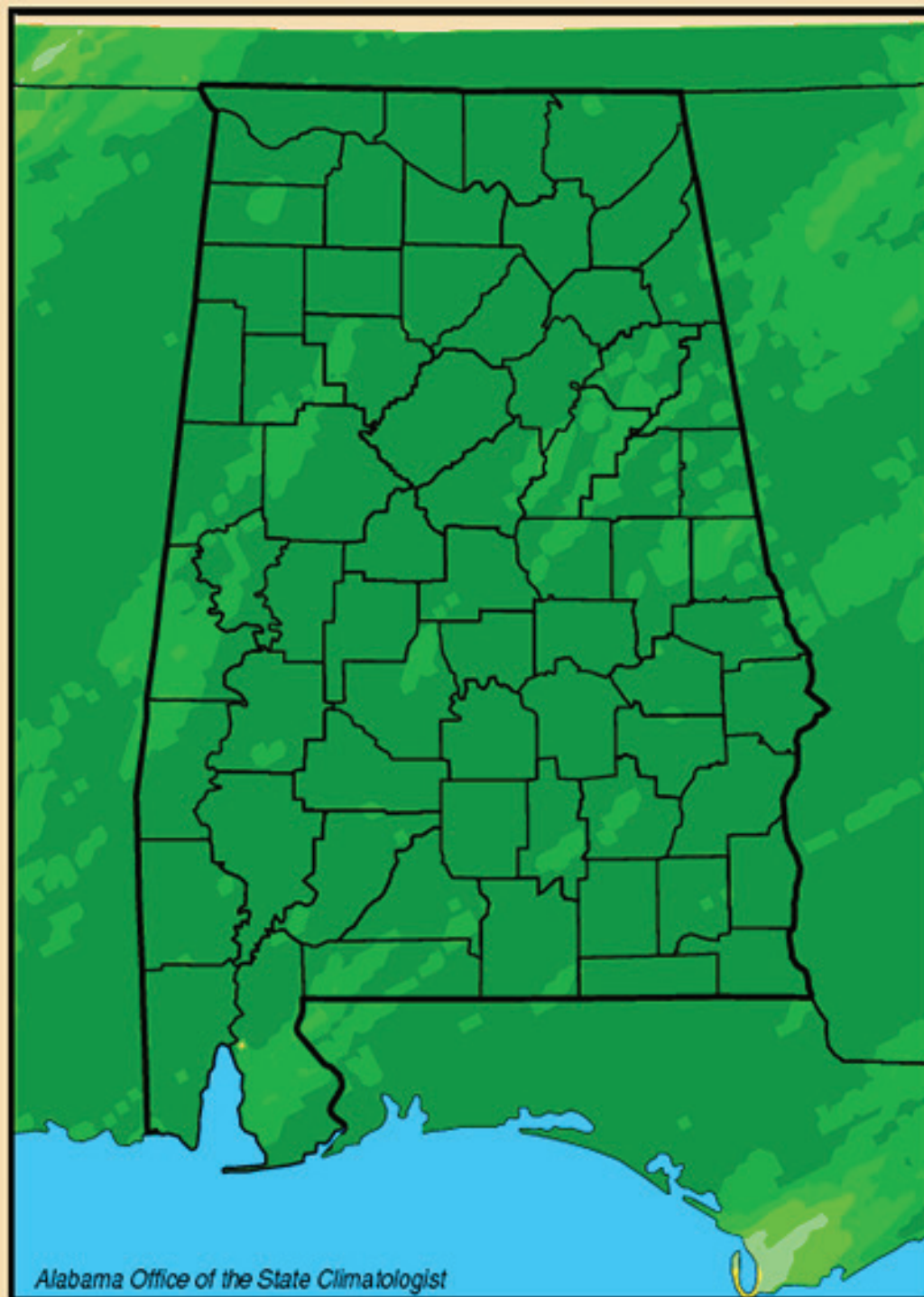
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for February 5, 2016



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

January 2016

	Station Began	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. Hi Temp Record Hi	Jan. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	42.3	70° 1/31/16	18° 1/19/16	3.19"	12.89° 1972	0.91" 1/15/16
		43.5	80°+ 1/25/50	-5° 1/21/85	5.34"	.95° 1986	5.07" 1/4/72
Auburn	1/1893	45.1	71° 1/31/16	21° 1/24/16	2.93"	12.09° 1936	1.46" 1/22/16
		48.3	84° 12/20/24	-1° 12/13/62	5.26"	.49° 1927	5.23" 1/29/12
Birmingham	1/1930	42.5	72° 1/31/16	19° 1/19/16	3.28"	9.59° 1996	0.99" 1/21/16
		42.6	81° 1/10/49	-6° 1/21/85	5.45"	1.09° 1981	4.71" 1/26/96
Brewton	4/1977	46.1	72.6° 1/31/16	24.0° 1/24/16	3.66"	12.55° 1991	1.85" 1/21/16
		47.7	85° 1/12/49	3° 1/21/85	6.19"	1.46° 1981	6.45" 1/25/78
Calera	9/1900	43.5	72° 1/31/16	22° 1/19/16	3.07"	12.59° 1947	0.77" 1/26/16
		42.8	78° 1/29/57	-2° 1/24/63	5.06"	.74° 1927	4.77" 1/24/20
Clanton	2/1893	42.9	71.5° 1/31/16	21.5° 1/19/16	3.96"	13.48° 1972	1.27" 1/21/16
		42.8	84° 1/12/49	-4° 1/21/85	5.98"	1.15° 1986	4.64" 1/19/36
Courtland		39.0	68.3° 1/31/16	15.8° 1/11/16	4.13"	M	2.08" 1/21/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	38.9	68.8° 1/31/16	15.8° 1/11/16	3.95"	M	1.00" 1/21/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	38.1	69° 1/31/16	15° 1/19/16	3.61"	12.98° 1949	1.19" 1/21/16
		42.2	79° 01/15/1907	-5° 01/12/18	5.04"	1.00° 1958	4.62" 01/06/50
Dothan	2/1902	47.6	71° 1/31/16	24° 1/24/16	4.29"	16.88° 1936	1.22" 1/15/16
		50.7	83° 12/11/49	10° 12/24/63	4.27"	.34° 1927	6.42" 1/18/36
Fairhope	8/1917	47.9	72.8° 1/31/16	23.5° 1/24/16	3.28"	16.33° 1998	1.54" 1/21/16
		50.2	82° 1/2/52	5°+ 1/22/85	6.11"	.87° 1989	9.58" 1/25/78
Gadsden	7/1893	38.1	66.9° 1/31/16	15.3° 1/19/16	3.68"	9.01° 1996	1.03" 1/22/16
		40.3	76° 1/29/75	-6°+ 1/21/85	5.85"	1.48° 1981	4.05" 1/16/54
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	42.9	73.8° 1/31/16	21.8° 1/19/16	3.62"	10.80° 1998	1.77" 1/21/16
		43.2	81° 1/20/82	-2°+ 1/22/85	5.87"	1.30° 1981	3.40" 1/20/63
Greensboro	2/1890	43.5	72.6° 1/31/16	21.5° 1/19/16	3.18"	11.69° 1972	1.26" 1/26/16
		45.7	83° 1/9/37	-2° 1/21/85	6.12"	1.31° 1986	5.58" 1/18/87
Highland Home	3/1892	45.4	70.8° 1/31/16	23.8° 1/24/16	5.42"	10.49° 1978	2.05" 1/21/16
		45.8	84° 1/12/49	-3°+ 1/22/85	5.48"	.92° 1981	4.02" 1/25/78
Huntsville	1/1959	40.2	69° 1/31/16	16° 1/19/16	3.57"	10.92° 1982	1.17" 1/21/16
		39.9	77° 1/30/2002	-11° 1/30/66	4.99"	1.32° 1986	4.83" 1/3/82

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

January 2016

	Station Began	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. Hi Temp Record Hi	Jan. Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	49.1	74° 1/31/16	25° 1/24/16	6.29"	16.92" 1998	2.50" 1/21/16
		50.1	84° 1/11/49	3° 1/21/85	5.75"	1.23" 1981	6.16" 1/7/98
Montgomery	6/1948	46.3	75° 1/31/16	24° 1/19/16	5.25"	10.16" 1990	1.58" 1/21/16
		46.6	83° 1/11/49	0° 1/21/85	5.04"	1.12" 1986	4.16" 1/23/65
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	40.2	70° 1/31/16	16° 1/11/16	3.65"	11.77" 1974	1.89" 1/21/16
		39.9	80° 1/10/49	-11° 1/21/85	4.97"	.60" 1986	4.41" 1/31/51
Russellville	9/1953	38.6	67.6° 1/31/16	12.4° 1/11/16	3.81"	12.48" 1998	1.96" 1/21/16
		38.9	78° 1/25/72	-24°+ 1/31/86	5.44"	.93" 1986	3.20" 1/19/2001
Scottsboro	10/1891	37.7	70.1° 1/31/16	14.2° 1/19/16	3.69"	10.92" 1996	1.04" 1/22/16
		39.0	81° 1/11/49	-10° 1/26/40	6.01"	.84" 1986	4.12" 1/2/37
Selma	1/1895	43.4	72.5° 1/31/16	19.8° 1/19/16	3.00"	12.24" 1972	0.92" 1/26/16
		47.0	83°+ 1/30/50	0° 1/21/85	5.64"	1.07" 1986	4.20" 1/6/32
Talladega	2/1888	41.1	69.3° 1/31/16	16.8° 1/19/16	3.07"	15.59" 1972	0.79" 1/22/16
		41.0	80°+ 1/25/50	-5°+ 1/21/85	6.12"	1.05" 1986	4.01" 1/4/72
Thomasville	9/1891	44.3	72.5° 1/31/16	22.2° 1/24/16	3.83"	14.37" 1925	1.23" 1/26/16
		47.4	86° 1/20/1913	-1° 1/21/85	5.13"	.79" 1902	5.04" 1/16/25
Troy	6/1908	45.1	70.4° 1/31/16	23.1° 1/11/16	4.22"	9.81" 1978	1.53" 1/21/16
		46.7	83° 1/12/49	-1° 1/21/85	5.11"	.98" 1981	5.43" 1/19/36
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	42.8	74° 1/31/16	21° 1/19/16	4.14"	10.18" 1979	1.77" 1/21/16
		45.2	82° 1/10/49	-1°+ 1/21/85	5.72"	1.22" 1986	4.26" 1/26/96
Valley Head	1/1893	36.7	66.4° 1/31/16	11.3° 1/19/16	2.93"	10.42" 1974	0.89" 1/22/16
		37.2	77°+ 1/26/50	-14°+ 1/22/85	6.06"	1.70" 1981	4.00" 1/5/49
Statewide Jan. 2015		42.86°	75° Montgomery	11.3° Valley Head	3.78"	16.92" Mobile	2.50" Mobile
Jan. Norm		44.19°	86° Thomasville	-24° Russellville	5.52"	0.34" Dothan	9.58" Fairhope

M: Data is missing or not available

*New Record

#This data is missing this month due to an instrument malfunction

^ This record differs from long-term data in the AOSC climate database:

http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php

New Local Climate Records¹

January 2016

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
10 January 2016				
ALICEVILLE L AND D	1.13	1989-01-10	0.97	36
CALERA	2.00	1929-01-10	1.71	115
14 January 2016				
TALLAPOOSA WTR PLT	1.67	1982-01-14	0.91	38
15 January 2016				
ATMORE	1.27	1998-01-15	1.02	76
BAY MINETTE	1.50	1998-01-15	1.18	102
ENTERPRISE 2 W	0.99	1971-01-15	0.49	50
GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.13	1987-01-15	0.50	40
PINE APPLE	1.36	1989-01-15	0.91	48
MOBILE DTOWN AIRPRT	1.21	1955-01-15	0.89	67
MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	1.90	1998-01-15	1.37	68
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	1.48	1959-01-15	1.21	68
16 January 2016				
MILLERS FERRY L&D	0.72	1997-01-16	0.67	35
27 January 2016				
JORDAN DAM	0.94	1943-01-27	0.91	79
MITCHELL DAM	0.87	1967-01-27	0.83	79

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
04 January 2016				
HAMILTON 3 S.....	-0	2001-01-04	4	54
23 January 2016				
GADSDEN.....	4	2003-01-23	7	63

¹ <http://wf.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

January 2015

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	6.49	2
Baldwin	5.38	23
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	2.48	1
Blount	3.86	9
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	3.78	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	4.94	1
Chilton	2.69	2
Choctaw	4.90	1
Clarke	6.87	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	7.09	1
Colbert	3.84	6
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	6.93	1
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	4.29	4
Dale	7.36	1
Dallas	5.41	1
DeKalb	3.79	3
Elmore	7.13	7
Escambia	5.94	1
Etowah	4.48	1
Fayette	3.99	1
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	3.93	2
Jackson	3.95	7
Jefferson	3.51	15
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	3.65	10
Lawrence	8.68	2
Lee	6.61	3
Limestone	4.29	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	3.62	45
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	4.87	1
Marshall	3.90	11
Mobile	7.16	14
Monroe	7.21	2
Montgomery	6.81	3
Morgan	3.35	6
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	4.58	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	5.47	2
Russell	6.68	2
St. Clair	3.91	5
Shelby	2.86	19
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	3.96	4
Tallapoosa	4.43	4
Tuscaloosa	3.87	4
Walker	4.56	1
Washington	4.53	1
Wilcox	6.09	2
Winston	3.85	2

Normal January Precipitation*

Abbeville	5.30"
Alberta	4.84"
Alex City	5.69"
Aliceville	5.30"
Andalusia	5.17"
Ashland	5.48"
Athens	6.06"
Bay Minette	5.43"
Bessemer	5.34"
Billingsley	4.98"
Centreville WSMO	5.63"
Chatom	5.45"
Claiborne L&D	5.49"
Clayton	4.91"
Dauphin Isl.	5.86"
Elba	5.08"
Eufaula WR	5.20"
Evergreen	5.55"
Fayette	5.75"
Geneva 2	6.43"
Greenville	4.98"
Haleyville	5.79"
Hamilton 3S	5.31"
Heflin	5.31"
Hurtsboro	4.89"
Jasper	5.71"
Lafayette	5.19"
Livingston	4.77"
Melvin	5.25"
Milstead	4.85"
Moulton	5.03"
Oneonta	5.39"
Perryville	5.00"
Plantersville	5.26"
Rock Mills	5.39"
Rockford	5.54"
Sylacauga	5.14"
Union Springs	4.77"
Uniontown	4.99"
Vernon	5.95"
Warrior L&D	5.34"
Wetumpka	4.87"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serc.com

Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes

Hottest - Coldest

Statewide Average Temperature

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html

Record begins in 1895

Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes

Wettest - Driest

Statewide Average Precipitation

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html

Record begins in 1895

January

Hottest	1.	1950	58.9°
	2.	1937	57.0°
	3.	1974	55.0°
	4.	1907	53.6°
	5.	1949	52.7°
	6.	1952	52.4°
	7.	1932	51.9°
	8.	1916	51.8°
	9.	1933	51.4°
	10.	1913	51.2°
	11.	2006	51.1°
	12.	1923	50.9°

AVG 45.0°

47. 2015 43.5°

12.	1961	39.2°
11.	1963	39.1°
10.	1905	38.6°
9.	1948	38.5°
8.	1970	38.0°
7.	1979	37.8°
6.	1918	37.4°
5.	2014	37.3°
4.	1985	37.2°
3.	1978	35.6°
2.	1977	33.3°

Coldest 1. 1940 32.1°

January

Wettest	1.	1936	11.49"
	2.	1925	10.08"
	3.	1947	9.97"
	4.	1937	9.10"
	5.	1972	8.52"
	6.	1990	8.44"
	7.	1946	8.37"
	8.	1974	8.20"
	9.	1998	8.14"
	10.	1926	7.96"
	11.	1999	7.94"
	12.	1979	7.68"

AVG 5.06"

52. 2015 4.35"

12.	1935	2.76"
11.	1941	2.72"
10.	2014	2.70"
9.	1956	2.68"
8.	2003	2.33"
7.	1907	2.21"
6.	1914	2.14"
5.	1986	2.13"
4.	1909	2.05"
3.	1928	1.52"
2.	1981	1.33"

Driest 1. 1927 1.27"

Alabama State Climatologist
John R. Christy
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama
in Huntsville
christy@nsstc.uah.edu
256-961-7763

Contact:

Phillip Gentry
UAHuntsville Communications
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
gentry@nsstc.uah.edu
256.961.7618

Bob Clymer
Assistant State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
bob.clymer@nsstc.uah.edu
256-961-7771

<http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimatereport>