

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

If we look back in a few years and remember 2016's weather at all, many of us are most likely going to remember the fall drought, when most of the state saw little or no measurable rain for about 70 straight days.

Several stations set records for their least rainfall in September and/or October, especially October. Several other stations might have broken October records if not to Alabama's unfortunate history with drought. When our sample of 25 stations statewide has nine spots where the prior record for least October rainfall is 0.00", it isn't likely those records are ever going to be broken.

We did see five of our 25 stations report 0.00" this October. Four others reported only a trace of rain during the month.

Most of the state would have reported record drought in November — if the month had ended on Nov. 26 or Nov. 27. While several stations recorded not one drop of rain during the first three and a half weeks of November, heavy rain during those last four days brought our statewide "average" for the month up to a relatively normal 2.95". (Still 1.65" below normal for November.)

That drought has been greatly reduced by heavy rain since the last three of four days of November. The average for our stations was slightly wetter than normal in December, although that was certainly not evenly distributed.

Counties near the Gulf coast got some serious rain in December. Fairhope reported a December record 10.05" of rain in December, while two dozen CoCoRAHS volunteers in Baldwin County reported an average of more than 13" for the month.

The National Weather Service in Birmingham says 62 tornadoes hit the state in 2016, which is just one below the 10-year average. All but two of those were small tornadoes — EF2 or smaller. The only tornado associated with fatalities was a Nov. 30 tornado in Jackson and DeKalb counties that killed three people and injured 10.

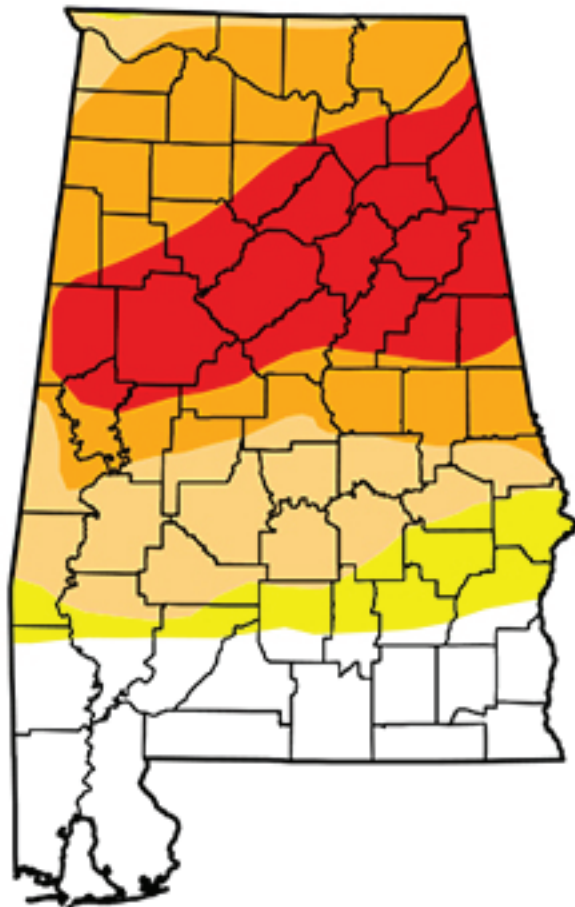
The New Year roared into the state with a fast-moving storm system that hit Mobile and the surrounding area with remarkable speed and force. And the recent snow, sleet and ice event reminds us how difficult it can be to accurately predict winter weather in Alabama more than

four or five hours in advance.

It also is a reminder that if you live in Alabama, you need to be both weather aware and weather prepared. We might make jokes about bread and milk in advance of a snowstorm, but having the right emergency supplies on hand during a severe weather event is a serious matter. More information is available at weather.gov.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



January 3, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.97	77.03	68.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Last Week 12/27/2016	1.17	98.83	96.09	86.05	51.76	19.18
3 Months Ago 10/4/2016	13.49	86.51	55.35	23.05	8.97	0.06
Start of Calendar Year 1/3/2017	22.97	77.03	68.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.04	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 1/6/2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



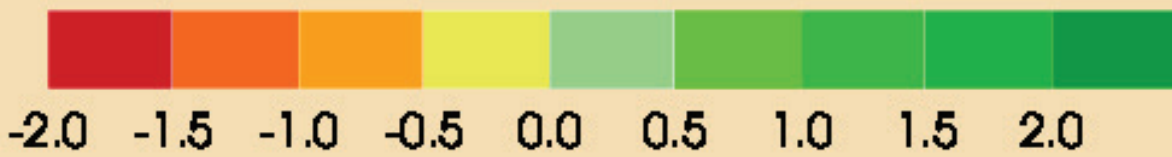
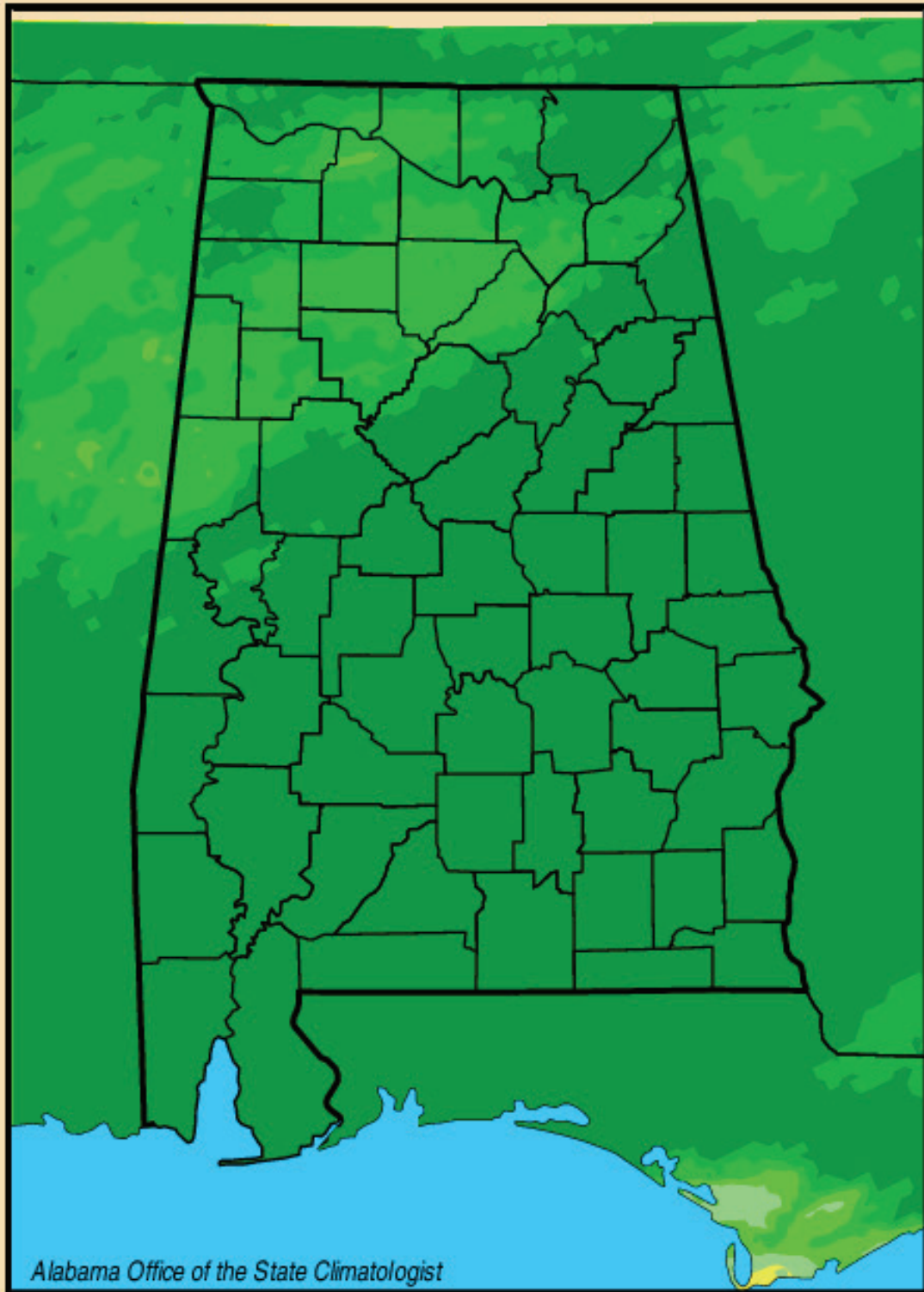
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for January 4, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

Dec. 2016

	Station Began	Dec. Mean Dec. Norm	Dec. Hi Temp Record Hi	Dec. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Dec. Driest Dec.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	48.8°	77° 12/25/16	21° 12/10/16	2.64"	10.32° 1983	0.46" 12/4/16
		46.1°	80° 12/7/51	1° 12/13/62	4.11"	0.71° 1980	4.11" 12/20/51
Auburn	1/1893	51.3°	76° 12/25/16	27° 12/10/16	4.42"	14.27° 1953	1.92" 12/5/16
		48.3°	84° 12/20/24	-1° 12/13/62	5.26"	0.82° 1955	6.22" 12/4/53
Birmingham	1/1930	49.3°	78° 12/25/16	22° 12/10/16	2.39"	12.63° 1983	0.76" 12/5/16
		45.6°	80° 12/7/51	1+ 12/23/89	4.47"	0.81° 1980	7.70" 12/27/42
Brewton	4/1977	54.6°	79.7° 12/25/16	26.9° 12/10/16	8.33"	14.96° 1972	2.38" 12/13/16
		49.5°	84° 12/9/98	7° 12/13/62	4.78"	1.13° 1980	6.23" 12/21/72
Calera	9/1900	50.2°	79° 12/25/16	24° 12/10/16	8.92"	13.61° 1983	0.59" 12/5/16
		45.9°	79° 12/8/78	-5° 12/26/83	5.12"	0.65° 1917	7.25" 12/28/42
Clanton	2/1893	49.4°	77.2° 12/25/16	25.0° 12/11/16	2.60"	13.61° 1983	0.62" 12/4/16
		45.2°	80+ 12/9/78	2° 12/13/62	4.96"	2.20° 1980	5.10" 12/12/61
Courtland		45.1°	76.1° 12/25/16	19.2° 12/10/16	5.50"	M	1.96" 12/6/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	45.6°	77.0° 12/25/16	19.3° 12/10/16	4.57"	M	1.05" 12/18/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	45.4°	75° 12/25/16	21° 12/10/16	5.19"	11.52° 1911	1.14" 12/6/16
		43.5°	78° 12/7/51	1° 12/15/1901	5.08"	0.88° 1965	4.87" 12/29/54
Dothan	2/1902	56.4°	82° 12/26/16	29° 12/10/16	10.36"	13.72° 1964	3.56" 12/4/16
		51.3°	82° 12/6/51	7° 12/13/62	4.56"	0.50° 1955	9.84" 12/25/64
Fairhope	8/1917	56.6°	78.1° 12/25/16	29.6° 12/10/16	*10.05"	8.04° 1982	3.39" 12/18/16
		52.5°	84° 12/30/65	8° 12/13/62	4.40"	1.67° 1980	9.80" 12/6/53
Gadsden	7/1893	44.5°	72.5° 12/25/16	19.7° 12/10/16	3.32"	10.33° 1983	0.78" 12/4/16
		43.5°	78+ 12/7/98	1° 12/13/62	4.89"	0.43° 1980	5.85" 12/12/61
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	49.7°	78.0° 12/25/16	24.0° 12/10/16	2.70"	11.36° 1982	0.86" 12/5/16
		46.1°	83° 12/4/78	2° 12/24/89	4.81"	0.73° 1980	4.77" 12/26/73
Greensboro	2/1890	50.4°	77.8° 12/25/16	24.8° 12/10/16	2.77"	13.36° 1973	0.69" 12/13/16
		48.5°	82° 12/6/51	2° 12/23/89	4.76"	0.37° 1980	6.12" 12/28/42
Highland Home	3/1892	53.0°	80.1° 12/25/16	25.5° 12/10/16	3.86"	9.05° 1972	0.96" 12/13/16
		48.5°	83° 12/8/51	4+ 12/26/83	4.60"	1.59° 1998	4.00+ 12/17/92
Huntsville	1/1959	47.2°	77° 12/25/16	23° 12/10/16	5.91"	18.68° 1990	1.28" 12/6/16
		43.1°	79° 12/4/98	-3° 12/22/89	5.59"	0.76° 1965	9.07" 12/22/90

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

Dec. 2016

	Station Began	Dec. Mean Dec. Norm	Dec. Hi Temp Record Hi	Dec. Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Dec. Driest Dec.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	57.2°	80° 12/25/16	29° 12/10/16	8.33"	8.86" 1995	2.16" 12/4/16
		52.3°	81°+ 12/7/98	8° 12/25/83	4.66"	1.29" 1980	4.68" 12/18/95
Montgomery	6/1948	54.0°	82° 12/25/16	27° 12/10/16	4.11"	11.35" 1961	1.15" 12/5/16
		49.0°	85° 12/2/82	5°+ 12/25/83	4.97"	1.39" 1980	3.92" 12/16/92
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	46.5°	78° 12/25/16	22° 12/10/16	5.34"	19.19" 1990	1.75" 12/4/16
		43.3°	78°+ 12/24/64	-5° 12/23/89	5.44"	0.65" 1980	5.20" 12/1/91
Russellville	9/1953	44.7°	75.8° 12/25/16	16.6° 12/10/16	5.43"	17.45" 1990	1.67" 12/6/16
		42.0°	85° 12/25/64	-7° 12/23/89	5.36"	1.02" 1980	5.31" 12/29/54
Scottsboro	10/1891	44.4°	73.6° 12/25/16	18.0° 12/10/16	5.33"	14.73" 1990	0.96" 12/18/16
		42.1°	80° 12/7/51	-1° 12/25/83	5.65"	1.34" 1980	6.80" 12/23/90
Selma	1/1895	50.3°	80.1° 12/25/16	20.1° 12/10/16	4.17"	9.97" 1983	0.84" 12/4/16
		49.2°	85°+ 12/6/51	5° 12/13/62	4.72"	1.29" 1980	7.08" 12/10/61
Talladega	2/1888	48.4°	77.8° 12/25/16	21.3° 12/10/16	2.52"	8.43" 1983	0.81" 12/5/16
		43.6°	80° 12/7/51	0° 12/13/62	4.24"	0.98" 1979	3.80" 12/31/73
Thomasville	9/1891	51.5°	79.8° 12/25/16	25.4° 12/11/16	5.87"	11.65" 1971	2.00" 12/5/16
		59.6°	85° 12/11/33	3° 12/13/62	5.16"	1.12" 1980	6.29" 12/10/61
Troy	6/1908	53.4°	79.4° 12/26/16	25.0° 12/10/16	4.90"	14.95" 1972	1.46" 12/18/16
		50.4°	82° 12/3/1912	4° 12/13/62	4.54"	0.29" 1980	6.67" 12/6/72
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	51.0°	80° 12/25/16	24° 12/10/16	2.91"	11.05" 1983	1.11" 12/5/16
		47.0°	82° 12/3/78	2° 12/23/89	4.87"	0.69" 1980	3.64" 12/20/51
Valley Head	1/1893	43.3°	72.6° 12/25/16	16.9° 12/10/16	4.03"	13.67" 1961	0.94" 12/4/16
		41.3°	85° 12/28/42	-8° 12/13/62	4.86"	0.77" 1904	4.28" 12/12/61
Statewide Dec. 2015		50.25° /	82° 2 stations	16.6° Russellville	5.06"	19.19" Russellville	3.56" Dothan
Dec. Norm		47.10° /	85° 5 stations	- 8° Valley Head	4.87"	0.29" Troy	9.84" Dothan

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

December 2016

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record		New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 Dec. 2016					MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	80	2015-12-25	79	68
CLAYTON	80	2015-12-01	78	60	MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	82	1987-12-25	81	68
MOULTON 2	73	1962-12-01	72	59	MUSCLE SHOALS REGL	78	1987-12-25	75	75
12 Dec. 2016					26 Dec. 2016				
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	80	1996-12-12	77	67	BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	74	2015-12-26	73	87
17 Dec. 2016					CHATOM	80	1982-12-26	79	67
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATL	73	2006-12-17	71	58	CLAYTON	79	2015-12-26	78	61
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	79	1956-12-17	78	68	FT BENNING LAWSON FD	81	1964-12-26	76	68
MUSCLE SHOALS REGL	74	2006-12-17	72	76	GUNTERSVILLE	74	2015-12-26	71	107
TUSCALOOSA MUNIAPT	76	1990-12-17	75	69	HAMILTON 3 S	80	1987-12-26	75	55
18 Dec. 2016					HUNTSVILLE INTERNATL	73	2015-12-26	72	58
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	79	1967-12-18	78	68	MOULTON 2	76	1971-12-26	73	60
GAINESVILLE LOCK	76	1990-12-18	75	59	SCOTTSBORO	76	1987-12-26	72	125
MUSCLE SHOALS REGL	74	2006-12-18	72	76	TALLADEGA	78	2015-12-26	77	123
VERNON	76	2006-12-18	73	60	27 Dec. 2016				
24 Dec. 2016					DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	85	2015-12-27	76	41
ALEXANDER CITY	74	2015-12-24	71	46	JASPER	76	1982-12-27	75	56
MOBILE REGIONAL APRT	78	1974-12-24	77	68	SCOTTSBORO	76	2015-12-27	71	125
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	79	1987-12-24	78	68	VERNON	76	2015-12-27	74	60
ROCK MILLS	73	1957-12-24	72	74	FT BENNING LAWSON FD	79	1959-12-27	75	68
25 Dec. 2016					MOBILE REGL AIRPORT	80	1971-12-27	79	69
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	76	2015-12-25	75	59	28 Dec. 2016				
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	78	2015-12-25	77	86	CHATOM	80	2008-12-28	76	67
CLAYTON	78	1988-12-25	77	60	EVERGREEN	79	2015-12-28	78	125
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	81	1964-12-25	70	67	MOBILE DT AIRPORT	80	2015-12-28	75	68
HALEYVILLE	77	1964-12-25	76	113	29 Dec. 2016				
HUNTSVILLE INTERNATL	77	1987-12-25	73	57	MOBILE DT AIRPORT	74	1951-12-29	73	68

Max High Temperature, December

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
27 December 2016				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	85	1978-12-09	81	41

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
11 December 2016				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....	21	1968-12-11	22	67

¹ ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records

New Local Climate Records¹

December 2016

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record					
01 December 2016					13 Dec. 2016				
JORDAN DAM	0.82	1975-12-01	0.80	79	MOBILE DT AIRPORT	1.78	1963-12-13	1.42	67
PLANTERSVILLE	1.40	2004-12-01	1.12	76	14 Dec. 2016				
SAND MT SUBSTATION	2.84	2010-12-01	2.01	67	CHATOM	2.35	1993-12-14	2.16	66
04 Dec. 2016					CLAIBORNE LOCK & DAM	1.75	1963-12-14	1.62	63
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	2.71	1955-12-04	2.27	68	GENEVA NUMBER 2	2.45	2000-12-14	1.48	40
05 Dec. 2016					JACKSON	2.65	2000-12-14	1.50	54
BESSEMER 3 WSW	0.95	2005-12-05	0.70	40	FT BENNING LAWSON FD	1.41	1956-12-14	1.35	67
GENEVA NUMBER 2	5.90	1982-12-05	3.92	41	18 Dec. 2016				
ROBERTSDALE	3.88	1978-12-05	1.50	105	CAHABA PUMP HOUSE	0.14	2008-12-18	0.11	35
06 Dec. 2016					MOBILE DT AIRPORT	2.08	1965-12-18	1.25	68
ALICEVILLE L & D	1.22	2011-12-06	1.04	36	19 Dec. 2016				
COFFEEVILLE L & D	1.25	2004-12-06	1.10	33	ATMORE	1.48	1990-12-19	0.83	77
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	4.14	1976-12-06	1.32	40	BAY MINETTE	1.97	1999-12-19	1.26	103
ENTERPRISE 2 W	4.40	1972-12-06	3.01	50	FAIRHOPE 2 NE	3.40	1999-12-19	1.62	99
GENEVA NUMBER 2	4.10	1983-12-06	2.03	40	FT BENNING LAWSON FD	1.19	2009-12-19	1.10	68
HAMILTON 3 S	2.10	2014-12-06	1.44	54	GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.45	1995-12-19	1.04	41
HURTSBORO	1.25	1979-12-06	1.14	38	ROBERTSDALE	2.63	1965-12-19	2.02	105
JACKSON	1.63	1979-12-06	1.60	54					
JASPER	0.82	1971-12-06	0.76	55					
JONES BLUFF L & D	1.45	1983-12-06	0.95	35					
MILLERS FERRY L&D	1.32	1983-12-06	0.97	35					
OPELIKA	2.74	1972-12-06	1.56	59					
SELMA	1.56	1995-12-06	1.48	121					

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

December 2016

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	5.90	2
Baldwin	13.16	24
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	5.31	10
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	9.48	1
Calhoun	2.61	3
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	6.33	1
Chilton	5.25	1
Choctaw	7.09	1
Clarke	8.92	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	11.90	1
Colbert	7.57	6
Concehuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	7.04	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	6.22	5
Dale	11.88	1
Dallas	6.72	1
DeKalb	7.70	3
Elmore	6.28	6
Escambia	10.37	1
Etowah	n.a.	0
Fayette	5.80	4
Franklin	0.00	0
Geneva	1.20	1
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	12.25	3
Jackson	10.35	7
Jefferson	3.73	12
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	7.22	9
Lawrence	7.32	2
Lee	6.27	4
Limestone	9.14	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	7.59	1
Madison	8.42	45
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	8.45	1
Marshall	6.96	9
Mobile	9.92	15
Monroe	8.73	2
Montgomery	6.07	5
Morgan	9.68	6
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	4.52	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	4.30	2
Russell	8.05	2
St. Clair	4.29	5
Shelby	4.10	19
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	3.94	4
Tallapoosa	2.66	2
Tuscaloosa	4.11	5
Walker	2.79	1
Washington	10.51	1
Wilcox	7.28	2
Winston	8.48	2

Normal December Precipitation*

Abbeville	4.62"
Alberta	5.22"
Alex City	4.84"
Aliceville	4.76"
Andalusia	5.04"
Ashland	5.09"
Athens	5.73"
Bay Minette	5.15"
Bessemer	4.90"
Billingsley	5.03"
Centreville WSMO	4.77"
Chatom	5.83"
Claiborne L&D	5.30"
Clayton	4.48"
Dauphin Isl.	4.34"
Elba	4.55"
Eufaula WR	4.73"
Evergreen	4.05"
Fayette	5.08"
Geneva 2	4.48"
Greenville	5.12"
Haleyville	5.80"
Hamilton 3S	5.80"
Heflin	4.94"
Hurtsboro	4.42"
Jasper	6.07"
Lafayette	4.95"
Livingston	4.96"
Melvin	6.15"
Milstead	4.96"
Moulton	5.70"
Oneonta	5.06"
Perryville	5.16"
Plantersville	5.35"
Rock Mills	5.10"
Rockford	5.03"
Sylacauga	5.01"
Union Springs	4.68"
Uniontown	4.88"
Vernon	5.14"
Warrior L&D	4.82"
Wetumpka	4.94"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serrc.com

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