The Alabama Climate Report

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

January 2021 experienced quite the drastic shift in weather from a relatively quiet December. The month started with near record/record high temperatures for much of the state. About a week and half later, north/northwestern Alabama experienced widespread measurable snow (up to 3 inches in some locations) on January 11th. Two weeks later, an EF-3 tornado tracked across Jefferson County, north of Birmingham, on January 25th due in part to the anomalous warm (near record/record high temperatures across the state) and moist conditions. More information here: <u>https://www.weather.gov/</u> <u>bmx/event_01252021</u>

On average, January was drier and warmer than normal. For the third consecutive month, Alabama experienced drier than normal conditions. January was 1.65 inches drier than normal.

The Gadsden Municipal Airport was the driest station of the month with only 0.26 inches of rainfall recorded. This is also the driest month on record for this station (albeit only a 11-year station record). In total, 14 stations had less than 2 inches of rain for the month. Drought is starting to appear in the parts of southwest (Butler, Clarke, Choctaw, Concecuh, Dallas, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Sumter, and Wilcox counties) and north (Cullman, Lawrence, Morgan, and Winston counties) Alabama given the consecutive dry months. If the drier than normal conditions trend continues into February, expect drought conditions to expand.

Temperature-wise, January was slightly warmer than normal by 1.6°F statewide. As stated before, numerous stations saw near-record/record high temperatures at the start of the month and on January 25th. The Eufaula Weedon Field Airport was one such station with a record high temperature of 81°F on January 25th, which also was the hottest spot of the month. In contrast, the Russellville 4 SSE station recorded the coldest spot of month at 17°F on January 13th after the snowfall on the 11th.

The relatively warmer and drier weather of this early winter is consistent the general weather which occurs during a La Niña event in the central tropical Pacific. When sea water temperatures are much cooler than usual there, they have a tendency to affect large-scale weather patterns, that include a warmer and drier situation for the southern half of the Gulf Coastal states. Thus, so far, this La Niña is fitting the pattern – but things can always change.

Some may think tornadoes are rare in the winter months of December, January, and February. However, tornadoes are more common in winter months than in the summer months of June, July, and August based on data from 1950-2019. It is important to stay weather aware even during these cold winter months. Do not wait until severe weather is happening to have a plan. Know where to go in case of a tornado warning.

Dr. John Christy The Alabama State Climatologist

Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



February 2, 2021 (Released Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021) 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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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Lawn & Garden <mark>Index</mark>



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

	Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries									
	January 2021									
	Jan. Mean Jan. Norm	Jan. High Temp Record High	Jan. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest Jan. Driest Jan.	Heaviest Day Record Day				
Anniston	45.2	73 1/25/21	24 1/14/21	1.37"	12.69" 1972	.75" 1/21/21				
	43.5 47.4	80+ 1/25/50 75 1/25/21	-5 1/21/85 24 1/10/21	5.34" 2.03"	.95" 1986 12.09" 1936	5.07" 1/4/72 .75" 1/21/21				
Auburn	48.3	84 12/20/24	-1 12/13/62	5.26"	.49" 1927	5.23" 1/29/12				
Birmingham	45.8	74 1/1/21	25 1/13/21	3.05"	9.59" 1996	.75" 1/21/21				
-	42.6	81 1/10/49	-6 1/21/85	5.45"	1.09" 1981	4.71" 1/26/96				
Brewton	48.9 47.7	71.9 1/25/21 85 1/12/49	26.2 1/10/21 3 1/21/85	4.00" 6.19"	12.55" 1991 1.46" 1981	1.53" 1/22/21 6.45" 1/25/78				
Calera	45.5	74 1/25/21	24 1/13/21	3.66"	12.59" 1947	.94" 1/27/21				
Galera	42.8	78 1/29/57	-2 1/24/63	5.06"	.74" 1927	4.77" 1/24/20				
Clanton	45.8	75 1/25/21	25.4 1/17/21	3.64"	13.48" 1972	0.81" 1/27/21				
	42.8 42.3	84 1/12/49 72.1 1/25/21	-4 1/21/85 20.4 1/13/21	5.98" 2.62"	1.15" 1986 M	4.64" 1/19/36 0.57" 1/25/21				
Courtland	-42.3 M	M	M	M	M	M				
Cullman (St. Bernard)	42.1	71.9 1/1/21	19.1 1/13/21	3.41"	М	1.33" 1/25/21				
	М	м	М	М	М	М				
Decatur (Pryor Field)	42.1	73 1/1/21	21 1/13/21	1.83"	12.98" 1949	.92" 1/24/21				
	42.2 51.5	79 01/15/1907 78 1/25/21	-5 01/12/18 28 1/17/21	5.04" 4.91"	1.00" 1958 16.88" 1936	4.62" 01/06/50 2.97" 1/26/21				
Dothan	50.7	83 12/11/49	10 12/24/63	4.91	.34" 1927	6.42" 1/18/36				
Fainhana	51.3	74.8 1/25/21	25.1 1/10/21	2.00"	16.33" 1998	0.76" 1/7/21				
Fairhope	50.2	82 1/2/52	5+ 1/22/85	6.11"	.87" 1989	9.58" 1/25/78				
Gadsden	41.6	68.3 1/1/21	20 1/13/21	3.52"	9.01" 1996	1.31" 1/25/21				
	40.3	76 1/29/75	-6+1/21/85	5.85"	1.48" 1981	4.05" 1/16/54				
Gainesville Lock	45.9 43.2	76.5 1/25/21 81 1/20/82	25.6 1/13/21 -2+ 1/22/85	3.20" 5.87"	10.80" 1998 1.30" 1981	0.95" 1/26/21 3.40" 1/20/63				
	46.5	75.7 1/25/21	26.7 1/12/21	3.07"	11.69" 1972	0.67" 1/27/21				
Greensboro	45.7	83 1/9/37	-2 1/21/85	6.12"	1.31" 1986	5.58" 1/18/87				
Guntersville	М	м	М	М	9.37" 1982	М				
	40	75+ 1/17/90	-11 1/21/85	5.08"	.93" 1986	4.85" 1/5/49				
Highland Home	48.9 45.8	73.5 1/25/21 84 1/12/49	29.8 1/29/21 -3+ 1/22/85	3.41" 5.48"	10.49" 1978 .92" 1981	1.24" 1/1/21 4.02" 1/25/78				
	43.8	74 1/1/21	20 1/13/21	2.33"	10.92" 1982	.63" 1/31/21				
Huntsville	39.9	77 1/30/2002	-11 1/30/66	4.99"	1.32" 1986	4.83" 1/3/82				
Mobile	50.8	75 1/31/21	25 1/10/21	1.40"	16.92" 1998	1.01" 1/27/21				
	50.1	84 1/11/49	3 1/21/85	5.75"	1.23" 1981	6.16" 1/7/98				
Montgomery	49.5 46.6	77 1/25/21 83 1/11/49	26 1/17/21	2.51" 5.04"	10.16" 1990	0.80" 1/22/21				
	40.0	75 1/25/21	0 1/21/85 22 1/13/21	3.77"	1.12" 1986 11.77" 1974	4.16" 1/23/65 1.63" 1/25/21				
Muscle Shoals Airport	39.9	80 1/10/49	-11 1/21/85	4.97"	.60" 1986	4.41" 1/31/51				
Russellville	42.1	73.2 1/25/21	16.9 1/13/21	2.50"	12.48" 1998	0.63" 1/24/21				
Russellville	38.9	78 1/25/72	-24+ 1/31/66	5.44"	.93" 1986	3.20" 1/19/2001				
Scottsboro	42.2	72.2 1/1/21	24.1 1/13/21	2.62"	10.92" 1996	0.87" 1/25/21				
	39 46.4	81 1/11/49 76.5 1/25/21	-10 1/26/40 22 1/17/21	6.01" 3.06"	.84" 1986 12.24" 1972	4.12" 1/2/37 0.73" 1/1/21				
Selma	40.4	83+ 1/30/50	0 1/21/85	5.64"	1.07" 1986	4.20" 1/6/32				
Talladaga	44.6	72.4 1/1/21	23.3 1/14/21	3.02"	15.59" 1972	0.71" 1/27/21				
Talladega	41	80+ 1/25/50	-5+ 1/21/85	6.12"	1.05" 1986	4.01" 1/4/72				
Thomasville	47.3	74.2 1/25/21	25 1/17/21	2.24"	14.37" 1925	0.86" 1/22/21				
	47.4	86 1/20/1913	-1 1/21/85	5.13"	.79" 1902	5.04" 1/16/25				
Troy	50.6 46.7	80 1/25/21 83 1/12/49	26 1/17/21 -1 1/21/85	2.79" 5.11"	9.81" 1978 .98" 1981	0.64" 1/1/21 5.43" 1/19/36				
Tusselesse	46.1	76 1/25/21	24 1/14/21	3.73"	10.18" 1979	0.66" 1/26/21				
Tuscaloosa	45.2	82 1/10/49	-1+ 1/21/85	5.72"	1.22" 1986	4.26" 1/26/96				
Valley Head	40.6	68.1 1/1/21	22.2 1/18/21	3.83"	10.42" 1974	1.17" 1/25/21				
	37.2	77+ 1/26/50	-14+ 1/22/85	6.06"	1.70" 1981	4.00" 1/5/49				

New Alabama Climate Records

Highest Minimum Temperature Monthly Record						
STATION	DATE	RECORD	PREV. DATE	PREV. RECORD	NUMBER OF YEARS	DIFFERENCE
CLAYTON, AL US	1/26/21	66	1/1/19	65	65	1
Highest Maximum Temperature Daily Record						
MOULTON 2, AL US	1/5/21	71	1/5/04	70	64	1
CLAYTON, AL US	1/26/21	77	1/26/74	77	65	0
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE, AL US	1/26/21	77	1/26/62	77	71	0
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2, AL US	1/26/21	73	1/26/67	73	67	0
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	1/26/21	75	1/26/12	75	66	0
VERNON, AL US	1/26/21	76	1/26/12	75	64	1
Highest Minimum Temperature Daily Record						_
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	1/25/21		1/25/04		44	7
JACKSON, AL US	1/25/21		1/25/84		37	2
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2, AL US	1/25/21		1/25/90		67	1
HUNTSVILLE INTNL AIRPORT, AL US	1/25/21		1/25/76		62	0
BANKHEAD LOCK AND DAM, AL US	1/26/21		1/26/74		64	7
CLAYTON, AL US	1/26/21		1/26/74		65	8
HEFLIN, AL US	1/26/21	55	1/26/62	52	65	3
JACKSON, AL US	1/26/21	61	1/26/12	59	37	2
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	1/26/21	55	1/26/12	54	72	1
Lowest Maximum Temperature Daily Record						
JACKSON, AL US	1/13/21	37	1/13/11	37	37	0
	1/13/21	57	1/13/11	57	57	0
Highest Precipitation Daily Record						
JACKSON, AL US	1/22/21	2.23	1/22/87	2.14	59	0.09
ATHENS, AL US	1/25/21	1.48	1/25/04	0.85	80	0.63
BEVILL LOCK AND DAM, AL US	1/26/21	1.56	1/26/11	1.4	41	0.16
HOLT LOCK AND DAM, AL US	1/26/21	1.34	1/26/86	0.69	40	0.65
Highest Snowfall Daily Record			. 1 1 - -	-		
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT, AL US	1/7/21		1/7/79	0	80	0
FAYETTE, AL US	1/11/21				99	
TUSCALOOSA AIRPORT ASOS, AL US	1/13/21	0	1/13/68	0	73	0

Volunteer P recipitation Reports (CoCoRAHS)

		Community Coll	laborative Rain, Hail and Snov	w Network (CoCoRAHS)			
January 2021							
	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		
						Normal Ja	nuary
Autauga	3.17	1	Houston			Precipita	tion*
Baldwin	3.12	29	Jackson	3.86	1	Abbeville	5.30
Barbour	4.06	1	Jefferson	3.28	4	Alberta	4.84
Bibb	3.30	1	Lamar	2.06	1	Alex City	5.69
Blount	4.13	5	Lauderdale	2.42	9	Aliceville	5.30
Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	2.88	4	Andalusia	5.17
Butler	0.41	1	Lee	3.52	6	Ashland	5.48
Calhoun	3.55	1	Limestone	3.63	8	Athens	6.06
Chambers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0	Bay Minette	5.43
Cherokee	1.10	1	Macon	3.04	1	Bessemer	5.34
Chilton	3.96	1	Madison	2.60	24	Billingsly	4.98
Choctaw	4.17	1	Marengo	n.a.	0	Centreville W	SMO 5.63
Clarke	2.97	3	Marion	2.32	1	Chatom	5.45
Clay	n.a.	0	Marshall	3.21	11	Claiborne L&D	5.49
Cleburne	n.a.	0	Mobile	2.57	16	Clayton	4.91
Coffee	n.a.	0	Monroe	3.59	2	Dauphin Isl.	5.86
Colbert	4.01	6	Montgomery	3.89	4	Elba	5.08
Conecuh	3.04	2	Morgan	3.01	6	Eufaula WR	5.20
Coosa	4.19	2	Perry	n.a.	0	Evergreen	5.55
Covington	5.14	1	Pickens	n.a.	0	Fayette	5.75
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Pike	n.a.	0	Geneva 2	6.43
Cullman	3.20	4	Randolph	4.00	1	Greenville	4.98
Dale	6.17	1	Russell	4.45	2	Haleyville	5.79
Dallas	3.55	1	St. Clair	4.29	5	Hamilton 3S	5.31
DeKalb	3.44	7	Shelby	4.10	15	Heflin	5.31
Elmore	3.68	4	Sumter	n.a.	0	Hurtsboro	4.89
Escambia	3.98	1	Talladega	4.35	4	Jasper	5.71
Etowah	4.91	1	Tallapoosa	4.18	1	Lafayette	5.19
Fayette	1.31	1	Tuscaloosa	4.57	58	Livingston	4.77
Franklin	n.a.	0	Walker	4.62	1	Melvin	5.25
Geneva	4.42	1	Washington	2.95	1	Milstead	4.85
Greene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	2.89	2	Moulton	5.03
Hale	n.a.	0	Winston	2.28	3	Oneonta	5.39
Henry	n.a.	0				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

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