

# The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 4, Number 6, March 2014



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

How could March have felt so very cold when the monthly average temperature was less than three degrees cooler than normal? Three degrees doesn't sound like much, especially when so many people in Alabama felt so cold.

Part of the problem is that old average thing. Three days of temperatures 33 degrees hotter than normal, followed by four days of temperatures 25 degrees colder than normal means that, on average, we had a pretty normal week.

And so it was in Alabama. If we look at the National Weather Service stations around the state, we see that most of us saw more cooler than normal days than warmer. Some of those cooler days were downright cold, based on what's normal for Alabama.

Decatur and Huntsville each had seven days in March when the average temperature was at least 10 degrees colder than normal. Mobile saw only ten days in March when temperatures were at or warmer than normal, and one day was 23 degrees colder than the seasonal norm!

## Feeling the March Chill

	Days at/warmer than normal	At least 10° below normal	Coldest compared to normal
Mobile	10	5	-23°
Anniston	11	4	-16°
Birmingham	11	5	-17° (twice)
Huntsville	11	7	-17°
Decatur	12	7	-18°
Montgomery	12	4	-16°
Tuscaloosa	12	3	-18°
Dothan	13	3	-16°
Muscle Shoals	14	5	-18°
Troy	14	2	-18°

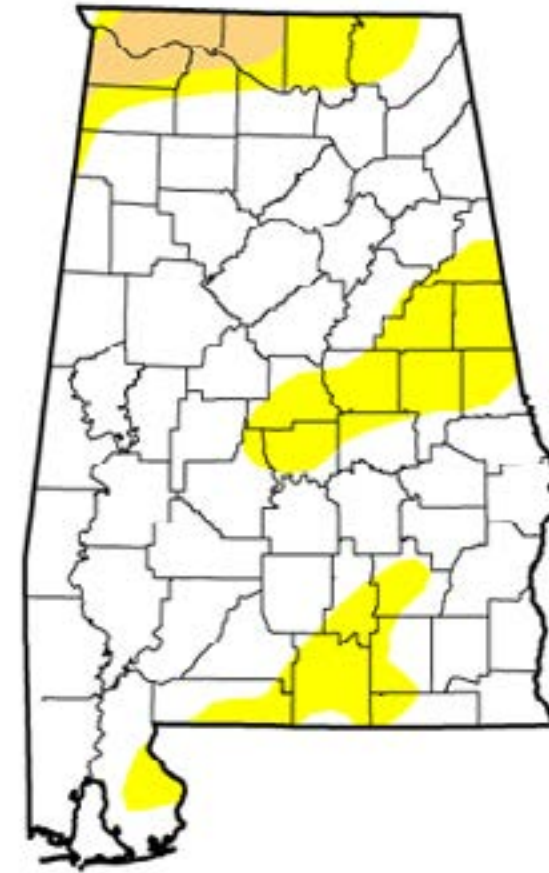
Another thing that will make an impression is a sudden change in temperature. In Muscle Shoals, for instance, between March 2 and 3 the daytime high temperature dropped 37 degrees. On the same days in Decatur, the daytime high dropped 35 degrees, and 32 degrees in Huntsville.

Brrrr.

Maybe April will be a little kinder, although April is a month filled with tension for people in Alabama who watch the weather. Be especially weather aware and prepared for the next couple of months.

- John Christy

## U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



**March 25, 2014**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 27, 2014)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	78.22	21.78	3.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 3/18/2014	81.52	18.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12/4/2013	89.25	10.75	2.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12/31/2013	97.35	2.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10/1/2013	96.85	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 3/26/2013	94.59	5.41	0.00	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:**  
David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



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



### Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2014

Station	March Mean	March Hi Temp	March Low Temp	Total Precip.	Wettest March	Heaviest Day
Began	March Norm	Record Hi	Record Low	Normal Prec.	Driest March	Record Day
Anniston	52.4°	78° 3/11/31/14	27° 3/26/14	5.41"	18.09" 1977	1.90" 3/28/14
	54.9°	89°+ 3/9/74	12° 3/14/93	6.28"	1.38" 1985	7.96" 3/29/77
Auburn	52.6°	82° 3/22/14	27° 3/26/14	5.75"	17.47" 1929	2.33" 3/16/14
	56.2°	89° 3/27/1910	13° 3/4/43	6.44"	0.69" 1918	5.06" 3/23/44
Birmingham	52.7°	78° 3/31/14	25° 3/26/14	4.72"	15.80" 1980	1.59" 3/16/14
	54.5°	89°+ 3/19/82	2° 3/14/93	6.10"	1.71" 1985	6.91" 3/19/70
Brewton	55.0°	79° 3/22/14	29.2° 3/26/14	7.95"	15.82" 1990	4.16" 3/16/14
	57.6°	91° 3/31/78	10° 3/3/80	7.01"	2.80" 1985	13.00" 3/15/29
Calera	53.8°	78° 3/31/14	29° 3/3/14	6.90"	18.86" 1980	2.16" 3/28/14
	54.2°	88° 3/10/74	9° 3/3/80	6.50"	0.40" 1918	6.45" 3/29/51
Clanton	52.0°	77° 3/31/14	27.4° 3/26/14	6.51"	15.88" 1976	2.64" 3/28/14
	54.5°	93° 3/25/29	10° 3/14/93	6.96"	2.27" 1985	6.85" 3/4/79
Courtland	48.4°	76.4° 3/31/14	22.5° 3/4/14	2.09"	M	0.74" 3/16/14
	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	48.6°	75° 3/31/14	21.2° 3/26/14	3.71"	M	1.67" 3/16/14
	M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	48.5°	78° 3/31/14	23° 3/26/14	2.70"	11.45" 1929	1.24" 3/16/14
	52.4°	93° 3/22/1907	4° 3/7/1899	6.15"	0.65" 1910	4.95" 3/23/29
Dothan	56.2°	78° 3/31/14	32° 3/26/14	5.30"	16.40" 1929	1.91" 3/28/14
	59.3°	89° 3/24/1904	21° 03/04/43	5.66"	0.42" 1955	9.00" 3/14/29
Fairhope	55.5°	76.3° 3/22/14	27.6° 3/26/14	8.40"	11.60" 1980	3.64" 3/28/14
	59.8°	85°+ 3/10/74	21°+ 3/3/80	6.71"	2.59" 1981	6.20" 3/16/90
Gadsden	M	M	M	M	17.41" 1980	M
	52.2°	88° 3/11/74	11°+ 3/6/80	6.55"	1.46" 1986	4.98" 3/4/79
Gainesville Lock	52.7°	77.9° 3/31/14	28.7° 3/4/14	6.19"	17.26" 1976	2.39" 3/28/14
	54.8°	88°+ 3/13/67	15° 3/3/80	5.97"	1.57" 1985	5.12" 3/29/51
Greensboro	53.1°	79.1° 3/22/14	26.1° 3/26/14	6.36"	14.57" 1976	3.00" 3/28/14
	56.8°	91° 3/23/95	10° 3/14/93	6.51"	2.37" 1985	7.30" 3/28/51
Highland Home	54.7°	78.2° 3/22/14	30.7° 3/26/14	6.66"	13.84" 1973	2.66" 3/28/14
	57.8°	88° 3/12/55	14° 3/3/80	6.95"	2.92" 1984	8.13" 3/30/60
Huntsville	49.8°	77° 3/31/14	24° 3/4/14	2.68"	17.00" 1980	1.16" 3/16/14
	52.1°	88° 3/31/63	6° 3/3/80	6.11"	1.12" 2007	5.24" 3/16/1973

### Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2014

Station	March Mean	March Hi Temp	March Low Temp	Total Precip.	Wettest March	Heaviest Day
Began	March Norm	Record Hi	Record Lo	Normal Prec.	Driest March	Record Day
Mobile	55.9°	79° 3/10/22/14	31° 3/4/26/14	6.50"	13.46" 1980	2.81" 3/28/14
	59.7°	89° 3/15/67	21° 3/14/93	7.20"	3.00" 1981	7.15" 3/16/90
Montgomery	55.9°	81° 3/31/14	30° 3/26/14	5.52"	12.40" 1990	2.09" 3/28/14
	57.1°	89°+ 3/22/95	17° 3/14/93	6.39"	1.75" 1997	7.89" 3/16/90
Muscle Shoals	50.4°	79° 3/31/14	24° 3/4/14	2.62"	14.25" 1980	0.86" 3/3/14
	53.8°	86°+ 3/13/67	10° 3/3/43	6.21"	2.22" 1985	4.80" 3/27/94
Russellville	48.2°	75.9° 3/31/14	19.3° 3/26/14	2.37"	15.75" 1973	0.71" 3/3/14
	49.1°	84°+ 3/24/95	5°+ 3/4/80	6.28"	2.14" 2000	8.40" 3/16/73
Scottsboro	48.5°	77.4° 3/11/14	21.7° 3/26/14	3.06"	16.48" 1980	1.49" 3/16/14
	51.5°	90° 3/25/29	8° 3/14/93	6.52"	2.28" 1982	4.88" 3/16/73
Selma	53.4°	78.2° 3/31/14	26.6° 3/26/14	6.62"	14.06" 1973	2.66" 3/28/14
	58.5°	90° 3/25/36	18° 3/4/80	6.67"	1.07" 1985	9.75" 3/16/90
Talladega	51.1°	77.7° 3/11/14	23.8° 3/26/14	5.99"	18.24" 1976	1.91" 3/16/14
	54.8°	88°+ 3/24/95	6° 3/14/93	6.82"	1.18" 1985	7.81" 3/30/77
Thomasville	53.3°	78.6° 3/31/14	27.7° 3/26/14	6.18"	15.35" 1976	2.26" 3/28/14
	57.6°	89°+ 3/20/80	14° 3/3/80	6.95"	1.62" 1978	11.10" 3/12/35
Troy	55.2°	80° 3/31/14	28° 3/26/14	5.69"	13.75" 1990	2.46" 3/28/14
	58.0°	89° 3/12/55	13° 3/3/80	6.56"	1.81" 1982	8.56" 3/17/90
Tuscaloosa	53.9°	79° 3/31/13	27° 3/26/14	5.28"	19.99" 1976	1.63" 3/28/14
	55.4°	90° 3/23/95	12° 3/14/93	6.37"	1.12" 1986	6.08" 3/13/75
Valley Head	47.5°	75.6° 3/31/14	18.4° 3/26/14	3.24"	15.87" 1980	1.39" 3/16/14
	49.6°	84°+ 3/20/82	2° 3/3/80	6.57"	1.91" 1985	4.87" 3/4/79
Statewide March 2014	52.6°	82° Auburn	18.4° Valley Head	5.36"	19.99" Tuscaloosa	4.16" Brewton
March Norm	55.4°	93° 2 stations	2° 2 stations	6.50"	0.40" Calera	13.00" Brewton

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](http://nsstc.uah.edu/alclimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php)



**Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)**

March 2014

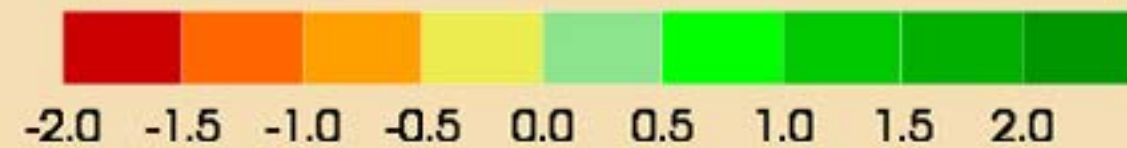
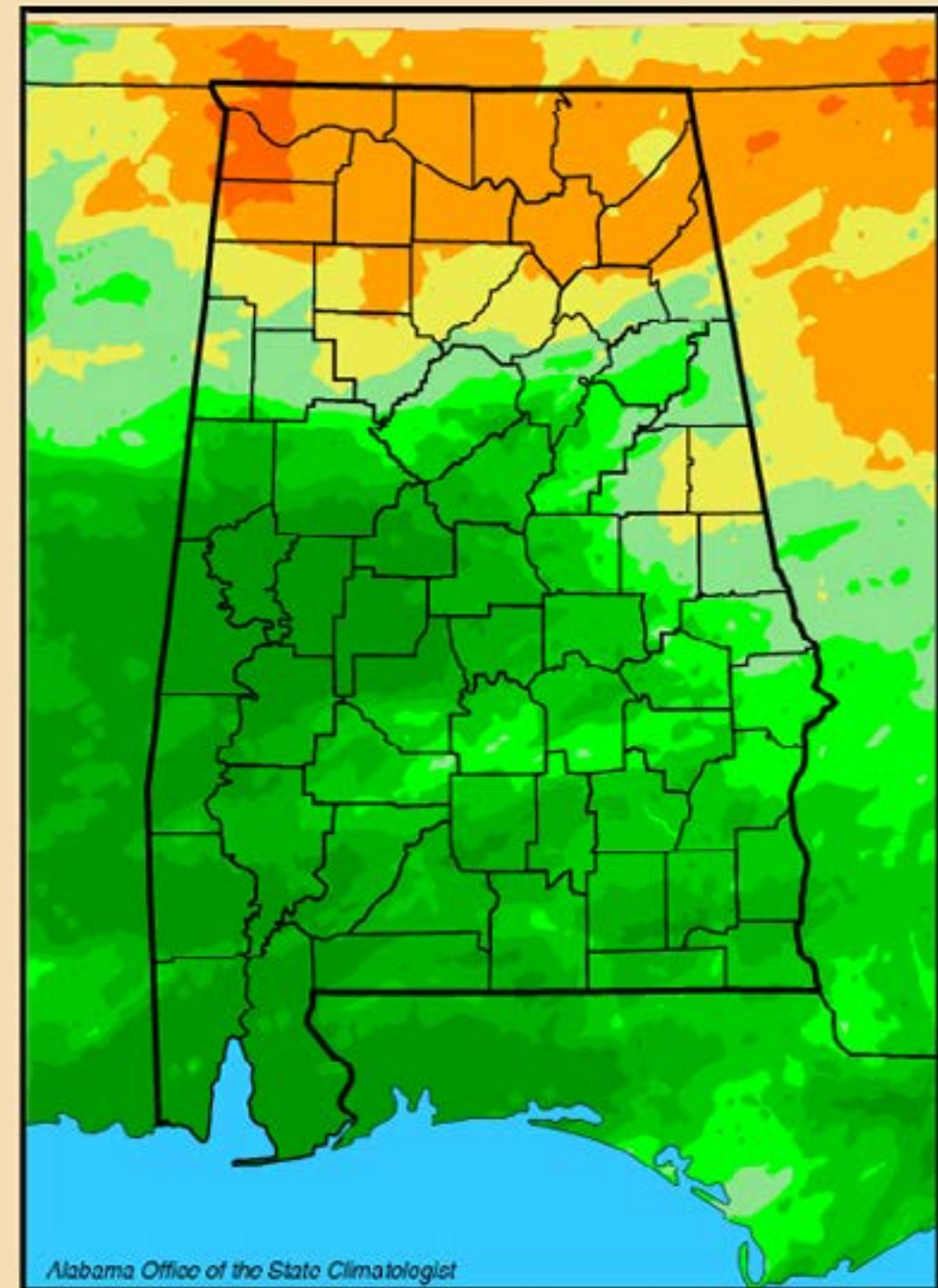
	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations		Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	6.98	3	Houston	5.93	1
Baldwin	8.79	24	Jackson	3.46	7
Barbour	n.a.	0	Jefferson	5.32	14
Bibb	7.25	1	Lamar	3.38	1
Blount	4.15	8	Lauderdale	2.34	11
Bullock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	2.11	2
Butler	n.a.	0	Lee	4.34	4
Calhoun	5.29	2	Limestone	2.45	11
Chambers	2.52	1	Lowndes	n.a.	0
Cherokee	3.96	1	Macon	n.a.	0
Chilton	5.76	2	Madison	2.37	55
Choctaw	5.77	1	Marengo	n.a.	0
Clarke	7.00	3	Marion	3.18	1
Clay	n.a.	0	Marshall	3.40	10
Cleburne	n.a.	0	Mobile	6.80	15
Coffee	5.40	1	Monroe	4.51	2
Colbert	2.38	7	Montgomery	5.32	3
Conecuh	n.a.	0	Morgan	2.36	9
Coosa	7.35	2	Perry	n.a.	0
Covington	n.a.	0	Pickens	6.86	1
Crenshaw	n.a.	0	Pike	n.a.	0
Cullman	3.18	5	Randolph	5.16	1
Dale	5.75	2	Russell	5.40	2
Dallas	7.39	1	St. Clair	6.28	3
DeKalb	3.47	2	Shelby	6.42	21
Elmore	7.05	7	Sumter	n.a.	0
Escambia	9.05	1	Talladega	6.50	6
Etowah	4.32	1	Tallapoosa	6.19	4
Fayette	2.95	3	Tuscaloosa	5.86	3
Franklin	n.a.	0	Walker	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0	Washington	6.60	1
Greene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	6.23	2
Hale	n.a.	0	Winston	2.89	2
Henry	n.a.	0			

**Normal  
March  
Precipitation\***

Abbeville.....	6.21"
Alberta.....	6.76"
Alex City.....	7.09"
Aliceville.....	6.03"
Andalusia.....	6.63"
Ashland.....	7.16"
Athens.....	5.92"
Bay Minette.....	6.54"
Bessemer.....	6.38"
Billingsley.....	6.04"
Centreville WSMO..	7.39"
Chatom.....	6.37"
Claiborne L&D.....	6.28"
Clayton.....	6.18"
Dauphin Isl.....	6.47"
Elba.....	6.65"
Eufaula WR.....	6.19"
Evergreen.....	6.52"
Fayette.....	7.00"
Geneva 2.....	6.91"
Greenville.....	6.28"
Haleyville.....	6.50"
Hamilton 3S.....	6.33"
Heflin.....	6.88"
Hurtsboro.....	6.30"
Jasper.....	6.80"
Lafayette.....	6.71"
Livingston.....	6.20"
Melvin.....	7.22"
Milstead.....	6.08"
Moulton.....	6.42"
Oneonta.....	6.28"
Perryville.....	6.51"
Plantersville.....	6.73"
Rock Mills.....	6.43"
Rockford.....	6.93"
Sylacauga.....	6.22"
Union Springs.....	6.21"
Uniontown.....	6.21"
Vernon.....	6.78"
Warrior L&D.....	6.26"
Wetumpka.....	6.06"

\*Southeast Regional Climate Center  
www.serrc.com

**Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index  
for April 2, 2014**



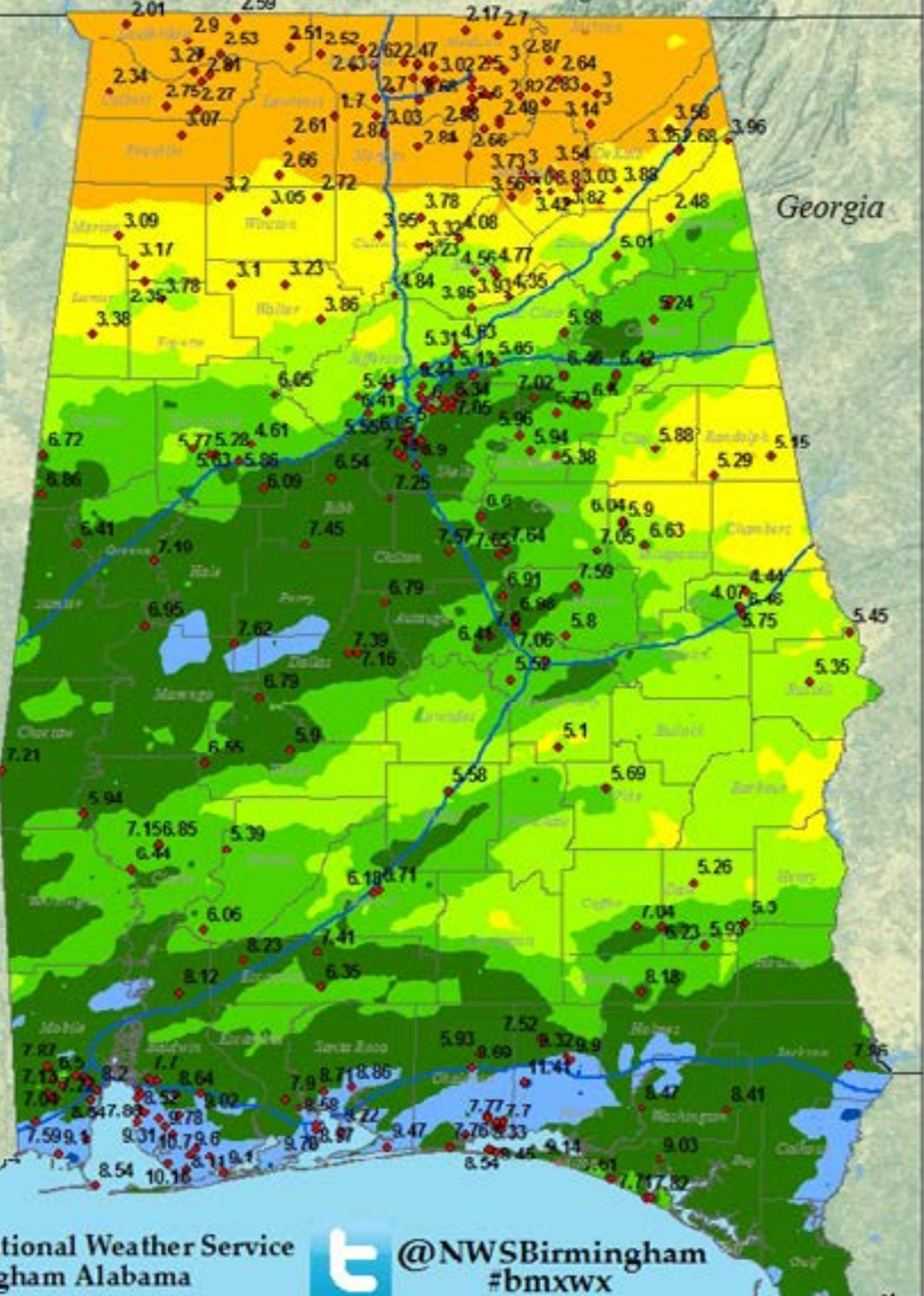
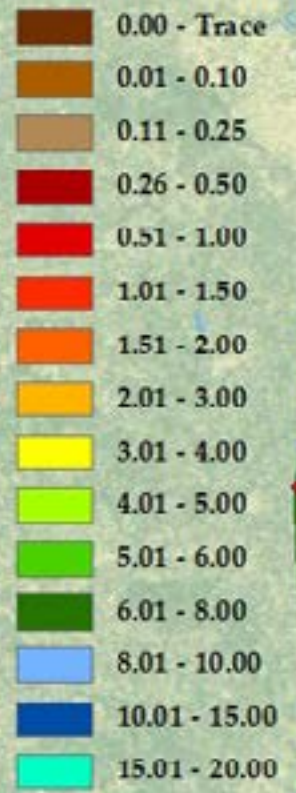


# Total Precipitation - March 2014

Source: Co-Op Sites, ASOS Observations, CoCoRaHS Observers, and RFC Estimates  
 Created by the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Birmingham, Alabama



Rainfall (Inches)

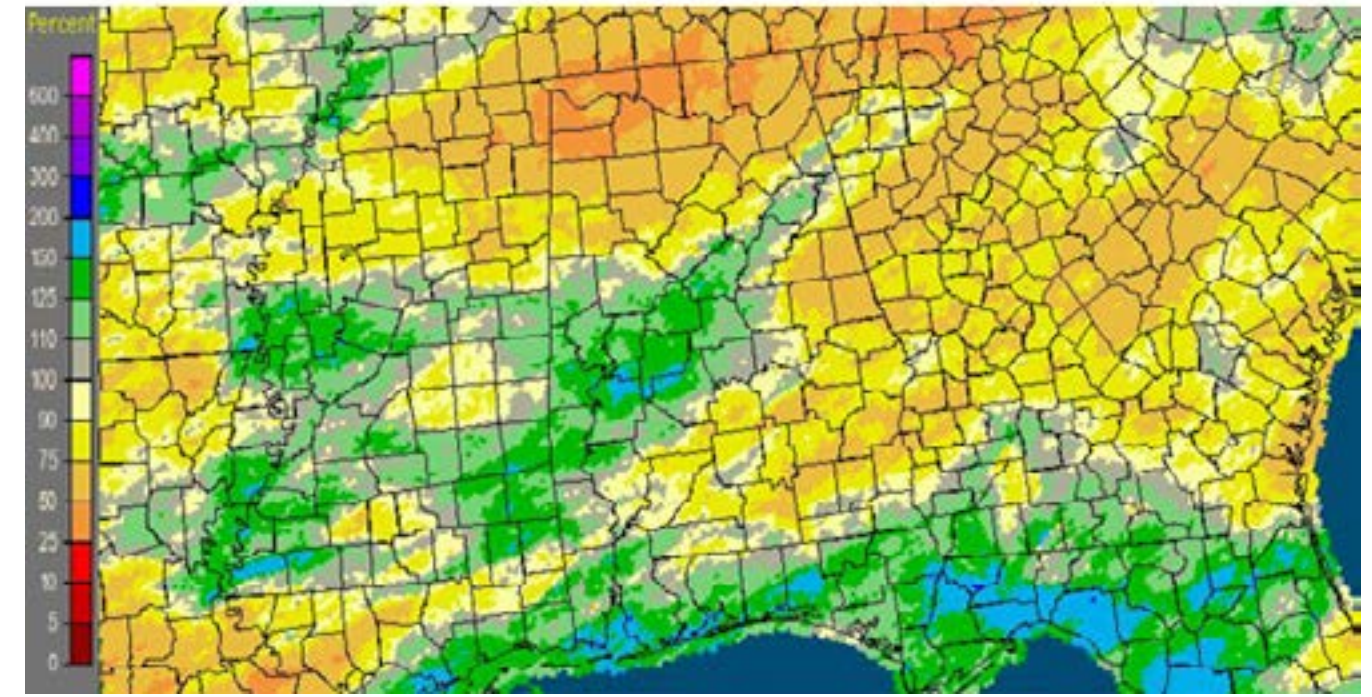


U.S. National Weather Service Birmingham Alabama @NWSBirmingham #bmwx

This map is an interpolation of actual reported values combined with RFC estimates and should be considered as an estimation only. Precip totals are from 7am Mar. 1st through 7am Apr. 1st, 2014.

Source: US National Park Service

Alabama: March, 2014 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation  
 Valid at 4/1/2014 1200 UTC- Created 4/2/14 15:37 UTC





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