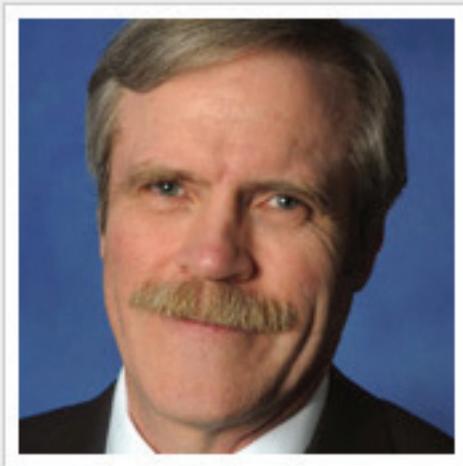


The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 8, Number 4, January 2018



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

Trying to sum up January ...

Alabama had two snow events in January, including a mid-month storm that shut down much of south and central Alabama for a day or maybe two. The one-tenth of an inch of snow in Mobile on Jan. 17 was the city's second recorded snowfall this winter. (The other Gulf Coast snow storm this winter was in early December, when Mobile got a full inch of snow.)

According to the NWS, that was only the second time in Mobile's climate record that the city had two measurable snowfalls in one winter. The first time it happened was in 1977, when measurable snow fell twice in January.

January 2018 in Alabama was generally drier than normal and colder than normal. We saw almost four dozen daily low temperature records broken, although it also hit a Jan. 12 record 75° at Bankhead Lock and Dam.

In other words, it was January in Alabama.

While the Jan. 16-17 snow might not have been as robust as the Dec. 8 snowfall, it was at least as widespread, stretching from Mobile in the south to the northeastern corner of Alabama. Some spots got up to 3 inches of snow, while much of the region got from a trace to 1 inch.

Butler, which recorded 7.5 inches of snow in December, got another inch and a half during the January 17 storm. It has probably been a year or two since Butler got nine inches of snow in one winter.

But it wasn't just the snow. For instance, Dothan reported only two-tenths of an inch of snow, but a portion of that melted and refroze into a layer of ice that turned many streets into impromptu ice rinks for the kids — and for anyone trying to drive. Streets and roads were closed due to icy conditions across large portions of the state.

Both January storms brought with them bitter cold. Daily record low temperatures were recorded on Jan. 1 on Dauphin Island (27°) and in Fairhope (20°). Single digit lows chilled North Alabama for several days, including record daily lows of 6° as far south as Sylacauga.

Alabama's coldest January temps, however, were reported in Addison, which is tucked alongside

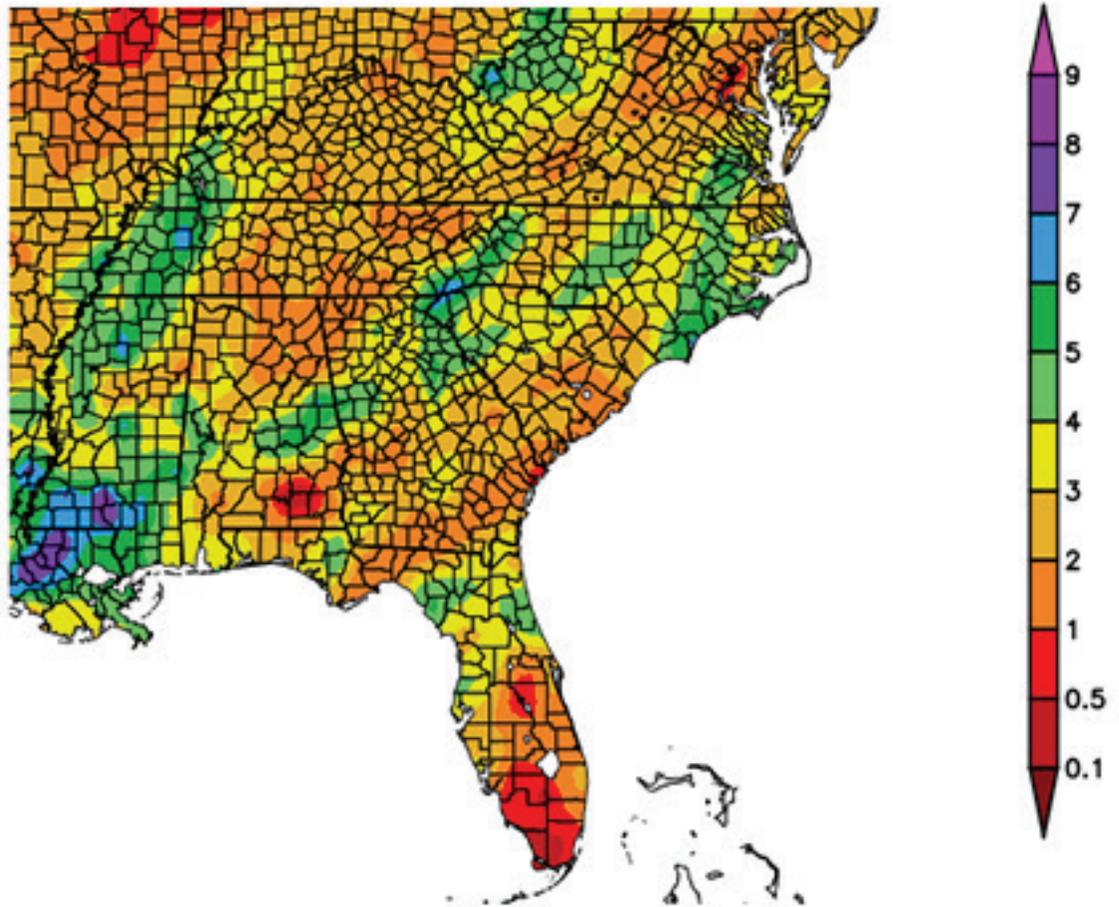
a southeastern edge of the Bankhead National Forest in Winston County. Addison saw temperatures drop to zero twice, on Jan. 17 and 18, and fall to 1° on both Jan. 2 and 3. Fort Payne also saw a 1° low on Jan. 17.

On average, however, the state's four biggest cities averaged only 3.6° colder than normal for January. That means January had several days of windbreaker or even shirtsleeve weather to balance out those record lows. Huntsville, for instance, had highs of 60° or warmer seven times in January, including two days when it hit 70°.

Yep. January in Alabama.

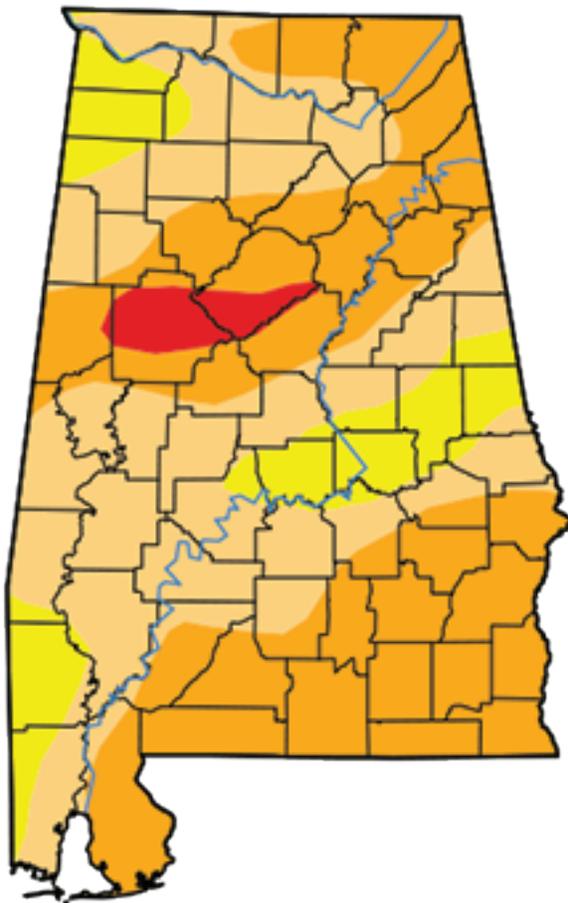
- John Christy

Precipitation (in) 1/6/2018 – 2/4/2018



U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

January 30, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	86.90	46.37	2.71	0.00
Last Week 01-23-2018	0.00	100.00	77.10	19.02	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-31-2017	86.42	13.58	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2018	19.01	80.99	26.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-31-2017	32.17	67.83	48.58	23.88	2.33	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.

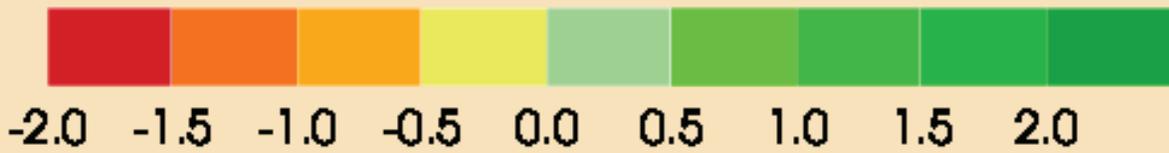
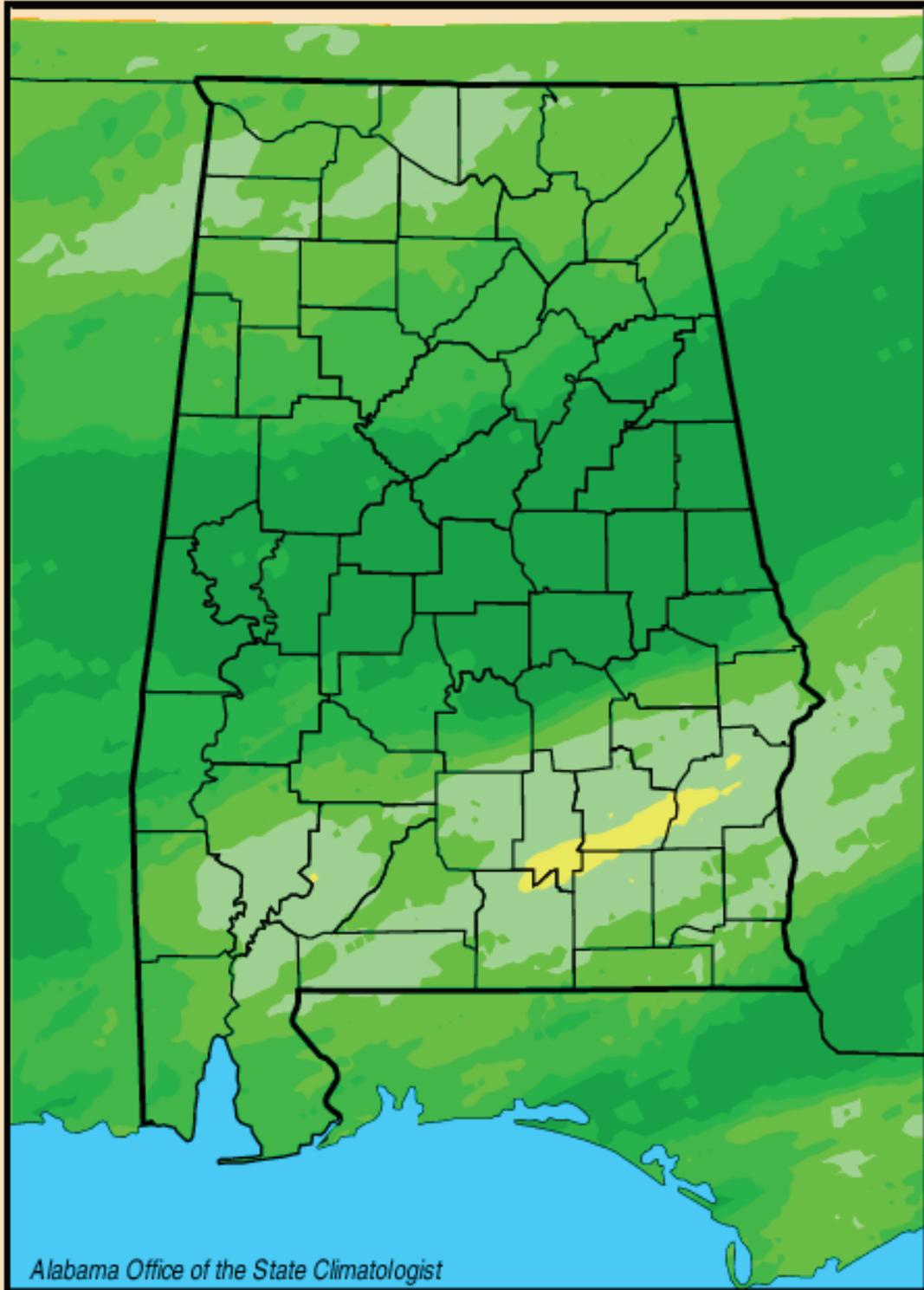
Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for February 5, 2018



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

January 2018

	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	40.0°	71° 1/11/18	9° 1/17/18	1.89"	12.89° 1972	0.94" 1/27-28/18
		43.5°	80°+ 1/25/50	-5° 1/21/85	5.34"	0.95° 1986	5.07" 1/4/72
Auburn	1/1893	42.1°	71° 1/11/18	12° 1/18/18	3.65"	12.09° 1936	1.55" 1/28/18
		48.3°	84° 12/20/24	-1° 12/13/62	5.26"	0.49° 1927	5.23" 1/29/12
Birmingham	1/1930	40.2°	72° 1/11/18	9° 1/17/18	1.35"	9.59° 1996	0.42" 1/8/18
		42.6°	81° 1/10/49	-6° 1/21/85	5.45"	1.09° 1981	4.71" 1/26/96
Brewton	4/1977	43.2°	71.9° 1/21/18	16.2° 1/18/18	2.39"	12.55° 1991	1.15" 1/8/18
		47.7°	85° 1/12/49	3° 1/21/85	6.19"	1.46° 1981	6.45" 1/25/78
Calera	9/1900	41.2°	74° 1/11/18	10° 1/17/18	2.36"	12.59° 1947	0.96" 1/27-28/18
		42.8°	78° 1/29/57	-2° 1/24/63	5.06"	0.74° 1927	4.77" 1/24/20
Clanton	2/1893	39.8°	73.4° 1/11/18	9.9° 1/17/18	3.36"	13.48° 1972	1.53" 1/28/18
		42.8°	84° 1/12/49	-4° 1/21/85	5.98"	1.15° 1986	4.64" 1/19/36
Courtland		36.3°	68.9° 1/21/18	6.3° 1/17/18	1.92"	M	0.91" 1/8/18
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	36.3°	69.4° 1/11/18	6.2° 1/17/18	1.39"	M	0.50" 1/8/18
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	36.0°	69° 1/11/18	6° 1/17/18	1.47"	12.98° 1949	0.90" 1/8/18
		42.2°	79° 01/15/1907	-5° 01/12/18	5.04"	1.00° 1958	4.62" 01/06/50
Dothan	2/1902	46.4°	75° 1/11/18	19° 1/18/18	1.42"	16.88° 1936	0.88" 1/12/18
		50.7°	83° 12/11/49	10° 12/24/63	4.27"	0.34° 1927	6.42" 1/18/36
Fairhope	8/1917	45.5°	72.8° 1/11/18	17.5° 1/18/18	3.22"	16.33° 1998	1.30" 1/8/18
		50.2°	82° 1/2/52	5+° 1/22/85	6.11"	0.87° 1989	9.58" 1/25/78
Gadsden	7/1893	35.7°	65.6° 1/21/18	5.1° 1/17/18	*1.27"	9.01° 1996	0.50" 1/12/18
		40.3°	76° 1/29/75	-6°+ 1/21/85	5.85"	1.48° 1981	4.05" 1/16/54
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	39.6°	72.5° 1/21/18	9.8° 1/17/18	2.44"	10.80° 1998	0.95" 1/8/18
		43.2°	81° 1/20/82	-2°+ 1/22/85	5.87"	1.30° 1981	3.40" 1/20/63
Greensboro	2/1890	41.1°	73° 1/11/18	9.2° 1/17/18	2.82"	11.69° 1972	0.86" 1/28/18
		45.7°	83° 1/9/37	-2° 1/21/85	6.12"	1.31° 1986	5.58" 1/18/87
Highland Home	3/1892	42.8°	72.8° 1/11/18	13.5° 1/18/18	1.17"	10.49° 1978	0.37" 1/8/18
		45.8°	84° 1/12/49	-3°+ 1/22/85	5.48"	0.92° 1981	4.02" 1/25/78
Huntsville	1/1959	38.1°	70° 1/11/18	7° 1/17/18	1.52"	10.92° 1982	1.00" 1/8/18
		39.9°	77° 1/30/2002	-11° 1/30/66	4.96"	1.32° 1986	4.83" 1/3/82

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

January 2018

	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	46.6°	72° 1/22/18	17° 1/17/18	3.56"	16.92" 1998	1.89" 1/8/18
		50.1°	84° 1/11/49	3° 1/21/85	5.75"	1.23" 1981	6.16" 1/7/98
Montgomery	6/1948	42.8°	76° 1/11/18	10° 1/18/18	5.05"	10.16" 1990	2.83" 1/22/18
		46.6°	83° 1/11/49	0° 1/21/85	5.04"	1.12" 1986	4.16" 1/23/65
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	37.8°	70° 1/21/18	7° 1/17/18	1.78"	11.77" 1974	0.54" 1/8/18
		39.9°	80° 1/10/49	-11° 1/21/85	4.97"	0.60" 1986	4.41" 1/31/51
Russellville	9/1953	35.9°	69.1° 1/21/18	3.8° 1/17/18	2.24"	12.48" 1998	0.83" 1/8/18
		38.9°	78° 1/25/72	-24°+ 1/31/86	5.44"	0.93" 1986	3.20" 1/19/2001
Scottsboro	10/1891	35.2°	69° 1/21/18	6.3° 1/17/18	1.51"	10.92" 1996	0.72" 1/8/18
		39.0°	81° 1/11/49	-10° 1/26/40	6.01"	0.84" 1986	4.12" 1/2/37
Selma	1/1895	40.2°	74.1° 1/21/18	11.2° 1/17/18	3.62"	12.24" 1972	1.95" 1/28/18
		47.0°	83°+ 1/30/50	0° 1/21/85	5.64"	1.07" 1986	4.20" 1/6/32
Talladega	2/1888	38.3°	71.8° 1/11/18	8.8° 1/17/18	1.67"	15.59" 1972	0.74"
		41.6°	80°+ 1/25/50	-5°+ 1/21/85	6.12"	1.05" 1986	4.01" 1/4/72
Thomasville	9/1891	40.9°	72.6° 1/21/18	9.1° 1/17/18	2.67"	14.37" 1925	0.83" 1/8/18
		47.4°	86° 1/20/1913	-1° 1/21/85	5.13"	0.79" 1902	5.04" 1/16/25
Troy	6/1908	43.1°	76° 1/11/18	14° 1/18/18	*0.78"	9.81" 1978	0.36" 1/27-28/18
		46.7°	83° 1/12/49	-1° 1/21/85	5.11"	0.98" 1981	5.43" 1/19/36
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	41.6°	73° 1/11/18	10° 1/17/18	1.72"	10.18" 1979	0.84" 1/8/18
		45.2°	82° 1/10/49	-1°+ 1/21/85	5.72"	1.22" 1986	4.26" 1/26/96
Valley Head	1/1893	34.9°	66.3° 1/21/18	5.3° 1/17/18	*1.63"	10.42" 1974	0.80" 1/8/18
		37.2°	77°+ 1/26/50	-14°+ 1/22/85	6.06"	1.70" 1981	4.00" 1/5/49
Statewide Jan. 2017		40.36° /	76° 2 stations	3.8° Russellville	2.26"	16.92" Mobile	2.83" Montgomery
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

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

January 2018

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	4.61	2
Baldwin	3.54	23
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	1.64	1
Blount	1.12	8
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	1.59	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	n.a.	0
Chilton	3.66	1
Choctaw	4.31	1
Clarke	2.29	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	1.25	1
Colbert	2.01	5
Conecuh	2.56	2
Coosa	4.77	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	1.50	3
Dale	1.33	1
Dallas	4.16	1
DeKalb	1.53	5
Elmore	4.87	5
Escambia	2.48	2
Etowah	n.a.	0
Fayette	2.09	1
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	1.68	1
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	0.58	3
Jackson	1.76	5
Jefferson	1.62	14
Lamar	1.43	1
Lauderdale	1.55	8
Lawrence	1.69	3
Lee	2.47	2
Limestone	1.81	7
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	1.46	20
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	1.55	1
Marshall	1.26	10
Mobile	3.69	15
Monroe	2.04	2
Montgomery	2.82	4
Morgan	1.78	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	n.a.	0
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	3.94	2
Russell	1.57	2
St. Clair	1.56	5
Shelby	2.32	17
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	2.19	4
Tallapoosa	3.24	1
Tuscaloosa	1.92	5
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	1.67	1
Wilcox	3.92	2
Winston	1.56	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.serrc.com

New Local Climate Records¹

January 2018

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 January 2018				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	27	2001-01-01	30	42
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	20	2001-01-01	22	100
02 January 2018				
ALEXANDER CITY	14	1977-01-02	15	48
ATMORE	19	2001-01-02	20	78
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	12	1977-01-02	14	61
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	11	1979-01-02	14	88
CHATOM	16	2001-01-02	17	68
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	26	2001-01-02	27	42
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	16	1964-01-02	19	69
GAINESVILLE LOCK	14	1977-01-02	15	60
HALEYVILLE	7	2001-01-02	10	115
HUNTSVILLE INT'L AIRPORT	8	1979-01-02	13	59
JACKSON	17	2001-01-02	18	34
MOBILE DOWNTOWN APRT	23	2001-01-02	24	69
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	19	2001-01-02	21	70
MOULTON 2	7	2001-01-02	10	61
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT	9	2001-01-02	12	77
SAND MT SUBSTATION	8	2001-01-02	11	68
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	6	1984-01-02	7	63
TUSCALOOSA AIRPORT	15	2001-01-02	16	70
03 January 2018				
BELLE MINA	6	2008-01-03	10	68
SAND MT SUBSTATION	9	1979-01-03	10	68
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	6	2001-01-03	10	63
04 January 2018				
BELLE MINA	6	2008-01-04	9	68
GAINESVILLE LOCK	13	2001-01-04	14	60

05 January 2018				
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	17	2010-01-05	19	69
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	9	1999-01-05	10	63
06 January 2018				
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	9	1999-01-06	10	63
17 January 2018				
ATMORE	13	1997-01-17	20	78
BESSEMER 3 WSW	9	1997-01-17	12	41
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	14	1977-01-17	16	100
JACKSON	14	1965-01-17	16	34
18 January 2018				
CHATOM	13	1957-01-18	15	68
EVERGREEN	14	1997-01-18	17	126
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	13	1957-01-18	19	69
GUNTERSVILLE	6	1994-01-18	8	108
JACKSON	12	2003-01-18	19	34
MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT	20	1997-01-18	21	69
19 January 2018				
ATMORE	16	1994-01-19	20	78
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	13	1957-01-19	19	69
JACKSON	12	2003-01-19	19	34
MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT	24	1997-01-19	26	69
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	7	1997-01-19	8	63
20 January 2018				
FT BENNING LAWSON FLD	17	2016-01-20	20	69

Deepest Snow Depth, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
17 January 2018				
CLAYTON	0.98			70
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	0.12			70
MOULTON 2	0.98			61
MUSCLE SHOALS AIRPORT	1.18	1982-01-17	0.98	77
OPELIKA	2.01			61
SELMA	0.98			88
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	2.01			63
19 January 2018				
ATMORE	0.98			70

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
12 January 2018				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	75°	2005-01-12	73°	61

Deepest January Snow Depth

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
17 January 2018				
OPELIKA	2.01"	2000-01-01	0	61

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

New Local Climate Records¹

January 2018

Snowfall, Daily

	Period of Record	New Record	Previous Record	Previous Year
16 January 2018				
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2	0.39	2015-01-16	0	64
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	0			70
17 January 2018				
ATMORE	0.20			70
BELLE MINA	0.31	1997-01-17	0	68
HAMILTON 3 S	4.02	2008-01-17	0	56
MOULTON 2	0.51	1994-01-17	0	61
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2	0.91			64
WEST POINT, GA	2.99	1946-01-17	0	88
MOBILE REG'L AIRPORT	0.12	1957-01-17	0	70

Deepest one-day January snowfall

	New Record	Previous Wettest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
17 January 2018				
WEST POINT, GA	2.99	1977-01-31	2.01	88

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
08 January 2018				
COFFEEVILLE LOCK & DAM	0.97	1988-01-08	0.90	35
09 January 2018				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	1.93	2004-01-09	1.06	42
12 January 2018				
CHATOM	2.12	1998-01-12	1.72	68
22 January 2018				
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	2.83	1998-01-22	1.14	70
28 January 2018				
BILLINGSLEY	2.13	1952-01-28	1.80	79
29 January 2018				
ALEXANDER CITY	2.17	2005-01-29	1.13	48
JORDAN DAM	1.44	2005-01-29	0.82	81
LAY DAM	0.72	2005-01-29	0.71	81
MITCHELL DAM	1.80	2005-01-29	1.20	81
OPELIKA	1.30	2005-01-29	0.74	61

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

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