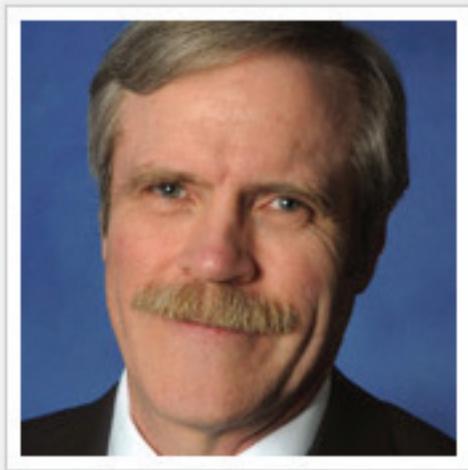


The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 6, Number 6, March 2016



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

Later this month will be the fifth anniversary of the terrible outbreak of tornadoes that swept across the southern U.S., including Alabama, in late April 2011.

Some people want to know, what have we learned from those deadly days?

Scientists here at UAH and elsewhere around the country continue to learn from the data gathered those days, as we sift, sort and analyze the vast quantities of information collected during that outbreak.

We learned that too few people take advantage of warnings when they are available. We learned that because our forecast system isn't perfect, people can be overwhelmed by false alarms or by alarms for storms that hit nearby or in other parts of a county.

We've learned that some people have ideas about weather safety that aren't 100 percent accurate, and that some times these beliefs cause people not to act appropriately during severe weather.

In addition to what we have and are learning from those events, however, we also are reminded of many things. We are reminded that such horrific systems as those that hit Alabama on April 27, 2011, are fortunately uncommon.

We are also reminded, however, that in this part of the country severe storms and tornadoes are not rare, and that there isn't one month of the year when we can relax our weather awareness.

It's a bummer, but it's true.

Photos and video from the days and weeks after April 2011 remind us that in the event of a major tornado, a proper shelter is the only truly safe place to take cover. We are reminded that mobile homes and other manufactured housing can be less safe than taking shelter in a ditch or culvert.

We are reminded that having a weather radio or other alert system can be invaluable, especially for people who don't live under a warning siren.

For anyone who remembers the powerless days that followed the storms, we are reminded that being prepared for such events with the tools and supplies recommended by state and local EMAs can be invaluable, even if your home isn't damaged by a storm.

We are reminded of the outpouring of support and assistance and supplies that flowed into our communities as neighbors and strangers offered aid for those whose lives had been devastated.

And, for those of us who devote our careers to studying and probing the weather, and to teaching the next generations of meteorologists and atmospheric scientists, we are reminded that what we do is important to people far beyond our circles of academia, and that every fresh bit of understanding and insight we can wrest from our research is a worthwhile thing, even when we don't see or understand today how it all fits together.

April is our busiest month for tornadoes and severe weather, so let's all be alert and prepared.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

March 29, 2016
(Released Thursday, Mar. 31, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	98.08	1.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 3/22/2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12/29/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/22/2015	37.12	62.88	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 3/31/2015	44.82	55.18	13.79	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

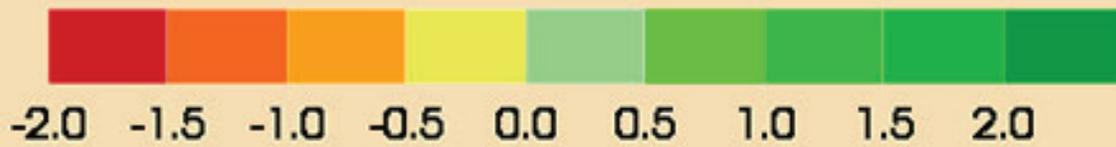
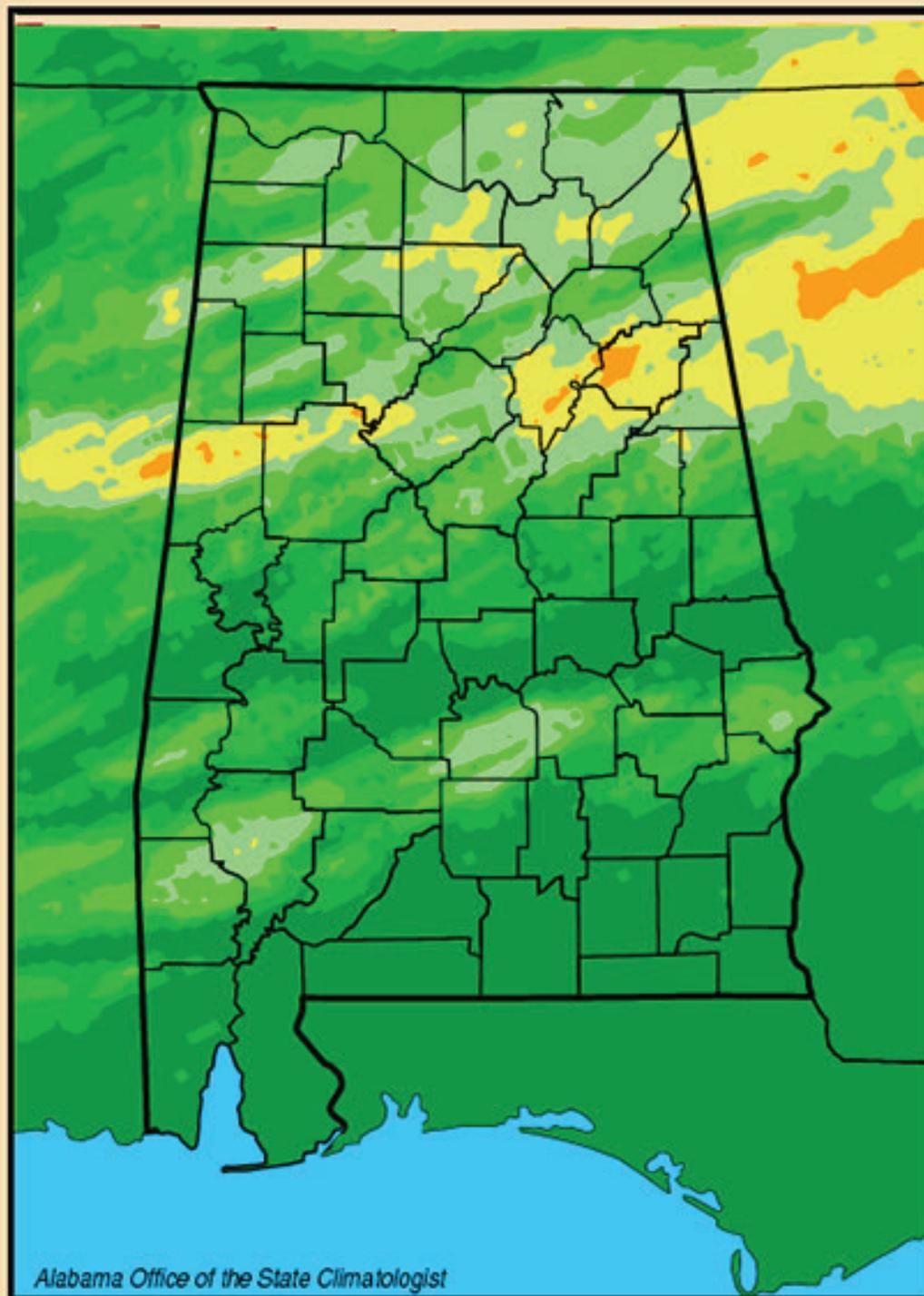
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

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



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2016

	Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	59.3°	88° 3/15/16	32° 3/21/16	3.29"	18.06" 1977	1.19" 3/3/16
		54.9°	89°+ 3/9/74	12° 3/14/93	6.28"	1.38" 1985	7.96" 3/29/77
Auburn	1/1893	61.4°	86° 3/15/16	33° 3/21/16	4.10"	17.47" 1929	1.58" 3/31/16
		56.2°	89° 3/27/1910	13° 3/4/43	6.44"	0.66" 1918	5.06" 3/23/44
Birmingham	1/1930	59.9°	88° 3/15/16	33° 3/21/16	5.70"	15.80" 1980	1.58" 3/24/16
		54.5°	89°+ 3/19/82	2° 3/14/93	6.10"	1.71" 1985	6.91" 3/19/70
Brewton	4/1977	61.7°	81.9° 3/14/16	33.0° 3/22/16	9.65"	15.82" 1990	2.09" 3/31/16
		57.6°	91° 3/31/78	10° 3/3/80	7.01"	2.80" 1985	13.00" 3/15/29
Calera	9/1900	60.2°	87° 3/15/16	34° 3/21/16	5.85"	18.86" 1980	1.32" 3/3/16
		54.2°	88° 3/10/74	9° 3/3/80	6.50"	0.40" 1918	6.45" 3/29/51
Clanton	2/1893	58.9°	85.9° 3/15/16	32.4° 3/5/16	5.94"	15.88" 1976	2.04" 3/31/16
		54.5°	93° 3/25/29	10° 3/14/93	6.96"	2.27" 1985	6.85" 3/4/79
Courtland		56.8°	84.3° 3/15/16	31.5° 3/5/16	5.19"	M	2.37" 3/31/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	56.4°	84.2° 3/15/16	27.6° 3/22/16	6.02"	M	1.94" 3/31/16
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	55.9°	84° 3/15/16	30° 3/22/16	5.15"	11.45" 1929	2.04" 3/31/16
		52.4°	93° 3/22/1907	4° 3/7/1899	6.15"	0.65" 1910	4.95" 3/23/29
Dothan	2/1902	63.2°	84° 3/15/16	35° 3/22/16	6.16"	16.40" 1929	1.36" 3/3/16
		59.3°	89° 3/24/1904	21° 03/04/43	5.66"	0.42" 1955	9.00" 3/14/29
Fairhope	8/1917	62.9°	79.1° 3/16/16	33.7° 3/22/16	9.93"	11.60" 1980	3.13" 3/11/16
		59.8°	85°+ 3/10/74	21°+ 3/3/80	6.71"	2.56" 1981	6.20" 3/16/90
Gadsden	7/1893	55.7°	82.6° 3/15/16	29.0° 3/5/16	5.07"	17.41" 1980	1.17" 3/24/16
		52.2°	88° 3/11/74	11°+ 3/6/60	6.55"	1.46" 1986	4.98" 3/4/79
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	59.4°	86.1° 3/15/16	33.7° 3/21/16	9.44"	17.26" 1976	2.06" 3/10/16
		54.8°	88°+ 3/13/87	15° 3/3/80	5.97"	1.57" 1985	5.12" 3/29/51
Greensboro	2/1890	57.9°	85.1° 3/15/16	32.6° 3/21/16	5.28"	14.57" 1976	2.50" 3/31/16
		56.8°	91° 3/23/95	10° 3/14/93	6.51"	2.37" 1985	7.30" 3/28/51
Highland Home	3/1892	60.9°	83.8° 3/15/16	33.7° 3/21/16	5.28"	13.84" 1973	1.37" 3/18/16
		57.8°	88° 3/12/55	14° 3/3/80	6.95"	2.92" 1984	8.13" 3/30/60
Huntsville	1/1959	58.0°	85° 3/15/16	32° 3/5/16	4.49"	17.00" 1980	1.85" 3/31/16
		52.1°	88° 3/31/83	6° 3/3/80	6.11"	1.12" 2007	5.24" 3/16/1973

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2016

	Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	64.0°	83° 3/16/16	35° 3/21/16	10.16"	13.46" 1980	4.25" 3/11/16
		59.7°	89° 3/15/67	21° 3/14/93	7.20"	3.00" 1981	7.15" 3/16/90
Montgomery	6/1948	63.1°	89° 3/15/16	35° 3/22/16	4.22"	12.4" 1990	1.13" 3/3/16
		57.1°	89°+ 3/22/95	17° 3/14/93	6.39"	1.75" 1997	7.89" 3/16/90
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	57.8°	86° 3/15/16	32° 3/5/16	3.18"	14.25" 1980	1.85" 3/31/16
		52.2°	86°+ 3/13/67	10° 3/3/43	6.21"	2.22" 1985	4.80" 3/27/94
Russellville	9/1953	56.2°	*84.7° 3/15/16	27.7° 3/6/16	7.36"	15.75" 1973	3.83" 3/31/16
		49.1°	84°+ 3/24/95	5°+ 3/4/80	6.28"	2.14" 2000	8.40" 3/16/73
Scottsboro	10/1891	56.1°	87.3° 3/15/16	29.4° 3/5/16	4.46"	16.48" 1980	1.69" 3/31/16
		51.5°	90° 3/25/29	8° 3/14/93	6.52"	2.28" 1982	4.88" 3/16/73
Selma	1/1895	59.7°	85.3° 3/15/16	32.9° 3/22/16	7.37"	14.06" 1973	2.40" 3/31/16
		58.5°	90° 3/25/36	18° 3/4/80	6.67"	1.07" 1985	9.75" 3/16/90
Talladega	2/1888	58.6°	86.4° 3/15/16	29.6° 3/5/16	4.06"	18.24" 1976	1.28" 3/3/16
		54.8°	88°+ 3/24/95	6° 3/14/93	6.82"	1.18" 1985	7.81" 3/30/77
Thomasville	9/1891	60.2°	83.1° 3/15/16	31.2° 3/22/16	8.26"	15.35" 1976	2.11" 3/18/16
		57.6°	89°+ 3/20/80	14° 3/3/80	6.95"	1.62" 1978	11.10" 3/12/35
Troy	6/1908	63.0°	88° 3/15/16	34° 3/5/16	5.26"	13.75" 1990	1.36" 3/18/16
		58.0°	89° 3/12/55	13° 3/3/80	6.56"	1.81" 1982	8.56" 3/17/90
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	59.2°	86° 3/15/16	33° 3/22/16	6.19"	19.99" 1976	1.49" 3/10/16
		55.4°	90° 3/23/95	12° 3/14/93	6.37"	1.12" 1986	6.08" 3/13/75
Valley Head	1/1893	55.2°	83.8° 3/15/16	27.5° 3/5/16	4.36"	15.87" 1980	1.13" 3/24/16
		49.6°	84°+ 3/20/82	2° 3/3/80	6.57"	1.91" 1985	4.87" 3/4/79
Statewide March 2015		59.54°	88° Montgomery	27.5° Valley Head	6.01"	19.99" Tuscaloosa	4.25" Mobile
March Norm		55.22°	93° 2 stations	2° 2 stations	6.50"	0.40" Calera	13.0" 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

New Local Climate Records¹

March 2016

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
10 March 2016				
GREENSBORO	2.39	1993-03-10	1.79	124
11 March 2016				
ALICEVILLE L & D	2.95	2010-03-11	2.84	36
COFFEEVILLE L&D	2.25	2010-03-11	1.14	33
DEMOPOLIS L&D	3.10	2015-03-11	1.43	64
GAINESVILLE LOCK	2.40	1952-03-11	1.30	68
MELVIN	4.65	1952-03-11	1.24	76
MILLERS FERRY L&D	0.89	2010-03-11	0.62	35
MOBILE REG. AIRPORT	4.25	1956-03-11	3.31	68
UNIONTOWN	2.06	2015-03-11	1.74	121
VERNON	2.60	2000-03-11	2.50	78
WARRIOR LOCK & DAM	2.36	2000-03-11	1.85	58
12 March 2016				
ATHENS	1.83	2010-03-12	1.49	75
COFFEEVILLE L&D	1.55	2014-03-12	1.10	33
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	3.92	2013-03-12	0.42	40
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	3.42	1951-03-12	1.11	98
JACKSON	2.06	1993-03-12	1.60	54
ROBERTSDALE	2.77	1921-03-12	1.89	104
19 March 2016				
GAINESVILLE LOCK	1.34	1986-03-19	1.09	68
PINE APPLE	1.82	1971-03-19	1.76	48
24 March 2016				
ATHENS	1.02	1994-03-24	0.96	75
MOBILE REG AIRPORT	3.19	1973-03-24	3.05	68
25 March 2016				
BREWTON 3 ENE	1.21	1994-03-25	1.12	39
BRUNDIDGE	1.20	1937-03-25	1.01	85
GENEVA NUMBER 2	1.36	1994-03-25	0.68	40
31 March 2016				
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	2.60	2002-03-31	1.83	62

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
13 March 2016				
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	82	1952-03-13	81	67
14 March 2016				
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	82	2008-03-14	81	67
15 March 2016				
ANNISTON METRO APT	88	2012-03-15	83	113
BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT	88	2012-03-15	84	86
GADSDEN	86	2012-03-15	83	63
HALEYVILLE	84	2012-03-15	83	113
MONTGOMERY AIRPRT	89	1973-03-15	86	68
MUSCLE SHOALS RGL AP	86	2012-03-15	85	75
ROCK MILLS	86	2012-03-15	83	74
16 March 2016				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	88	1989-03-16	85	59
CLAYTON	86	2012-03-16	85	60
GAINESVILLE LOCK	88	1982-03-16	86	58
GUNTERSVILLE	87	2012-03-16	82	106
HAMILTON 3 S	89	2012-03-16	88	54
JASPER	86	1982-03-16	84	55
MARION JUNCTION 2 NE	87	1982-03-16	86	66
MOULTON 2	85	2012-03-16	84	59
OPELIKA	86	1982-03-16	84	59
SAND MT SUBSTATION	85	2012-03-16	83	66
SCOTTSBORO	86	1945-03-16	85	124
SYLACAUGA 4 NE	88	2012-03-16	83	61
TALLADEGA	87	1982-03-16	86	122
VERNON	86	2012-03-16	85	59
17 March 2016				
RUSSELLVILLE No. 2	87	2015-03-17	80	62
VERNON	86	2012-03-17	83	59

Max High Temperature, March

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
16 March 2016				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	88	1995-03-24	87	59

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

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

March 2016

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	7.62	2
Baldwin	10.40	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	n.a.	0
Blount	5.15	10
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	4.74	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	5.01	1
Chilton	2.11	2
Choctaw	11.18	1
Clarke	7.07	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	5.92	1
Colbert	5.00	6
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	4.58	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	5.74	4
Dale	6.55	1
Dallas	7.95	1
DeKalb	4.96	3
Elmore	6.98	8
Escambia	9.84	1
Etowah	4.52	1
Fayette	5.06	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	7.95	1
Jackson	4.45	7
Jefferson	5.94	13
Lamar	n.a.	0
Lauderdale	5.48	10
Lawrence	5.24	2
Lee	4.37	3
Limestone	4.34	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	3.81	45
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	8.93	1
Marshall	4.51	10
Mobile	9.14	14
Monroe	7.27	2
Montgomery	5.98	3
Morgan	4.42	5
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	9.67	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	5.65	2
Russell	4.31	2
St. Clair	5.12	5
Shelby	6.61	17
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	5.91	4
Tallapoosa	4.83	4
Tuscaloosa	7.19	5
Walker	3.55	1
Washington	5.31	1
Wilcox	7.82	1
Winston	5.35	2

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.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°
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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"
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