



Climate Summary for Florida – February 2011

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Online at: http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/summaries/flmonthly2011_02.shtml

Average temperatures above normal in February. Average temperatures were above normal in all areas during February (Table 1). Although departures from normal were small at Pensacola (0.1 ° F), Key West (0.7° F), and Tallahassee (0.8° F), Orlando was 3.5° F above normal. Several daily maximum records were tied or broken during February (Table 2). At Melbourne, daily maxima of 87° F on the 5th and 85° F on the 25th, tied a record in existence since 1943 and broke a record in existence since 1958, respectively.

Table 1. February average temperatures and departures from normal (° F) for selected cities.

Station	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	55.0	0.1
Tallahassee	55.6	0.8
Jacksonville	58.5	2.7
Orlando	66.1	3.5
Tampa	65.3	2.6
Miami	72.0	2.9
Key West	71.5	0.7

Table 2. Daily temperature records (° F) tied or broken during February. (Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Location	Record	Broken/Tied	Type	Last
2	Melbourne	68	Tied	Low Max	68 in 1990
5	Melbourne	87	Tied	Max	87 in 1943
7	Orlando	85	Tied	Max	85 in 2008
19	Pensacola	77	Broken	Max	76 in 2000
22	Tallahassee	82	Tied	Max	82 in 1962
22	Ft. Lauderdale	87	Broken	Max	86 in 2008
25	Pensacola	82	Broken	Max	79 in 2007
25	Apalachicola	79	Tied	Max	79 in 1996
25	Melbourne	85	Broken	Max	84 in 1958
27	Gainesville	87	Tied	Max	87 in 1997
28	Pensacola	78	Tied	Max	78 in 1961
28	Orlando	88	Tied	Max	88 in 1971



Rainfall totals generally below normal in February. Rainfall totals for February were below normal in most areas (Table 3). Rainfall totals in central and southern areas were generally below one inch. Key West recorded only 0.01 inch during the month. The monthly total at Jacksonville (4.06 in) was pushed above normal by two record daily amounts on the 8th and 10th (Table 4). A band of above normal monthly rainfall extended from the Gulf coast near Cross City northeastward to the Atlantic coast near Jacksonville (Figure 1).

Table 3. February precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

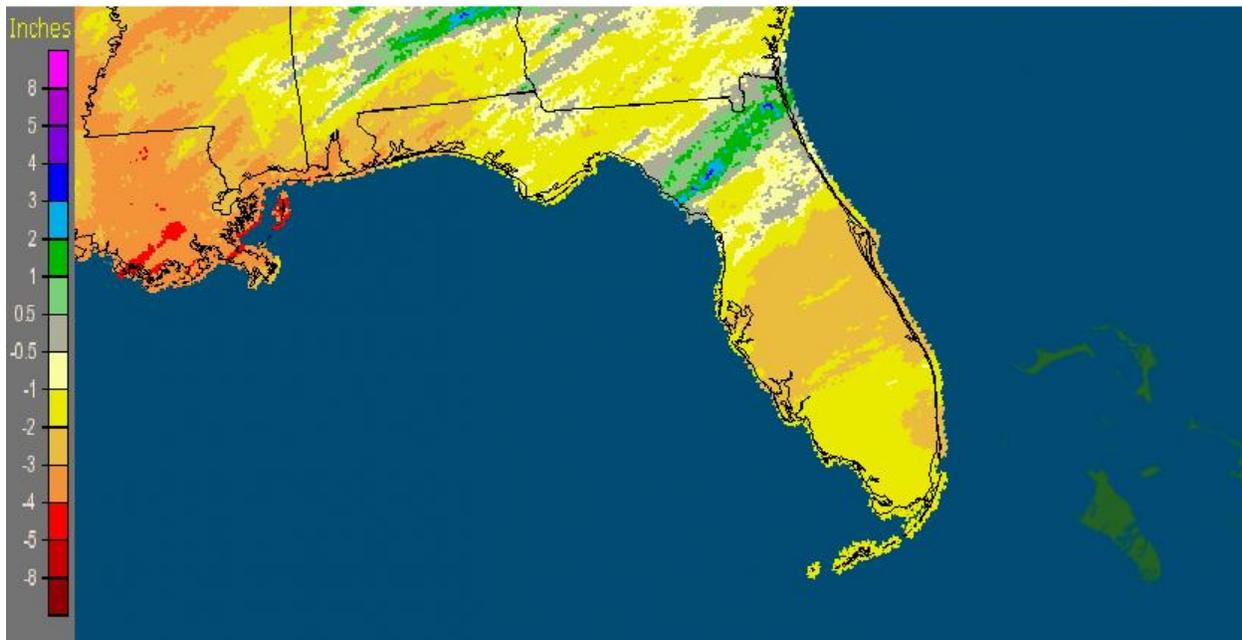
Station	Total rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	3.02	-1.66
Tallahassee	2.61	-2.02
Jacksonville	4.06	0.91
Orlando	0.25	-2.10
Tampa	0.64	-2.03
Miami	0.23	-1.84
Key West	0.01	-1.50

Table 4. Daily rainfall records (inches) tied or broken during February. (Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Location	Record	Broken/Tied	Last
8	Jacksonville	1.89	Broken	1.84 in 1955
10	Jacksonville	1.22	Broken	1.11 in 1990

Figure 1. A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (inches) for February is given in the figure below (courtesy of NOAA, NWS).

Florida: February, 2011 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
 Valid at 3/1/2011 1200 UTC- Created 3/1/11 15:45 UTC



La Nina continues during February. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean continued below normal during February, denoting a continued cold phase of ENSO, or La Nina. Above normal temperatures observed during February in the central peninsula and below normal rainfall in most areas are characteristics of winters during La Nina events

Hazardous weather. Three-quarter-inch-diameter hail was observed near Newberry on the 2nd. Numerous severe weather events occurred on the 7th. Funnel clouds were reported near Bunnell and Flagler Beach. Flooding of roadways occurred in Gainesville. Thunderstorm wind gusts up to 61 mph were recorded at Sanford. Trees and power lines were downed by thunderstorm winds at New Smyrna Beach, Ocala, Crescent City and Holly Hill, and a tree was blown onto a car near Deland. Later in the month, wildfires started in Marion County on the 25th and in Putnam and St. Johns Counties on the 28th. All areas of the state remained abnormally dry during February. Extreme drought conditions existed in areas near the east coast.

Agricultural and other impacts. As freezing temperatures occurred in west-central parts of the state, producers watered fields to preserve strawberry crops. This effort, combined with continued dry weather, drew down the groundwater to the extent that several sinkholes formed. The harvest of mid-season fruit continued despite moderate to severe drought conditions in citrus regions. In the north, sparse precipitation and near-normal temperatures allowed fields to be prepared for spring planting.