

## Climate Summary for Florida – February 2022

Prepared by the Florida Climate Center, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Online at: <http://climatecenter.fsu.edu/products-services/summaries>

### Key Points

- Warmer weather returned in February, with average temperatures above normal in Florida.
- February was dry for much of Florida, with below normal monthly rainfall totals across the state.
- The La Niña advisory remains in effect and is expected to continue through May 2022 (77% chance).
- As of February 22, about 13% of the state is in moderate drought (D1) and 58% is experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

**Average temperatures in February were above normal in Florida.** Average temperature departures from normal ranged from +0.2 °F in Key West to +3.9 °F in Tampa for the month (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 for select cities). Several stations recorded one of their top ten warmest months of February on record, including Jacksonville Beach (5th-warmest), Orlando (7th-warmest), Fort Myers (8th-warmest), and Fort Lauderdale (8th-warmest). Several daily temperature records were broken or tied throughout the month, including daily high maximum and high minimum temperatures (see appendices 2 and 3).

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

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	57.4	+0.6
Tallahassee	56.3	+0.7
Jacksonville	58.8	+1.3
Orlando	67.0	+3.4
Tampa	68.6	+3.9
Miami	73.5	+2.8
Key West	72.5	+0.2

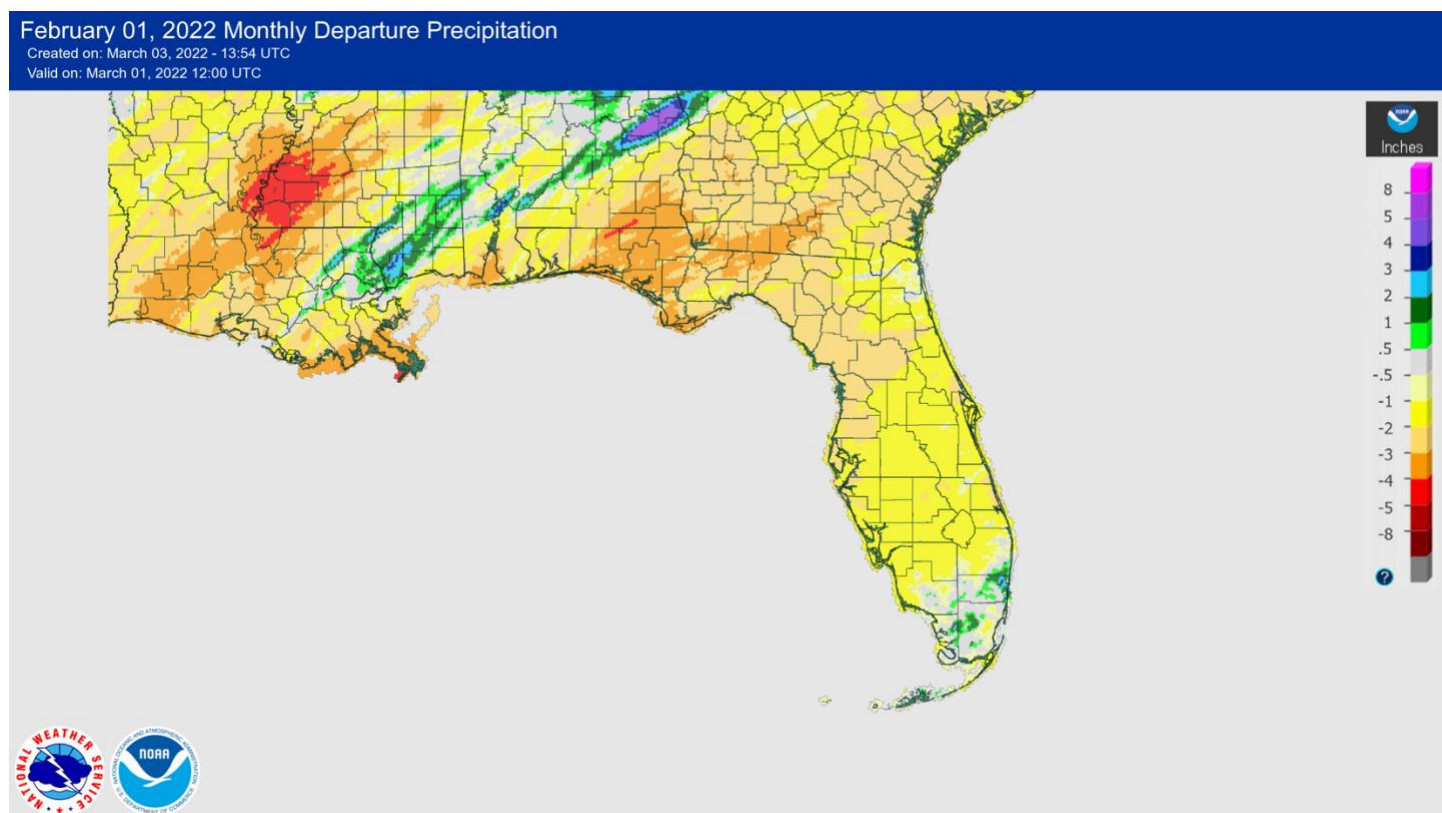
**Rainfall totals in February were below normal across the state.** The monthly precipitation departures from normal ranged from -0.55 inches in Miami to -3.00 inches in Tallahassee (Table 2 and Appendix 1). Most places across the state recorded a precipitation deficit for the month, except for just a few places in south Florida (Figure 1). Crestview had its second driest February on record, and both Ocala and Apalachicola recorded their 4th-driest February on record. Rainfall deficits have resulted in abnormally dry conditions and the emergence of moderate drought conditions in parts of the western Peninsula (drought information below).



**Table 2.** February precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.78	-1.99
Tallahassee	1.28	-3.00
Jacksonville	2.09	-0.77
Orlando	0.71	-1.33
Tampa	0.62	-2.00
Miami	1.60	-0.55
Key West	1.35	-0.19

**Figure 1.** A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (in inches) for February (courtesy of NOAA).



### La Niña Advisory Continues.

La Niña conditions, the cool phase of the ENSO climate pattern, continued in the tropical Pacific Ocean in February. Below-average sea surface temperatures weakened during January, but most of the weekly ENSO indices remained between  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $-1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Overall, the coupled ocean-atmosphere system reflected a weakening La Niña. According to the latest official NWS update, La Niña is likely to continue into the Northern Hemisphere spring, with a 77% chance of persisting through May 2022. It is likely to then transition to ENSO-neutral in late spring or summer (56% chance during May-July 2022).

## Hazardous Weather Events in February.

According to the Local Storm Reports issued by the local National Weather Service offices serving Florida, there were 21 individual local reports of hazardous weather events recorded across the state during the month of February 2022 (see Table 4 for a breakdown by event type). Though there were few severe weather events during the month, several fatalities occurred. Strong rip currents at Fort Lauderdale Beach led to two injuries and one fatality on the 7th. Later in the month, dense fog led to three fatalities resulting from two car accidents in Flagler County on the 25th.

**Table 4.** Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of February (compiled from Iowa State University/Iowa Environmental Mesonet).

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Number of Reports</b>
Flash Flood	0
Heavy Rain	0
Dense Fog	1
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	3
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	10
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage	0
Tornado/Waterspout/Funnel Cloud	0 / 1 / 0
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	0
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	4
Rip Currents	2

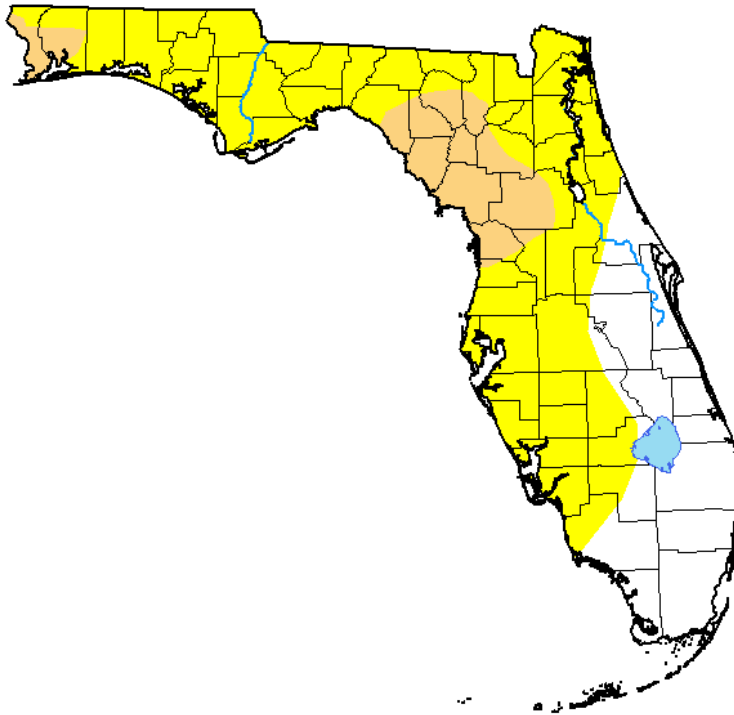
## Drought-Related Impacts.

By mid-February, abnormally dry conditions (D0) were affecting 53% of the state, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Affected areas included the central and western Panhandle and Big Bend regions, as well as much of northern and western Florida. This was an increase from 17% of the state in abnormally dry conditions and 1.4% of the western Panhandle in moderate drought at the beginning of the month. Near the end of the month, moderate drought (D1) emerged across the north-west portions of the Peninsula and re-emerged in the extreme western Panhandle (13% area total), while 58% of the state was abnormally dry (Figure 2).

As of February 28, the Lake Okeechobee water level was 14.58 ft. above sea level (Feet-NGVD29), which is about average for this time of the year. The water level remained above average but declined throughout the month. At the first of the month, the water level was around 14.91 ft. above sea level.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**

**February 22, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	28.85	71.15	13.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 02-15-2022	47.24	52.76	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 11-23-2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	76.97	23.03	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-28-2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 02-23-2021	80.06	19.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- 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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**Agriculture-Related Impacts.**

During the month of February, damage to crops and pasture were seen early in the month due to frosts. Pasture conditions were degraded to mostly poor and fair conditions. However, cattle remained in mostly good condition due to supplemental feedings. Sugarcane crop exhibited signs of leaf burn. Strawberry harvest continued, and several citrus and vegetable crops were marketed including white and red grapefruit, tangerines, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, green beans, avocados, and others. For more information, consult the [Crop Progress – State Stories](#), which are produced monthly December through March.

**Appendix 1.** Additional February departures from normal data for select Florida locations (source: NWS).

Station	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Total Rainfall (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Gainesville	60.3	+1.9	1.56	-1.11
Sarasota	66.4	+1.6	0.71	-1.21
Melbourne	66.2	+0.8	0.79	-1.19
Fort Myers	71.1	+3.8	0.48	-1.30
West Palm Beach	72.1	+3.7	1.97	-0.66

**Appendix 2.** Select daily record high maximum temperatures broken or tied during February (compiled from NOAA).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
Tampa	3	85	Broken	84 in 2016
Gainesville	4	83	Broken	82 in 2014
Orlando	4	87	Broken	86 in 2014
Key West	4	85	Broken	83 in 2020
Lakeland	4	86	Broken	85 in 1989
Clermont	5	87	Broken	86 in 2014
Jacksonville Beach	5	82	Broken	80 in 1997
Key West	8	86	Broken	83 in 2014
Tampa	16	84	Tied	84 in 1989
Tarpon Springs	17	85	Tied	85 in 2019
Tampa	17	86	Broken	83 in 1995
Clermont	18	88	Tied	88 in 2019
Perry	18	83	Broken	82 in 1995
Orlando	18	87	Tied	87 in 2021
Tarpon Springs	22	87	Broken	86 in 1997
Key West	22	86	Broken	85 in 2019
Fort Myers	23	89	Tied	89 in 1962
Tallahassee	23	83	Tied	83 in 2019
Tampa	24	86	Broken	85 in 2001
Key West	24	88	Broken	86 in 2019
Jacksonville Beach	25	87	Broken	82 in 2017
Miles City	25	88	Tied	88 in 2018
Gainesville	25	87	Broken	85 in 2018
Daytona Beach	25	87	Broken	86 in 2001
Fort Myers	26	89	Broken	87 in 1971

**Appendix 3.** Select daily record high minimum temperatures broken or tied during February (compiled from NOAA).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
Jacksonville Beach	4	68	Broken	64 in 1990
Quincy	4	64	Broken	61 in 2014
Wewahitchka	4	65	Broken	64 in 1990
Key West	4	77	Broken	76 in 2014
Fort Pierce	17	69	Tied	69 in 1981
Stuart	17	70	Tied	70 in 1984
Miami	17	72	Tied	72 in 2021
Key West	17	76	Tied	76 in 1975
Daytona Beach	18	67	Broken	66 in 2019
Mayport	18	63	Broken	62 in 2019
Orlando	18	68	Broken	65 in 2021
Daytona Beach	18	69	Broken	66 in 1990
Orlando	18	70	Broken	67 in 2019
Jacksonville	18	66	Broken	65 in 2019

Clermont	19	70	Broken	66 in 1992
Sanford	19	68	Broken	65 in 2012
Fort Pierce	23	71	Tied	71 in 2018
Jacksonville Beach	23	68	Broken	66 in 2013
Tampa	23	70	Broken	69 in 2019
Jacksonville Beach	24	69	Broken	67 in 2012
Pensacola	24	65	Broken	64 in 1949
Jacksonville Beach	25	70	Broken	62 in 2011
Jacksonville Beach	26	67	Broken	64 in 1992
Fort Lauderdale Beach	27	72	Tied	72 in 2013
Jacksonville Beach	27	68	Broken	64 in 1971