

Climate Summary for Florida – February 2025

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

Summary

- Average monthly temperatures in February were much above average in Florida.
- Monthly precipitation totals in February were generally below normal, except for parts of coastal east-central Florida and the Keys.
- By the end of February, approximately 4% of the state was in severe drought (D2) and 34% was in moderate drought (D1), while 26% was abnormally dry (D0), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- La Niña conditions persisted in the tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean over the past month; a transition to ENSO-neutral is expected during March-May 2025 (66% chance).

Average monthly temperatures in February were above average in Florida. Average monthly temperature departures from normal ranged from +2.7 F in Key West to +5.5 F in Tallahassee for the month (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 for select cities). The month started off especially warm, with average temperatures from February 1-14 record warm in Tallahassee, Gainesville, Orlando, Melbourne, Sarasota, Fort Myers, and Miami. Cooler weather affected the state during the second part of the month, with mean temperatures averaging out to 3 F -5 F above average for the month as a whole. Several stations recorded one of their top 10 warmest months of February on record. Select daily high maximum temperature records tied or broken during the month are provided in Appendix 3.

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

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	59.8	+3.0
Tallahassee	61.1	+5.5
Jacksonville	61.4	+3.9
Orlando	68.7	+5.1
Tampa	68.6	+3.9
Miami	74.6	+3.9
Key West	75.0	+2.7

Monthly precipitation totals were generally below normal in February, with the exception of east-central coastal areas (St. Lucie and Indian River Counties) and the Keys. The monthly precipitation departures from normal ranged from -1.69 inches in Pensacola to +2.05 inches in Key West (see Table 2 and Appendix 1

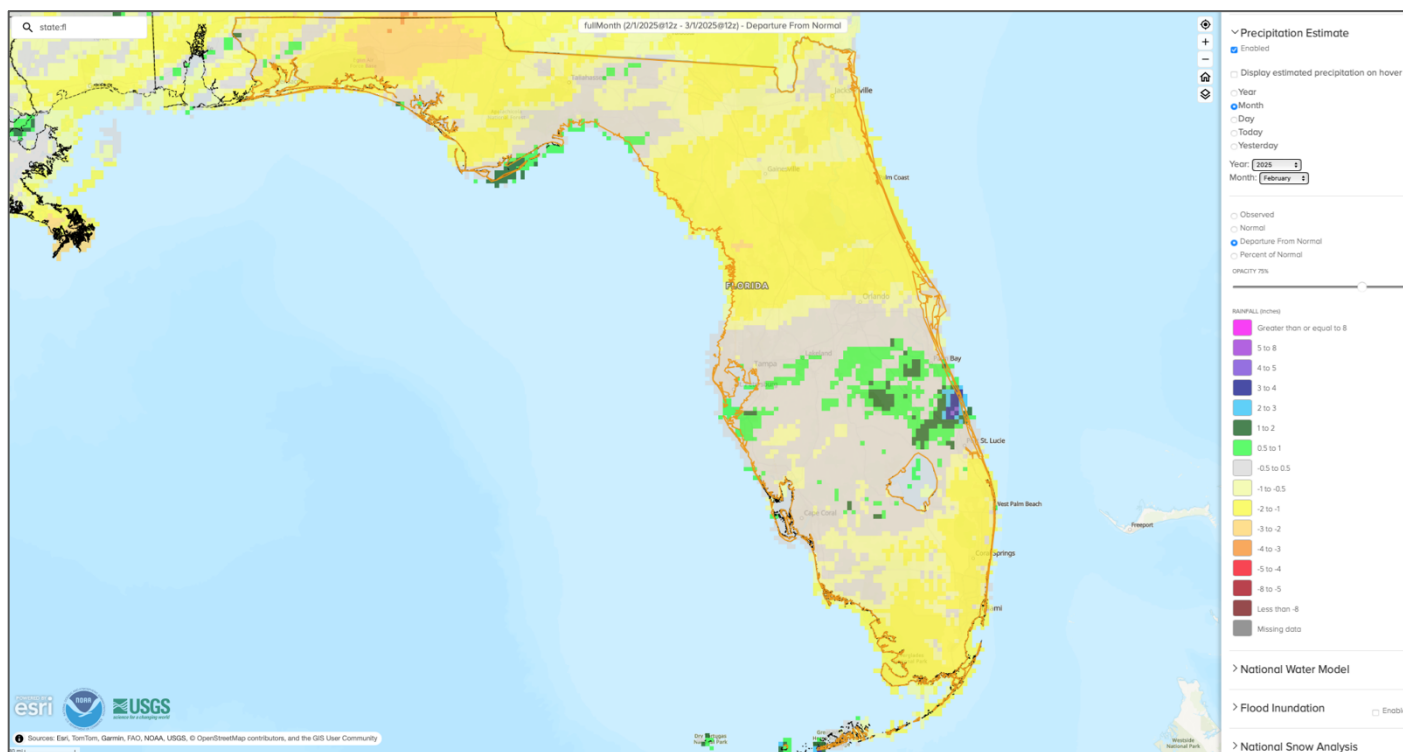


for select locations). Warmer than average temperatures combined with below average rainfall during the winter led to drought expansion and the introduction of severe drought in parts of the Peninsula during February.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	3.08	-1.69
Tallahassee	3.02	-1.26
Jacksonville	2.15	-0.71
Orlando	1.29	-0.91
Tampa	2.85	-0.75
Miami	0.72	-1.43
Key West	3.59	+2.05

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



La Niña Advisory.

La Niña conditions continued in the tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central and east-central equatorial Pacific Ocean continued to be below average over the past month. La Niña conditions are expected to persist in the near-term and transition to ENSO-neutral during March-May 2025 (66% chance). A weak La Niña is still favored through February-April. However, there is also a 41% chance of ENSO-neutral emerging in this season.

Hazardous Weather Events in February.

According to the Local Storm Reports issued by the local National Weather Service offices serving Florida, there were 111 individual local reports of hazardous weather events recorded across the state during the month of February (see Table 3 for a breakdown by event type). Strong wind gusts associated with thunderstorms affected areas across the northern half of the state mid-month, while a 650-acre wildfire broke out at the end of the month in northwestern Brevard County, which was fully contained per the Florida Forest Service.

Table 3. Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of February (compiled from Iowa State University/Iowa Environmental Mesonet).

Report Type	Number of Reports
Heavy Rain	1
Flash Flood	0
Dense Fog	1
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	15
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	12
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	15
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	65
Tornado/Waterspout/Funnel Cloud	0 / 1 / 0
Wildfire	1

Daily Record Events in February.

Table 4. Summary of daily records broken in Florida in February (source: NCEI Daily Weather Records).

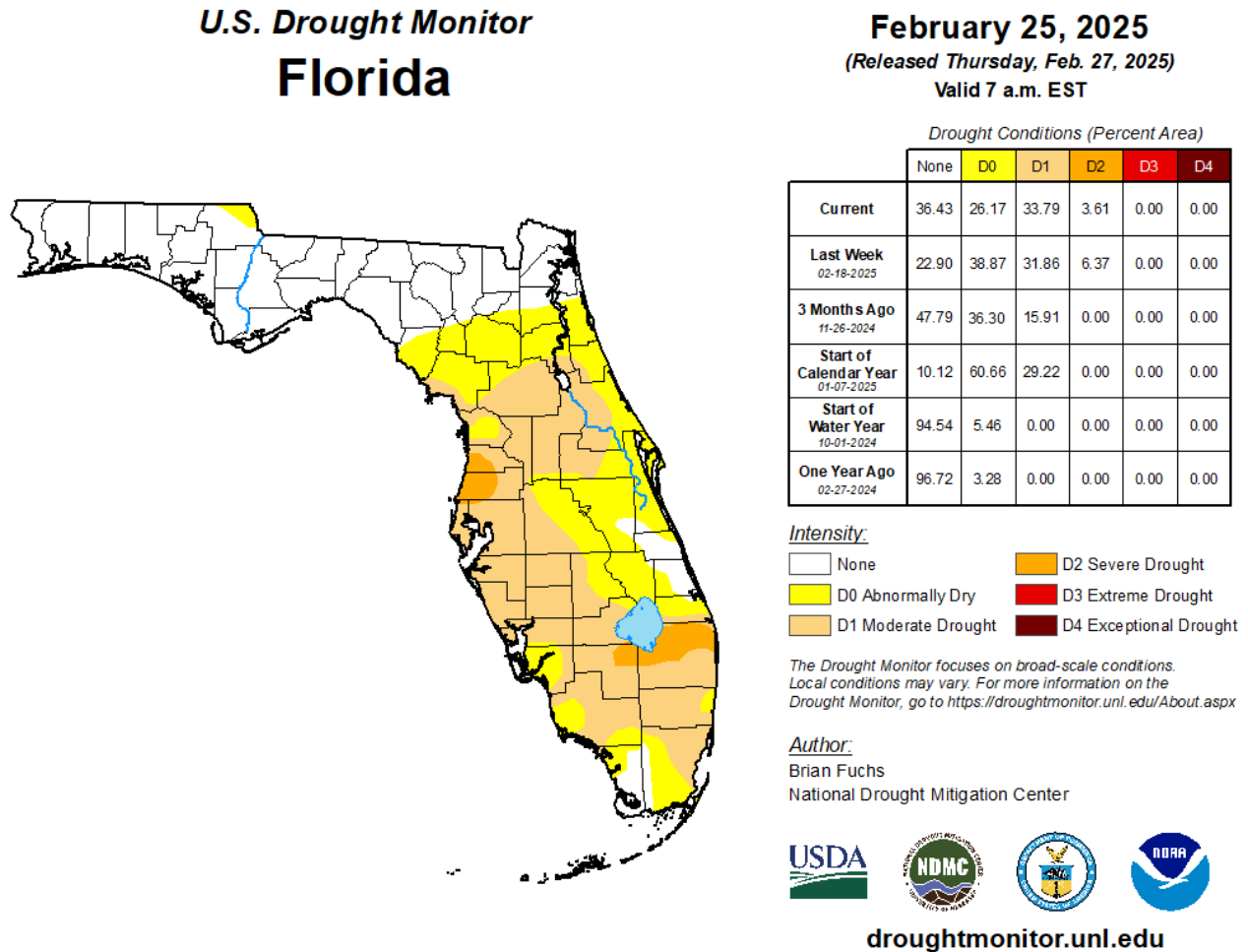
Category	Number of Records
Highest daily max. temp.	51
Highest daily min. temp.	47
Lowest daily max. temp.	11
Lowest daily min. temp.	1
Highest daily precipitation	14
Total	124

Drought-Related Impacts.

Drought expanded in the Peninsula during the month. In mid-February, about 6% of the state was in severe drought (D2), roughly 32% of the state was in moderate drought (D1), and 39% was abnormally dry (D0), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. By the end of the month, approximately 4% of the state was in severe drought (D2), about 34% was in moderate drought (D1), and 26% of the state was abnormally dry (D0) (Figure 2 below).

As of February 28, the Lake Okeechobee water level was 13.77 ft. above sea level (Feet-NGVD29), which is below average for this time of year. At the first of the month, the water level was 14.38 ft. above sea level.

Figure 3. A graphical depiction of the latest drought conditions in Florida according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (courtesy of the National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln).



Agriculture-Related Impacts.

February brought a return to above normal temperatures and overall dry conditions. Chill hour accumulations are running above last year, but still below the historical average given the warmer weather that occurred in February. Drier weather allowed time for field preparations for spring planting. A dip in temperatures toward the end of the month resulted in losses to fruits and vegetables like strawberries in Okaloosa County. Producers prepared fields for rice planting and sugarcane harvest continued as planned throughout the month. Beekeepers prepared for the citrus bloom season. Pasture conditions were mostly fair and had improved near month’s end. Cattle conditions remained in mostly good condition. For more information, consult the [Crop Progress - State Stories](#), which is published by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service 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	63.4	+5.0	1.91	-0.76
Sarasota	69.3	+4.5	3.05	+1.13
Melbourne	68.9	+4.9	1.87	-0.11
Fort Myers	72.1	+4.8	1.69	-0.09
West Palm Beach	72.8	+4.4	1.69	-0.94

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

Location	Date	Record (°F)	Broken/Tied	Last
Fernandina Beach	4	89	Broken	84 in 2014
Plant City	4	88	Broken	87 in 1907
Crestview	4	81	Broken	76 in 2012
Tallahassee	4	82	Broken	81 in 1957
Plant City	6	88	Broken	86 in 2020
Crestview	6	80	Broken	79 in 1994
Pensacola	6	78	Broken	76 in 1994
Fort Lauderdale	7	83	Tied	83 in 2022
Ochopee	7	87	Broken	86 in 2012
Fort Myers	7	86	Tied	86 in 1994
Crestview	9	84	Broken	81 in 1994
Pensacola	9	80	Broken	78 in 1957
Tallahassee	9	83	Broken	82 in 1957
Chipley	10	83	Broken	82 in 1994
St. Augustine	10	83	Broken	82 in 1994
Quincy	11	80	Broken	79 in 1999
Plant City	12	90	Broken	89 in 1905
Mayport	12	89	Broken	85 in 2019
Gainesville	12	86	Tied	86 in 2019
Daytona Beach	12	85	Broken	84 in 2021
Jacksonville	12	85	Broken	84 in 2020
Hastings	13	84	Broken	82 in 2021
Ocala	13	89	Broken	88 in 1959
Plant City	13	93	Broken	88 in 2020
Gainesville	13	89	Broken	85 in 2020
Daytona Beach	13	89	Broken	86 in 2020
Lakeland	13	90	Broken	88 in 2020
Hastings	14	88	Broken	78 in 2007
Kissimmee	14	89	Broken	87 in 2020
Ochopee	14	90	Broken	87 in 2018
Tampa	15	85	Broken	84 in 1990
Gainesville	15	86	Broken	84 in 2001
Vero Beach	16	85	Broken	84 in 2018