

## Climate Summary for Florida – January 2026

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

### Summary

- Monthly mean temperatures in January averaged out to near normal across Florida.
- Monthly precipitation totals in January were below normal across Florida, with two rounds of wintry precipitation during the month.
- Drought conditions persisted or deteriorated in Florida during January and 94% of the state was in some level of drought (D1-D4) by month's end.
- A La Niña advisory continued in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and a transition to ENSO-neutral is expected January-March 2026 (75% chance) that will likely persist through at least spring 2026.

**Monthly temperatures in January averaged out to near normal in Florida.** Average monthly temperature departures from normal ranged from -1.1 °F in Miami to +0.8 °F in West Palm Beach for the month (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 for select cities). January was a month of temperature whiplash in Florida. The early part of the month experienced mostly above average temperatures. Two new daily record highs were set on the 7<sup>th</sup>, including Tallahassee at 80 °F (previous record was 79 °F in 1916) and Apalachicola at 77 °F (tied with 1974). This warm spell was followed by a strong cold front mid-month during the MLK weekend, bringing cold air and snow to the Florida Panhandle on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures climbed to well-above freezing that day, so any snow accumulations melted quickly. As the front moved south through the state on the 18<sup>th</sup>, strong wind gusts of 40-60 mph were reported across central Florida accompanied by rapid temperature drops of -20 °F, or more, in one hour! The largest temperature drop was reported in [Kissimmee with a drop of 31 °F in one hour](#). A major ice and snowstorm impacted the U.S. South, from Texas to Georgia and the Carolinas, on January 24-25, but Florida stayed south of the wintry weather. Parts of South Florida were record warm on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> before another strong cold front moved through the state on the 26-27<sup>th</sup>, which was reinforced by more Arctic air that kept temperatures well below normal across the state for the remainder of the month. In the overnight hours of January 31 to February 1, single-digit wind chill temperatures were felt in the interior portions of the western Panhandle, wind chills below 20 °F were felt as far south as Lake Okeechobee, and wind chills in South Florida were generally 25 °F – 30 °F. Freezing temperatures were observed across the Florida Peninsula, except along the southwest and southeast coasts. Tallahassee experienced 10 nights in January with minimum temperatures at or below 26 °F which ties as the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of nights in January on record. Select daily record low minimum temperatures tied or broken during January are provided in Appendix 2.

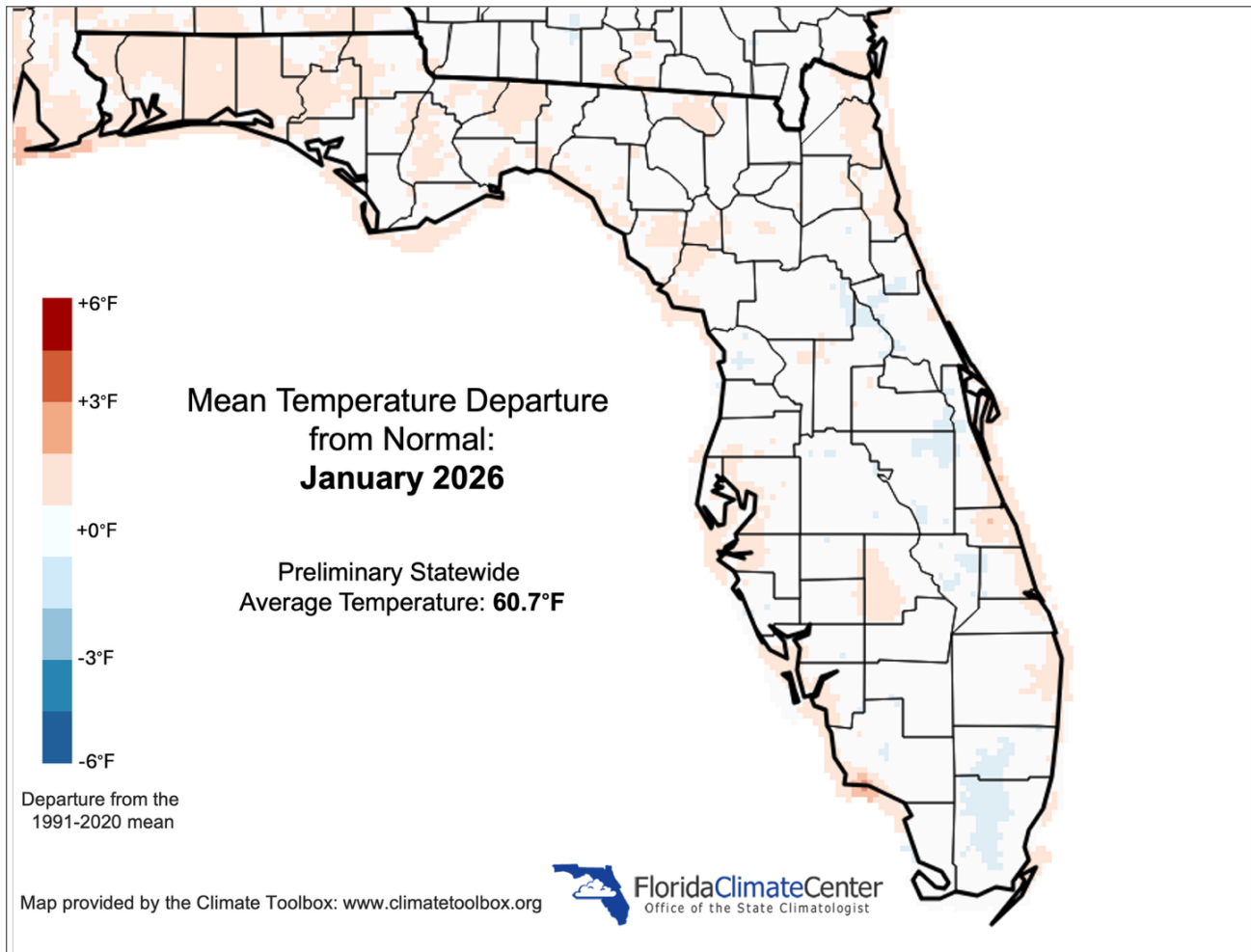
**Table 1.** January average temperatures and departures from normal (°F) for select cities.

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	52.8	-0.4
Tallahassee	51.2	-1.0



<b>Jacksonville</b>	54.1	-0.1
<b>Orlando</b>	60.4	-0.2
<b>Tampa</b>	61.4	-0.6
<b>Miami</b>	67.5	-1.1
<b>Key West</b>	69.6	-1.0

**Figure 1.** Monthly average temperature departures from normal (°F) for January 2026 for Florida.



**Monthly precipitation totals in January were below normal across Florida.** The monthly precipitation departures from normal ranged from -3.04 inches in West Palm Beach to -0.19 inches in Miami (see Table 2 and Appendix 1 for select locations). Overall monthly precipitation was below normal across the state with widespread deficits of 1-3 inches. Northwest Florida saw snow on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>, almost one year to the day from last year's record snowfall. A trace of snow was reported in Pensacola and Crestview, while CoCoRaHS observers reported snowfall totals of 0.1 inches in Niceville (OK-1), 1.0 inch in Baker (OK-52), and 0.7 and 0.5 inches in Santa Rosa County (SR-42 and SR-43, respectively). Snow accumulated on grass, trees and other surfaces, but roadways stayed clear as temperatures stayed above freezing. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, snow flurries were observed again in the Panhandle and across North Florida, with Tallahassee, Jacksonville and Lake City seeing a trace of snow. Flurries were also reported along the [west coast](#)



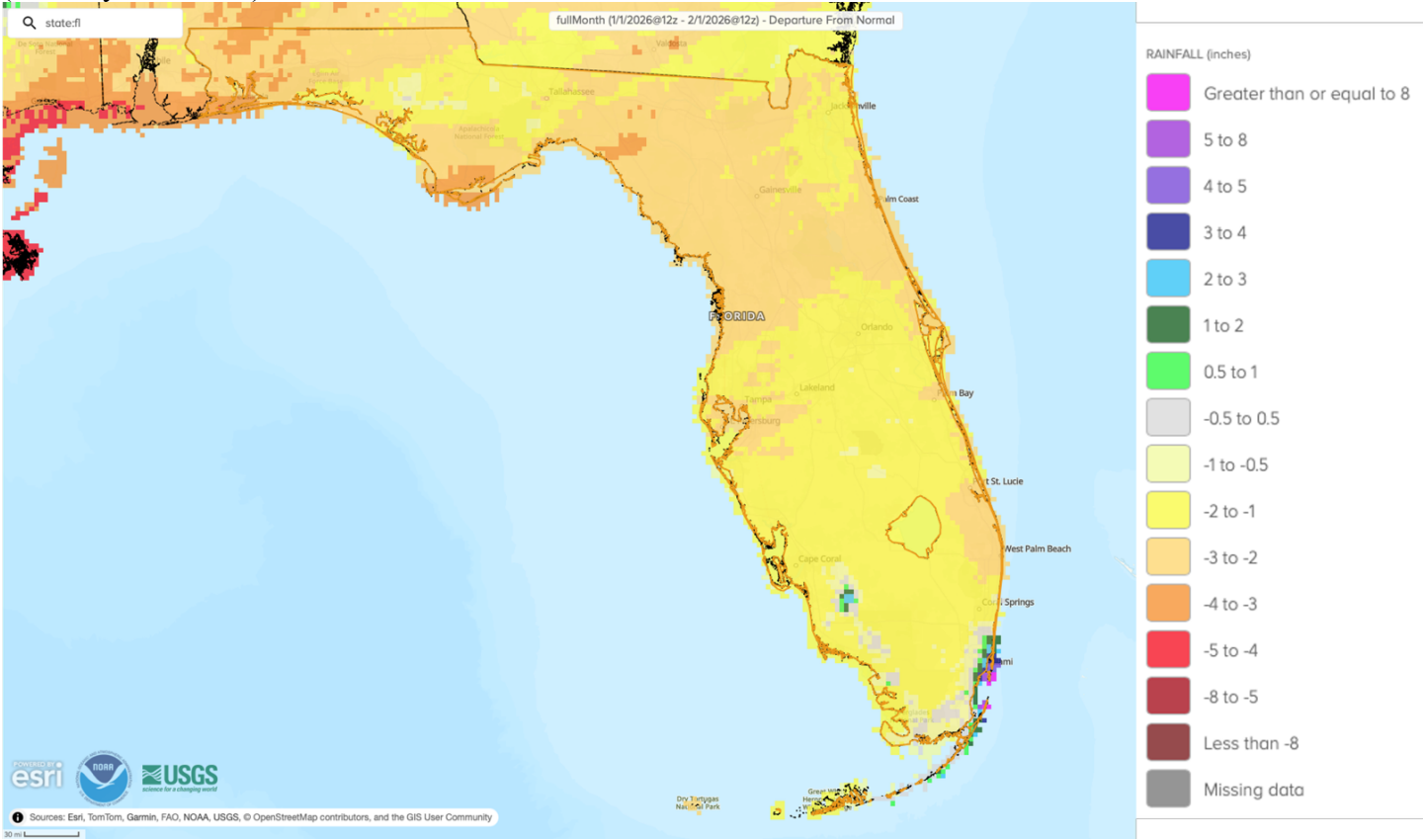
*Snow along I-10 near Pensacola, FL on the morning of January 18, 2026.*

[of Florida from Levy to Lee Counties](#). The Tampa Bay area has recorded snow two times before dating back to 1892, including 0.2 inches on January 19, 1977 and 0.1 inches on February 13, 1899, and several other years have recorded a trace of snow.

**Table 2.** January precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for select cities.

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.60	-2.43
Tallahassee	3.01	-1.40
Jacksonville	1.30	-1.98
Orlando	0.69	-1.79
Tampa	0.99	-1.66
Miami	1.64	-0.19
Key West	0.59	-1.24

**Figure 2.** A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (in inches) for January 2026 (courtesy of NOAA).



### La Niña Advisory

As of mid-January, the tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean remained in a La Niña state. Below-average sea surface temperatures continued across the east-central region of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Subsurface temperature anomalies became slightly positive, and atmospheric anomalies across the tropical Pacific remained consistent with La Niña. A transition to ENSO-neutral is expected during January-March 2026 (75% chance). ENSO-neutral is likely to continue through at least the Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026. The probability for an El Niño increases (48%-51% chance) beyond the May-July 2026 timeframe.

**Hazardous Weather Events in January.**

According to the Local Storm Reports issued by the local National Weather Service offices serving Florida, there were 199 individual local reports of hazardous weather events recorded across the state during the month of January (see Table 3 for a breakdown by event type). There were many reports of snow and strong wind gusts that caused damages due to downed trees and power lines.

**Table 3.** Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of January 2026 (compiled from Iowa State University/Iowa Environmental Mesonet).

Report Type	Number of Reports
Heavy Rain	0
Flood	0
Hail	1
Snow	31
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	1
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	108
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	27
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	18
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage	9
Tornado/Waterspout/Funnel Cloud	1 / 3 / 0

**Daily Record Events in January.**

**Table 4.** Summary of daily records **broken** in Florida in January 2026 (source: NCEI Daily Weather Records).

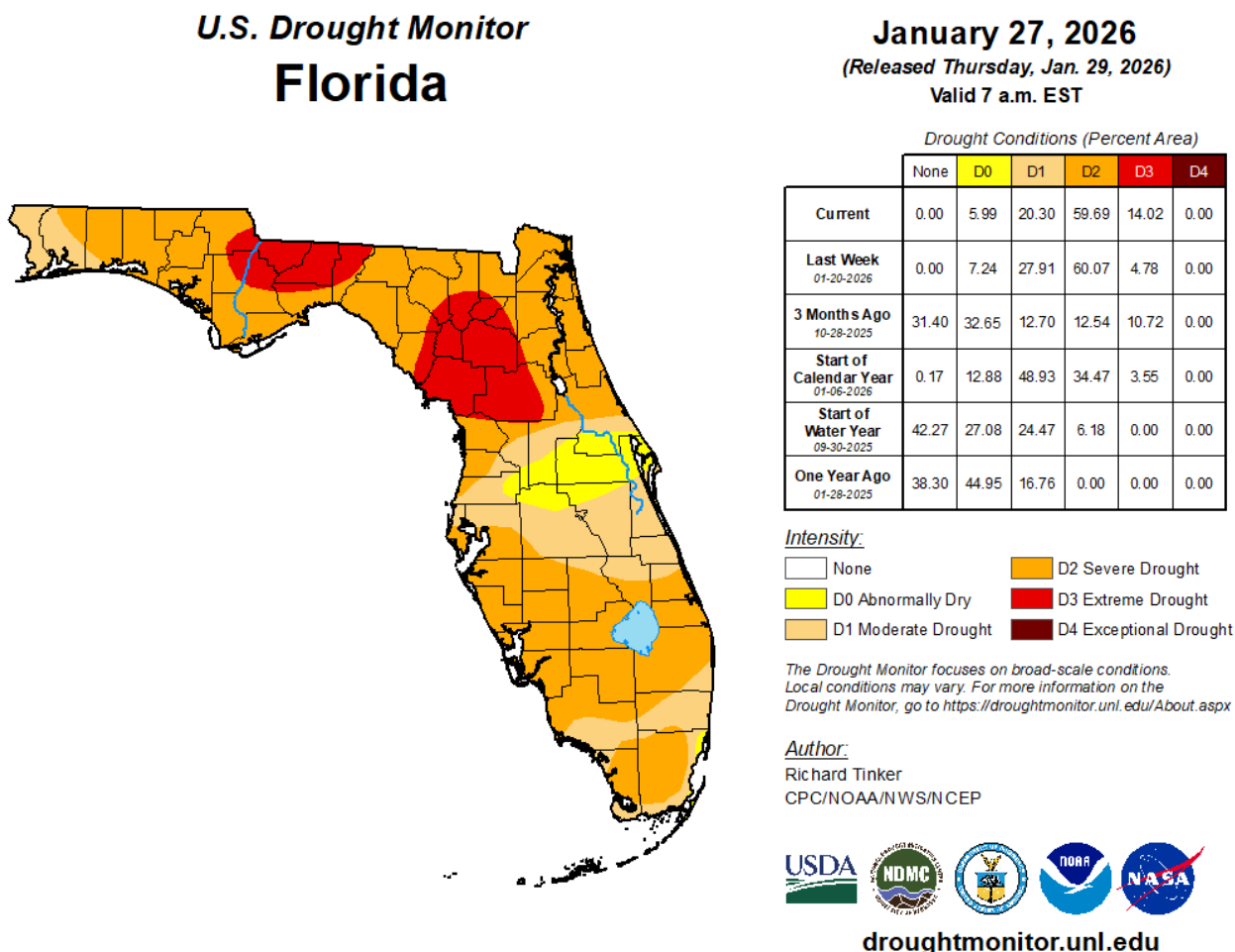
Category	Number of Records
Highest daily max. temp.	43
Highest daily min. temp.	13
Lowest daily max. temp.	10
Lowest daily min. temp.	23
Highest daily precipitation	4
Total	93

**Drought-Related Impacts.**

By mid-month, drought continued to affect nearly all of Florida with 92% of the state in some level of drought (D1-D4). Drought conditions have caused some harm to agricultural pasture conditions, elevated fire risk, and decreased streamflows and some reservoir levels. In mid-January, approximately 5% of the state was in extreme drought (D3), 50% was in severe drought (D2), and 37% was in moderate drought (D1); about 8% of the state was abnormally dry (D0), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. By the end of the month, approximately 14% of the state was in extreme drought (D3), 60% was in severe drought (D2), 20% was in moderate drought (D1), and 6% of the state was abnormally dry (D0) (Figure 2 below).

As of January 31, the Lake Okeechobee water level was 12.77 ft. above sea level (Feet-NGVD29), which is below average for this time of year. At the first of January, the water level was 13.33 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.**

Drought conditions continued and degraded in much of the state over the past month and prolonged widespread hard freezes stressed livestock and slowed growth. The extreme cold temperatures led to increased hay and supplemental feeding, with hay supplies tightening in counties experiencing drought. Freeze damage was reported for strawberries, blueberries, and citrus across the state. Cold-sensitive vegetable crops were also affected, though most major crops were protected from the cold under irrigation. For more information, consult the [Crop Progress - State Stories](#), which are published by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service each year from December – March.

**Appendix 1.** Additional January 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	55.0	+0.2	1.23	-2.06
Sarasota	62.2	-0.2	1.54	-1.25
Melbourne	61.0	-0.7	0.31	-2.32
Fort Myers	64.6	-0.1	0.51	-1.92
West Palm Beach	67.1	+0.8	0.43	-3.04

**Appendix 2.** Select daily record low minimum temperatures tied or broken during January (compiled from NOAA).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
<b>Homestead</b>	2	40	Broken	44 in 2001
<b>Apalachicola</b>	16	25	Broken	27 in 1978
<b>Hastings</b>	16	28	Tied	28 in 1985
<b>Homestead</b>	16	36	Broken	40 in 2023
<b>Usher Tower</b>	16	21	Broken	23 in 1978
<b>Ochopee</b>	16	34	Broken	39 in 2023
<b>Marianna</b>	16	22	Broken	25 in 1959
<b>Gainesville</b>	16	24	Broken	28 in 1985
<b>Orlando</b>	16	31	Broken	35 in 1968
<b>Crestview</b>	16	22	Broken	23 in 1983
<b>Jacksonville</b>	16	22	Broken	25 in 1983
<b>Tallahassee</b>	16	19	Broken	20 in 1978
<b>Glen St. Mary</b>	20	9	Broken	19 in 1977
<b>Whiting Field NAS</b>	26	27	Tied	27 in 2001
<b>Mayo</b>	27	19	Tied	19 in 1985
<b>Niceville</b>	27	21	Broken	22 in 1985
<b>Marianna</b>	27	22	Broken	27 in 2000
<b>Pensacola</b>	27	22	Broken	24 in 1986
<b>Crestview</b>	27	21	Broken	23 in 2011
<b>Apalachicola</b>	29	26	Broken	28 in 2007
<b>Ochopee</b>	29	39	Tied	39 in 2022
<b>Tallahassee</b>	29	22	Broken	23 in 2004
<b>Quincy</b>	30	24	Tied	24 in 1973