

## Climate Summary for Florida – April 2026

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

### Summary

- Monthly mean temperatures in April were above normal in Florida.
- Monthly precipitation totals in April were below normal across northern Florida, while parts of the central and southern Peninsula received above normal rainfall.
- Widespread drought persisted during the month, with some degradation in the Panhandle and north-central regions and improvements in southeastern Florida; by the end of the month, nearly 25% of the state was in exceptional drought (D4) and another 57% was in extreme drought (D3).
- ENSO-neutral conditions currently exist in the tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean, with a transition to El Niño favored during May-July 2026 (61% chance).

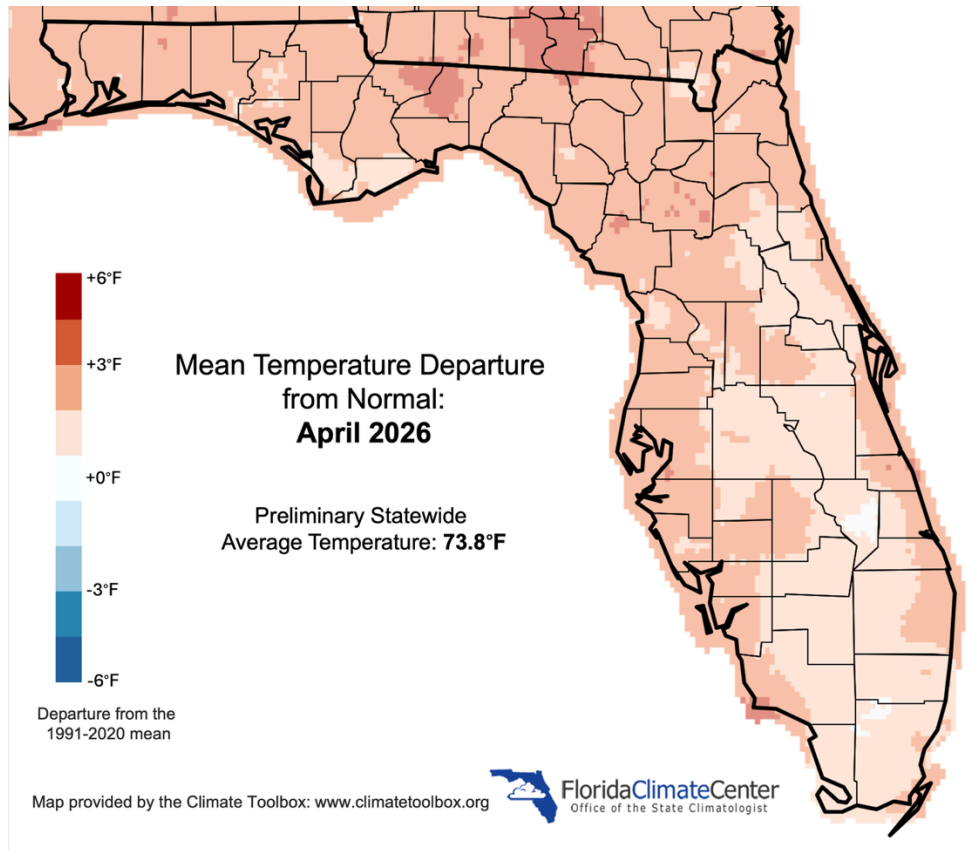
**Monthly average temperatures in April were above normal in Florida.** Average monthly temperature departures from normal ranged from +0.8°F in Miami to +3.2°F in Sarasota for the month (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 for select cities). The Sarasota/Bradenton area registered its 4th-warmest April on record (112 years) and Lakeland had its 5th-warmest April on record (70 years). For the season to date (Mar-Apr), Florida has observed above-average temperatures statewide, and most stations are experiencing one of their top 10 warmest springs, to date, on record. The Sarasota-Bradenton area is experiencing its warmest spring on record to date (113 years). Select daily record high maximum temperatures tied or broken during April are provided in Appendix 2.

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

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	70.3	+2.0
Tallahassee	70.2	+2.9
Jacksonville	70.7	+2.6
Orlando	73.6	+1.4
Tampa	75.9	+2.0
Miami	77.5	+0.8
Key West	79.8	+1.9



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

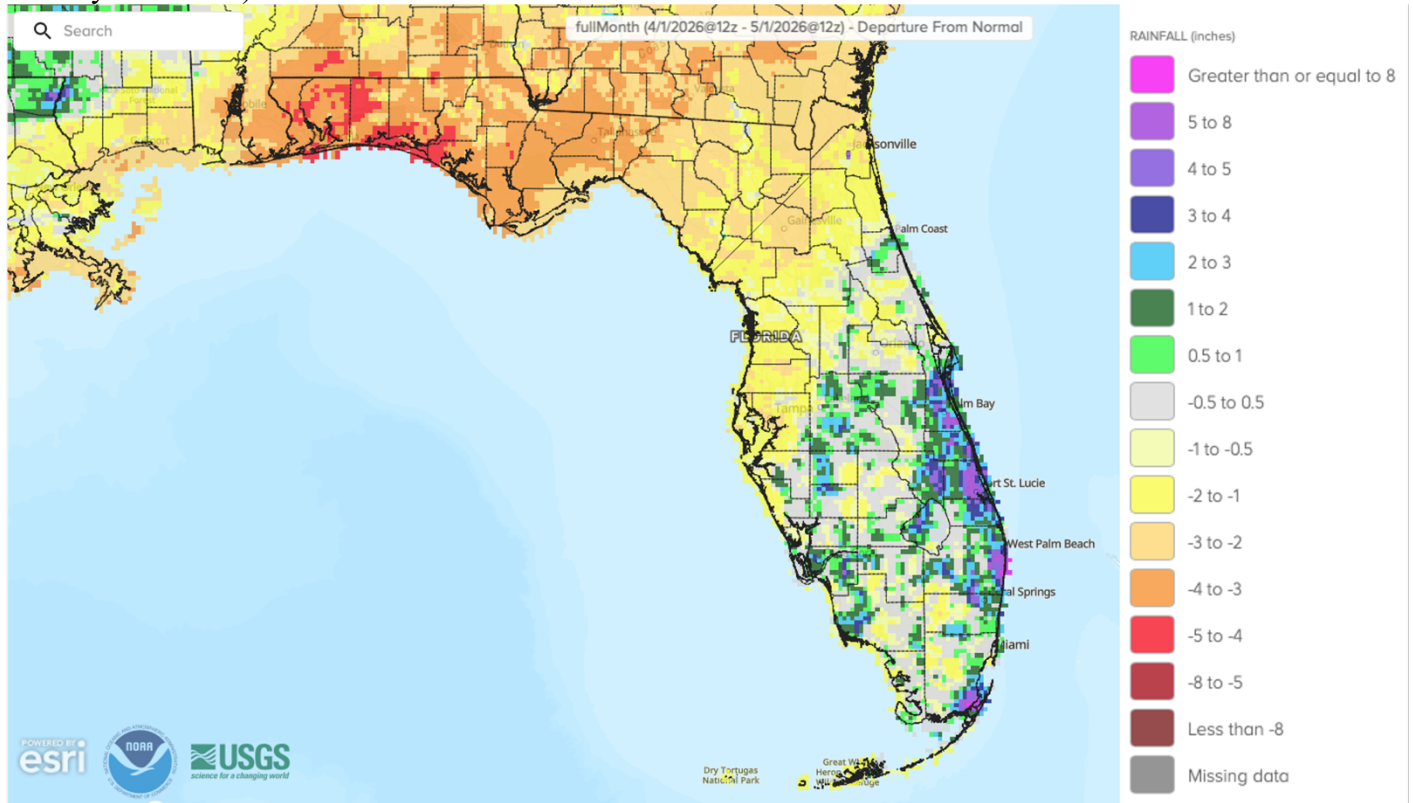


**Monthly precipitation totals in April were below normal across northern Florida, while parts of the central and southern Peninsula received above normal rainfall.** The monthly precipitation departures from normal ranged from -4.41 inches in Pensacola to +4.61 inches in West Palm Beach (see Table 2 and Appendix 1 for select locations). Northern and central areas of the state continued to see below normal rainfall over the past month. April monthly rainfall totals were generally 25% or less of normal rainfall, with monthly deficits ranging between 2 and 4+ inches below normal in these regions. Central Florida registered between 1 and 2 inches below normal for the month. Eastern coastal areas and isolated areas of south-central Florida, including parts of southwest Florida, received above normal rainfall. Along the eastern coast stretching from Melbourne south to West Palm Beach, monthly rainfall totals were 200% or more of normal, with monthly surpluses ranging from 2 to over 5 inches above normal. That beneficial rainfall has helped improve drought conditions along the eastern coast.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
<b>Pensacola</b>	1.11	-4.41
<b>Tallahassee</b>	0.41	-3.12
<b>Jacksonville</b>	0.87	-2.06
<b>Orlando</b>	1.98	-0.60
<b>Tampa</b>	0.68	-1.87
<b>Miami</b>	3.32	-0.04
<b>Key West</b>	1.19	-0.88

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



### ENSO-Neutral Conditions / El Niño Watch

Over the past month, the state of the tropical equatorial Pacific Ocean transitioned from a La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions. Near-average sea surface temperatures emerged in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific Ocean, while equatorial sub-surface temperatures increased for the fifth consecutive month. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored to persist through May-June 2026 (80% chance). A transition to El Niño is likely thereafter (61% chance during May-July 2026 and near 80% during June-August 2026) due to increasing subsurface temperature anomalies and westerly wind anomalies over the western Pacific Ocean. The possible outcomes range from ENSO-neutral to a very strong El Niño event (SSTs in the Niño-3.4 region  $\geq +2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) during the Northern Hemisphere 2026-2027 winter.

### Hazardous Weather Events in April.

According to the Local Storm Reports issued by the local National Weather Service offices serving Florida, there were 110 individual local reports of hazardous weather events recorded across the state during the month of April (see Table 3 for a breakdown by event type). Several incidents related to rip currents were reported during the month, including at least 6 injuries and 4 fatalities. Thunderstorms caused some damage and brief street flooding in portions of the state. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, a severe thunderstorm with straight line winds damaged two homes in Hialeah, and one brief tornado, rated EF0, was reported in the Palm Springs North community in Miami-Dade County on the same day. Several wildfires were reported throughout the month with ongoing extreme to exceptional drought conditions in much of the state. Among the largest wildfires reported included the Newman Dr. Fire in Collier County, the Railroad Complex Fire in Clay and Putnam Counties, the MM-45 wildfire in Broward County, and the Hwy 41 wildfire in the Everglades in Miami-Dade County. Several fires led to evacuations of nearby residential areas.

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

Report Type	Number of Reports
Heavy Rain	5
Flood	5
Hail	3
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	10
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	40
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	1
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	6
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage	0
Tornado/Waterspout/Funnel Cloud	1 / 3 / 5
Wildfire	26
Rip Currents	5

**Daily Record Events in April.**

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

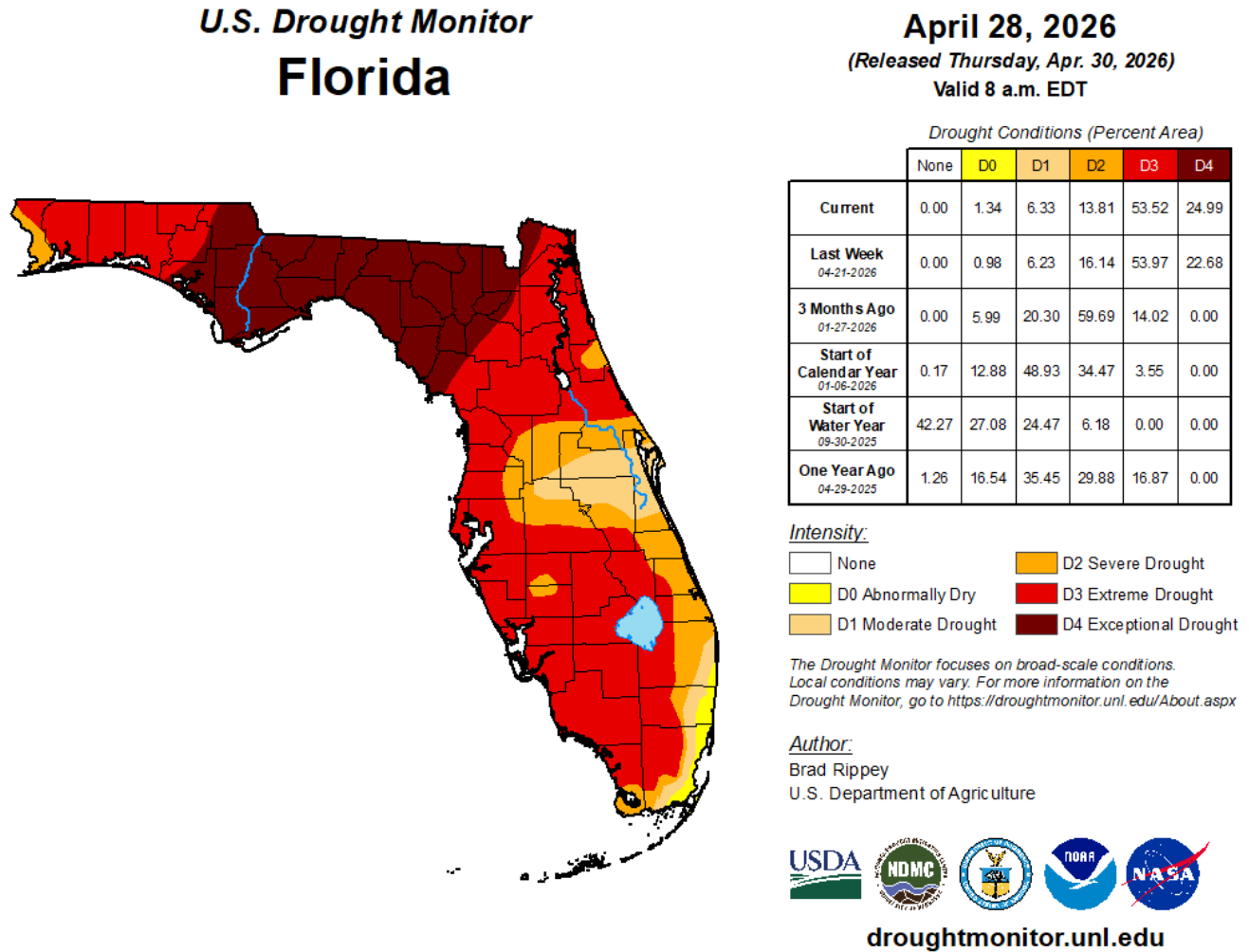
Category	Number of Records
Highest daily max. temp.	12
Highest daily min. temp.	1
Lowest daily max. temp.	0
Lowest daily min. temp.	6
Highest daily precipitation	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

**Drought-Related Impacts.**

Drought conditions persisted during April, with some degradation in northern parts of the state and improvements in southeastern areas that received beneficial rainfall. By mid-month, approximately 20% of the state was in exceptional drought (D4), 51% of the state in extreme drought (D3), 22% in severe drought (D2), and 6% was in moderate drought (D1), with 1% of the state abnormally dry (D0), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. By the end of the month, approximately 25% of the state was in exceptional drought (D4), 54% was in extreme drought (D3), 14% was in severe drought (D2), and 6% was in moderate drought (D1), with 1.3% abnormally dry (D0) (Figure 2 below).

As of April 30, the Lake Okeechobee water level was 11.67 ft. above sea level (Feet-NGVD29), which is below average for this time of year. At the first of April, the water level was 12.01 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.**

Extreme to exceptional drought conditions, elevated wildfire activity, and low soil moisture and pond levels in much of the state have continued to impact farming conditions and crops. In mid-April, topsoil moisture conditions were adequate in 40% of the state, short in 31%, and very short in 20% of the state, while 9% of the state had surplus topsoil moisture conditions. By the end of April, topsoil moisture conditions were adequate in 38% of the state, short in 20%, and very short in 31% of the state, while 11% of the state had surplus topsoil conditions. For more information, consult the [Crop Progress and Conditions report](#), which are published by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service.

**Appendix 1.** Additional April 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	71.2	+2.7	0.10	-2.64
Sarasota	75.8	+3.2	1.67	-0.79
Melbourne	74.3	+2.5	4.14	+1.85
Fort Myers	76.4	+1.6	1.83	-0.61
West Palm Beach	77.1	+2.2	8.29	+4.61

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
<b>Cross City</b>	4	88	Tied	88 in 2007
<b>Chipley</b>	15	89	Tied	89 in 1945
<b>Gainesville</b>	15	89	Broken	88 in 2013
<b>Jacksonville</b>	16	90	Tied	90 in 1972
<b>Gainesville</b>	17	91	Broken	89 in 1967
<b>Cross City</b>	17	88	Broken	87 in 2022
<b>Gainesville</b>	18	92	Broken	91 in 1967
<b>Glen St. Mary</b>	20	93	Broken	91 in 2011
<b>Lake City</b>	20	92	Broken	91 in 2011
<b>Apalachicola</b>	26	88	Broken	86 in 2006
<b>Venice</b>	27	91	Tied	91 in 2015
<b>Jacksonville</b>	29	95	Broken	93 in 1991
<b>Glen St. Mary</b>	30	93	Broken	92 in 1985
<b>Vero Beach</b>	30	91	Broken	89 in 1964