

Florida Annual Climate Summary for 2018

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Temperatures

Temperatures in Florida in 2018 were, once again, much above historical averages. The statewide annual average temperature registered 72.3°F, some 2.1°F above the 20th-century average value of 70.1°F (Figure 1). As such, 2018 was the sixth-warmest year in the instrumental record in Florida, ranked after 1990, which was fifth warmest (Figure 2). The instrumental record extends back to 1895. Florida was similar to the rest of the contiguous United States in registering a much warmer-than-average year. In the contiguous United States, the annual average temperature was 53.53°F, some 1.51°F above the 20th-century average value of 52.02°F, allowing 2018 to rank 14th warmest on record (since 1895) nationwide.

From a review of observations collected at stations in the ASOS/AWOS network, NWS COOP network, and Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN), the highest temperature recorded in Florida in 2018 was 100°F at the Marianna 7 NE NWS COOP station (Jackson County) on the afternoon of 26 June.

The lowest temperature recorded in Florida in 2018 was 17°F at Niceville COOP station (Okaloosa County) on 19 January. Several stations had the annual minimum temperature that day.

A continued trend this year has been the presence of greater positive anomalies in daily minimum (overnight) temperatures compared to anomalies in daily maximum (daytime) temperatures, especially during the warmer half-year. Contributing greatly to the recent large positive anomalies in and high rankings of mean temperature, this trend is likely related to higher humidity values, which may be related to consistently higher-than-average sea-surface temperatures in the western Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico.

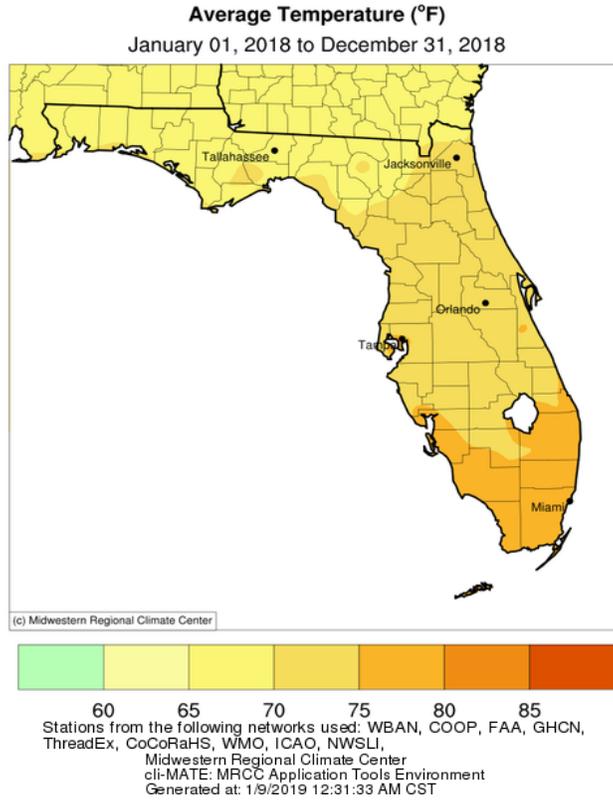


Figure 1: Map displaying annual average (mean) temperature in Florida in 2018.

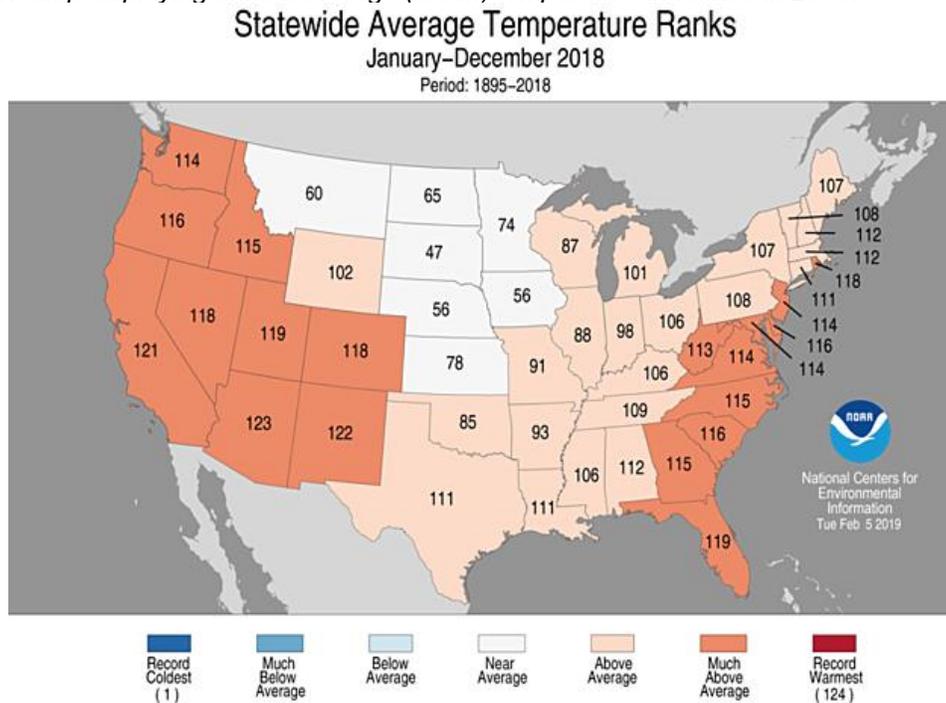


Figure 2: Map displaying the ranking of each state's annual average (mean) temperature in 2018.

Precipitation

Precipitation in Florida in 2018 was near the historical average when considered in the context of annual total averaged over the land area of the entire state. The statewide annual total precipitation (almost exclusively rain) was 60.55 inches, some 6.90 inches above the 20th-century average total of 53.65 inches (Figure 3). This total ranked 17th wettest, or in the top quintile, in the instrumental record that stretches back to 1895 (Figure 4). In the contiguous United States, the annual total precipitation was 34.63 inches, some 4.64 inches above the 20th-century-average total of 29.94 inches and ranking 2017 as the third-wettest year on record (since 1895).

The greatest annual precipitation total in the state was 110.22 inches at a CoCoRaHS station located 0.6 miles south-southeast of Alford (station number FL-JK-2; Jackson County). The highest total within only the NWS COOP and ASOS networks was 90.61 inches at the station 1 mile east of Cross City (Dixie County). The lowest annual precipitation total was 31.40 inches at Curry Hammock State Park (Monroe County).

The greatest daily, 24-hour precipitation total in 2018 was 11.62 inches on 11 October at a CoCoRaHS station 1.6 miles south-southeast of Lynn Haven (Bay County). Within only the NWS COOP and ASOS networks, the highest such total was 6.63" on 23 July at the station 4 miles northwest of Bell (Gilchrist County).

A light fall of sleet, snow, and freezing rain occurred in parts of the Big Bend and Suwannee Valley on the morning of 3 January. Recorded totals were light, including 0.1" of snow at the Tallahassee International Airport, a record for both the date and monthly total. It was also the first measurable snowfall at Tallahassee since December 1989.

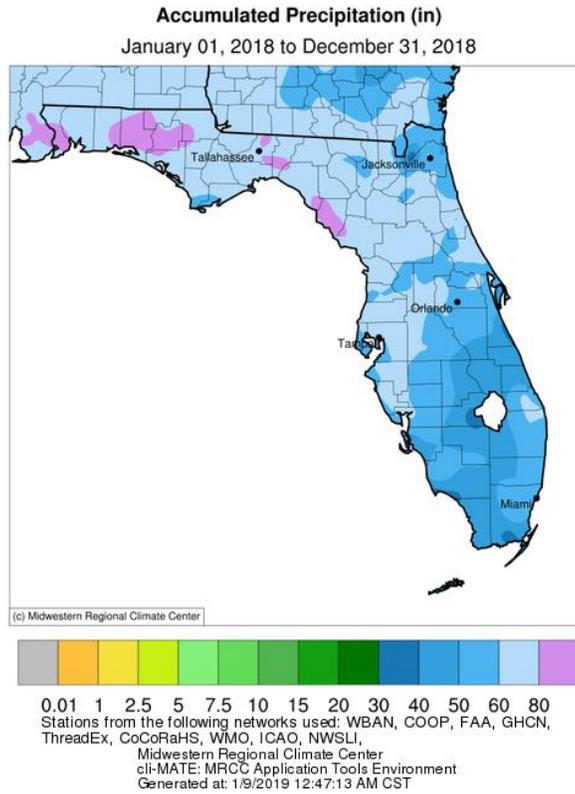


Figure 3: Map displaying 2018 annual liquid-equivalent precipitation (rainfall) total in Florida and the surrounding region.

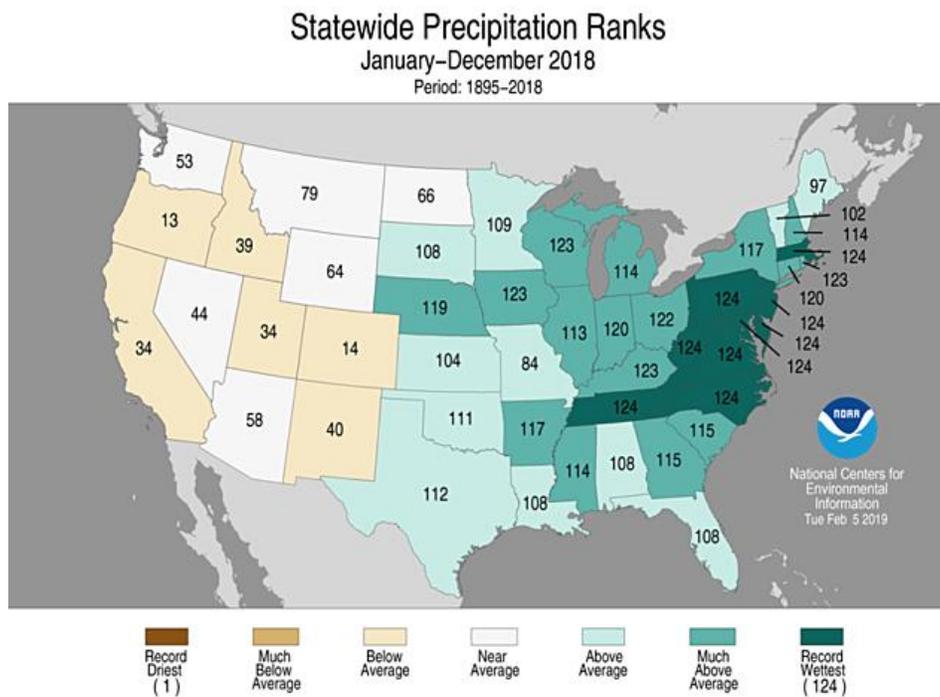


Figure 4: Map displaying the ranking of each state's 2018 annual liquid-equivalent precipitation total.