

Climate Summary for Florida – January 2019

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

Mean temperatures in January were near to slightly above normal statewide. (Table 1 and Appendix 1). The early part of the month posted the greatest positive anomalies with respect to climatic normal. Several high temperature records were tied or broken across the state (Appendix 2).

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

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	53.5	+2.2
Tallahassee	52.4	+1.2
Jacksonville	54.9	+1.8
Orlando	60.6	+0.4
Tampa	61.0	+0.2
Miami	68.0	-0.1
Key West	71.2	+1.9

Rainfall totals in January were above normal over much of peninsula and near to below normal on the panhandle and the Keys (Figure 1). One daily rainfall records was broken for the month (Table 3).

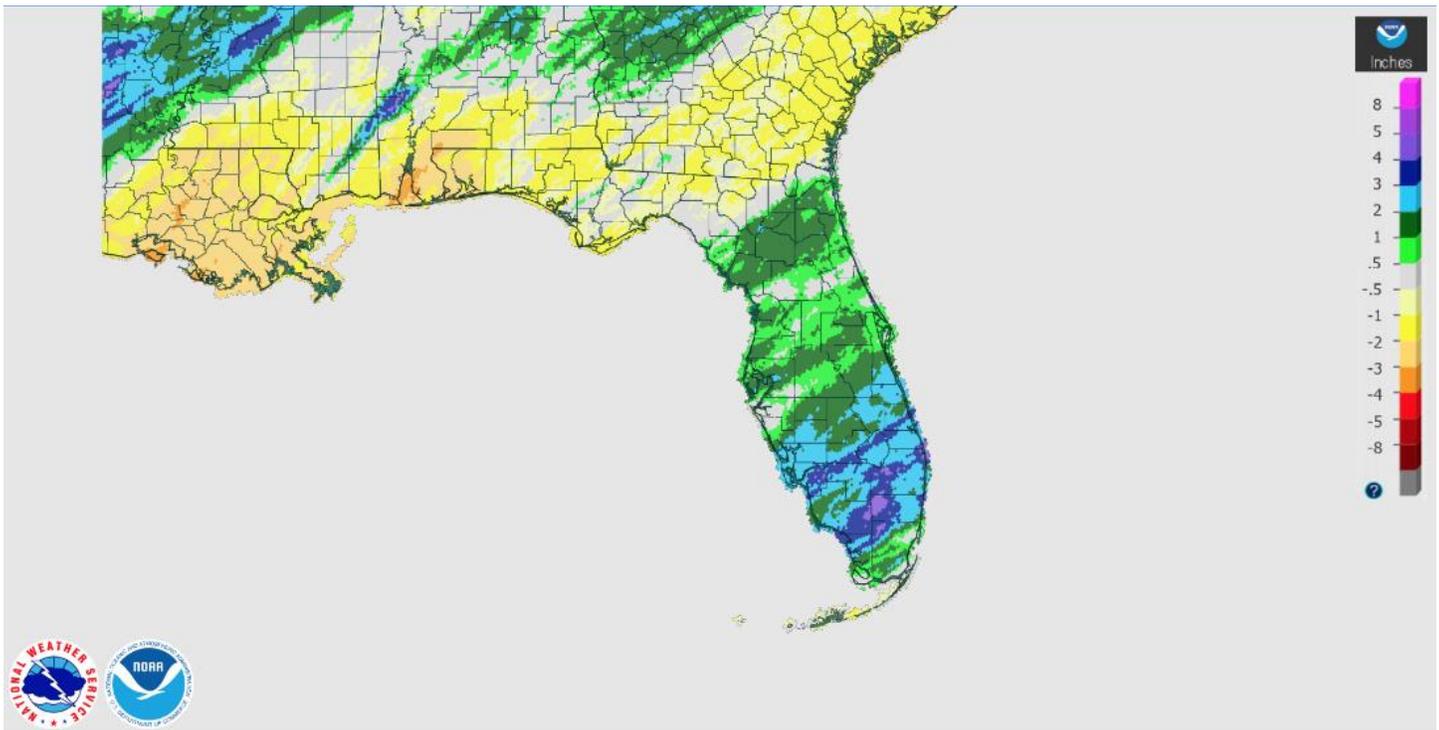
Table 2. January precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.84	-1.79
Tallahassee	3.47	-0.87
Jacksonville	4.37	+1.07
Orlando	3.50	+1.15
Tampa	4.21	+1.98
Miami	2.00	+0.38
Key West	1.75	-0.29

Table 3. Select daily rainfall records (inches) broken during January. (Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Location	Record	Last
27	Orlando	2.01	1.74 in 2016

Figure 1. A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (inches) for January is given in the figure below (courtesy of NOAA, NWS).



ENSO-neutral conditions are present in the Pacific, with El Niño about to develop.

Based on current data and forecast models, forecasters with the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) continue with an El Niño Watch. ENSO-neutral conditions currently are present, with sea-surface temperatures (SST) above average across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The chance of El Niño development during the climatological boreal winter (December-January-February) is 90% and, and the chance of it continuing during the spring (March-April-May) is 65%. The CPC seasonal outlook covering February favors above-normal temperatures statewide and above-normal rainfall on the panhandle, with equal chances of above-, below-, and near-normal rainfall elsewhere.

Hazardous Weather Events in December.

According to the Local Storm Reports (LSRs) issued by the local National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Florida, the following instances of hazardous weather were reported across the state in January 2019.

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

<u>Report Type</u>	<u>Number of Reports</u>
Coastal Flood	3
Dense Fog	12
Flash Flood	0
Flood	1
Hail	0
Heavy Rain	0
Marine Hail	0
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	37

Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage	1
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	44
Tornado	2
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	25
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	40
Waterspout	0

Drought-Related Impacts.

At the end of January 2019, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought (surrounded by abnormally dry conditions) affected portions of the coastal counties from Brevard to Palm Beach. Earlier in the month, drought was more widespread over south and portions of central Florida, but rains in the last week of the month alleviated it.

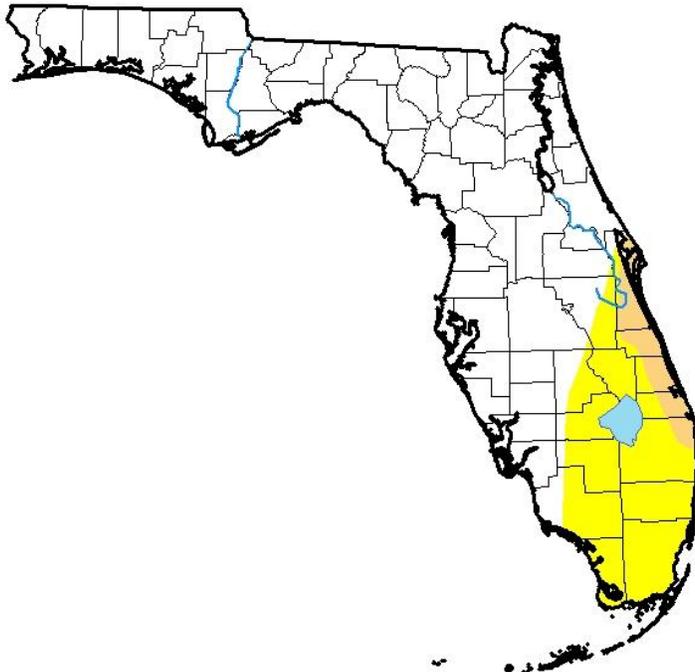
As of 1 February, the Lake Okeechobee water level was at 12.67 ft. above sea level, which is below average for this time of the year.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida**

January 29, 2019
(Released Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	74.01	25.99	3.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>01-22-2019</small>	67.97	32.03	26.00	3.12	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>10-30-2018</small>	72.63	27.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-01-2019</small>	68.86	31.14	22.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-25-2018</small>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <small>01-30-2018</small>	74.26	25.74	22.48	20.55	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Agriculture-Related Impacts.

Information for this section is derived from reports published by the United States Department of Agriculture. Because of a lapse in appropriations to some agencies in the federal government, all these reports scheduled for January issuance were cancelled. However, the first report issued in February indicated that approximately one-fifth of the state had very short or short soil moisture and that the balance had either adequate (approximately two-thirds) or surplus (approximately one-sixth) moisture. Dry conditions in central and south Florida began to be ameliorated by heavy rains late in the month, aiding with citrus production. On the panhandle, the peanut and cotton harvests came to completion but showed deleterious impacts from Hurricane Michael.

Appendix 1
Additional January Departures from Normal Data for Florida Locations

Station	Total rainfall (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
Gainesville	5.42	+2.09	56.2	+1.9
Melbourne	4.47	+2.20	62.2	+1.9
Fort Lauderdale	4.21	+0.58	68.1	-0.8
Fort Myers	5.10	+3.16	63.5	-0.7

Appendix 2
Select daily maximum and minimum temperature records (°F) tied or broken during January.
(Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Station	Type	Value	Broken/Tied	Last
1	Tallahassee	Max	81	Broken	79 in 1989
1	Jacksonville	Max	83	Broken	81 in 1967
3	Key West	High Min	78	Broken	77 in 2015