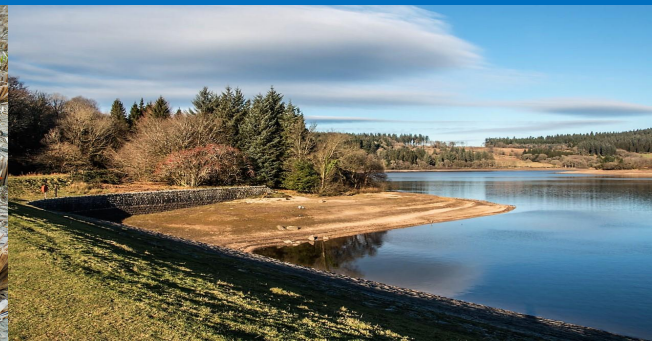
Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid January 9, 2026

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

Contact Information: sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated only if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Areas are still located in parts of the southwest.
  - D2 and D1 Severe and Moderate Drought: Covers most of the area not covered in higher drought categories.
  - D0 Abnormally Dry: A small area in west central Alabama covering parts of Lamar, Fayette and Pickens.

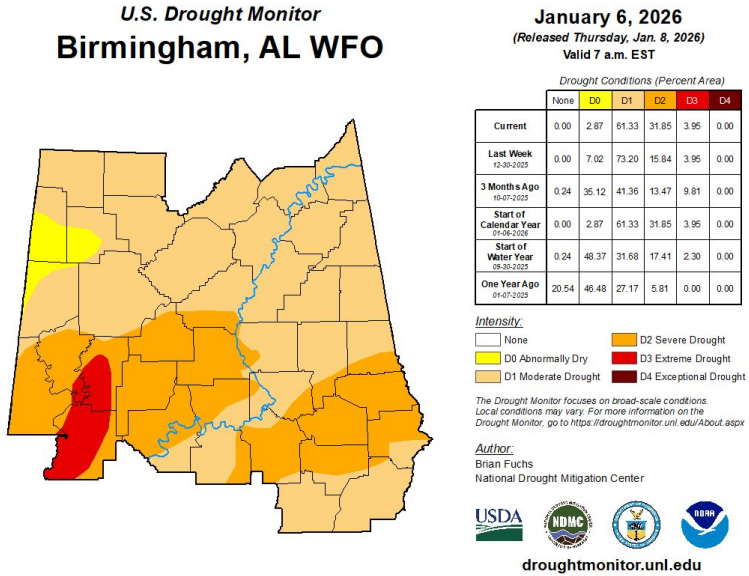


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid January 6, 2026

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Scattered about the entire area with the most degradation in the northern counties.
  - No Change: Covers the remainder of the area.
  - Drought Improved: None.

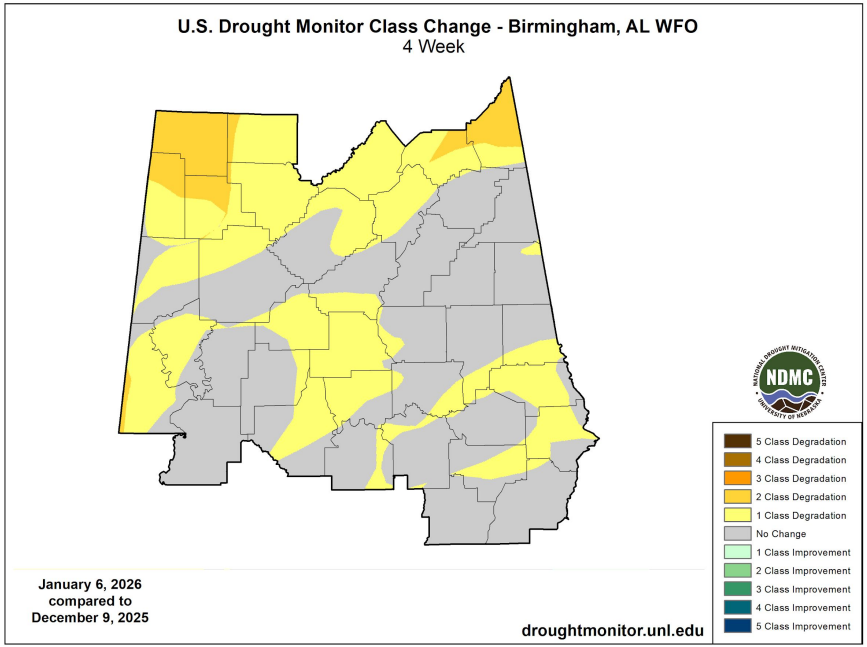


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid January 6, 2026

Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Dry conditions persist across much of the deep south over the past 30 days. Very dry conditions have set in across the areas around US 80 and especially from Demopolis through Selma.
- All of central Alabama locations received below-average rainfall.
- January's average weekly rainfall should be around 1.25 inches with monthly totals averaging around 5 inches.

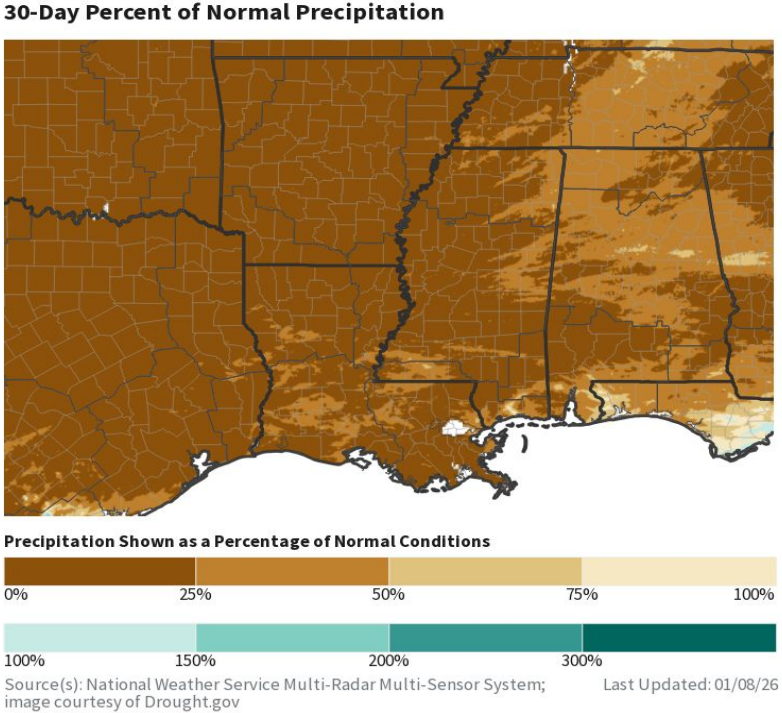


Image Captions:
Map - Departure from normal map for Alabama
Data over the past 30 days ending Jan 8, 2026

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have fluctuated greatly due to recent rainfall but continue an overall decline. At this time, most locations are below to well below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- No updates from the USDA have been reported.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no fire weather impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Heavy and persistent rainfall will move through the area today and Saturday. The heaviest rainfall will be over the northern and western locations. This will significantly help with drought in those areas and some temporary improvement in the drought status is likely next week.

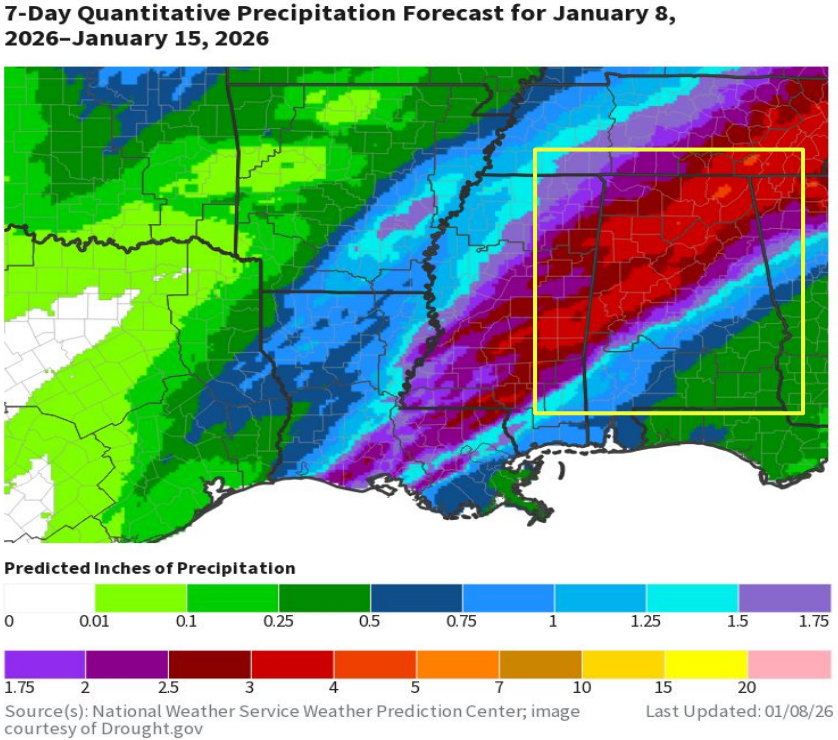
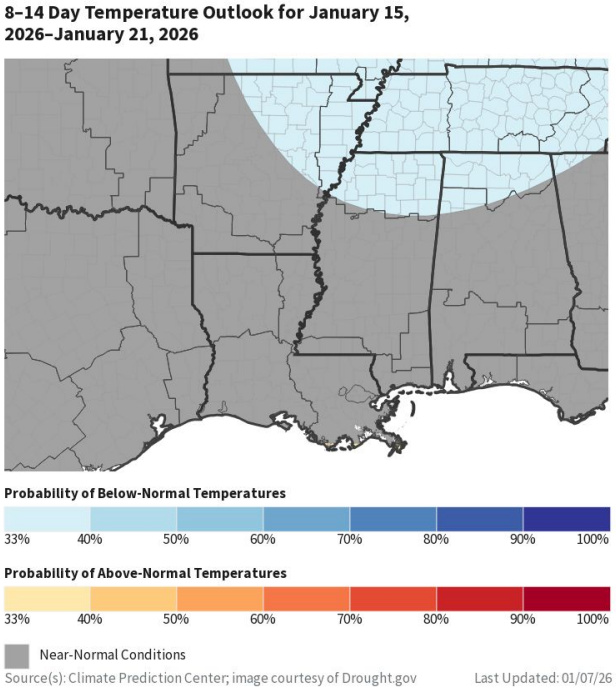


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid through December 15

Medium-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The outlook for the 8-14 day period is calling for near average to below average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame lend to a near average to slightly above average pattern.
- Cooler temperatures and average to above average rainfall would improve the current drought conditions as streams and soil moisture would be able to recharge somewhat.



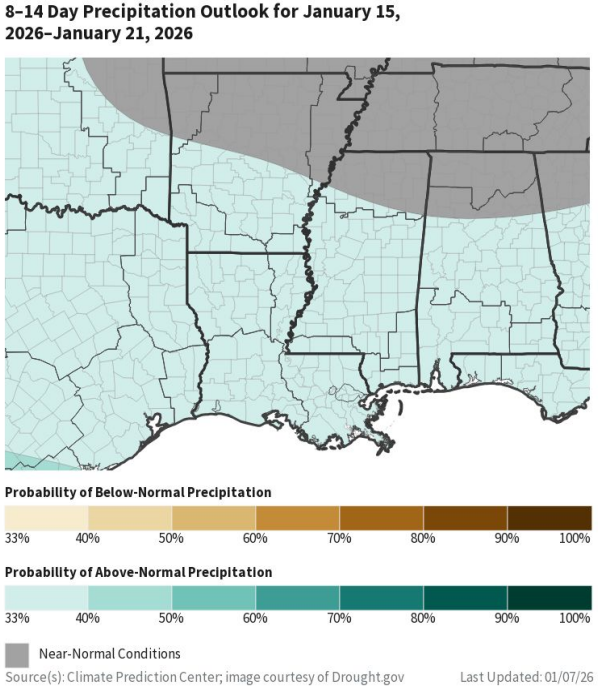
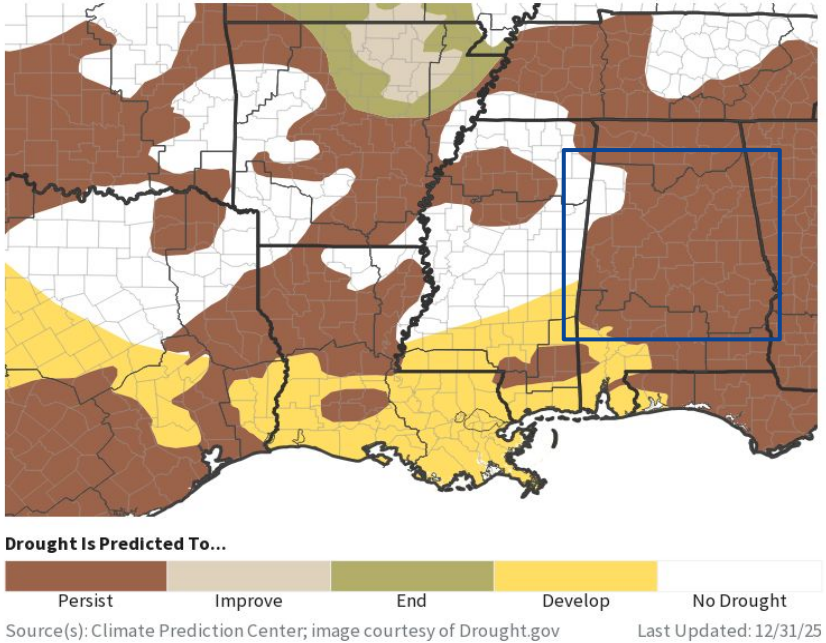


Image Captions:
Left - 8 to 14 day temperature outlook ending Jan 21
Right - 8 to 14 day precipitation outlook ending Jan 21

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on December 31st shows little to no areas of improvement across central Alabama over the long term. Some areas may be briefly alleviated from drought as frontal systems pass through, however the overall pattern supports a drier than normal bias which will only maintain the current rainfall deficits.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Image Caption:
CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook Released December, 2026 and valid now through March 2026.