



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid January 16, 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.



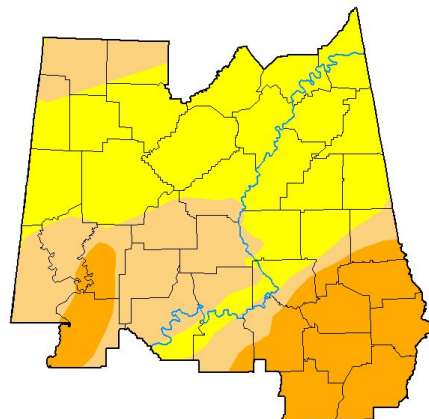


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: None.
 - D2 and D1 Severe and Moderate Drought: Mainly across the southern counties with a small strip in the northwest.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: Mainly covering the northern and central counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO



January 13, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	48.58	28.75	22.67	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-06-2026	0.00	2.87	61.33	31.85	3.95	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-14-2025	0.23	15.87	55.26	14.26	14.38	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	0.00	2.87	61.33	31.85	3.95	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.24	48.37	31.68	17.41	2.30	0.00
One Year Ago 01-14-2025	20.54	46.48	27.17	5.81	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the
Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid January 13, 2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: In the northwest and southeast counties.
 - No Change and Drought Improvement: Most of the area either experienced no change or a one category drought improvement.

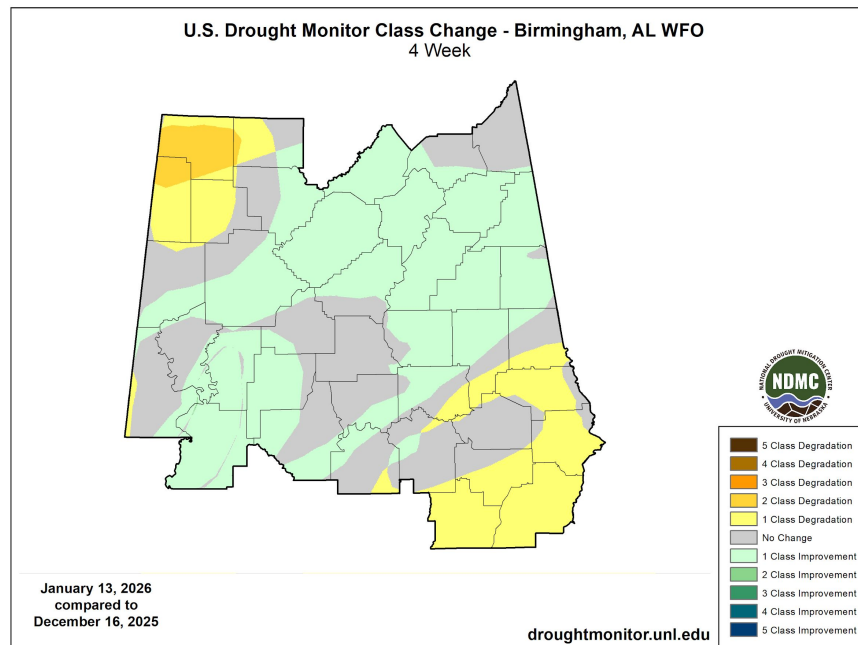


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid January 13, 2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL

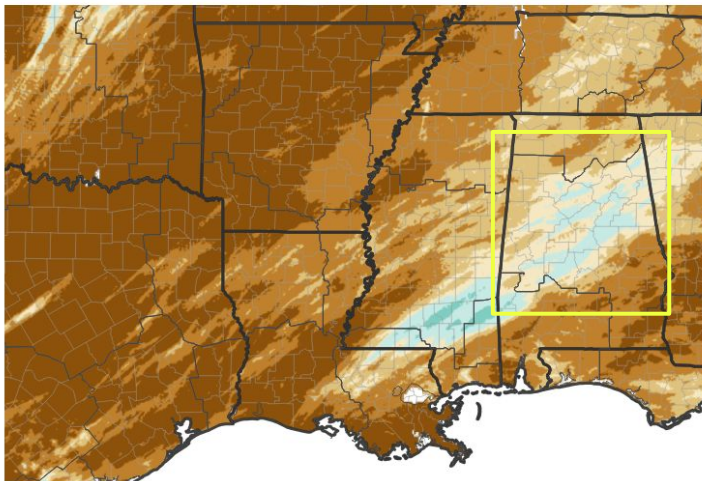


Precipitation

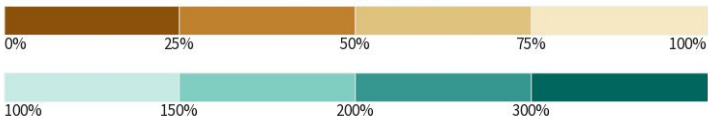
Last 30 days

- Dry conditions persist across much of the deep south over the past 30 days.
- The recent heavy rainfall event did allow for many locations in central Alabama to temporarily catch up with rainfall deficits. Most other locations are still below average for the past month.
- January's average weekly rainfall should be around 1.25 inches with monthly totals averaging around 5 inches.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Image Captions:

Map - [Departure from normal map for Alabama](#)

Data over the past 30 days ending Jan 15, 2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL



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 beginning to fall to below and 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

- Scattered light rainfall is expected through January 23rd. This is not enough to improve the drought conditions in place across the area and some decline in the drought status is likely next week for parts of the area.

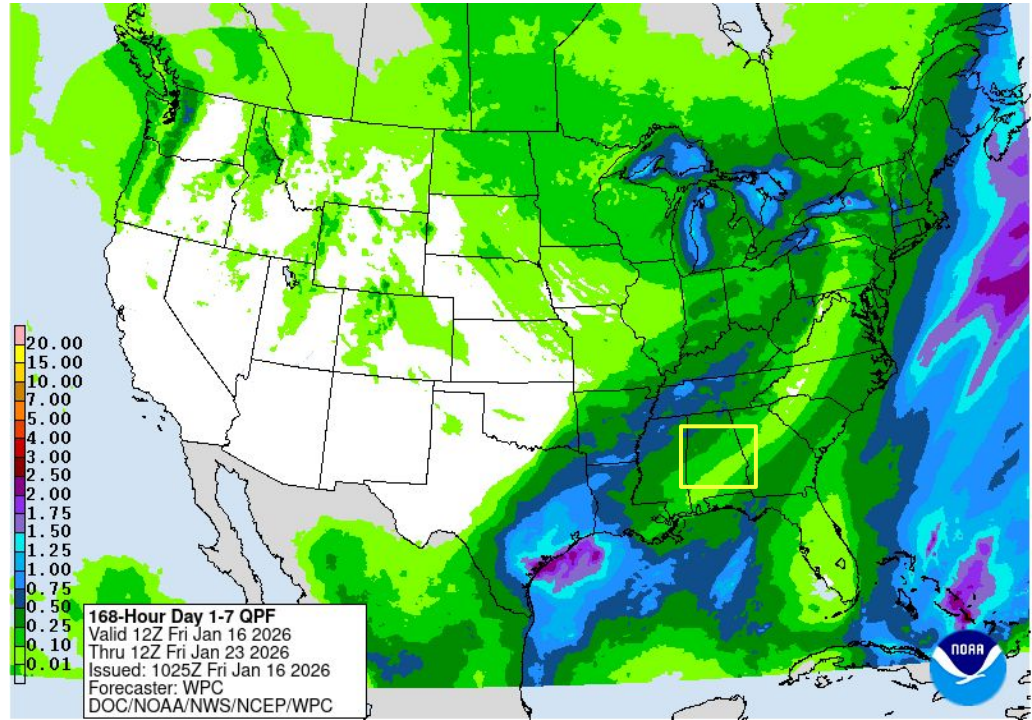


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid through January 23.





Medium-Range Outlooks

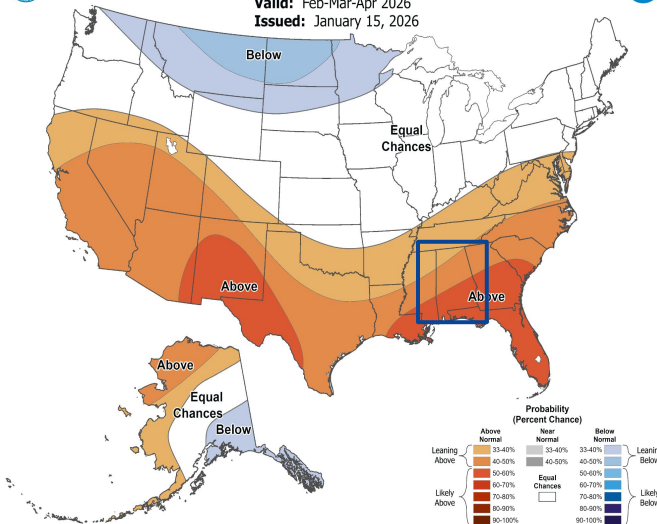
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

- The seasonal outlook for the next 3 month period is calling for a higher chance of above average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame lend to a near average to slightly below average pattern.
- If this pattern verifies, it would lend towards potential improvement across the north and persistent or worsening drought conditions in the south.



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026

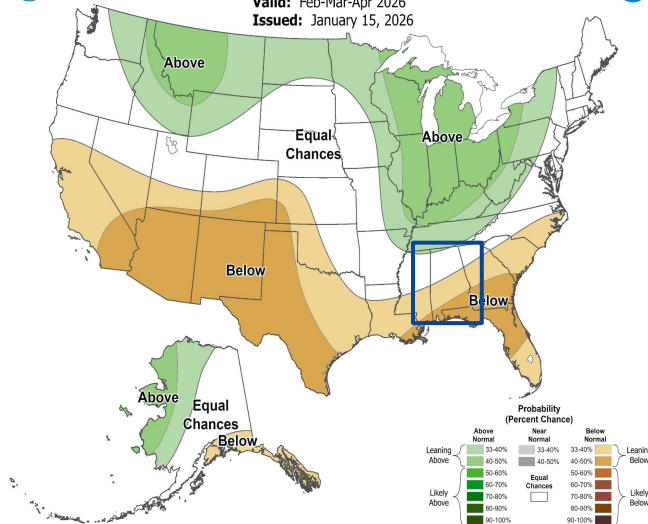


Image Captions:

Left - Seasonal temperature outlook ending May 1

Right - Seasonal precipitation outlook ending May 1



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL

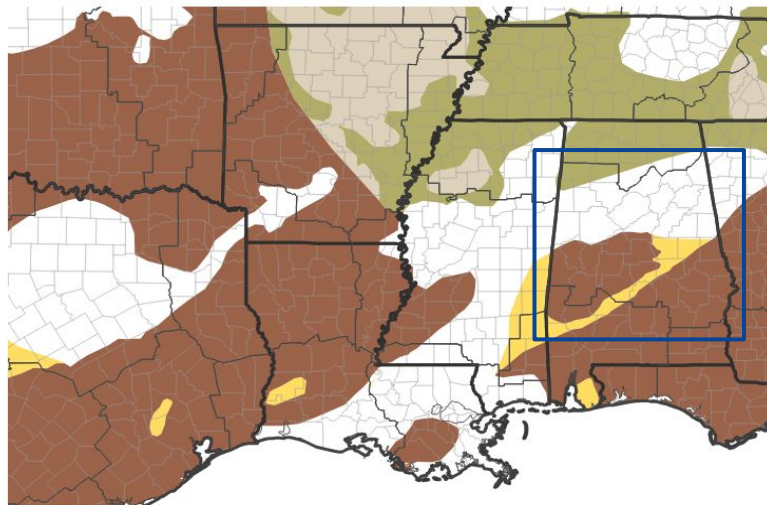


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on January 15th shows no areas of improvement across our southern counties with some potential improvement across the north.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Image Caption:

CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook Released January, 2026 and valid now through April 2026.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
U.S. Department of Commerce

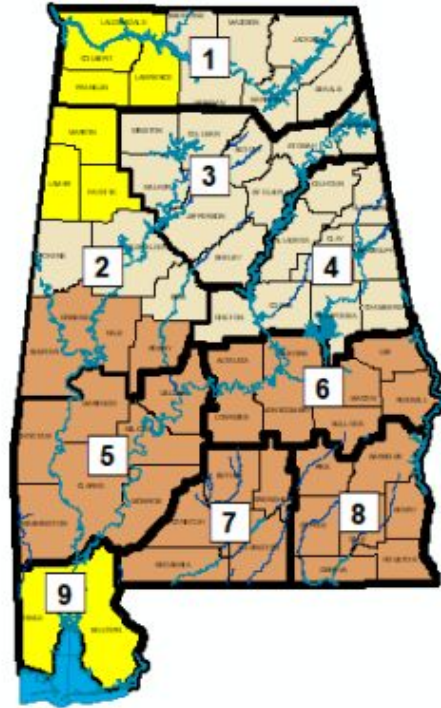
**National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL**



State Drought Declaration

The latest information on the state declaration can be found [HERE](#)

- The latest Alabama Drought declaration released on January 9th has placed much of the southern counties in a warning with advisories and watches throughout the rest of the state.



Legend
No Drought Declaration
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

Precipitation deficits have led to expanding drought conditions across the state, nearly every drought region has experienced a degradation of drought conditions. OWR will continue monitoring our water resources and update this Declaration as needed.

Water managers and public water system customers are encouraged to follow their local water system's recommendations regarding water use. All water users should make prudent decisions on their water use to protect available resources.