

# December 2009 Climate Summary

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Georgia Climate Summary for December 2009

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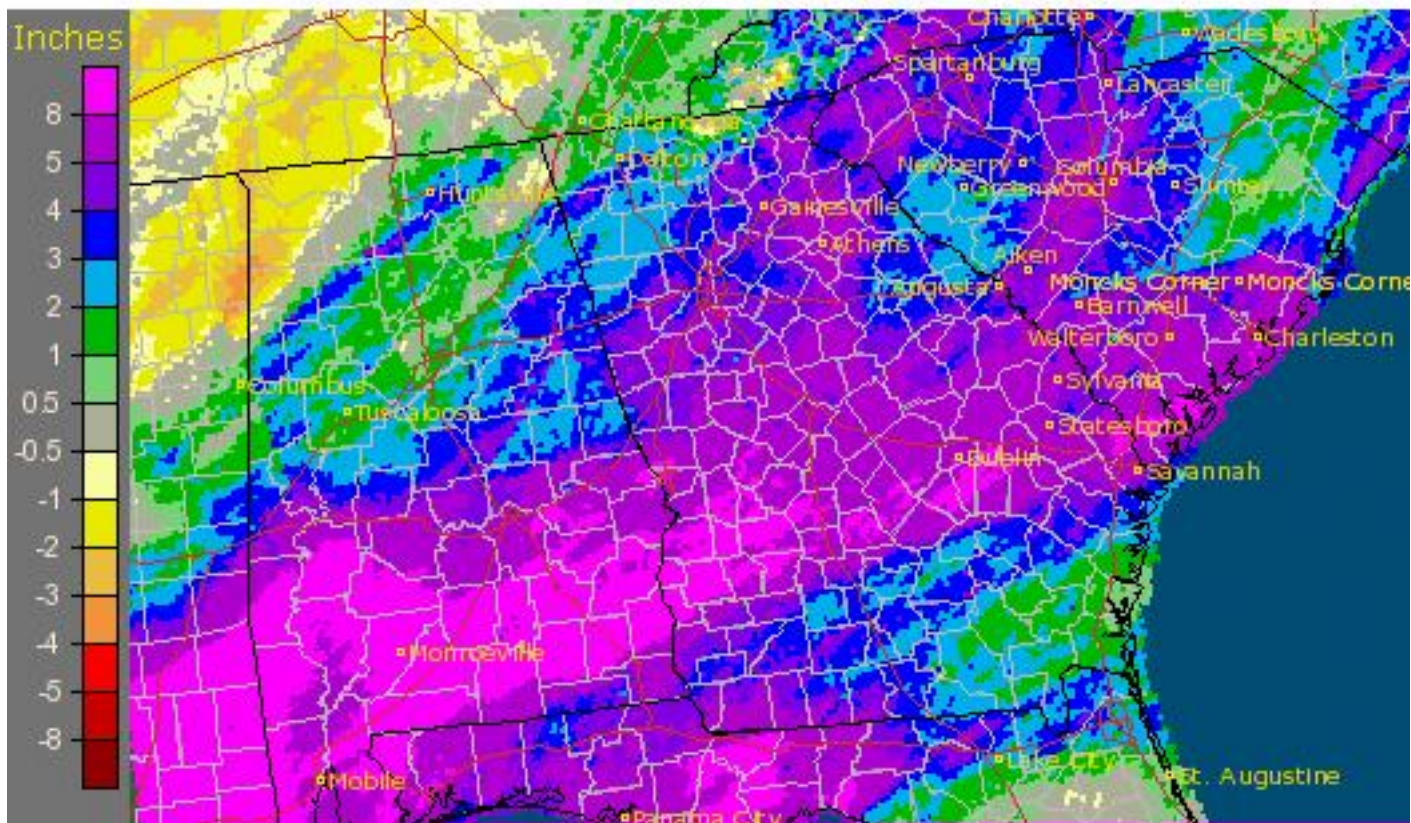
A series of Gulf and central US lows passing through Georgia between frigid high pressure centers caused cold and rainy conditions across Georgia in December 2009. The rainfall set daily records on several dates across the region. Several tornadoes and severe weather occurred with the passage of strong cold fronts associated with the low pressure centers.

Rainfall across the entire state was well above normal in December, according to radar estimates. Many areas south of the fall line from Columbus to Augusta and in the northeast mountains received more than 10 inches of rain.

source: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

The highest monthly total from National Weather Service reporting stations was 13.62 inches in Columbus (9.22 inches above normal) and the lowest was in Brunswick at 4.02 inches (1.19 above normal). Atlanta received 9.10 inches (5.28 above normal), Macon 8.98 inches (5.05 inches above normal), Athens 8.87 (5.16 above normal), Augusta 8.97 (5.83 above normal), Savannah 10.71 (7.90 above normal), Valdosta 7.45 (3.79 above normal) and Alma 7.51 (3.84 inches above normal).

**Georgia: December, 2009 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation**  
Valid at 1/1/2010 1200 UTC- Created 1/1/10 23:46 UTC



Source: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

The highest monthly totals from CoCoRaHS stations were 16.27 inches northeast of Fort Gaines in Clay County and 13.06 inches in Rabun County in far northeast Georgia.

The Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring site at Tiger in Rabun County reported 11.79 inches, at Plains in Sumter County 13.85 inches, and in Georgetown in Quitman County 16.72 inches for the month.

Daily record maximum rainfalls occurred on December 2 across many areas of Georgia with the passage of a strengthening Gulf of Mexico low through the

Southeast. The highest daily record of 3.63 inches for December 2 was set at Columbus. Record daily rainfalls were also measured at several locations on December 13, 14, and 18 in areas associated with warm fronts ahead of Gulf lows.

Several stations in Georgia set their annual rainfall records in 2009, including Columbus, with a preliminary annual total of 80.23 inches, washing away the old record of 73.22 inches set in 1964. Data for 2009 are still being compiled and a final annual report will be issued later in January.

Temperatures across the state were mainly cooler than normal, with the exception of coastal cities. In Atlanta, the monthly average temperature was 42.3 degrees F (3.1 degrees below normal), in Athens 42.0 degrees (2.8 degrees below normal), Columbus 46.1 (3.0 degrees below normal), Macon 45.9 (1.9 below normal), Savannah 52.0 (0.6 above normal), Brunswick 54.4 (0.2 above normal), Alma 51.3 (2.3 below normal), Valdosta 51.4 ( 0.0 above normal) and Augusta 45.6 (1.3 below normal). There were no temperature records set in December.

Georgians experienced four days of severe weather in December. On December 2, four weak tornadoes occurred in central and southeast Georgia, including a tornado that injured two people 4 miles NNW of Bristol in Pierce County when a mobile home overturned. Several other structures were damaged in the storms. Strong winds were reported across Georgia on December 8 causing scattered damage to trees and powerlines. Another tornado was reported on December 9 five miles NW of Gardi in Wayne County, damaging a mobile home and slightly injuring the resident. Strong winds and some funnel clouds were also reported on December 14.

Rivers in Georgia reported minor to moderate flooding on several dates throughout the month. The moderate flooding was mainly confined to the larger rivers below the fall line in central Georgia.

During December, the heavy rains across Georgia continued to cause problems for farmers trying to harvest hay and other crops. Up to 71 percent of the soils were considered to have surplus moisture. Wheat planting was down by up to 30 percent in some areas due to the inability of farmers to run equipment in the waterlogged fields. Some areas still had up to 25 percent of their cotton to harvest, although yields of cotton that were already harvested were rated as excellent.

