

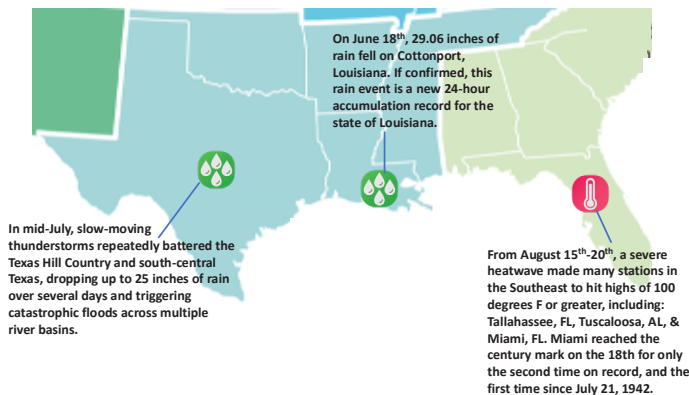
Gulf Coast Region Significant Events — Summer 2026

Overview

Summer began with above-normal temperatures across much of the Gulf Region, with temperatures more moderate along the coast. Precipitation was above normal in the western and central portions of the Region; precipitation in Florida was well below normal.

Temperatures in July were above normal for much of the Region, ranging from normal to four degrees F above normal. Precipitation was generally below normal for much of the Region, except for Central Texas, which saw devastating flooding mid-month.

Temperatures were well above normal in the west and near normal in the east during August. Precipitation was well below normal, except northern Florida where precipitation was 100 to 150 percent of normal.



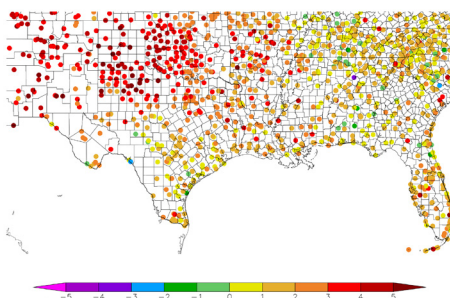
Above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation were common in the Region. Intense rainfall in several locations led to damaging flooding. Central Texas was particularly hard hit, as several locations received more than 25 inches of precipitation. Flooding was extensive, but not as deadly as 2025 due to rain falling over multiple river basins with lower intensity.

Regional Climate Overview — Summer 2026

Temperature and Precipitation

Departure from Normal Temperature °F

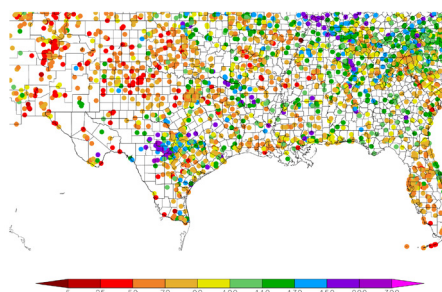
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



Summer 2026 temperatures were above normal for the Gulf Region, with temperature being more moderate towards the coast than in inland portions of the Gulf states. In interior portions of the Region, temperatures were two to five degrees F above normal. Near the coast, temperatures ranged from normal to two degrees F above normal.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

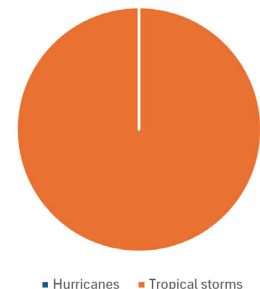
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



Precipitation was generally below normal across the Gulf Region with stations observing between 25 percent and 90 percent of normal. There were, however, several scattered instances of above-normal precipitation. Precipitation at a group of stations in Central and South-Central Texas ranged from 150 to 300 percent of normal. Above-normal precipitation was scattered with less than 200 percent of normal.

2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season

2026 Atlantic Hurricanes vs. Tropical Storms (%)



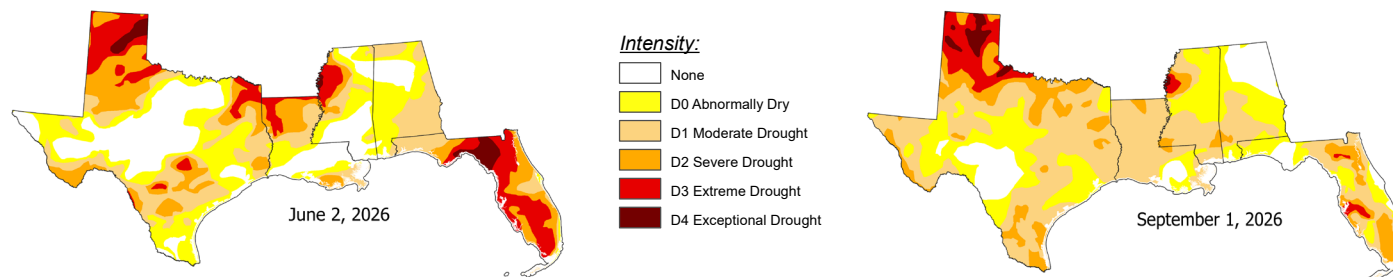
■ Hurricanes ■ Tropical storms

To date, the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season has been relatively quiet. There have been zero hurricanes and five tropical storms. Of the five named storms, three have affected the coastal areas of the Gulf Region: Tropical Storm Arthur (June 17-18), Tropical Storm Bertha (July 19-24), and Tropical Storm Edouard (August 31-September 3). The 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs through November 30th.

Gulf Coast Regional Impacts

Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply

During summer 2026, the extent of the drought-free area in the Gulf Coast states decreased from 48 percent on June 2 to 39 percent on September 1. Abnormal Dryness (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) expanded by 2 percent and 21 percent respectively over this period. Severe Drought (D2), Extreme Drought (D3), and Exceptional Drought (D4) all saw reductions in coverage over the summer: D2 fell three percent, D3 fell 7 percent and D4 fell by 1 percent. Degradations were common in Far South Texas, southern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and southwestern Alabama. Improvements were noted in interior portions of South Texas, northern Louisiana, west-central Mississippi, eastern Alabama, and all of Florida. As of September 1st, the Gulf Region stood at 25 percent Abnormally Dry, 41 percent Moderate Drought, 14 percent Severe Drought, 5 percent Extreme Drought, and 1 percent Exceptional Drought. Just 14 percent of the Region had no drought classification.

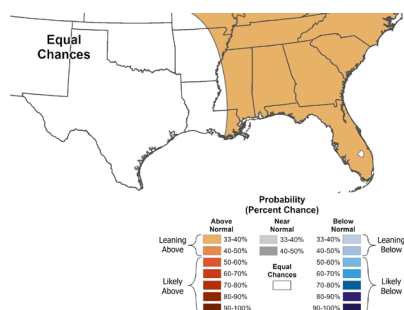


US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

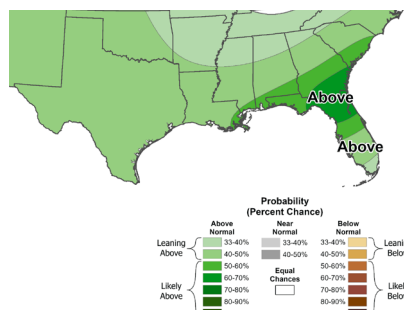
Seasonal Outlook

Temperature

Outlook for October to December 2026



Precipitation



The seasonal temperature outlooks from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center call for enhanced probabilities of above-normal temperatures over the eastern half of the Gulf Region. Across a large area including Florida, Alabama, and much of Mississippi there is a 33-40 percent chance of above-normal temperatures. The remainder of the Regions, including western Mississippi, all of Louisiana, and Texas is forecast to have equal chances of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperatures.

The precipitation outlook for October through December 2026 calls for enhanced probabilities for well above-normal precipitation for the entire Gulf Region. The greatest probabilities, 60 to 70 percent, are over northeastern Florida. The probabilities decrease to the west and the south, falling to 40 to 50 percent chances of well above-normal precipitation for much of the remainder of the Region.

ENSO Outlook

An El Niño event is currently underway in the Tropical Pacific. As of Sept. 14, the Relative Niño 3.4 index was +2.0 degrees C and is expected to continue increasing, with over a 90% chance of a very strong El Niño event. El Niño events typically suppress tropical cyclone formation in the Gulf and are associated with abnormally wet and cool conditions during the winter.

Gulf Coast Partners

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center
(cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (coastalscience.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of America Collaboration Team
(noaa.gov/regional-collaboration-network/regions-gulf-of-america)

NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)

Southeast Regional Climate Center
(sercc.com)

Southern Regional Climate Center
(srcc.tamu.edu)