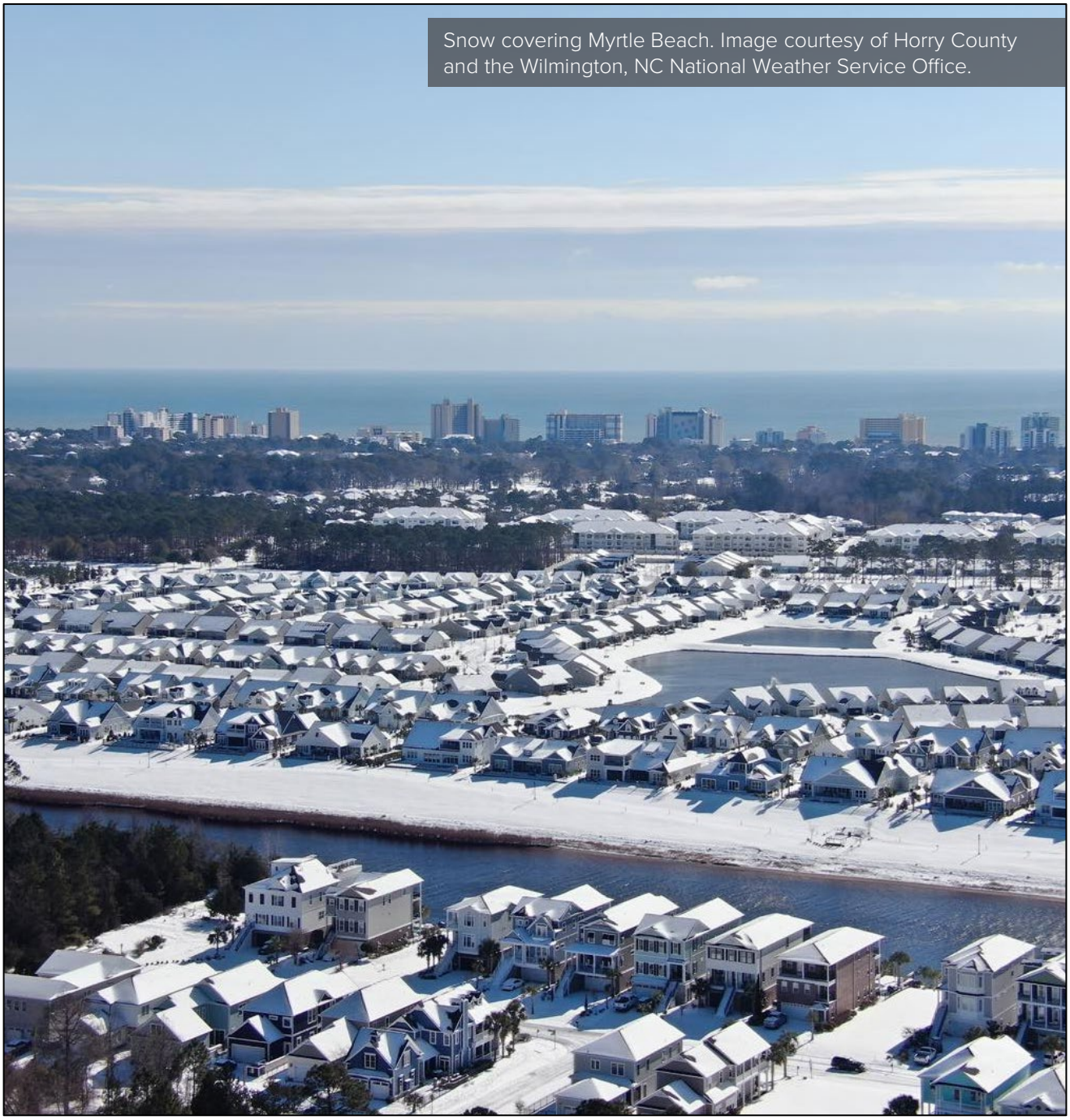
2025 South Carolina Year in Review

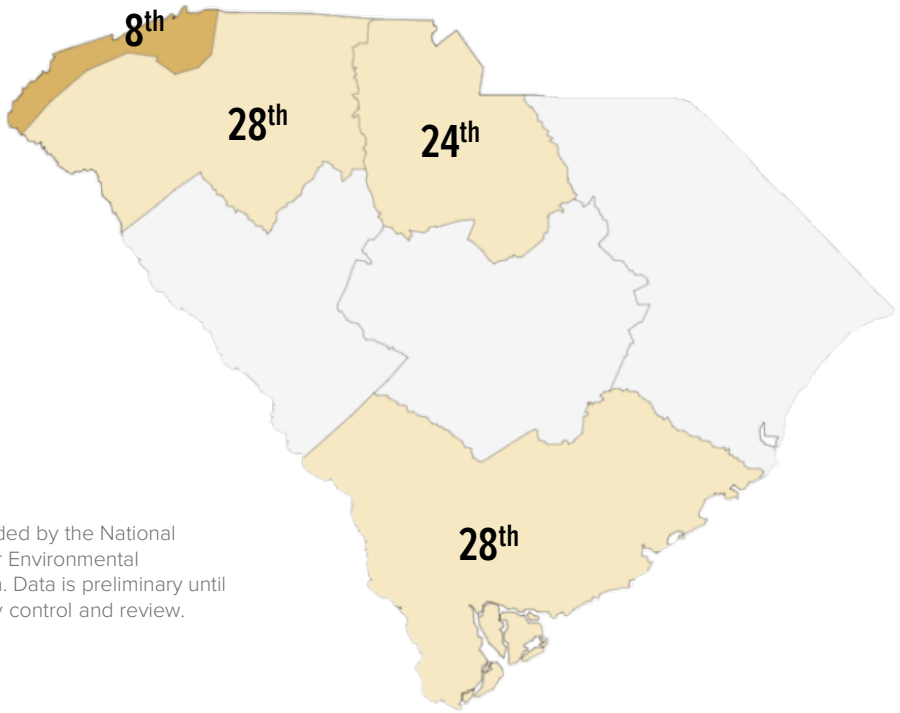
South Carolina State Climatology Office



Snow covering Myrtle Beach. Image courtesy of Horry County and the Wilmington, NC National Weather Service Office.

Detailed information from the Weekly Weather and Climate Reports from the South Carolina State Climatology Office was used to compile this comprehensive report.

Statewide Precipitation Data 2025



Data provided by the National Centers for Environmental Information. Data is preliminary until final quality control and review.

2025 Statewide Precipitation Totals, Departures and Rankings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	1.86”	2.25”	3.02”	2.75”	7.01”	4.73”	4.64”	7.54”	1.65”	4.63”	0.55”	2.46”
Depart	-1.97”	-1.65”	-1.26”	-0.59”	3.43”	0.05”	-0.90”	2.26”	-2.59”	1.64”	-2.06”	-1.15”
Rank	18th	29th	37th	--	3rd	--	--	20th	11th	26th	2nd	29th

Record Driest | Top 10 Driest | Top 40 Driest | Normal | Top 40 Wettest | Top 10 Wettest | Record Wettest

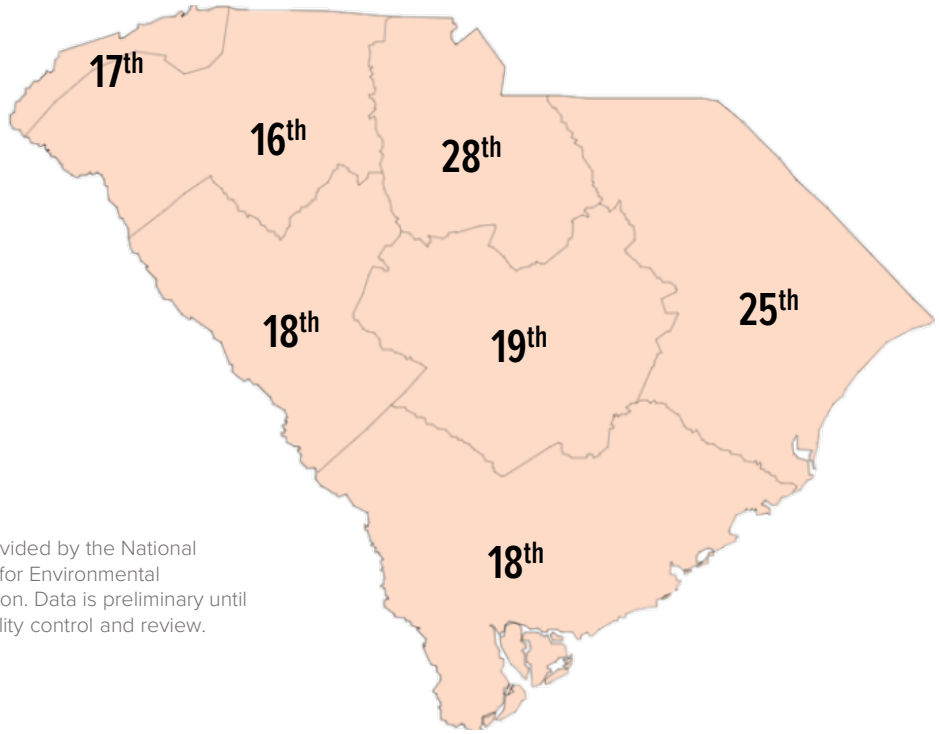
Drier than Normal | Wetter than Normal

The statewide precipitation total for 2025 was 43.09 inches, 4.80 inches below the long-term average of 47.89 inches (1895–2024), making it the 28th–driest year on record; however, precipitation totals varied across the state. The average annual precipitation totals for three of the seven state’s climate divisions ranked among the forty driest years on record, and one climate division ranked in the top ten driest years. Three months out of the year reported statewide averages that were wetter than normal, and four months were drier than normal, including the second driest November on record.

The National Weather Service (NWS) station at Anderson Regional Airport recorded 37.22 inches for the year, which is 9.12 inches below the 1991-2020 normal. The NWS station near Walterboro reported 62.30 inches, which is 10.88 inches above normal. Two of the highest 24-hour rainfall totals during the year occurred on August 23, when CoCoRaHS observers in Charleston County reported 9.35 and 8.88 inches of rain. At the end of August, a CoCoRaHS observer at Edisto Beach had reported 26.16 inches of rain, setting a new record for the highest rain amount recorded in August in the state.

In January 2025, the state experienced its first measurable snow since 2022. There were three wintry precipitation events during the season, with the highest seasonal snowfall totals in the Pee Dee region, reaching up to five inches.

Statewide Temperature Data 2025



Data provided by the National Centers for Environmental Information. Data is preliminary until final quality control and review.

2025 Statewide Average Temperatures, Departures and Rankings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	40.2°F	51.7°F	57.5°F	66.6°F	71.2°F	79.3°F	83.2°F	76.8°F	73.4°F	63.0°F	55.6°F	46.9°F
Depart	-4.4°F	4.9°F	3.6°F	4.7°F	0.9°F	2.3°F	3.3°F	-1.9°F	-0.3°F	-0.2°F	2.5°F	1.3°F
Rank	18th	15th	25th	3rd	--	20th	4th	7th	--	--	30th	--

Record Coldest | Top 10 Coldest | Top 40 Coldest | Normal | Top 40 Warmest | Top 10 Warmest | Record Warmest

Colder than Normal | Warmer than Normal

The statewide average temperature for 2025 was 63.8°F, 1.4°F above the long-term average of 62.4°F (1895–2024), making it the 18th-warmest year on record in South Carolina (since 1895).

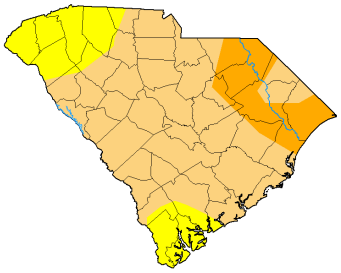
The NWS station at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport (GSP) reported 56 days in 2025 with low temperatures at or below freezing (32°F), two fewer than the average of 58 days. Charleston (CHS) recorded 30 days at or below freezing (normal: 30 days), while Florence (FLO) logged 53 days (normal: 43 days), and Columbia (CAE) recorded 50 days (normal: 52 days). The coldest temperature in 2025 was 4°F, recorded on January 22 at the NWS station near Caesars Head in Greenville County and on January 22 and 23 at the station near Jocassee in Oconee County.

During the warm season (May to October), CAE, CHS, and FLO experienced over 60 days with high temperatures at or above 90°F, including five days at or above 100°F at FLO (normal: three days), three days at or above 100°F at CAE (normal: five days), and two days at or above 100°F at GSP (normal: one day). The first 90°F day at FLO was on May 2, at CHS on May 15, and at CAE on May 16. However, GSP didn't reach 90°F until June 6. The highest temperature recorded this year was 107°F on July 27 at the NWS station at the University of South Carolina in Richland County.

Impactful Weather Events in 2025

Drought Conditions

At the beginning of 2025, parts of the state experienced below-normal rainfall, with several counties recording some of their driest Januarys and Februarys on record. The dry conditions contributed to significant fires in Horry County and in the Upstate in March.



US Drought Monitor Map
March 4, 2025

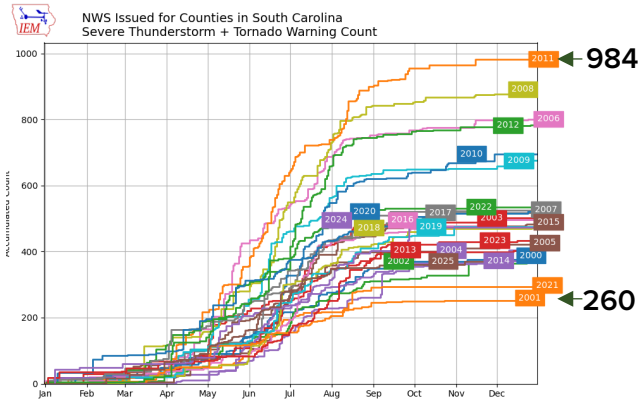
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

This dry trend continued until mid-June, when rainfall started to improve conditions. According to the US Drought Monitor, parts of the state experienced severe drought due to a lack of rain in the fall, worsening conditions across the state.

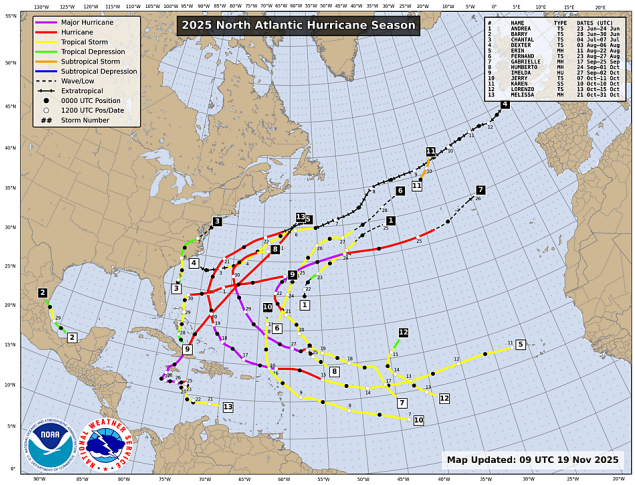
General Overview of Severe Weather

Three hundred and seventy-one (371) severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings were issued statewide in 2025, which was below the average of 530 warnings (2000-2024). Of these warnings, only 22 were issued for tornadoes. Per preliminary data from the Storm Prediction Center and NWS surveys, there were ten (10) tornadoes; four (4) rated EF-0, and six (6) rated EF-1.



2025 Hurricane Season

The 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season had 13 named storms, five hurricanes, and four major hurricanes. It was the first season since 2015 without any hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States. The only landfalling storm recorded during the season was Tropical Storm Chantal, which made landfall near Litchfield Beach in early July. Hurricane Melissa was the strongest hurricane of the season, and it tied for the third strongest hurricane on record in the Atlantic.



Coastal Flooding

In 2025, preliminary tidal gauge data from Charleston Harbor recorded 50 coastal flooding events (tides exceeding 7.0 ft); if verified, would be the eighth-most on record (1922-2024). There were 18 events recorded in October 2025. The Charleston Harbor tidal gauge recorded tides at or above 8 feet mean low lower water (MLLW) two times during 2025, including a crest of 8.46 ft MLLW on October 10 and 8.00 ft MLLW on October 11, associated with the passage of a slow-moving coastal storm during a King Tide cycle.

Top 10 Total Event Counts (Years)

1. 89 (2019)
2. 75 (2023)
3. 70 (2022)
4. 68 (2020)
5. 58 (2015)
6. 55 (2016)
7. 54 (2024)
8. **50 (2025)**
9. 46 (2017 and 2021)

Recent Crests (MLLW)

1. 8.00 ft. (10-11-2025)
2. 8.46 ft. (10-10-2025)
3. 8.25 ft. (11-16-2024)
4. 8.08 ft. (11-14-2024)
5. 9.86 ft. (12-17-2024)
6. 8.06 ft. (09-28-2023)
7. 9.23 ft. (08-30-2023)
8. 8.11 ft. (08-02-2023)
10. 8.37 ft. (06-04-2023)

More information at https://www.weather.gov/chs/coastalflood

January 2025

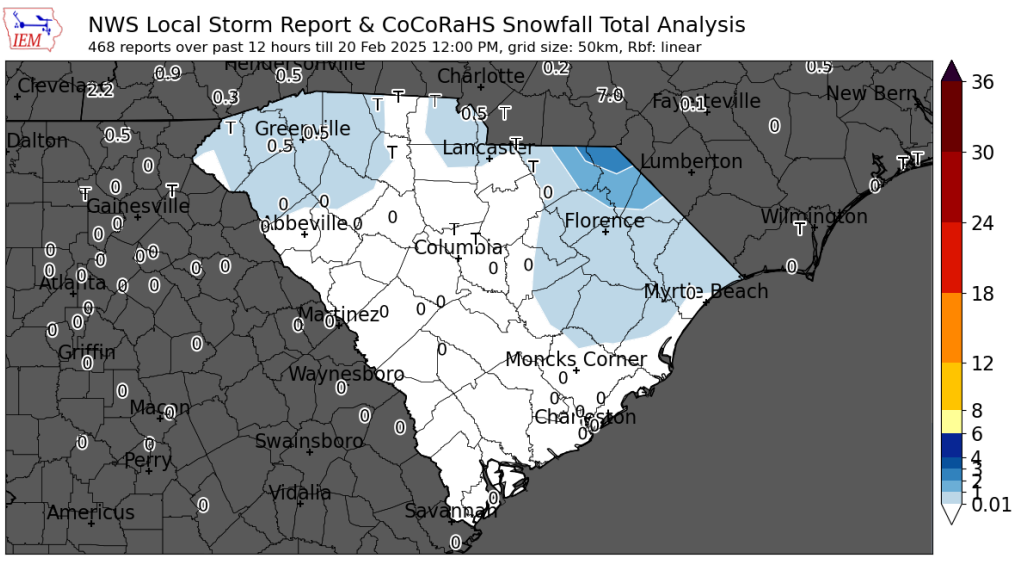
Satellite Image showing snow on the ground across the Southeast United States on January 22, 2025.

Two events in January 2025 produced the first measurable snow in the state since 2022. The first event produced a wintry mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain across much of the state on January 10. An intense band of precipitation produced snow and sleet in parts of the Upstate and Central Savannah River Area. Sleet was reported in parts of the Coastal Plain. Temperatures warmed slightly, causing the snow and sleet to transition to freezing rain. The wintry precipitation continued overnight, and by morning, snowfall totals ranged from a trace to 3.5 inches, with up to a quarter of an inch of ice accumulation.

On January 20, morning temperatures ranged from the teens in the Upstate to the low 30s at the coast, with highs barely reaching the 40s. The cold persisted on January 21, with temperatures up to 30 degrees below normal and highs stuck in the 30s, and the National Weather Service station at the Charleston International Airport recorded a high of 38 degrees. As Arctic air remained across the region, a low-pressure system brought wintry weather across the state. Snow and freezing rain began in the afternoon and evening, with most areas transitioning to snow. By the following morning, the Lowcountry had two to four inches of snow and sleet, while the Pee Dee saw up to five inches.

February 2025

On February 1, the tidal gauge at Charleston Harbor recorded a minimum tide level of -1.70 ft MLLW, which impacted vessels navigating along the lower South Carolina coast. High temperatures reached up to 20 degrees above normal at some locations on the 8th and 9th, resembling mid-May conditions. On February 9, the NWS station at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport recorded a daily maximum temperature of 80 degrees, breaking the previous record of 76 degrees set on February 9, 2017. The Charleston International Airport reported a high of 84 degrees, surpassing the record of 80 degrees set in 1949.



On February 19, freezing rain and sleet were reported in portions of Chesterfield and Lancaster counties. There was a brief period of flurries and light snow in the Upstate, and the NWS station at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport reported 0.3 inches of snow. Colder-than-normal temperatures continued through February 24 before rebounding into the upper 70s and low 80s by the end of the month.

March 2025

Due to the below-normal rainfall totals in January and February, drought conditions intensified across the state by the beginning of March, especially in portions of the Pee Dee and Upstate regions. These deteriorating conditions led to an increase in wildfire activity during the month.

Governor McMaster issued a statewide burn ban after 102 new wildfires were reported across the state on March 1 alone. The Covington Drive Complex Fire, in the Carolina Forest community in Horry County, is the longest wildfire from ignition to control, on record for the state (95 days), due to the complexity of smoldering hot spots reigniting in the peat soil.

At the end of the month, the Persimmon Ridge Fire in Greenville County and the Table Rock Fire in Pickens County became known as the Table Rock Complex. Between both fires, nearly 16,000 acres were burned. The Table Rock Fire became the largest single mountain fire in South Carolina's history.

Covington Drive Fire 2025. Courtesy SCFC

A very large aerial tanker (VLAT) makes the first recorded fire retardant drop east of the Mississippi River on the Table Rock Complex Fire.

April 2025

The month began with unseasonably warm temperatures with low and high temperatures more than 20 degrees above normal. The NWS station at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport recorded a maximum temperature of 88 degrees on April 5. Many locations across the state recorded high temperatures in the upper 80s in the first week of the month, including 90 degrees at the NWS station near Langley in Aiken County and at Andrews in Georgetown County.

April 2025 Climate Data (Temperature)

	Charleston	Columbia	Florence	Greenville
Average Temperature	69.2°F	68.2°F	68.5°F	64.5°F
Departure From Normal	3.4°F	4.1°F	4.1°F	3.5°F
Highest Temperature	86°F (4/22 and 4/30)	88°F (4/3 and 4/30)	89°F (4/2 and 4/3)	88°F (4/5)
Lowest Temperature	43°F (4/16)	38°F (4/13)	39°F (4/13)	34°F (4/13)

The NWS station at the University of South Carolina campus in Richland County reported a low temperature of 73 degrees on April 15, breaking the daily record high minimum temperature of 69 degrees set in 1993.

April 2025 was the third-warmest April on record statewide since 1895.

Additionally, multiple cold fronts moved through the state, triggering strong to severe thunderstorms. A series of cold fronts between April 7 and 11 produced wind gusts, up to 60 mph across portions of the Coastal Plain, causing some minor damage in Florence County. Another strong front at the end of the month produced hail, up to two inches in diameter, across parts of the Upstate and northern Midlands.

May 2025

Statewide, May 2025 became the 3rd wettest May since 1895. However, some counties in the Central Savannah River Area and the Midlands recorded their wettest May on record. A cold front stalled across southern Georgia, and a low-pressure system developed along the Gulf Coast, resulting in heavy rainfall in mid-May. Flooded roads were reported near Port Royal in Beaufort County. Several roads in downtown Charleston were closed, including Huger Street, Meeting Street, and King Street, due to over two inches of rain falling across the city in just five hours. The unsettled pattern throughout May produced over a foot of rain across Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Lexington, Richland, and Orangeburg counties.

Station	County	May 2025 Total Rainfall (")
Williston 4.3 NNW	Aiken	14.99
Columbia 2.1 NNW	Richland	12.57
Bluffton 6.3 WNW	Beaufort	12.15
Pelion 0.7 SSW	Lexington	11.78
North 5.2 E	Orangeburg	11.65

The strongest tornado of the year occurred on May 12, as an EF1 with estimated winds of 105 mph caused damage near Langley in Aiken County. On May 30, an enhanced risk of severe weather was present as a strong front and an associated line of severe thunderstorms moved through the state during the mid-afternoon. The NWS Columbia Survey Teams determined that a strong microburst, with winds of 90 mph, produced a near-continuous swatch of straight-line wind damage beginning near Swansea, and extending southeast across Lake Marion into Clarendon County. Additionally, an EF1 tornado occurred within the broader swath of damage.

June 2025

At the beginning of the month, smoke from Canadian wildfires drifted across the eastern United States, resulting in multiple days of poor air quality in South Carolina.

On June 9, severe thunderstorms produced wind gusts up to 50 mph in the Lowcountry and Midlands, with wind damage reported in several counties. A survey team from the National Weather Service Columbia office confirmed an EF1 tornado, with estimated peak winds of 95 mph, touched down near Chapin and on the ground for approximately six miles before lifting near the Lexington-Richland County line.

A strong ridge of high pressure formed over the eastern United States at the end of the month, resulting in hot afternoon temperatures, with highs exceeding 100 degrees. When combined with high humidity, heat indices approached 110 degrees. Heat index values reached 108 degrees in Columbia, 107 degrees in Charleston, and 106 degrees in Greenville.

Image of a lightning strike at Lake Murray on Jun 24. Courtesy of WeatherSTEM and the Weather Channel.

On June 24, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and Irmo Fire Department reported that twenty people were struck by lightning from a nearby thunderstorm at Lake Murray Public Park in Lexington. Eighteen individuals were taken to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

July 2025

Tropical Storm Chantal made landfall near Litchfield Beach on July 6 and brought heavy rain, with an estimated four to six inches falling from northern Horry County, into the Lumberton and Red Springs areas in southeastern North Carolina. Tropical Storm Chantal was the only tropical cyclone to make a US landfall during the 2025 Hurricane Season.

July 2025 Climate Data (Temperature)

	Charleston	Columbia	Florence	Greenville
Average Temperature	84.4°F	84.8°F	84.2°F	83.1°F
Departure From Normal	1.9°F	2.6°F	2.0°F	3.4°F
Highest Temperature	99°F (7/27 and 7/28)	101°F (7/28)	103°F (7/27)	100°F (7/26 and 7/27)
Lowest Temperature	71°F (7/11)	71°F (7/10)	70°F (7/11)	68°F (7/24)

At the end of July, high-pressure offshore led to a severe heat wave across the Southeast. On July 25, Greenville Downtown Airport tied its daily record for the highest minimum temperature at 76 degrees set in 1930. On July 28, both the NWS stations at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) and Charleston International Airport (CHS) tied record-high minimums, with a low of 75 degrees at GSP and 80 degrees at CHS. These unusually warm nights, up to 10 degrees above normal, offered little relief from increased heat risks Dangerously hot and humid conditions prompted Extreme Heat Warnings for most of the Coastal Plain, while Heat Advisories were issued for the Midlands and Upstate. Heat index values reached 110-115 degrees on June 26 and 112-118 degrees on June 27. The NWS station at the Mount Pleasant Airport recorded a heat index of 115 degrees on June 26, and the NWS station at GSP reported a heat index of 107 degrees on June 27.

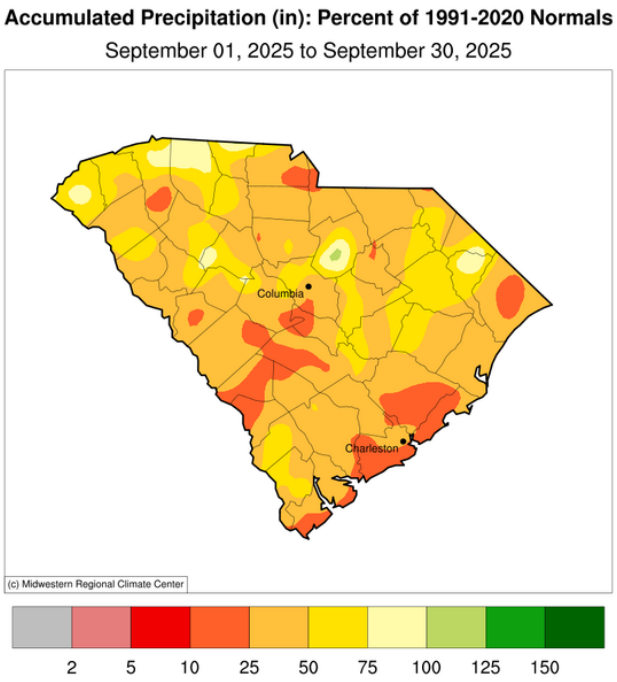
August 2025

Satellite image of Hurricane Erin off the U.S. East Coast. Courtesy of NOAA

August began with extreme heat, with heat index values approaching 110 degrees, prompting advisories in the Central Savannah River Area, Lowcountry, and Midlands. A cold front produced strong storms later in the day, resulting in heavy rain and 40 mph wind gusts in Lexington and Richland counties. Behind the front, cooler temperatures brought relief from the heat, and on August 2, Greenville-Spartanburg Airport recorded a high of 74 degrees, breaking a 42-day streak of highs at or above 90 degrees and setting a new record.

Hurricane Erin stayed offshore in mid-August, posing no landfall risk to the East Coast. However, large swells caused dangerous rip currents, high surf, and hazardous marine conditions along the South Carolina coast. Charleston Harbor experienced tides exceeding 7.0 ft MLLW, peaking at 7.95 ft, resulting in moderate to major coastal flooding.

On August 21, a weak front stalled across the southern part of the state, and a weak low-pressure system developed, triggering several rounds of widespread showers and thunderstorms across the Midlands and Lowcountry. A CoCoRaHS observer on the Charleston peninsula reported 2.48 inches of rain in one hour and an event total of 10.21 inches of rain. Heavy rain, combined with a high tide, caused flash flooding in downtown Charleston, and reports of flooding were received from Berkeley, Dorchester, Colleton, and Jasper counties.



September 2025

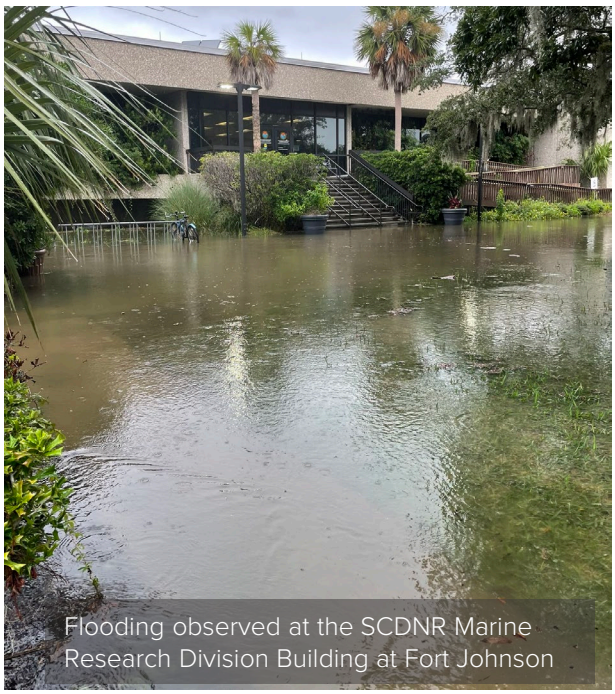
September was extremely dry across portions of the Southeast, particularly in South Carolina, where monthly rainfall totals were three to five inches below normal. September 2025 was the 11th-driest on record for the state, and the 6th-driest on record at the NWS stations at Charleston International Airport and the 7th-driest at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. The NWS Charleston station received 0.98 inches of rain, which is only 17 percent of its normal September rainfall.

The dry conditions impacted agriculture, limiting pasture growth and forcing producers to start using winter hay sooner than usual. Dry soil conditions complicated harvesting, resulting in reduced yields of some crops.

Drought impacted soybeans in Allendale County in September 2025. Courtesy of CMOR/NDMC

October 2025

A slow-moving coastal storm impacted the Southeast US in mid-October, during a period of 'King Tides.' Tidal levels were unusually high due to strong, persistent onshore winds, and levels exceeded moderate and major flood thresholds. The flooding lasted several hours before and after high tide. The Charleston Harbor tidal gauge crested at 8.46 ft MLLW on October 10 (13th highest crest on record), and widespread flooding was reported across the region. Significant erosion was observed along many South Carolina beaches. Emergency managers in Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton counties reported flooding in parts of St. Helena Sound, Port Royal, Edisto Beach, McClellanville Landing, and Folly Beach. There were reports of flooding in the Georgetown Marketplaces after nearly ten inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours. Numerous streets were closed due to flooding, and several motorists were rescued from stranded vehicles. Some roads in Myrtle Beach had six to twelve inches of water on them, including portions of Kings Highway. Gusty winds prompted a gale warning for coastal waters, small craft advisories for near-shore areas, and lake wind advisories. There was a high risk of dangerous rip currents and hazardous surf conditions related to the storm.



Flooding observed at the SCDNR Marine Research Division Building at Fort Johnson

November 2025

Statewide, November 2025 was the second driest November on record since 1895, with a statewide average precipitation of 0.54 inches, 2.07 inches below normal. The NWS stations at Charleston International Airport (0.68 inches), Columbia Metropolitan Airport (0.16 inches), and Florence Regional Airport (0.52 inches) recorded values among the top 10 driest November totals on record for those locations.

Aurora seen at NWS Greer on November 10. Courtesy of A. Rehnberg

Despite an above-normal monthly average temperature, cold temperatures were recorded during the month, including highs on November 10 and 11 that only reached the mid- to upper 40s, while overnight lows dipped into the 20s. Snow flurries were observed across parts of the Midlands and Upstate on the evening of November 10, with one CoCoRaHS observer near Jefferson reporting 0.2 inches of snow the following day. The middle of the month saw warmer-than-normal temperatures, with highs climbing into the upper 70s to low 80s on November 20 and 21.

Additionally, a series of strong coronal mass ejections (CMEs) on November 10 and 11 allowed some South Carolinians to see the Aurora Borealis, and reports indicated the northern lights were visible as far south as Florida.

December 2025

Extreme temperature whiplash was felt in December. The month began with record cold, which gave way to record warmth by the holidays. A series of strong cold fronts at the start of December kept temperatures unusually cool and brought widespread, beneficial rainfall after a dry November. Parts of the Coastal Plain received between two and five inches of rain, while the Upstate saw less rain. Maximum temperatures were as much as fifteen degrees below normal, with some places struggling to reach 50 degrees. There were rare reports of freezing fog across parts of the Coastal Plain on December 10, and wind chills dropped into the single digits on December 15.

The colder-than-normal temperatures lingered until the holidays, when temperatures were up to twenty-five degrees above normal. On Christmas Eve, the NWS station at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport recorded a new high of 75 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 71 degrees set in 1964. The station reported a high of 76 degrees the following day, making it the warmest Christmas since 1962.

Station	December 2025 Highest Temp (°F)	December 2025 Lowest Temp (°F)
Charleston Int'l AP	79 (27th)	21 (15th)
Florence Reg AP	77 (25th)	18 (15th)
Columbia Metro AP	79 (25th)	21 (16th)
Gr'nvl-Spart. Int'l Ap	76 (25th)	14 (15th)

Dry weather and above-average temperatures persisted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, with highs reaching the mid- to upper 70s. A total of 19 maximum temperature records were broken, and 11 records were tied.