

SEPTEMBER 2024 CLIMATE SUMMARIES
National Weather Service Tallahassee - Tri-State Area
October 11, 2024

Note: The data below is based on our seven official climate sites across the FL Big Bend/Panhandle, SE AL, and SW GA, which we issue [daily](#) and [monthly](#) products for. Visit <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=tae> for more information. Corresponding figures can be found below the written content.

September Climate Summary:

Tallahassee - Warmer and much wetter than normal. The average mean September temperature was 80.7°. On the 2nd, a high of 101° was recorded at KTLH. This reading set a [new daily record](#) (previous was 98° in 1957 & 1955), tied 2019/1927/1925/1917 for 2nd hottest September day on record, and the 5th latest 100° September day on record (1st is 9/20/1931)! A day prior saw a [daily record high](#) as well tying 1947 at 97°. The lowest observed temperature of the month was 65° on the 28th. As for rainfall, the capital city saw its 6th wettest September on record with a monthly total of 11.21” or 6.3” greater than normal. For perspective, the normal seasonal amount during the meteorological autumn months (September-November) is 11.25”. The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 3.35” from the 26th-27th, courtesy of Helene. The 3.25” on the 26th set a [new daily record](#), beating 2.94” in 1979, and was the first 3+ inch September day since 9/16/2020 (Hurricane Sally). Going back to Helene, a peak wind gust of 67 mph was measured on the 26th with a minimum sea-level pressure of 977.5 mb. The latter was 1 mb off tying the [all-time record low MSLP](#) of 977 mb (rounded to the nearest 10th mb) from the 1993 Superstorm!

Remainder of the FL Big Bend - Warmer and wetter than normal. Apalachicola stands out for unofficially experiencing its wettest month on record at any point of the year with a whopping 26.99”! The previous all-time record was apparently 22.55” in 1946. The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 7.96” from the 25th-26th thanks to Hurricane Helene. On the 26th, KAAF measured 7.45”, a [new daily record](#) (smashing 3.02” in 1992, the 4th wettest September day and 7th highest single day accumulation on record. On the 12th, a new [daily record rainfall amount of 6.29”](#) was set, beating 3.56” from 2009. For perspective, the aforementioned daily rain amounts exceeded the September monthly average with the 30-day total more than doubling the meteorological autumn (September-November) seasonal average! Lastly, Apalachicola’s peak monthly wind gust was 60 mph on the 26th (Helene). In terms of temperature, the average monthly reading of 80.4° was 1.2° above normal. The highest/lowest temperatures were 94°/71°.

FL Panhandle - Near to warmer than normal and much wetter than normal. Marianna’s average monthly temperature was 79.1° with the highest/lowest reading of 100°/67°. Rainfall totals were 19.55”, which is over 15” above normal! The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 7.4” from the

25th-26th. Temperatures were warmer at Panama City NW where the monthly average came out to 80.1°. The highest/lowest readings were 97°/67°. Precipitation was comparatively less, but still several inches above normal at 12.1". The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 3.57" from the 12th-13th.

Southwest GA - Near to warmer than normal and much wetter than normal. *Important disclaimer on September climate data for KVLG: The ASOS tower went offline for a few days thanks to Hurricane Helene, so there is missing data from 9/27 through 9/30.*

Valdosta's mean temperature of 79.8° was over 2.5° greater than the average. The highest/lowest temperatures were 98°/66°. Monthly rainfall totals were capped at 5" through the 26th, which is still above normal for September. The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 2.64" from the 17th-18th. Valdosta measured a peak wind gust of 62 mph from the 26th just prior to going down hard. It is possible that higher gusts occurred thereafter.

Albany's mean temperature of 78.4° was right around normal. The highest/lowest temperatures were 98°/64°. A monthly rainfall total of 12.24" is good for the 2nd wettest September on record, trailing only 12.4" from 1998. The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 4.12" from the 26th-27th. Albany measured a peak wind gust of 50 mph during Hurricane Helene.

Southeast AL - Near to slightly warmer than normal and wetter than normal. Dothan's average monthly temperature was 78.6° or 0.7° above average. The highest temperature was 101° on the 2nd, an apparent new daily record (shattering 97° in 2014) and tied with 9/18/2019 for 2nd warmest September day observed! In terms of precipitation, KDHN measured a monthly total of 10.46" or a little over 7 inches above normal, and good for the 2nd wettest September on record (trailing only 14.15" in 1998)! The greatest 24-hr accumulation was 3.81" from the 25th-26th, thanks to Helene. The 3.10" on the 26th was the 7th wettest September day observed and easily set a new daily record (leapfrogging 1.06" in 1974).

Local Drought Status:

The prolific rainfall observed across the Tri-State area has effectively squashed drought outside of small slivers of Coffee County, AL. Most locations west of the Apalachicola and Flint River basins experienced a Class 2 to 3 improvement.

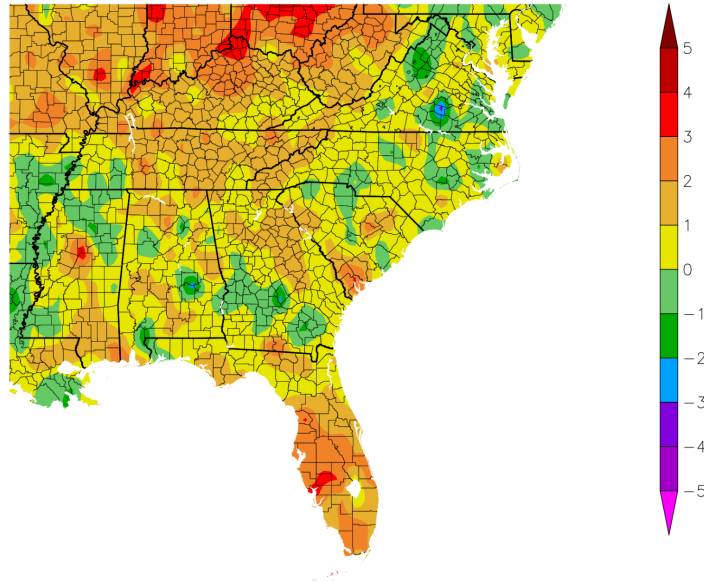
Atlantic Hurricane Season Monthly Recap & Climatology:

September tropical cyclone activity was near normal in terms of named storms (6), hurricanes (3), and major hurricanes (1). Hurricane Francine was the 1st named storm of the month and made landfall in LA at category-2 strength. However, [Hurricane Helene](#) was easily the highlight of September when it made landfall (4th for the US) near the mouth of the Aucilla River in the SE FL Big Bend as a major hurricane with max sustained winds of 140 mph. Helene surpassed Idalia from last year as the strongest hurricane observed over Apalachee Bay. Widespread, significant impacts were felt from Lower Suwannee Valley up through the I-75 corridor as the

core tracked northward through that region. Kirk was the final named storm of the month, forming on the 29th.

Based on NOAA's [Historical Hurricane Tracks](#), roughly 23 tropical storms or hurricanes have passed within 60 nm of Apalachicola, FL in September. Prior to this year, the most recent tropical cyclone to do so was Tropical Storm Mindy in 2021 as it skirted west to east across the Forgotten Coast through Southern GA.

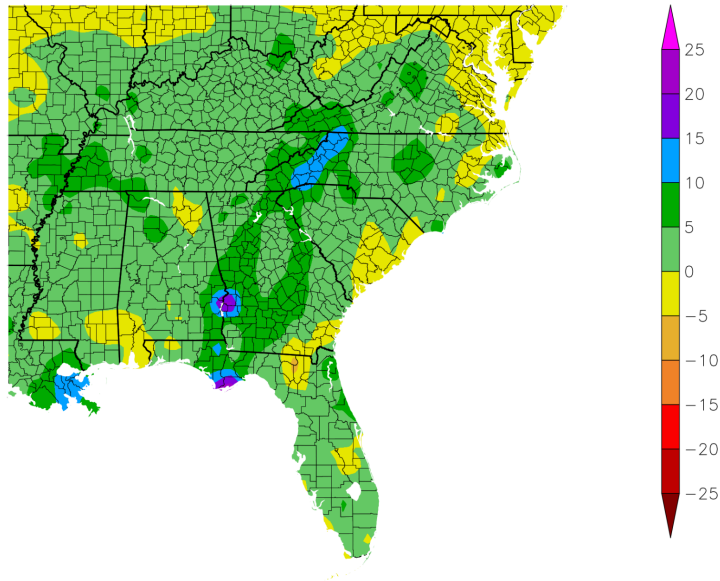
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024



Generated 10/10/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

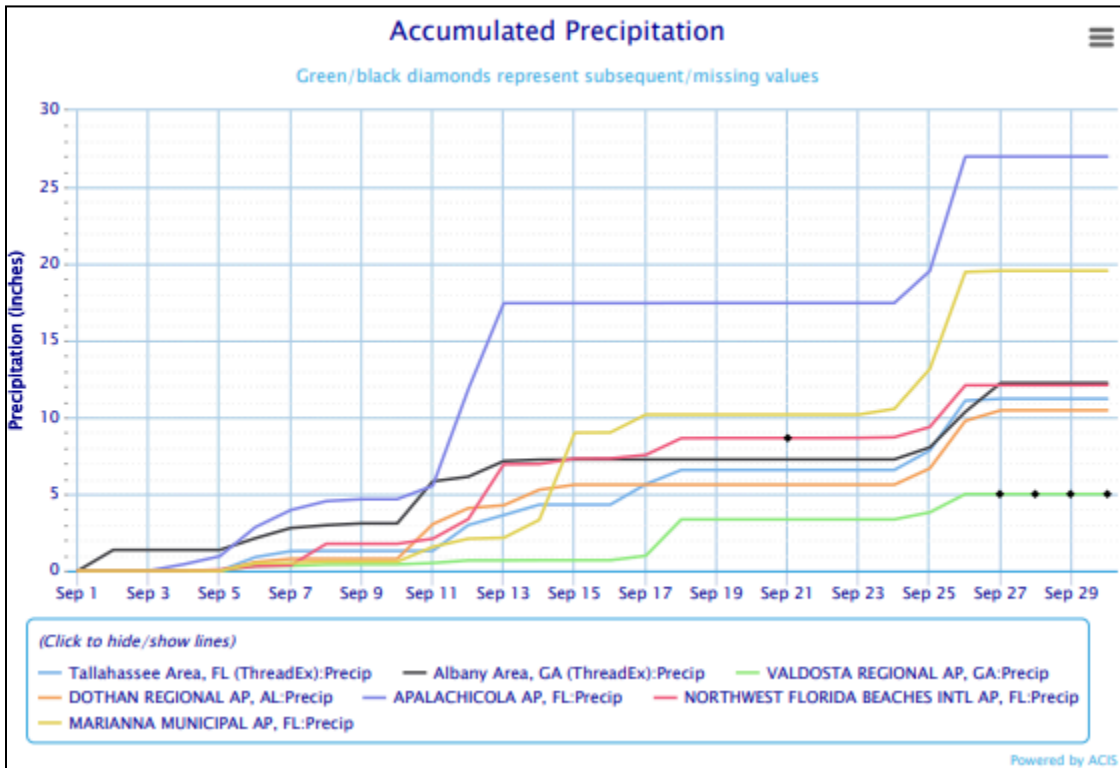
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024



Generated 10/10/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Apalachicola Stood Out Most at 26.99 Inches



U.S. Drought Monitor

Tallahassee, FL WFO

October 8, 2024
(Released Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	95.39	4.61	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10-01-2024	94.40	5.60	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-09-2024	21.98	78.02	3.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	66.77	33.23	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	38.17	61.83	36.68	6.93	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-10-2023	25.85	74.15	39.63	13.17	0.00	0.00

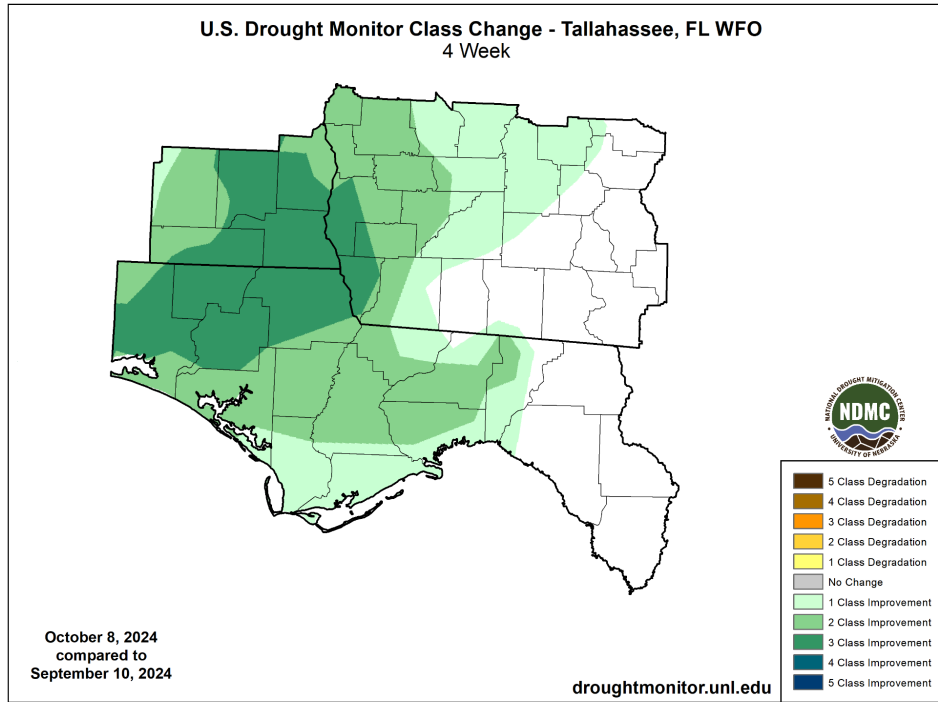
Intensity:

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

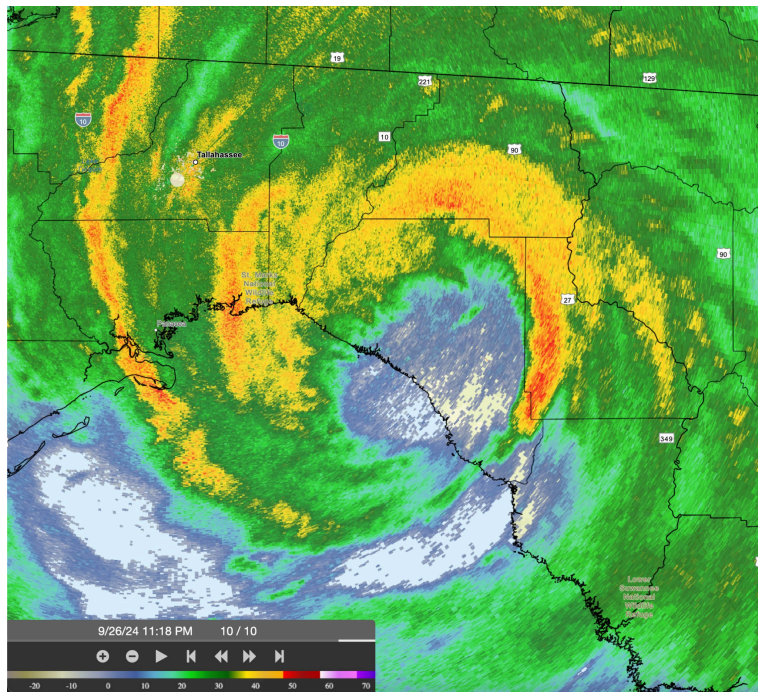
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

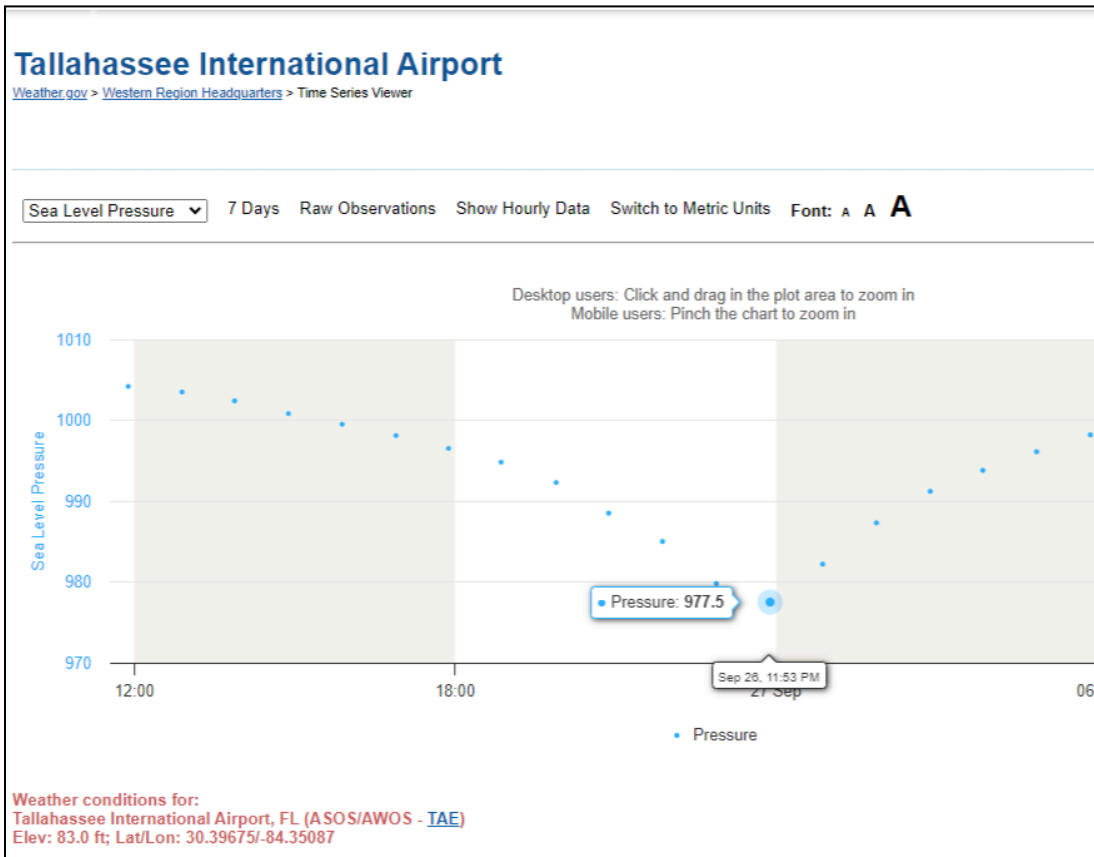
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Radar Image of Hurricane Helene at Landfall Near Mouth of the Aucilla River - September 26, 2024 11:16 PM EDT



Near Record-Tying Min Sea Level Pressure - Hurricane Helene



Local Tropical Storm/Hurricane September Climatology

