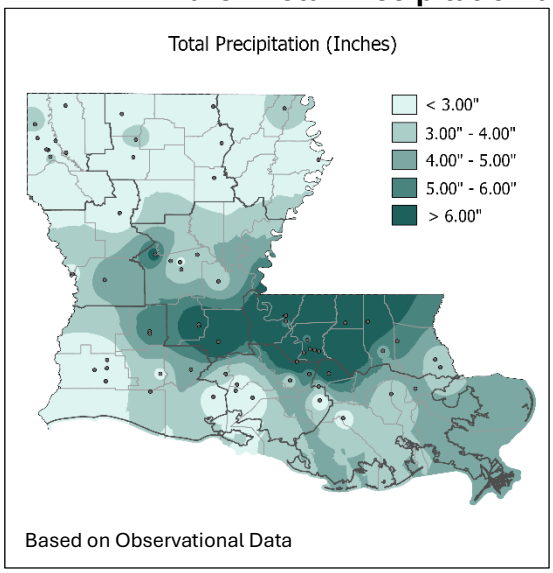
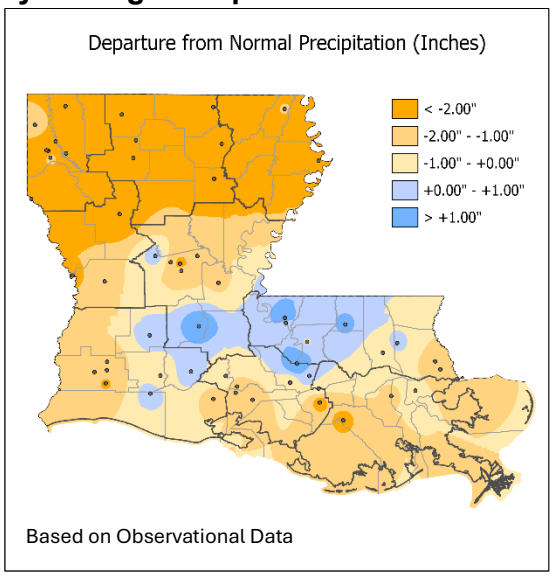
LOUISIANA MONTHLY CLIMATE REVIEW

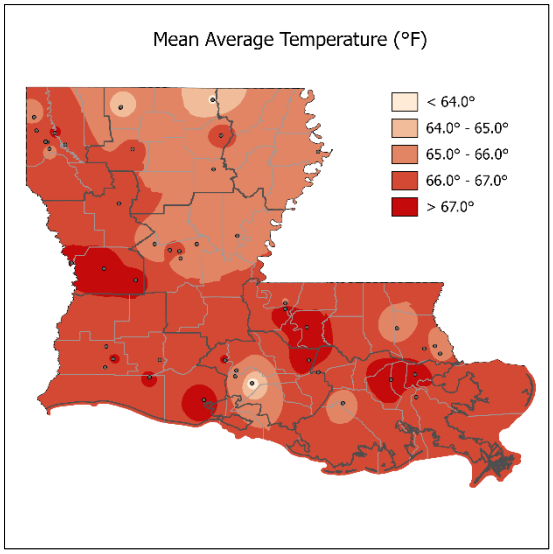
Volume 2, Issue 03

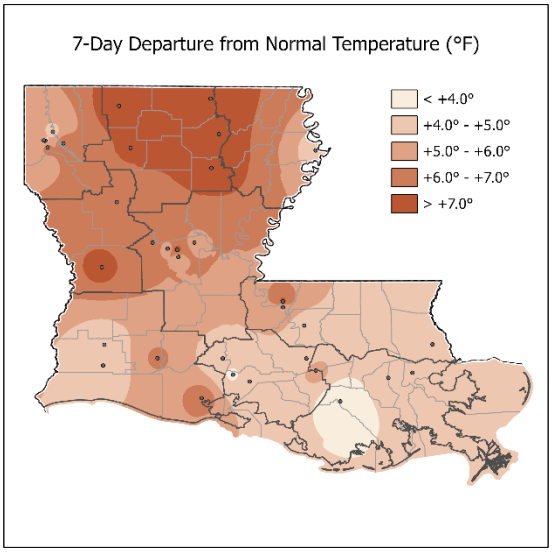
March 2026

March Total Precipitation and Monthly Average Temperatures









March Highlights:

Statewide-averaged rainfall was below-normal across Louisiana for the 10th consecutive month. The preliminary statewide total of 3.73" was 1.02" below the March normal (1991-2020) and was the second consecutive drier-than-normal March. This continues a recent trend of dry Marchs as all but 7 have been drier-than-normal beginning in 2003. However, some stations did exceed 10.00" for the month, including FSA-Opelousas and LSU (p. 11). March's preliminary monthly average temperature of 66.3°F was 6.2°F above-normal and ranks as the 8th warmest March on record dating back to 1895. All but two Marchs have been warmer-than-normal beginning in 2015.

The dry and warm conditions intensified the drought across the state; by month's end, nearly 85% of the state was in drought based on the ***U.S. Drought Monitor*** (p. 7).

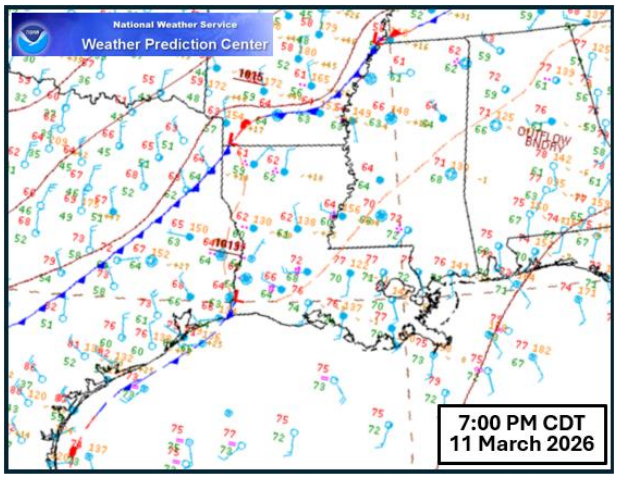
A severe weather outbreak produced 8 confirmed tornadoes across southeastern Louisiana on March 11 (p. 2), and a late-season freeze took place across the state on the mornings of Mar 17 and 18.

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Tornado Outbreak: 11 March 2026

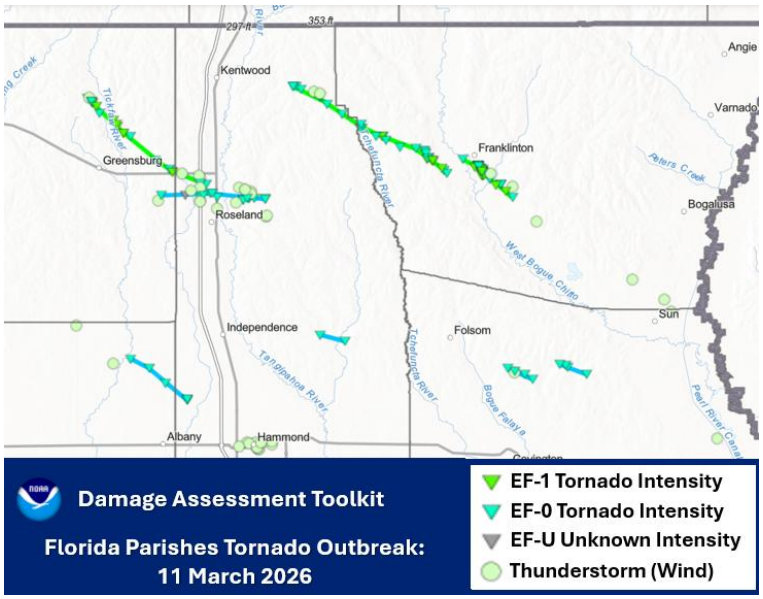
While March can be an active time of the year for severe weather across the Pelican State, this March was quieter than typical with one very notable exception, the tornado outbreak of March 11th. It was the second time in less than a month that some portion of Louisiana dealt with a tornado outbreak.

The NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) highlighted the risk on that day well ahead of time and issued two *Tornado Watches* (WW #44 & #48) that included the majority of parishes from the mid-day into the overnight hours. Warm-and-moist southerly flow off the Gulf was well-established, with NWS/Lake Charles (LCH) posting a *Wind Advisory* for its warning area. The main squall line approached the LA/TX border by mid-afternoon and moved rapidly through the state before clearing out overnight along with the frontal boundary.



Tornado and *Severe T-Storm Warnings* were issued by LCH early in the day and then by the NWS/New Orleans (LIX) office as the line progressed eastward. In total 20 *Tornado Warnings* and 9 *Severe Thunderstorm Warnings* were issued by LIX for southeastern Louisiana.

All 8 confirmed tornadoes touched down in the Florida Parishes: Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington parishes.



All 8 touchdowns occurred and developed within a period of less than 90 minutes. Note how the majority of tracks were oriented from northwest-to-southeast.

Despite the number and timing of the touchdowns, there were no fatalities nor injuries reported. Additionally, structural damage across the region was minimal.

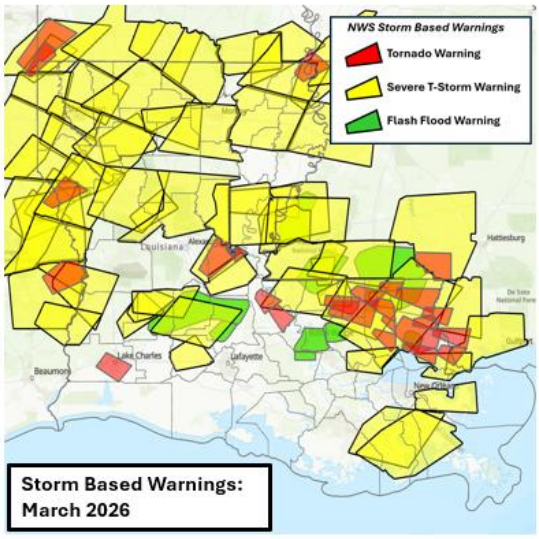
Tornado Reports: March 2026 *(preliminary)*

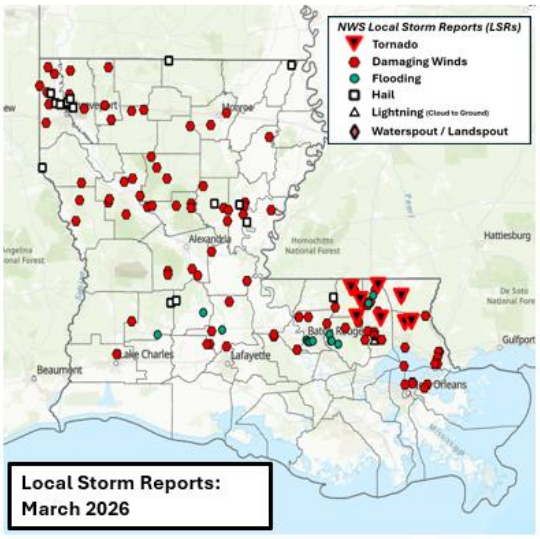
EF Rating	Date	Time (CDT)	Parish(es)	Peak Winds (mph)	Path Length (mi)	Path Width (yds)	Fatalities Injuries	Prop Dmg
EF-1	3 / 11	8:17 - 8:33 PM	St. Helena Tangipahoa	95	11.7	200	0 / 0	
EF-0	3 / 11	8:29 - 8:42 PM	St. Helena Tangipahoa	85	8.7	75	0 / 0	
EF-0	3 / 11	8:32 - 8:38 PM	Livingston Tangipahoa	65	5.8	25	0 / 0	
EF-1	3 / 11	8:38 - 9:00 PM	Tangipahoa Washington	95	13.5	450	0 / 0	
EF-0	3 / 11	8:55 - 8:58 PM	Tangipahoa	65	2.2	25	0 / 0	
EF-1	3 / 11	9:03 - 9:13 PM	Washington	105	5.1	300	0 / 0	✓
EF-0	3 / 11	9:21 - 9:24 PM	St. Tammany	80	2.3	50	0 / 0	
EF-0	3 / 11	9:28 - 9:31 PM	St. Tammany	75	2.4	50	0 / 0	

Prop Dmg: Building or Residential Structural Damage

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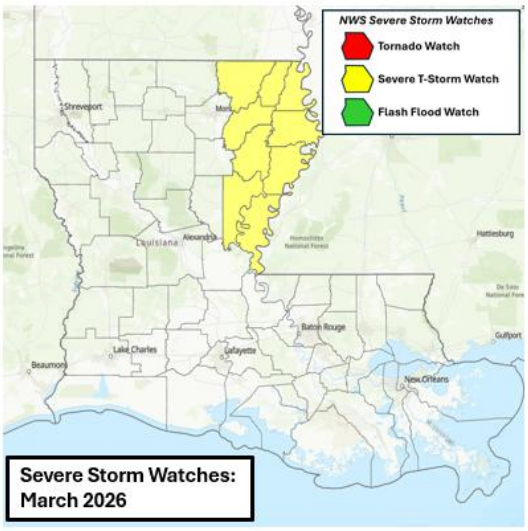
March Active Weather:
In spite of being a relatively 'quiet' spring month in terms of severe weather, Louisiana's 4 NWS offices issued nearly 130 *Storm-Based Warnings* during March: more than 50 of those were posted on March 11th. Thunderstorm winds accounted for nearly half of the month's *Local Storm Reports* (*LSRs*), with nearly half of all March *LSRs* being posted on the 11th.

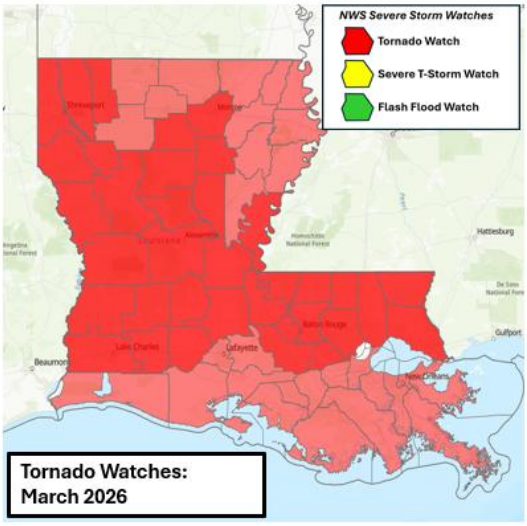




March's two *Severe T-Storm Watches* were issued for northeast Louisiana: one on the 7th (WW#26) and the other on the 9th (WW#29).

Tornado Watches were posted for northwest Louisiana on the 7th (WW#22), across most of the state on the 11th (WW#44 & #48), and again for most of Louisiana on the 15th (WW#53, #55, #57 & #60).





NWS/Lake Charles (LCH) and NWS/New Orleans (LIX) issued multiple *Dense Fog Advisories* (*DFAs*) during March: one or both offices posted *DFAs* on 12 March dates.

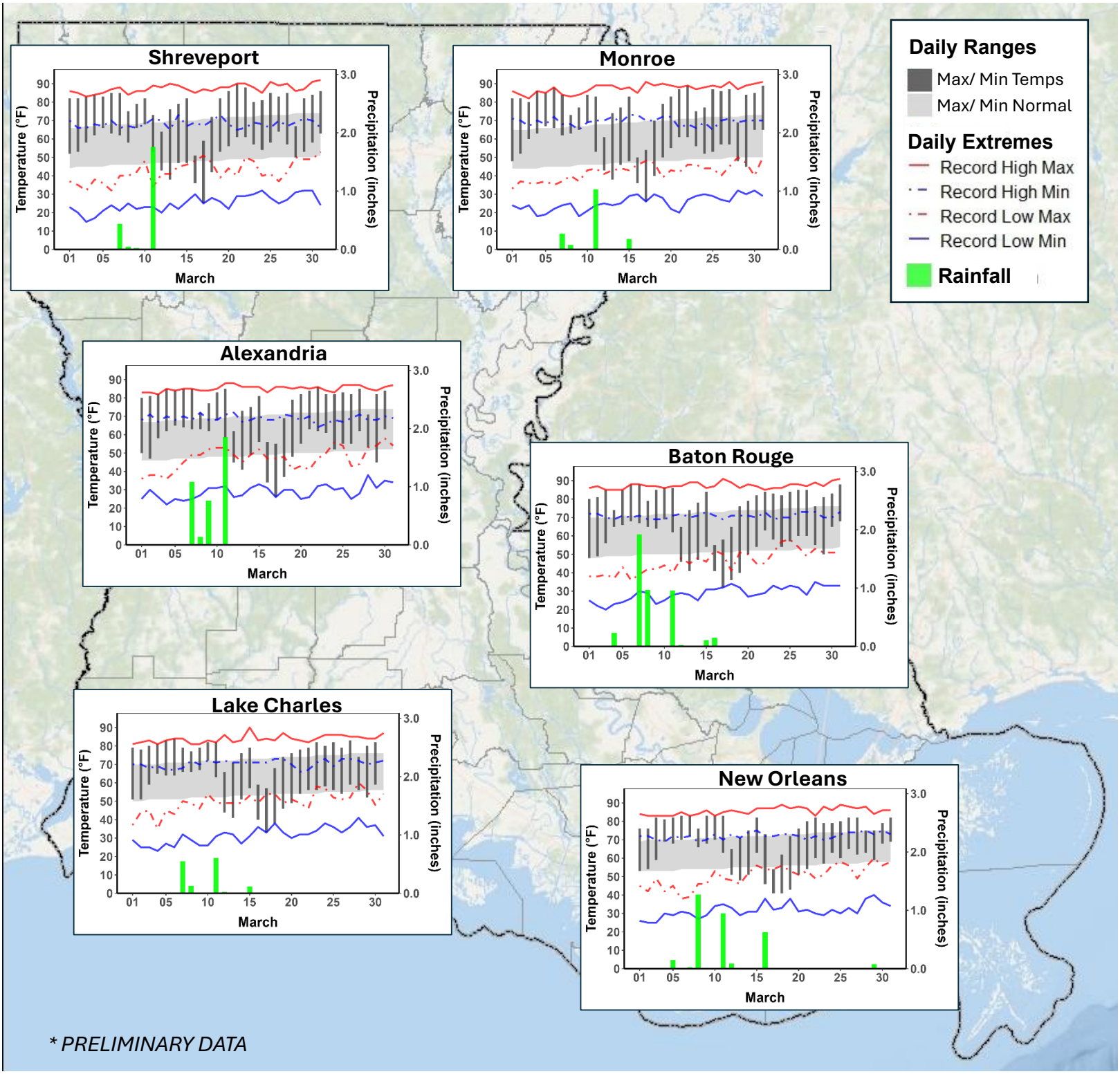
Red Flag Warnings (*RFWs*) were posted by LCH and LIX on March 16th, with LCH and LIX being joined by NWS/Jackson (JAN) for *RFWs* on March 28th.





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Climographs for Selected Cities: March 2026



** PRELIMINARY DATA*

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March Synopsis:

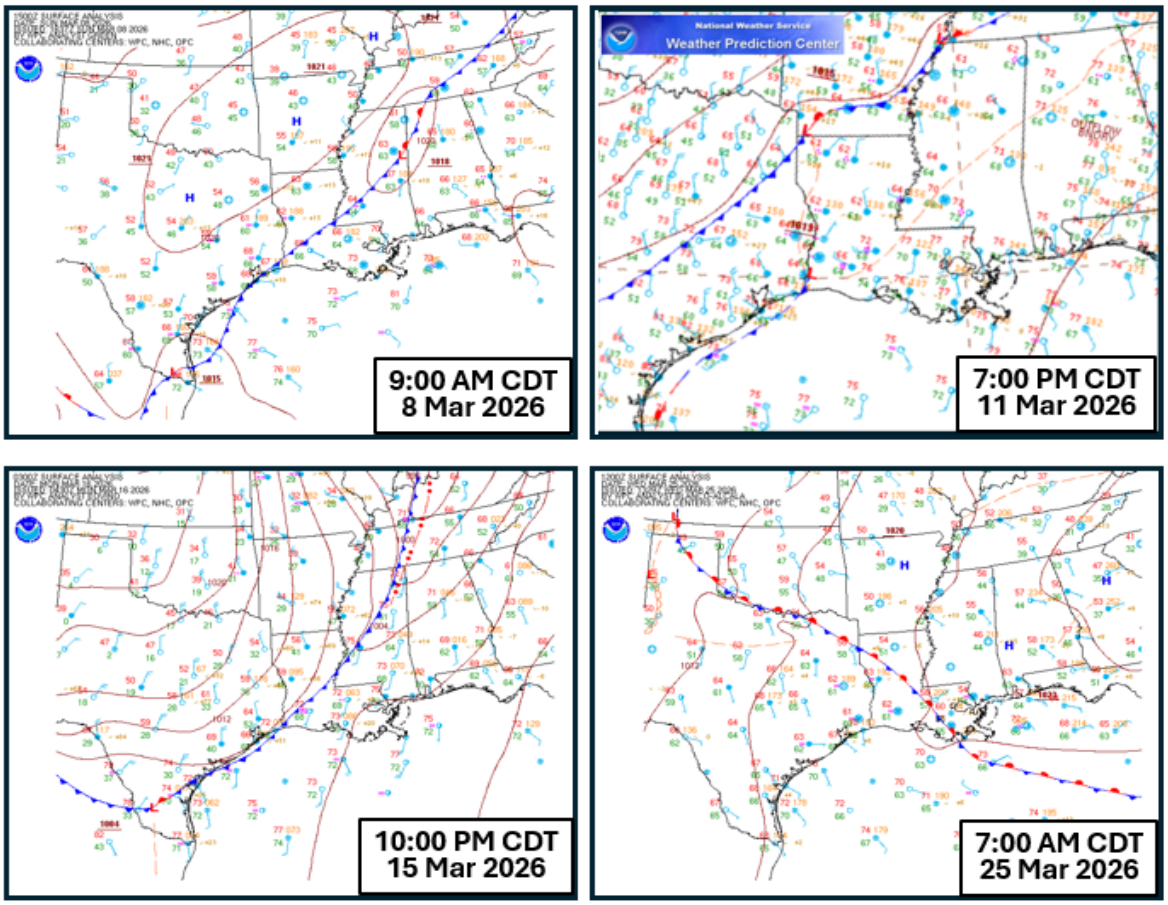
March can be a turbulent month weather-wise for the Bayou State, both in terms of temperature swings and severe weather. Frontal passages are typically frequent, and 'warm' southerly flow off the Gulf prior to their arrival or around high pressure can send high temperatures into the 80°s and even over 90° as was the case this month. However, it is still early enough in spring for the state to experiences freezes after particularly potent frontal passages.

March 'came in like a lamb' with relatively benign (albeit warm conditions) as surface high pressure was centered east of the state and a front was to the north. Daily precipitation coverage gradually increased and the first severe weather of the month accompanied a front that moved into the state but retreated northward on March 7-8. Some portions of southern Louisiana received several inches of rain and flooding was reported in spots.

A far more significant severe weather event took place on March 11 (p. 2), accompanying a front that eventually moved out of the state on March 12. After the front moved through, a much cooler air mass moved into the state although no freezing temperatures were reported.

Another frontal passage on the 15th provided more severe weather and even some reports of graupel the morning of the 16th. This reinforcing shot of 'cool' air prompted windy conditions and freezes the mornings of the 17th and 18th. A dry and warm period followed with temperatures rebounding to levels not typically observed until late April. The next front moved into the state on March 23rd and eventually stalled and washed out but provided no significant weather. March 25 & 26 were notable for *Dense Fog Advisories* but a dry frontal passage on March 27 reduced humidities and led to a *Fire Weather Watch* and a *Red Flag Warning* being issued for portions of Louisiana. March ended mostly dry and warm with no additional fronts.

Typical of March, 'warm' and muggy air moving in from the Gulf over cooler land surfaces prompted several *Dense Fog Advisories* across the southern parishes (p. 3). Also, weeks of drier-than-normal conditions in combination with post-frontal winds and low humidities led to *Red Flag Warnings* (p. 3). Despite an increase in drought (p. 8), the number of parishes under Burn Bans decreased during the month (p. 6).



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March Impactful Weather:

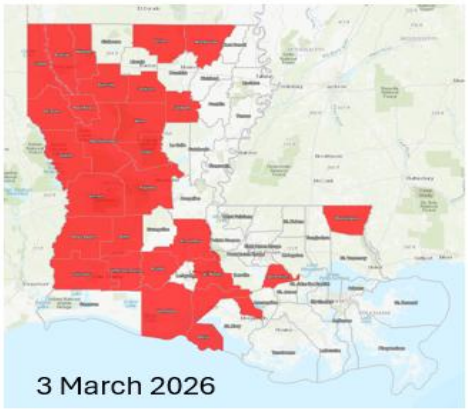
March can be a very active month for severe weather. Frontal passages are typically frequent and serve as an instigator for severe weather by bringing in 'warm' and 'moist' air from the Gulf while ushering in relatively 'cool' and 'dry' air following their passage. However, despite numerous such passages, March 2026 was relatively quiet. Outside of the March 11th tornado outbreak, the only other severe weather *Warnings* were issued March 7-9 and then again on the 15th.

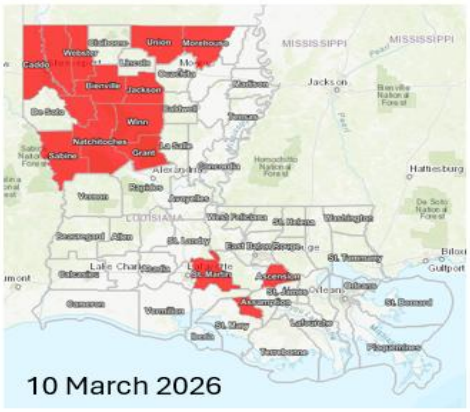
March is also known for wide temperature ranges as was the case this month. Low temperatures dipped into the 20°s for most areas north of the I-10/12 corridor around mid-month. There was only one freeze but it was a bit late in the month (March 17-18), especially for central and southern Louisiana.

At the other extreme, sections of northern Louisiana reported daytime highs in the 90°s on 1-2 days.

The recent run of dryness/drought continued through March and was coupled with above-normal temperatures. The higher than typical moisture demand continued to tax soil moisture reserves that were already reduced from a dry fall and winter season. This resulted in an increase of drought coverage and intensity in the ***U.S. Drought Monitor***. Despite that, the number of parishes with Burn Bans decreased to include almost only those in north-central Louisiana.

Fog can also be an issue in March when 'warm' and 'moist' Gulf air moves over cooler land masses. The predominantly southerly/southeasterly flow (p. 9) allowed for such occurrences and prompted *Dense Fog Advisories* for southern portions of the state on March 1-3, 5, 9, 20, and 22- 27.



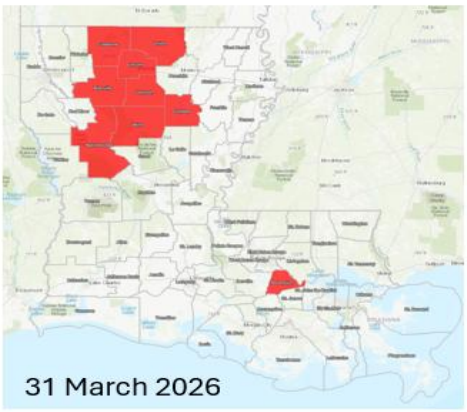


Parish Burn Bans
March 2026

Selected Dates







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Selected March Extremes:

There was a wide range of precipitation amounts across the state during March per LOSC tables (pp. 10-14). The lowest amounts were in the northern and north-central Louisiana climate divisions, where many stations recorded less than 3.00" for the month (pp. 10-11); Monroe MLU AP (NC Div) with 1.67" was the state's lowest monthly rain total. Farther south, rain totals generally increased with March's highest amounts observed in the east-central and central climate divisions: the LSU Campus (EC Div) posted March's largest total at 11.06" followed by FSA-Opelousas (C Div) with 10.38". LSU also had the highest daily total of 8.08" which fell on March 7 (recorded on the morning report of the 8th). Most reporting locations experienced around 6 rain days for the month.

Almost all temperature-reporting stations reached 85°F or more at least one day during March with Baton Rouge Metro AP (EC Div), Monroe MLU AP (NC Div), Natchitoches #2 (WC Div), and Alexandia 5 SSE (C Div) each recording 10 such days. For the first time this calendar year, there were stations that reached 90°F including the statewide maximum of 91°F recorded at Blanchard (NW Div) on March 22, which was a record for that location and day. Shreveport SHV AP (NW Div) recorded 90°F on March 21 which was also a daily record; 90°F highs were also recorded at SHV-Southern Hills (a daily record) and Leesville (WC Div). Several other stations neared or broke daily high temperature records throughout the month. On the flip side, the only March freezes occurred on the mornings of the 17th and 18th. The statewide low temperature of 20°F was recorded at Homer 1 N (NC Div) on March 17, which was a record low for that date. Lows in the 20°s extended all the way into southern Louisiana that morning.

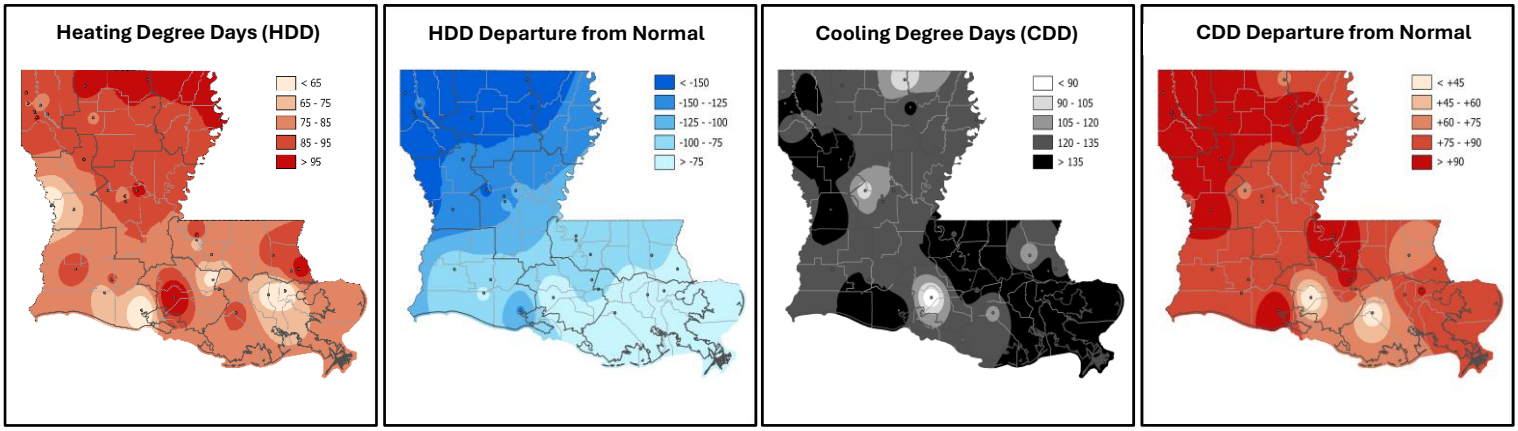
March Degree Day Assessment:

March is known for a wide range of temperatures across the Bayou State which can place demand on both heating and cooling systems depending on the dominant temperature patterns. With average temperatures across the state running from 4° to 9° above-normal, the demand for energy to cool was far more significant than the demand for heating. This is reflected in the data for Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and Cooling Degree Days (CDDs).

March HDDs were below-normal across the entire state, particularly across northern Louisiana. A review of the statewide data shows that total HDDs ran from approximately 1/3rd to 1/2 of normal (pp. 10-14), suggesting below-normal demand for heating.

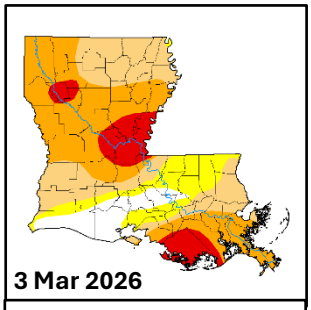
In contrast to HDDs, total CDDs were close to double and triple March norms thanks to the unusually 'warm' temperatures. This suggests that air conditioning units were humming for longer portions of the month than what would be expected. Despite that, the Residential Energy Demand Temperature Index (REDTI) suggested overall energy demand was lower than typical for March (not shown).

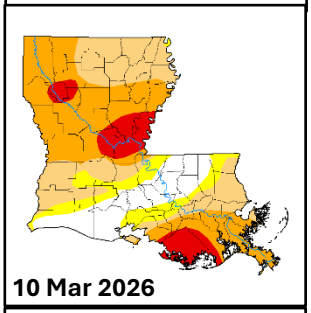
March Heating (HDD) and Cooling Degree Days (CDD)

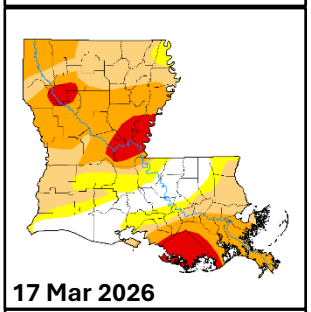


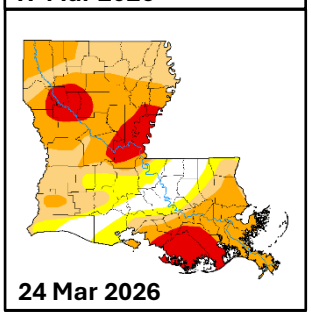
Degree Day (DD) units can be used as proxies for energy demand required to maintain indoor thermal comfort. Heating DDs reflect the needs for indoor heating; Cooling DDs approximate the energy needs for indoor cooling. DDs compare the daily average temperature against a threshold of 65°F, with the average daily temperature defined as: (Tavg = [Tmax + Tmin] / 2), where Tmax is the daily high temperature and Tmin is the daily minimum. CDDs are accumulated as the sum of the difference between the daily average temperature (Tavg) and 65°F when Tavg > 65°F; HDDs are the accumulated difference between Tavg and 65°F when Tavg < 65°F.

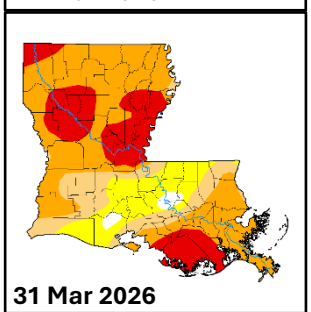
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3 Mar 2026


10 Mar 2026


17 Mar 2026


24 Mar 2026


31 Mar 2026

D0: Abnormally Dry
D1: Moderate Drought
D2: Severe Drought
D3: Extreme Drought
D4: Exceptional Drought

Louisiana Weekly U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) thru March:

Louisiana began March 2026 with over 3/4ths of the state designated as 'in drought'. Nearly 1/2 of the state was in 'Severe Drought' (D2) or 'Extreme Drought' (D3). Nearly 1/2 of the state was designated as D2 or D3 with over 12% designated as D3.

By the end of the month, overall drought coverage had increased to over 84%: D3 extended over nearly 1/4th of the state, D2 covered more than 45%, and 'Moderate Drought' (D1) extended over another 15%.

March is a pivotal month for the Bayou State. Agricultural activities begin to increase. Spring greening is fully underway and temperatures are on the rise, both of which lead to increasing evapotranspiration (ETo) rates. Moisture deficits accrued during March can have a lasting effect on vegetation health, soil moisture depletion, crop health, etc., later in spring and into the summer months. This was especially true this March as the state already had been accruing moisture deficits for months.

March started out mostly dry and significantly warmer-than-normal as the state was under consistent "warm" southerly flow off the Gulf. A more active pattern began when a front entered the state on March 7th and brought the first significant severe weather event of the month, including reports of flash flooding across southern Louisiana. The active pattern continued when frontal passages on March 11th and 15th provided the second and final significant severe weather events of the month. Conditions temporarily cooled following those two mid-month frontal passages but quickly warmed to above-normal levels that remained the rule for most of the remainder of March. No significant rain fell anywhere in the state until the final three days of the month.

In response to the conditions noted above, the ***Drought Monitor*** depiction for March 10th showed limited improvements across southern Louisiana. However, it remained the same across northern and far southeastern Louisiana and drought still covered 3/4ths of the state. In response to the rains on March 11th and 15th, additional improvements took place primarily across northern Louisiana. However, as conditions dried out and temperatures increased during the last two weeks of the month, the ***Drought Monitor*** responded accordingly with increases in spatial drought coverage and intensification.

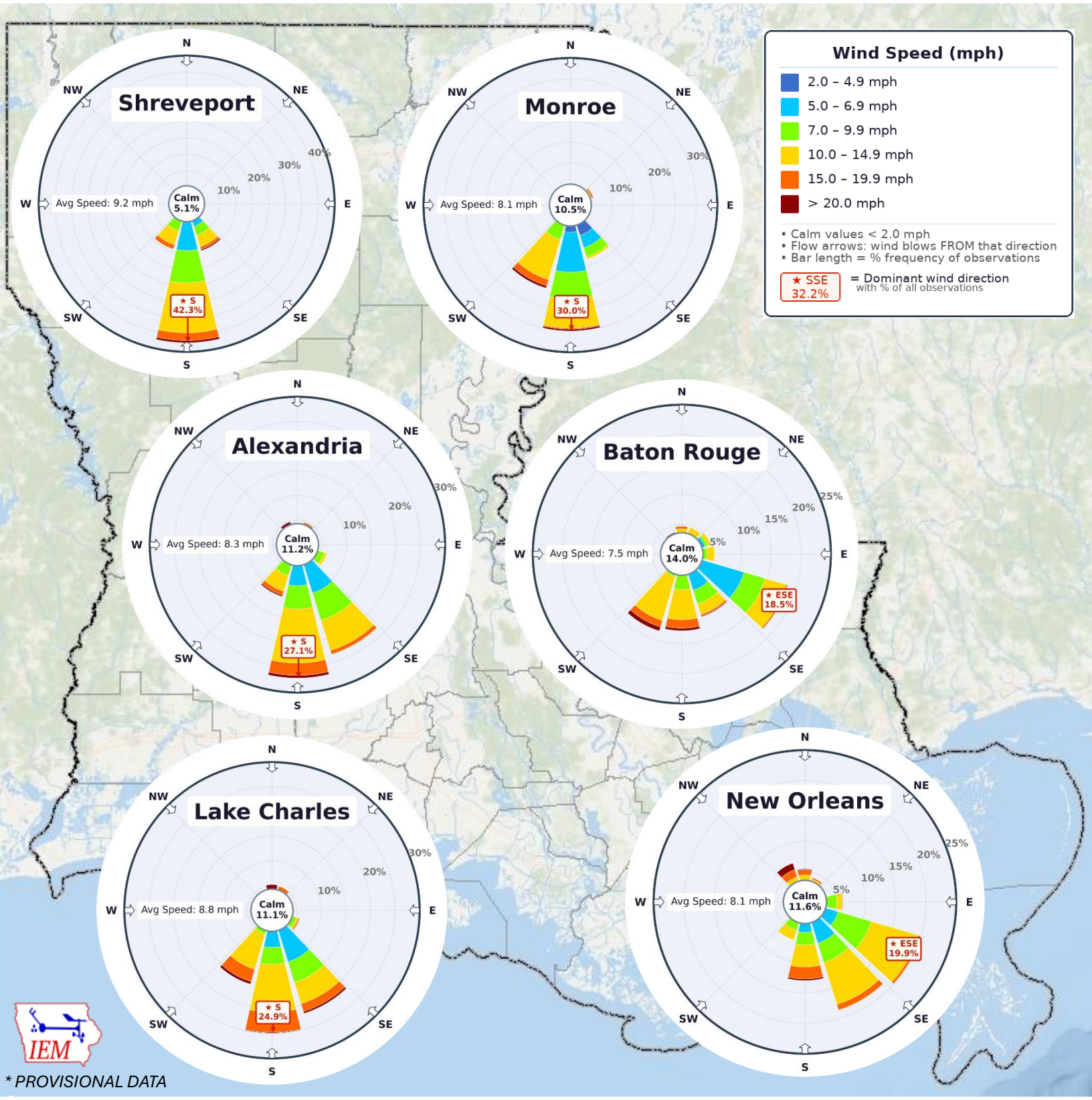
Drought and Climate Outlook:

The expected transition from ***La Niña*** to ENSO-neutral conditions took place in March.

ENSO-neutral ('***La Nada***') is expected into the summer before ***El Niño*** is expected to develop. There is a possibility that this could become a 'super' ***El Niño*** rivaling the events of 2015-2016, 1997-1998, 1991-1992, 1982-1983, and 1972-1973. The latest three-month outlook from the NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is typical of ENSO-neutral conditions and shows equal chances of above or below-normal precipitation in Louisiana. It also shows a chance of above-normal temperatures; if received precipitation is not enough to compensate for anticipated higher-than-normal moisture demand, drought will expand in intensity and aerial coverage.

When ***El Niño*** forms, it typically leads to wetter-than-normal conditions across Louisiana during the winter months as the subtropical jet stream is displaced to the north and tends to push storm tracks across the Gulf and into the southern US. Should this take place, drought conditions should improve or be eliminated during that time.

Windroses for Selected Cities: March 2026



Windroses Courtesy: Iowa Environmental Mesonet (IEM), Iowa State University

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March Monthly Division & State Temperature and Precipitation Summaries

Divisions	Avg T-Max	Avg T-Min	T-Avg	T-Avg DFN	Highest T-Max	Lowest T-Min	HDD	HDD %Norm	CDD	CDD %Norm	Total Precip	Precip DFN	1-Day P-Max	Rain Days
Northwest	78.5	54.1	66.3	+8.6	91	25	88	33	136	332	2.98	-2.20	3.16	4
North Central	78.2	52.1	65.2	+8.0	89	20	96	34	120	308	2.20	-3.17	2.26	4
Northeast	78.5	53.0	65.7	+7.9	87	27	96	36	125	284	3.50	-1.89	2.63	6
West Central	80.5	53.8	67.2	+8.0	90	26	69	30	145	290	2.73	-2.38	3.08	5
Central	78.5	52.8	65.7	+5.6	87	24	89	42	114	197	4.86	-0.04	5.95	5
East Central	78.0	54.5	66.2	+5.4	88	24	88	46	137	225	6.08	+0.91	8.18	8
Southwest	76.4	56.9	66.6	+4.8	84	27	74	43	138	197	2.95	-0.81	4.40	5
South Central	77.0	55.4	66.2	+3.9	87	32	84	53	122	161	4.06	+0.10	4.65	5
Southeast	76.4	58.4	67.4	+4.6	84	33	65	45	148	187	4.22	-0.13	5.21	7
STATE	**78.0**	**54.6**	**66.3**	**+6.2**	**91**	**20**	**83**	**44**	**132**	**206**	**3.73**	**-1.02**	**8.18**	**5**

March Monthly Station & Division Temperature and Precipitation Summaries

Stations	Avg T-Max	Avg T-Min	T-Avg	T-Avg DFN	Highest T-Max	Lowest T-Min	HDD	HDD %Norm	CDD	CDD %Norm	Total Precip	Precip DFN	1-Day P-Max	P-Max Date	Rain Days
Northwest Division															
Blanchard	79.8	53.6	66.7	-	91	25	84	-	144	-	2.74	-	1.19	3/11	4
Bossier City 4.0 S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.07	-	2.48	3/12	4
Converse 7.8 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.93	-	2.05	3/12	4
Keithville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.00	-2.03	2.00	3/12	5
Logansport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.99	-2.37	2.24	3/12	5
Mooringsport 1 N	76.4	54.5	65.4	+8.2	89	29	96	36	118	492	3.43	-1.27	1.73	3/12	4
Plain Dealing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.84	-2.52	1.26	3/12	4
Red River Res Sta	77.9	54.3	66.1	+8.3	87	27	93	36	131	423	3.03	-2.04	2.25	3/12	4
Shreveport DTN AP	78.9	56.3	67.6	+8.1	89	28	73	34	160	372	2.28	-2.45	1.88	3/11	4
Shreveport SHV AP	79.2	54.3	66.8	+7.7	90	25	81	36	145	372	2.28	-2.62	1.76	3/11	4
Shreveport WFO	77.9	54.7	66.3	+8.4	88	27	89	36	134	496	2.30	-2.70	1.70	3/11	6
SHV Southern Hills	79.5	51.2	65.3	+8.5	90	25	101	36	118	513	3.43	-1.60	2.37	3/12	4
Springhill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.60	-2.45	1.85	3/11	2
Stonewall 5.3 NE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.58	-	2.68	3/12	3
Taylortown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.15	-	3.16	3/12	6
Division	**78.5**	**54.1**	**66.3**	**+8.6**	**91**	**25**	**88**	**33**	**136**	**332**	**2.98**	**-2.20**	**3.16**		**4**
North Central Division															
Arcadia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.38	-2.52	2.26	3/12	3
Bienville 3 NE	78.5	53.9	66.2	+8.4	87	24	84	33	132	440	2.42	-3.09	1.10	3/11	5
Calhoun 4.3 SSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.96	-3.47	1.22	3/12	3
Carlton 1.7 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.79	-	1.20	3/12	4
Columbia Lock	78.3	51.9	65.1	+7.3	87	28	M	M	M	M	2.16	-2.98	1.10	3/12	4
Homer 1 N	77.0	51.1	64.1	+9.3	88	20	M	M	M	M	2.84	-2.84	2.20	3/12	5
Jamestown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.58	-2.68	2.00	3/12	2

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***North Central Division** (cont.)*															
Jonesboro 3.8 ESE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.91	-	1.10	3/12	3
Monroe MLU AP	79.0	53.9	66.5	+8.3	89	26	88	36	138	406	1.56	-3.65	1.03	3/11	4
Monroe 26 N	78.1	49.7	63.9	+8.2	89	22	117	38	91	479	1.97	-3.84	1.29	3/11	4
Quitman 2.5 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00	-	1.03	3/12	5
Rocky Branch 1.3 W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00	-	1.48	3/12	3
Ruston 5.4 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.68	-	0.84	3/12	6
Ruston 5.5 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.26	-3.40	1.89	3/12	4
Sikes 1.0 SW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.52	-	1.79	3/12	5
Division	**78.2**	**52.1**	**65.2**	**+8.0**	**89**	**20**	**96**	**34**	**120**	**308**	**2.20**	**-3.17**	**2.26**		**4**
Northeast Division															
FSA-Oak Grove 0.2 S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.29	-	1.70	3/12	M
FSA-St. Joseph 0.5 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.08	-	M	M	M
FSA-Tallulah 1.7 SSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.36	-	M	M	M
Oak Grove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.49	-1.97	1.78	3/12	4
Oak Grove 1.9 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.93	-	1.78	3/12	6
Pioneer 0.3 WSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.42	-	2.63	3/8	6
Tallulah TVR AP	78.5	53.0	65.7	+6.6	87	27	96	43	125	321	1.96	-3.06	0.90	3/11	7
Division	**78.5**	**53.0**	**65.7**	**+7.9**	**87**	**27**	**96**	**36**	**125**	**284**	**3.50**	**-1.89**	**2.63**		**6**
West Central Division															
Anacoco 3.0 SW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.84	-	1.88	3/12	7
Campti 0.6 SW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.79	-	1.32	3/12	6
Campti 5.7 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.64	-	1.10	3/12	4
Goldonna 1.5 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.90	-	1.55	3/8	3
Hornbeck 2.3 NE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.17	-	1.78	3/12	4
Leesville	80.7	54.8	67.7	+8.0	90	26	73	35	162	338	4.45	-1.06	3.08	3/8	7
Leesville 7.1 SSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.11	-	1.12	3/12	7
Natchitoches #2	79.7	53.7	66.7	+7.7	88	28	87	38	148	352	1.97	-3.89	1.15	3/12	5
Noble 1.8 ESE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.15	-	1.36	3/12	3
Pitkin 6.6 WNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.22	-	1.20	3/8	5
Pleasant Hill 10.2 SE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.21	-3.31	1.48	3/12	4
Toledo Bend Lake	81.2	53.0	67.1	+7.7	85	32	48	23	124	326	2.79	-2.39	1.33	3/8	6
Zwolle 2 NW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.24	-3.07	1.53	3/12	2
Division	**80.5**	**53.8**	**67.2**	**+8.0**	**90**	**26**	**69**	**30**	**145**	**290**	**2.73**	**-2.38**	**3.08**		**5**
Central Division															
Alexandria	79.2	53.2	66.2	+7.0	86	31	77	36	119	331	2.42	-2.76	1.70	3/8	4
Alexandria 5 SSE	79.0	52.6	65.8	+6.0	86	24	89	43	123	273	3.42	-1.33	2.75	3/8	3
Alexandria AEX AP	78.4	54.1	66.2	+6.5	86	26	M	M	M	M	3.87	-1.05	1.85	3/11	8
Alexandria ESF AP	79.5	51.3	65.4	+6.3	87	25	101	45	120	300	3.83	-1.61	2.34	3/11	7
Beaver Fire Tower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.30	+3.18	5.95	3/8	7
Boyce 3 WNW	76.8	53.1	65.0	+7.1	82	29	88	36	93	388	6.67	+0.88	2.90	3/11	7

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Central Division *(cont.)*															
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Colfax 7.2 NW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.53	-	1.59	3/8	6
FSA-Ferriday 1.0 WSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.18	-	1.62	3/12	M
FSA-Opelousas 1.0 ESE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.38	-	M	M	M
Grand Coteau 2.7 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.85	+1.70	4.06	3/8	4
Hessmer 2.5 WSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.92	-	1.37	3/8	6
Jonesville Locks	78.2	52.6	65.4	+7.8	87	31	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Marksville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.35	-1.26	1.90	3/12	2
Pineville 0.4 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.08	-	2.35	3/12	6
Red River Lock #1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.61	-0.62	1.60	3/12	5
Red River Lock #2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.43	+0.99	2.70	3/12	6
Trout 4.4 WSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.69	-	2.05	3/10	5
Ville Platte	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.14	+2.65	5.80	3/8	5
Division	**78.5**	**52.8**	**65.7**	**+5.6**	**87**	**24**	**89**	**42**	**114**	**197**	**4.86**	**-0.04**	**5.95**		**5**
East Central Division															
Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.68	-0.90	M	M	M
Baton Rouge Metro AP	79.5	55.2	67.3	+5.3	88	32	77	49	158	243	4.37	-0.09	1.92	3/7	8
Baton Rouge 0.5 ESE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.73	-	5.05	3/8	7
Baton Rouge 3.5 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.33	-	5.30	3/8	8
Baton Rouge 6.2 SSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.55	-	5.84	3/8	9
Central 2.2 SE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.00	+1.09	3.50	3/8	5
Covington 8 WNW	78.0	52.4	65.2	+4.5	87	29	92	52	108	240	5.44	+0.41	2.91	3/8	9
Denham Springs 6.8 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.42	+0.44	2.73	3/8	6
FSA-Amite City 0.8 SW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.20	-	M	M	M
Jackson 3.6 NNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.72	-	2.70	3/8	8
Lacombe 1.4 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.96	-2.21	1.54	3/8	7
Livingston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.79	+2.31	3.91	3/8	5
LSU Campus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.06	+6.22	8.18	3/8	8
New Roads 5 NE	79.2	57.4	68.3	+6.6	86	24	60	38	171	305	5.13	+0.64	2.28	3/7	5
Ponchatoula 4 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.66	-0.80	1.51	3/8	9
Ponchatoula 5.3 W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.91	-	2.48	3/8	10
Port Allen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.01	+1.71	2.70	3/8	7
Slidell	75.3	56.5	65.9	+5.1	84	34	M	M	M	M	3.38	-1.88	1.72	3/8	8
Slidell ASD AP	76.9	53.7	65.3	+4.4	84	30	106	60	125	250	3.65	-1.29	2.07	3/8	8
Slidell 4.4 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.76	-1.29	2.12	3/8	6
St. Francisville 1 NE	79.1	51.9	65.5	+5.5	87	27	103	54	125	347	7.20	-	4.07	3/8	8
Wakefield 0.2 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.78	-	2.53	3/8	9
Division	**78.0**	**54.5**	**66.2**	**+5.4**	**88**	**24**	**88**	**46**	**137**	**225**	**6.08**	**+0.91**	**8.18**		**8**

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Southwest Division															
Abbeville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.19	-1.78	1.18	3/12	5
Branch 0.4 SSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.24	-	1.55	3/12	5
Crowley 2 NE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.75	+0.91	3.07	3/8	5
FSA-De Ridder 0.9 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.42	-	M	M	M
Jennings	76.2	56.4	66.3	+5.2	83	31	87	51	134	268	2.71	-1.06	1.76	3/12	3
Kaplan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.85	-1.93	0.80	3/12	4
Lake Arthur 7 SW	75.5	58.9	67.2	+4.7	82	37	68	49	144	244	3.90	+0.80	2.58	3/8	6
Lake Charles 2 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.25	-1.42	1.00	3/8	5
Lake Charles Port	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.89	-1.93	0.90	3/12	5
Lake Charles LCH AP	77.0	54.9	65.9	+2.9	84	33	M	M	M	M	1.43	-2.24	0.61	3/11	5
Lake Charles 4.8 SSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.60	-	0.69	3/8	5
Leland Bowman Lock	75.5	60.1	67.8	+7.4	83	37	51	28	142	418	M	M	M	M	M
Moss Bluff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.38	-1.52	1.14	3/8	5
Moss Bluff 2 NNW	78.0	54.1	66.0	+4.7	84	27	91	53	132	232	2.52	-1.59	1.14	3/11	5
Oberlin Fire Tower	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	4.81	+0.72	4.40	3/8	3
Ragley 5.0 SE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.93	+1.03	2.66	3/8	6
Rayne 1.0 W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.19	-	3.07	3/8	6
Sulphur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00	-1.48	0.98	3/11	5
Sulphur 2.2 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.98	-1.93	1.07	3/12	5
Division	**76.4**	**56.9**	**66.6**	**+4.8**	**84**	**27**	**74**	**43**	**138**	**197**	**2.95**	**-0.81**	**4.40**		**5**
South Central Division															
Baldwin 1.8 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.80	-	1.01	3/12	4
Bayou Sorrel Lock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.97	-1.12	1.35	3/8	4
Breaux Bridge 0.7 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.51	-	1.53	3/9	6
Carencro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.83	+1.68	2.65	3/8	4
Carville 2 SW	77.9	58.3	68.1	+6.0	85	37	53	37	155	298	5.01	+0.59	2.35	3/8	7
Donaldsonville 4 SW	78.3	54.5	66.4	+4.7	87	36	82	51	134	223	3.62	-0.41	1.08	3/8	6
Jeanerette 5 NW	74.1	52.8	63.5	+2.1	82	34	117	71	77	148	2.00	-1.86	1.05	3/12	6
Lafayette LFT AP	77.6	56.8	67.2	+4.3	84	33	M	M	M	M	3.63	-0.09	1.57	3/11	6
Lafayette 2.9 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.06	-	1.52	3/12	3
New Iberia ARA AP	77.2	54.7	66.0	+3.4	85	32	M	M	M	M	1.91	-1.00	0.99	3/8	6
Plaquemine 2 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.95	+3.74	4.65	3/8	7
St. Gabriel 2.8 NNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.35	-	3.14	3/8	8
St. Martinville 0.2 S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.11	-0.85	0.94	3/12	3
Division	**77.0**	**55.4**	**66.2**	**+3.9**	**87**	**32**	**84**	**53**	**122**	**161**	**4.06**	**+0.10**	**4.65**		**5**

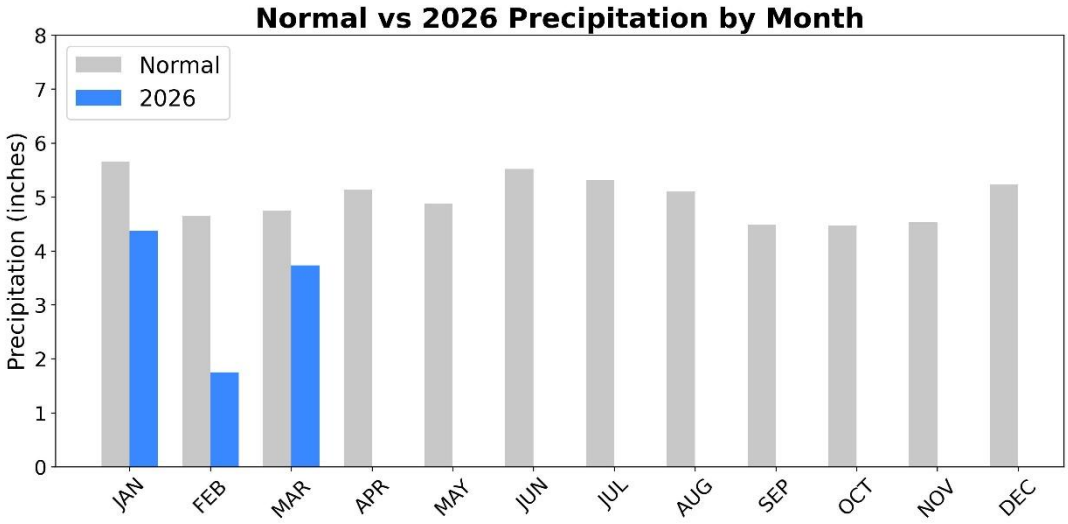
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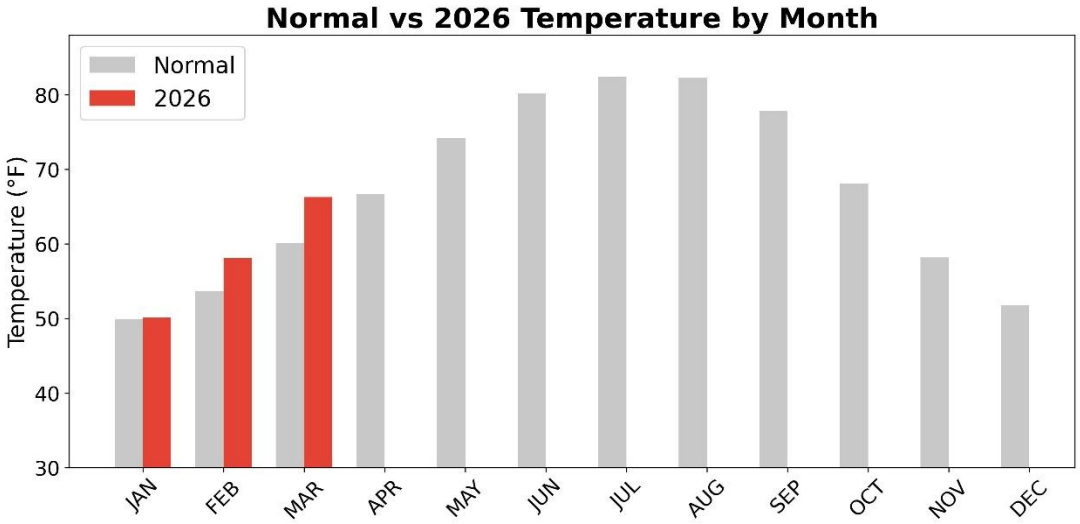
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Southeast Division															
Stations	**Avg T-Max**	**Avg T-Min**	**T-Avg**	**T-Avg DFN**	**Highest T-Max**	**Lowest T-Min**	**HDD**	**HDD %Norm**	**CDD**	**CDD %Norm**	**Total Precip**	**Precip DFN**	**1-Day P-Max**	**P-Max Date**	**Rain Days**
Belle Chasse 1.6 NNE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.90	-	1.58	3/12	8
Cut Off 0.8 WNW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.07	-	1.48	3/12	7
Dulac 3 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.78	+0.40	2.18	3/30	9
Dutchtown #2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.25	-0.21	1.80	3/8	7
Gonzales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.80	+3.14	5.21	3/8	6
Houma 4.1 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.79	-	1.67	3/31	7
NO-Armstrong AP	77.2	58.9	68.1	+4.3	83	41	57	48	160	195	3.20	-1.16	1.27	3/8	8
NO-Lakefront AP	76.2	61.1	68.7	+4.6	84	41	46	43	170	218	4.01	-0.62	1.59	3/8	7
New Orleans 2.8 E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.64	-	1.80	3/12	7
Metairie 2.8 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.71	-	1.44	3/12	7
St. Amant 3.3 N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.72	-	1.88	3/8	6
St. Rose 0.3 W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.94	-	1.10	3/12	6
Thibodaux 4 SE	75.7	55.3	65.5	+1.7	84	33	92	75	115	132	2.42	-2.43	0.96	3/30	8
Westwego 2.4 ENE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.91	-	1.26	3/8	7
Division	**76.4**	**58.4**	**67.4**	**+4.6**	**84**	**33**	**65**	**45**	**148**	**187**	**4.22**	**-0.13**	**5.21**		**7**

* T – Temperature (^{0}F) DFN - Departure from Normal P – Precipitation (in.) "-" indicates data not available "M" - missing observation(s)



Louisiana has opened 2026 with three drier-than-normal months, continuing a trend that began in February 2025. Soils were unable to 're-charge' prior to spring greening; thus, drought conditions intensified as moisture demand increased.



March's average temperature was significantly above-normal, similar to February. That combined with below-normal precipitation continued to strain already reduced moisture reserves and led to an increase in drought coverage and intensity across the Bayou State.

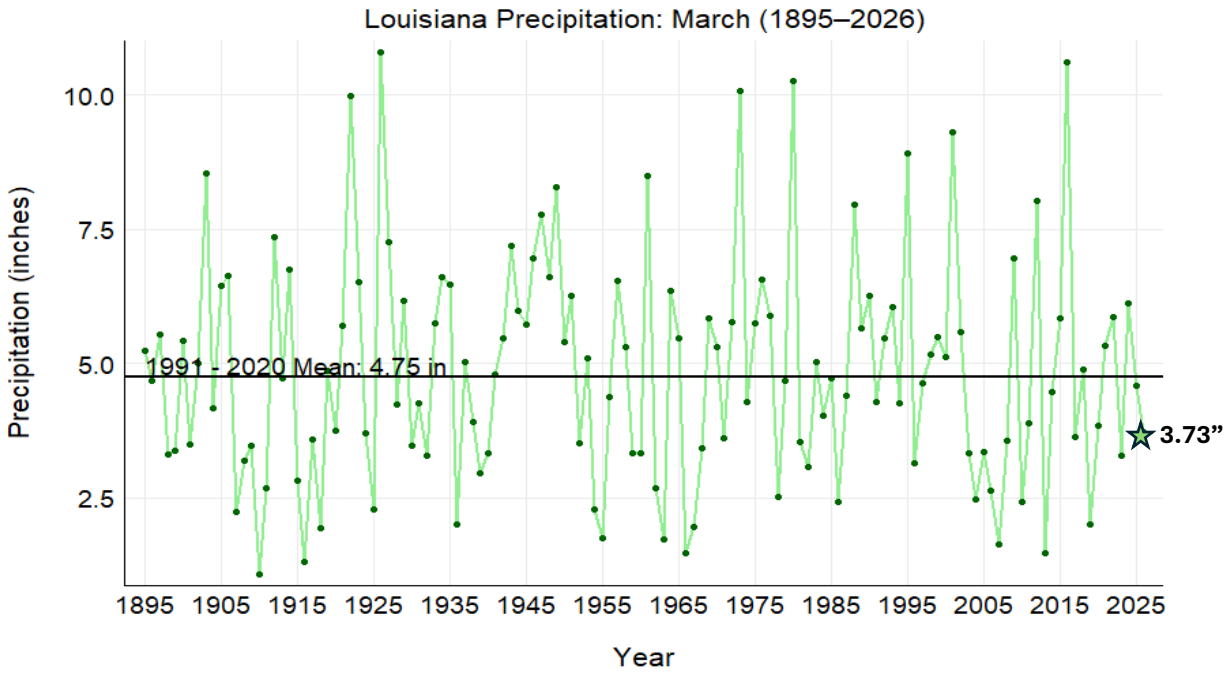
Preliminary 2026 Y-T-D (Jan-Feb-March) Review:

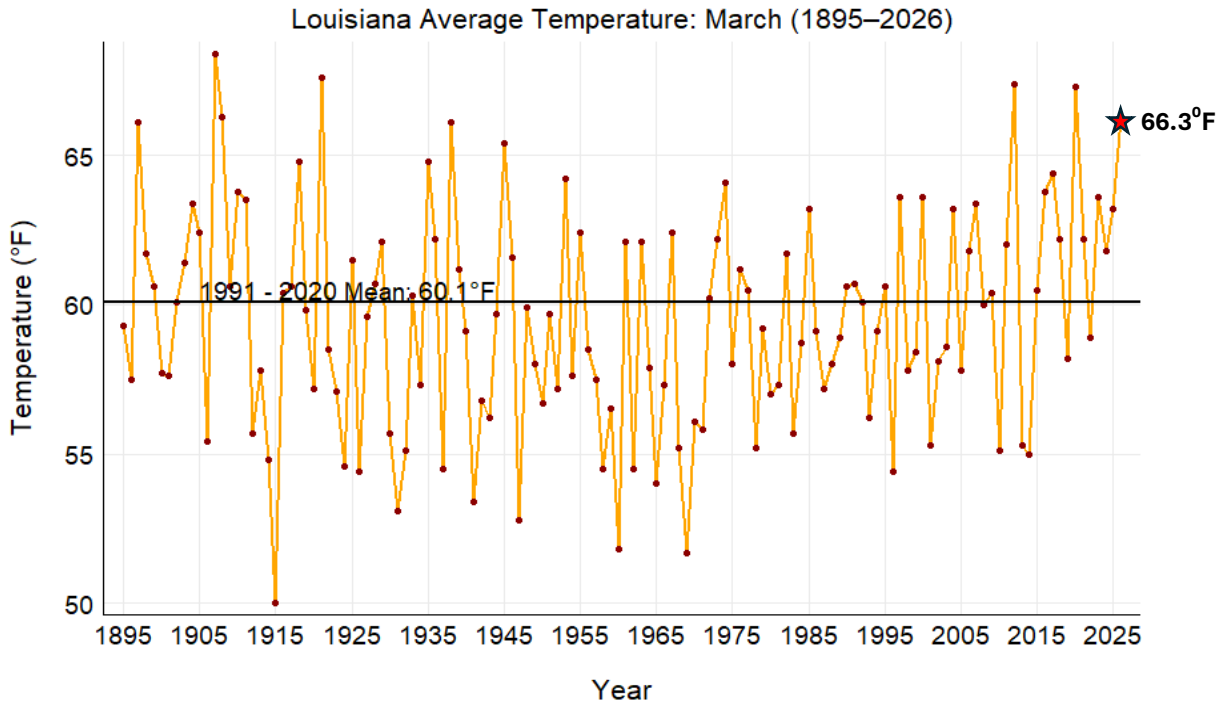
The preliminary assessment for the start of 2026 depicts a very 'dry' regime for Louisiana. The preliminary statewide precipitation total of 9.61" was 5.44" below the Jan-Feb-March normal and ranked as the 13th driest such period dating back to 1895 and the driest Jan-Feb-March since 2000 per NCEI records.

Besides being a 'dry' start to the year, it's also been a 'warm' start to the year. The preliminary Jan-Feb-March statewide average temperature of 58.0°F was significantly above the 1991-2020 normal of 54.6°F. This continues a recent run of 'warm' starts for the first quarter of the year: all but two Jan-Feb-March periods have been warmer-than-normal, beginning in 2016 (11 seasons).

NCEI* - *NOAA / National Centers for Environmental Information*

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☆ Preliminary Data

Precipitation and temperature data in this report are primarily retrieved through the ACIS QueryBuilder (rcc-acis.org) and the cli-MATE platform (MRCC Application Tools Environment), both of which are maintained by the NOAA Regional Climate Centers (RCCs). Drought data are sourced from the U.S. Drought Monitor (unl.edu), the LSU AgCenter, and the Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry.

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