

GEORGIA



CAPITAL
Atlanta



AREA
59,420 sq mi



POPULATION
11,302,748



MEDIAN INCOME
\$74,600 (household)



Temperature Trends:

Georgia is dominated by a humid subtropical climate, according to Köppen classification. It has short, mild winters and hot, humid summers, with little difference in precipitation between seasons.¹

Since 1900, average temperatures have risen by just 0.8°F, which is roughly half the national average.²

This very mild rise in average annual temperature is not a result of hotter high temperatures. Indeed, the number of extremely hot days (maximum temperature 100°F or higher) has declined since the early half of the twentieth century.³ (See figure below)

Instead, the average has risen due to a slight decrease in the number of frigid winter days in recent years.⁴ Fewer freezing nights has benefitted Georgians, because cold causes far more deaths than hot temperatures do.⁵

Precipitation:

There is no long-term trend in overall annual precipitation, nor in extreme precipitation events.⁶

Georgia is prone to occasional drought, and precipitation from year to year does vary. However, drought data show no long-term trend towards either more or fewer dry seasons.⁷

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Georgia has seen a decline in extreme heat, including fewer days with temperatures 100°F or higher.
- Average temperatures have risen at only half the national rate.
- Hurricane strikes have not increased, nor have wildfires.
- Major cash crops like peanuts have seen massive increases in yields over time.

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State-Specific Issues:*Hurricanes*

Georgia occasionally receives direct hits from hurricanes but often receives the remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms. The quantity of hurricanes striking Georgia has not increased over time. Instead, recent decades are generally quieter than the late 1800s. Nor has the quantity of major (Category 3-5) hurricanes increased.⁸

Sea Level Rise

As a coastal state, Georgia sees a relative sea level rise of a modest 3.67 mm/year (0.14 inches),⁹ based on tide gauge measurements taken at Fort Pulaski. Relative sea level rise is not due entirely to seas rising but also land sinking. Much of the northern coast of Georgia sees around 2 mm of land subsidence per year, accounting for more than half of measured “sea level rise.”¹⁰ This is due to a variety of factors, including the marshy coastline compacting over time, dams upriver preventing sediment from replenishing coastal marshes, and groundwater withdrawals.

Wildfires

Although the state is not known for regular seasonal wildfires, they often occur during periods of extended drought. Data going back to 2002 show a trend towards fewer wildfires and less acreage burned.¹¹

Agriculture:

While Georgia is known for peaches, they are not actually the highest value crop in the state. Georgia is the number one producer in the country for peanuts and pecans and has a long history of cotton production.

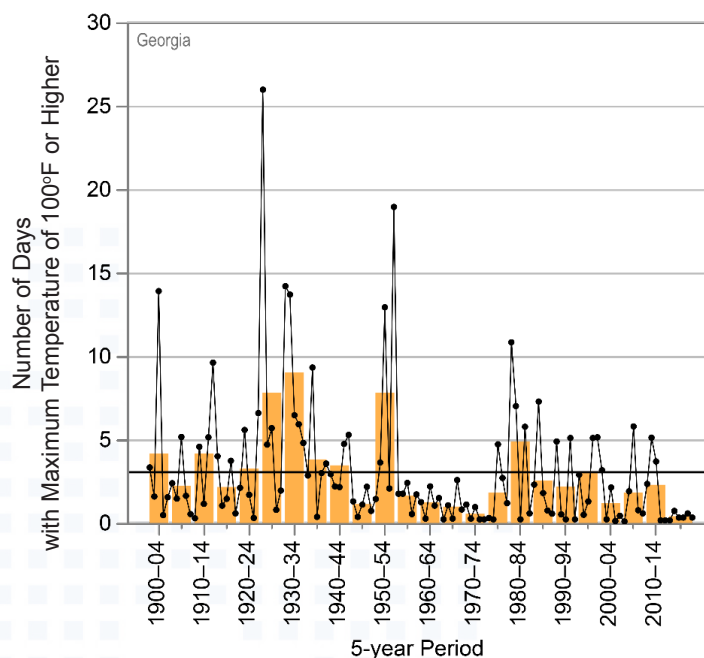
Figure 1: Observed Number of Extremely Hot Days

Figure 1: Observed number of very hot days in Georgia since 1900. Dots are annual values. Orange bars show averages over a 5-year period, the last bar is a 6-year average. The horizontal black line shows the average of the entire period. Chart Source from Frankson, R., et al. Georgia State Climate Summary 2022.

Georgia peanuts have increased in yield per acre by more than 470 percent since 1909. Production has increased an amazing 11,000 percent, from a few million pounds per season to more than 3.7 billion.¹²

Pecans have a much shorter reporting period. But since 2018, amid a record crop (2020) and low years from hurricane losses, yields have expanded by 31 percent.¹³

Cotton has been grown in Georgia since the early colonial period. Since 1900, it has seen an increase in production of about 47 percent even as the acreage devoted to cotton production has declined. During the same period, the yield per acre planted has increased by more than 500 percent.¹⁴

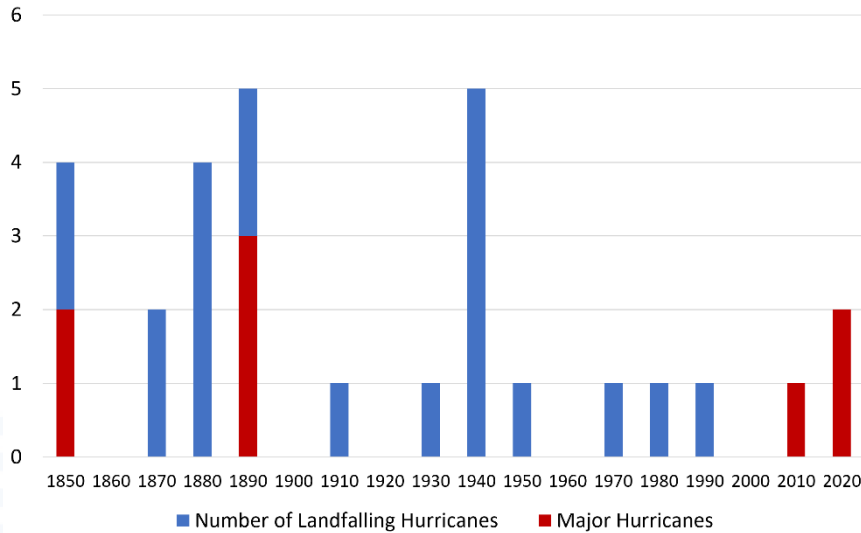
Figure 2: Georgia Hurricanes, by Decade

Figure 2: Count of landfalling hurricanes in Georgia from 1850-2025. Blue bars are total hurricanes, red parts indicate the count of major hurricanes. Data from NOAA Historical Hurricane Tracks HURDAT 2 database at <https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/dataset/historical-hurricane-tracks-gis-map-viewer>

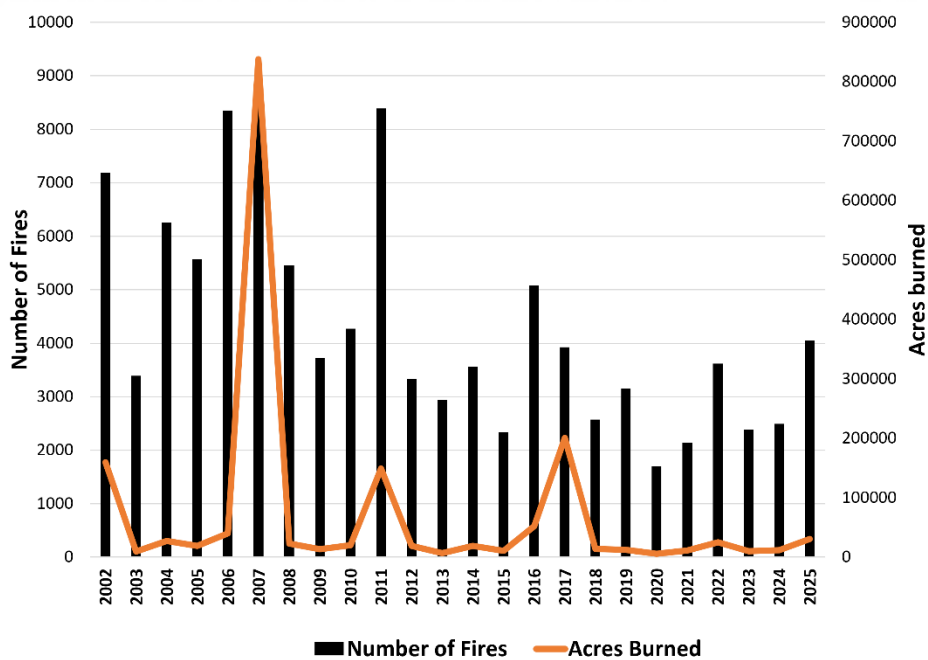
Figure 3: Georgia Wildfires 2006-2025

Figure 3: Wildfires in Georgia from 2002 – 2025. Data from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

Conclusion:

Georgia is not suffering from any climate catastrophe. Warming has been extremely mild, with no trend in days with extreme heat. Freezing

temperatures, which can be dangerous to human health, have declined. The Peach State is also experiencing fewer springs frosts, which is bad for fruiting trees. With no increase in extreme weather, crop production has flourished.

Endnotes

- 1 “United States Koppen-Geiger Climate Classification Map,” plantmaps.com, https://www.plantmaps.com/koppen-climate-classification-map-united-states.php#google_vignette
- 2 “Georgia State Climate Summary 2022,” NOAA Technical Report NESDIS 150-GA, <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ga/>
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 “Temperature Related Deaths,” Climate at a Glance, The Heartland Institute, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://climateataglance.com/climate-at-a-glance-temperature-related-deaths/>
- 6 “Georgia State Climate Summary 2022,” NOAA Technical Report NESDIS 150-GA, <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ga/>
- 7 “Climate at a Glance: Statewide Time Series,” NOAA National Centers for Environmental information, accessed June 26, 2026, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/time-series>
- 8 “Historical Hurricane Tracks – Gis Map Viewer,” NOAA Climate.gov, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.climate.gov/maps-data/dataset/historical-hurricane-tracks-gis-map-viewer>
- 9 “Relative Sea Level Trend - Fort Pulaski, Georgia,” NOAA Tides & Currents, accessed July 28, 2026, https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends_station.shtml?id=8670870
- 10 “America’s Sinking East Coast,” NASA Earth Observatory, February 20, 2024, <https://science.nasa.gov/earth/earth-observatory/americas-sinking-east-coast-152452/>
- 11 “Intelligence: NICC Annual Reports,” National Interagency Fire Center, accessed July 28, 2026, <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive-services/intelligence>
- 12 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peanut Production and Yield data for Georgia, USDA/NASS QuickStats, <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/results/160A9800-057F-3FD0-8B3E-5482B2CAF764>
- 13 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pecan Yield data for Georgia, USDA/NASS QuickStats, <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/results/3BA26208-26A0-3CB9-90F1-7C82F5903CAE>
- 14 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cotton Production and Yield data for Georgia, USDA/NASS QuickStats, <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/results/A40AA815-1B67-3A10-A29B-4265FBB3960B>