



SOUTH

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

QofM

Question of the Month



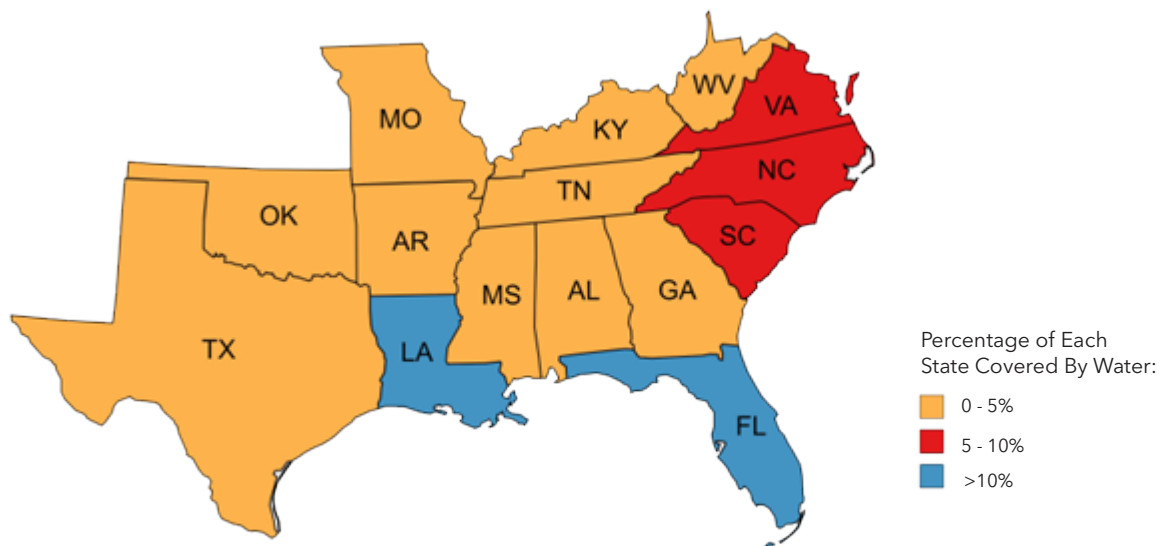
What percentage of each CSG South state is covered by water?

We often hear about water issues in the United States, from availability and quality to legal rights and infrastructure concerns. Water scarcity is a pressing concern in several states, particularly in the West, with prolonged droughts, over-extraction of groundwater, and increased demand for agriculture and urban growth straining resources. Meanwhile, much of the U.S. water infrastructure, including pipes, treatment plants, and distribution systems, is aging and in need of significant repair and replacement. Poor infrastructure can result in contamination of water sources, leading to unhealthy drinking water for communities across the country.

On the other hand, water provides important economic benefits, as it supports agriculture, manufacturing, energy production, and tourism, contributing trillions of dollars to the national economy. Reliable water resources are essential for job creation, energy generation, and sustaining industries, making it a critical driver of economic growth and prosperity in the U.S. Similarly, wetlands, rivers, and lakes provide critical habitats for wildlife and serve as natural water filtration systems that are essential for biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Amid all this, it's worth asking: what percentage of each state in the CSG South region is covered by water? And how do the Southern states compare to others across the country?

STATE	TOTAL AREA, SQUARE MILES	LAND AREA, SQUARE MILES	WATER AREA, SQUARE MILES	PERCENT COVERED BY WATER	NATIONAL RANKING
Alabama	52,420	50,645	1,775	3.4%	25
Arkansas	53,179	52,035	1,143	2.1%	35
Florida	65,758	53,625	12,133	18.5%	7
Georgia	59,425	57,513	1,912	3.2%	26
Kentucky	40,408	39,486	921	2.3%	33
Louisiana	52,378	43,204	9,174	17.5%	8
Mississippi	48,432	46,923	1,509	3.1%	28
Missouri	69,707	68,742	965	1.4%	39
North Carolina	53,819	48,618	5,201	9.7%	15
Oklahoma	69,899	68,595	1,304	1.9%	36
South Carolina	32,020	30,061	1,960	6.1%	20
Tennessee	42,144	41,235	909	2.2%	34
Texas	268,596	261,232	7,365	2.7%	30
Virginia	42,775	39,390	3,285	7.7%	18
West Virginia	24,230	24,038	192	0.8%	42



Source: United States Geological Survey, <https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/how-wet-your-state-water-area-each-state>.