Climate Outlooks

6-10 Day and 8-14 Day Outlooks

January 2026

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlooks are probabilistic forecasts with the shaded region on the map showing the most likely outcome.

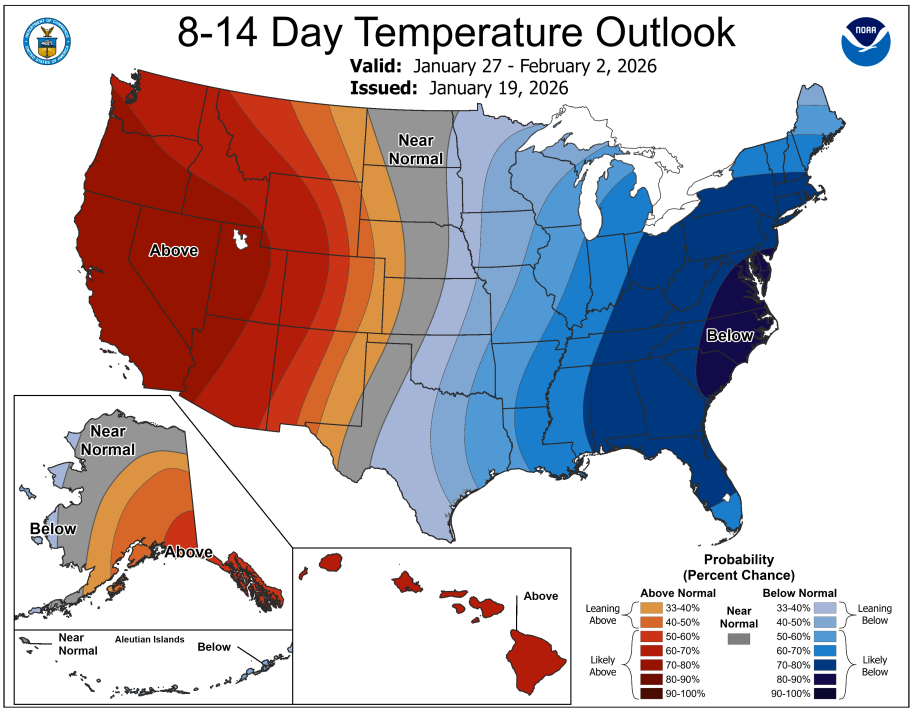
How to Read the Outlook Maps: 6-10 Day and 8-14 Day

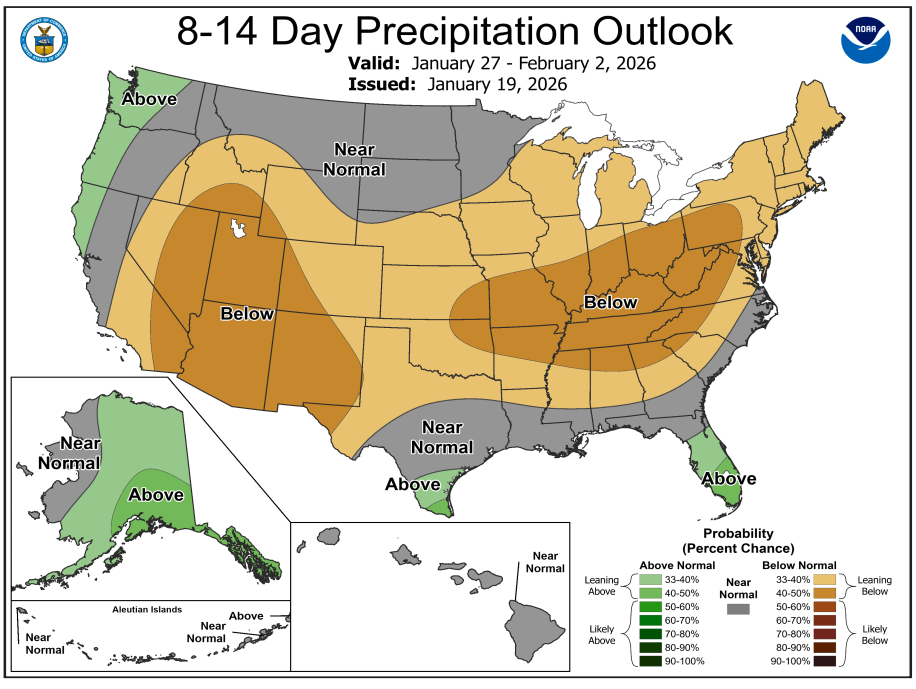
Shift in Probability: Probabilities between 33% and 50% lean toward the favored category while probabilities over 50% mean the favored category is likely

Above means enhanced probabilities in the upper tercile

Below means enhanced probabilities in the lower tercile

Near Normal means enhanced probabilites in the middle tercile (near the climatological average, or seasonable)





Shaded areas on map identify most likely category to occur

Gray: most likely to be near climatological averages for that area

Temperature:

Light Blue to **Dark Blue**: Most likely category would be for below average

Light Orange to **Red**: Most likely category would be for above average

Precipitation:

Light Green to **Dark Green**: Most likely category would be for above average

Light Brown to **Dark Brown**: Most likely category would be for below average

How are the three categories (BELOW, NEAR, and ABOVE) determined?

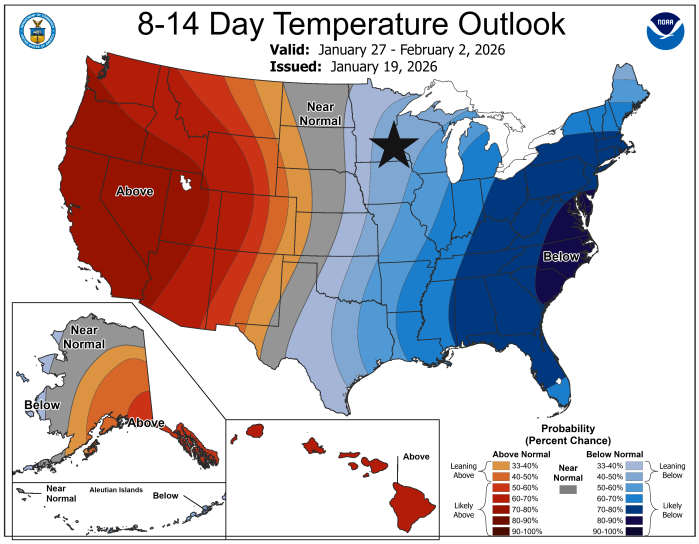
These categories are determined by taking data from a reference time period (1991-2020 is currently used), and separating this data into the lowest ⅓, the middle ⅓, and the highest ⅓. These data divisions, representing 33.3% of the data are called TERCILES.

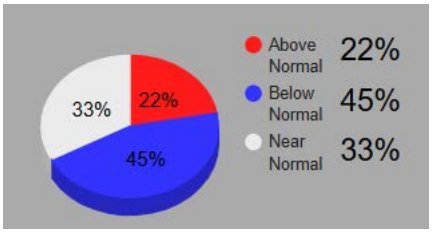
Without a climate signal, each of these categories would have a probability of occurring 33.3% of the time in the future. If there is a signal, the classification on the outlook maps (colors and numbers) represents the shift in likelihood of occurrence into one of the three categories. There is still a likelihood that actual conditions will fall in one of the other two categories, but this is not as likely as the classification indicated.

What does the shift in probability from one category to another mean?

The map shows the most likely category to occur. However, the other two categories also still have some likelihood of occurrence. Since the probability of all three categories occurring needs to add up to 100%, the probability that this classification exceeds the tercile threshold of 33.3% is subtracted from the opposite end category.

8-14 Day Outlook





Let us use Southeastern Minnesota as an example from this 8-14 Day outlook map:

What is the temperature outlook for southeastern Minnesota on this 8-14 Day outlook map? The most likely category over southeastern Minnesota is for below average (shown in blue), and the probability contour is somewhere between 40-50%.

For this example, let's say it's 45%. This represents an 11.7% shift above the base tercile threshold of 33.3%, therefore the opposite end category (unseasonable warm conditions) would have a 21.6% (33.3% minus 11.7%) likelihood of occurring. The middle category (seasonable) would remain at 33.3%.

Thus, the outlook for southeastern Minnesota would call for:

- Around a 45% likelihood for unseasonably cold conditions to occur,
- 21.6% chance for unseasonably mild conditions, and
- 33.3% chance of seasonable (near average) conditions.

In the situation when a probability contour exceeds 63.3%, the likelihood of the opposite end category is held constant at 3.3% (there is always a slight chance of a rare event occurring), and the near average category would then decrease by the appropriate amount to keep the total probability at 100%.

The interpretation for 6-10 Day Outlooks is the same as the 8-14 Day Outlooks.