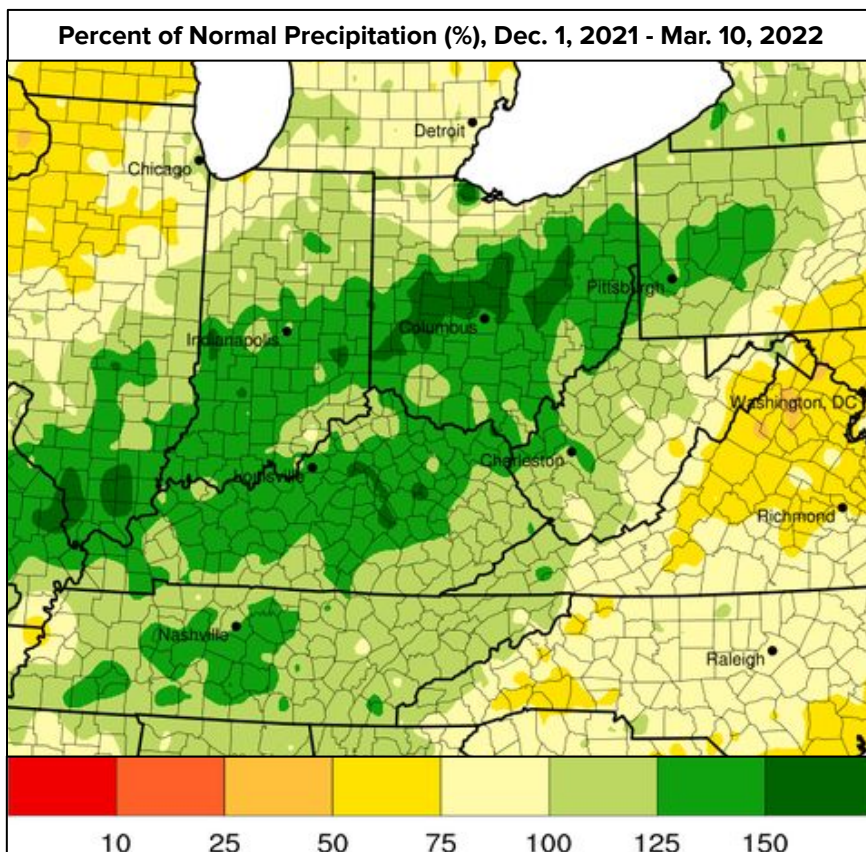


Ohio Basin Spring Hazard Outlook

Above Normal Flood Risk Expected Across Much of the Ohio Valley

Setting the Stage: Precipitation and Soil Moisture

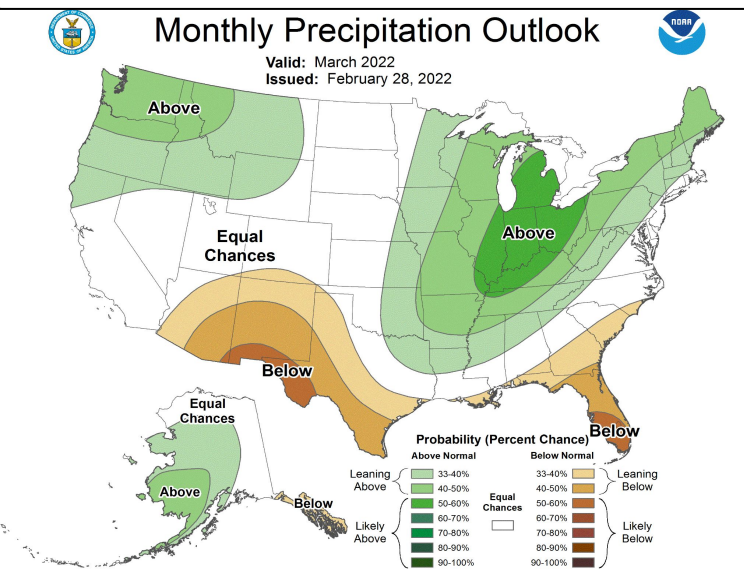
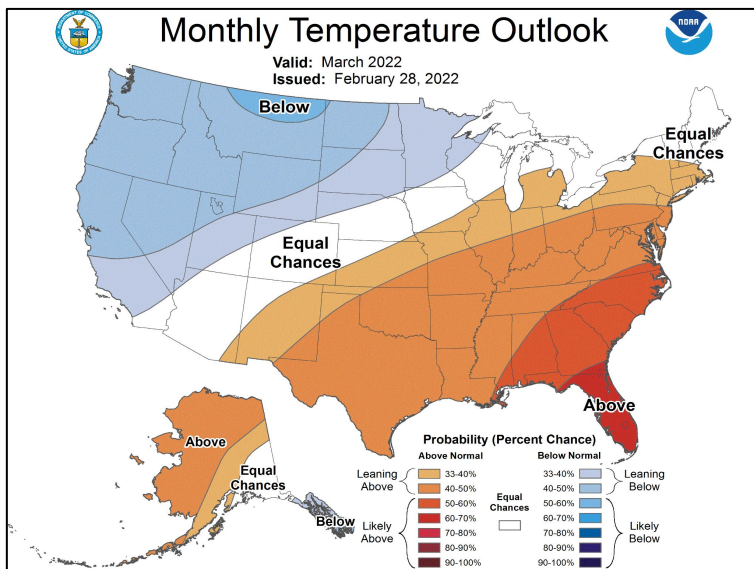
Wetter than normal conditions occurred across the northern portions of the Ohio Basin in December 2021. By January and February 2022, several heavy rain and winter precipitation events resulted in wetter than normal conditions across much of the central and southern portions of the basin. As a result, some locations have already experienced minor to moderate river flooding, with a few locations even experiencing major flood levels. The increased soil moisture from the winter season has resulted in wet soils for the start of the spring season and, thus, is contributing to an above normal flood risk this spring across much of the Ohio Valley.



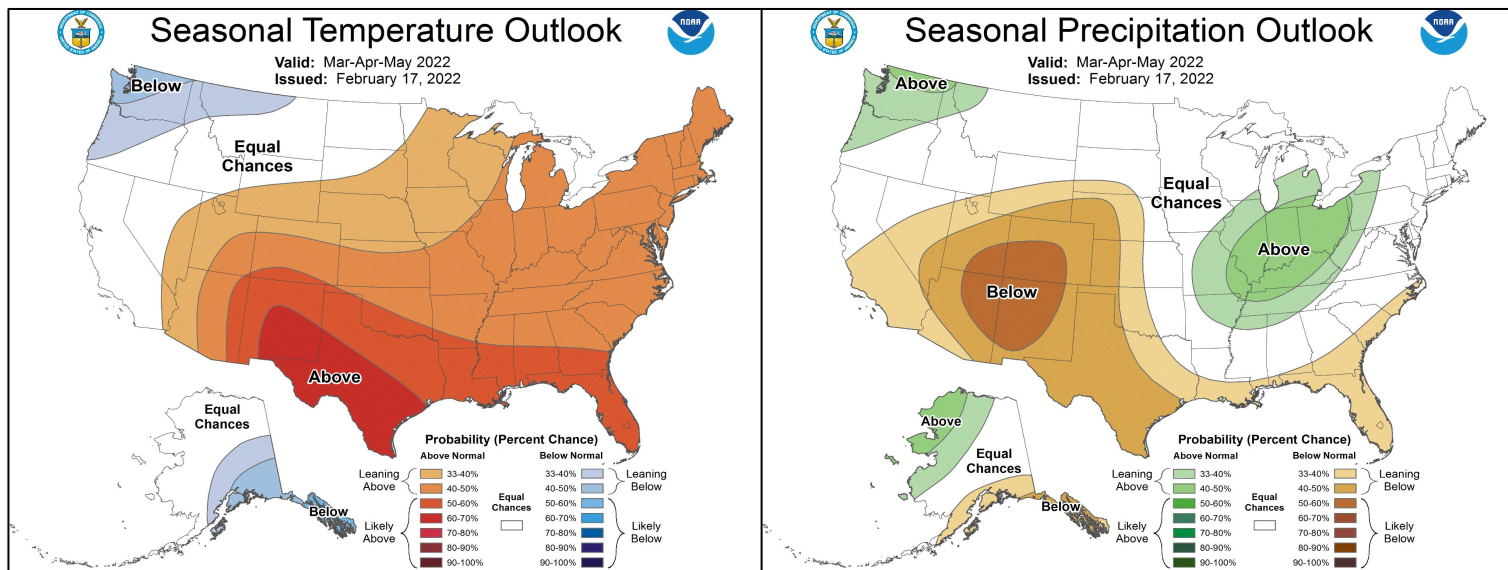
ABOVE: Percent of 1991-2020 Normals Precipitation from Dec. 1, 2021 to Mar. 10, 2022. (Source: [MRCC](#))

Spring Climate Outlook: March - May

The March outlook favors increased chances for wetter than normal and warmer than normal conditions across the Ohio Basin. Similarly, the long-range outlook for March through May (see next page) also favors increased chances for warmer than normal and wetter than normal conditions across the entire Ohio Basin.



ABOVE: Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks for March 2022. (Source: [CPC](#))



ABOVE: Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks for the 3-month period of March through May 2022. (Source: [CPC](#))

Flood Risk

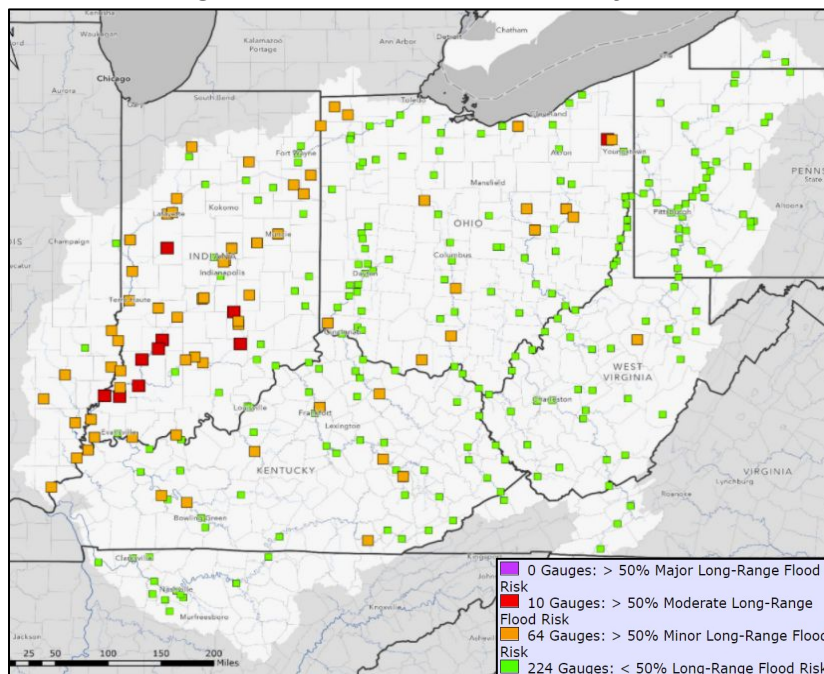
The flood risk this spring is considered above normal for much of the Ohio Valley. Normal is considered no more than minor flooding every 1-2 years. Areas of minor to even moderate flooding are expected across much of the Ohio Valley through late April or early May (especially across western and northern parts of the basin) with isolated areas of major flooding possible. The overall flood risk is expected to be elevated through May due to the more active weather and climate patterns that typically occur. Rainfall and thunderstorms will be the main contributing factors to the overall flood risk this spring.

Flood Impact Information

Due to the increase in flood potential, keep these tips in mind when it comes to flooding:

- Floodwaters can contain chemicals, sewage, and disease.
- Water depth can change unexpectedly (i.e., storm drainage issues).
- Heavy rainfall can cause debris flows, which could result in homes or vehicles being washed away.
- Increased risk for basement flooding in homes or businesses near rivers and low-lying areas.

Spring Flood Outlook: March - May, 2022



ABOVE: March-May 2022 Spring Flood Outlook. (Source: [NWS AHPS](#))

Agricultural Information

The continued wet trend and warmer than normal temperatures suggest the following potential agricultural impacts:

- The combination of wet soils from the winter and wet spring days may delay or impact spring crop planting.
- Muddy conditions for livestock.

For more information visit:

Local Forecast – weather.gov

Long-Range Outlooks –
cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

River Forecasts –
water.weather.gov/ahps/forecasts.php

Weather & Climate Data – ncei.noaa.gov

Fire Outlook – nifc.gov/nicc

Drought Information – drought.gov

Agricultural Outlook – usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum

Streamflow Data -

<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=ww>

