

# 2026 Summer Outlook

*90 Day Outlook Valid June 1 to August 31, 2026*

NWS Detroit, MI

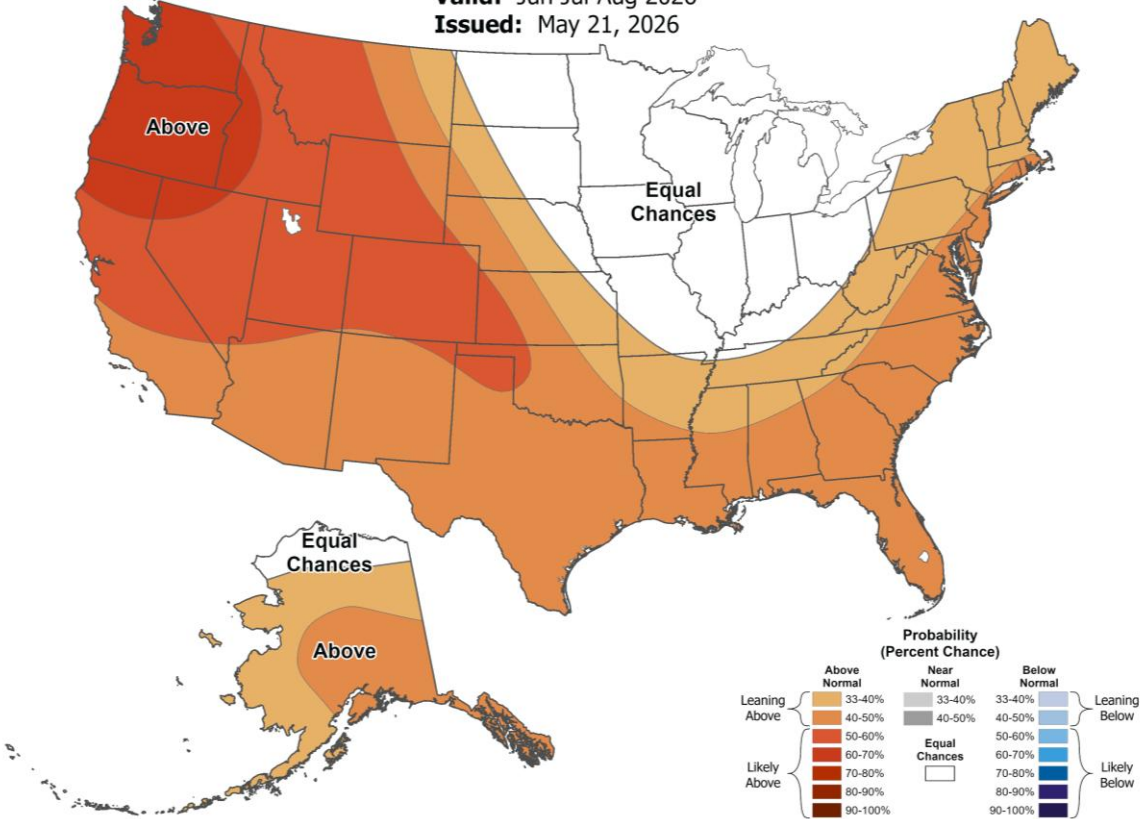
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service

# Official CPC Summer Outlook



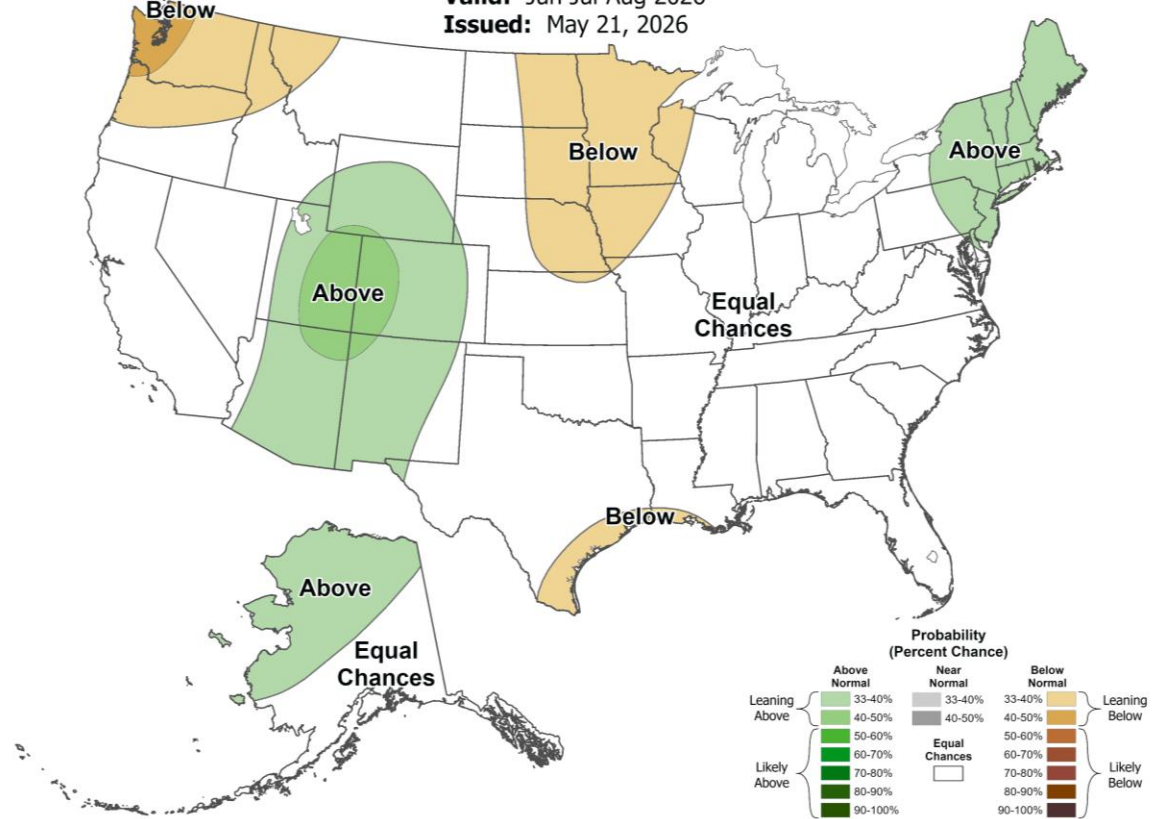
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2026  
Issued: May 21, 2026



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

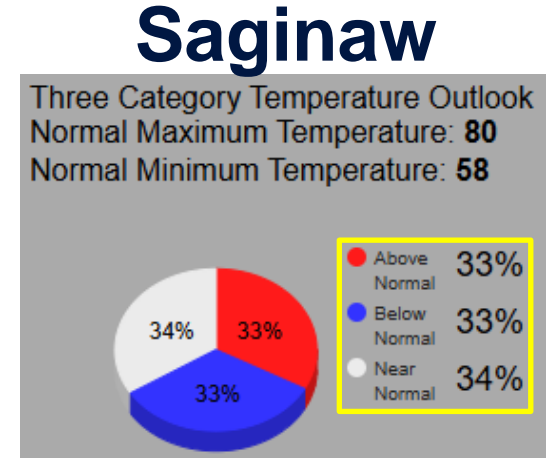
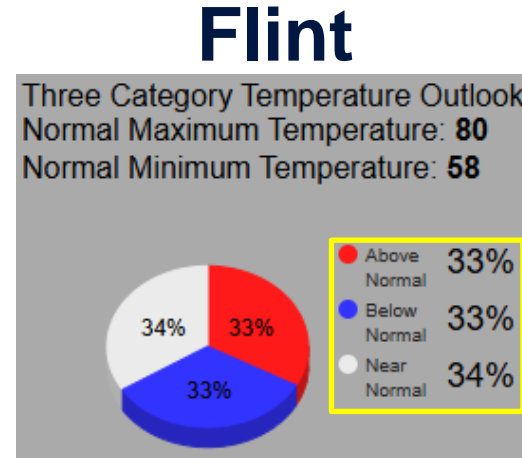
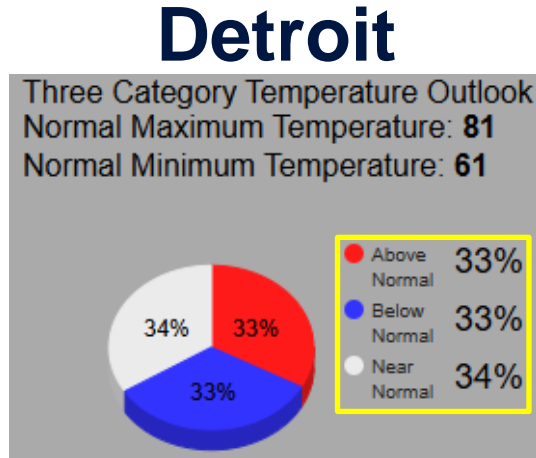
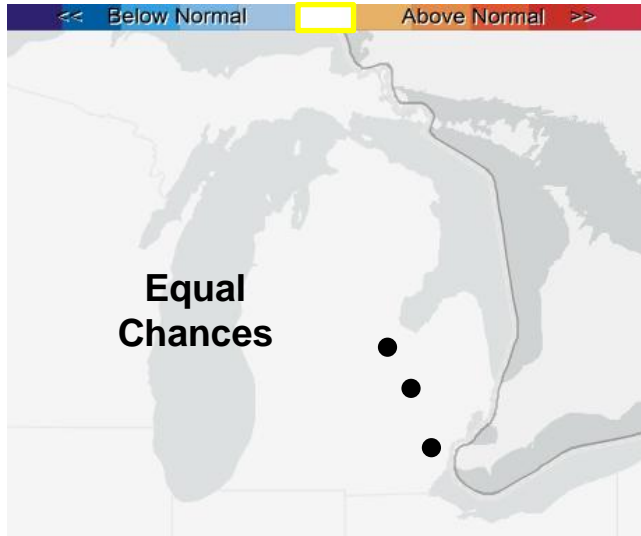
Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2026  
Issued: May 21, 2026



In the official summer outlook from the Climate Prediction Center, Southeast Michigan has **equal chances for above, near, or below normal temperatures and precipitation**. This outlook accounts for many factors including ENSO, dynamical guidance such as the NMME, statistical tools, soil moisture conditions, and trends in recent years.

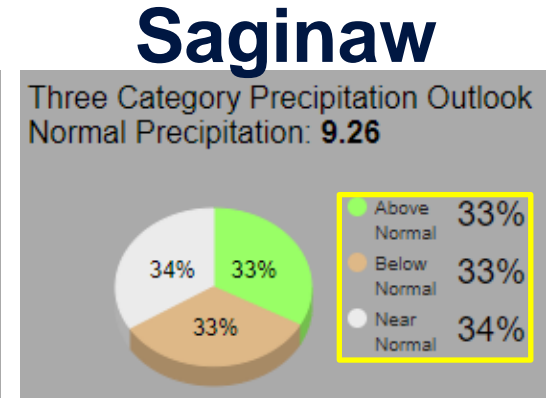
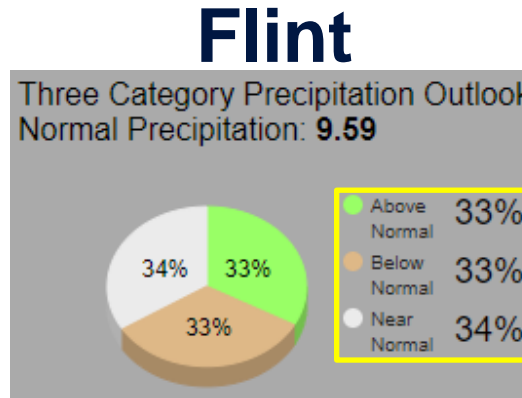
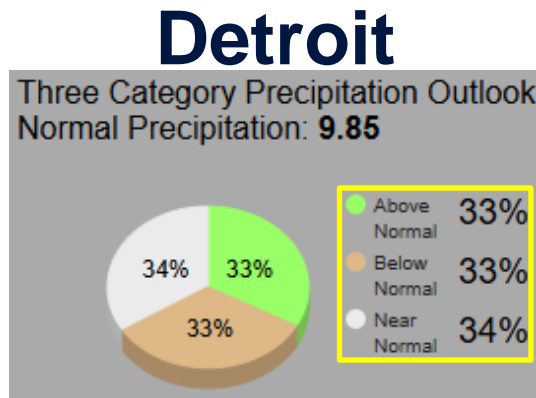
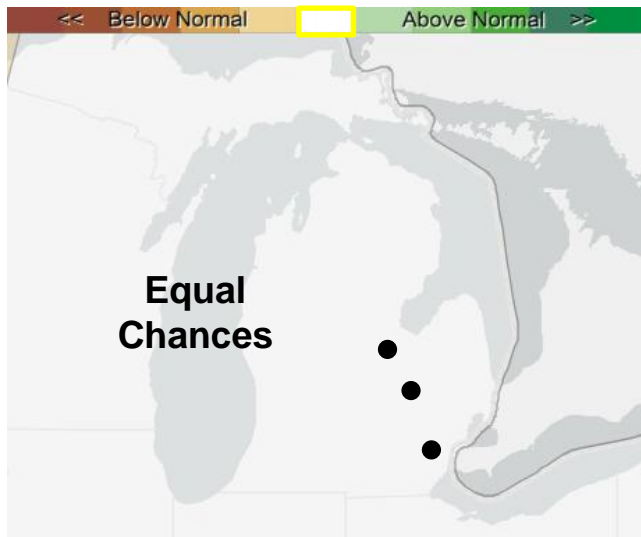
# Official CPC Summer Outlook Probabilities

Temperature



Equal Chances for Above, Near, or Below Normal Temperatures

Precipitation



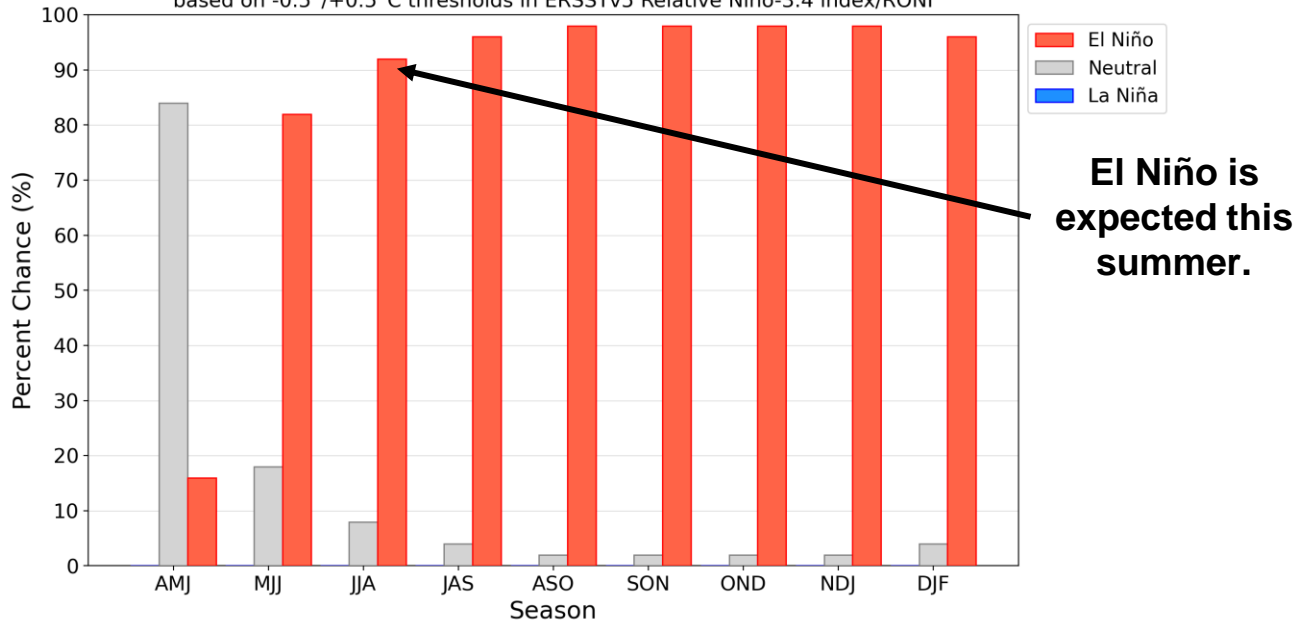
Equal Chances for Above, Near, or Below Normal Precipitation

# ENSO Outlook

## CPC/IRI Probabilistic ENSO Forecast

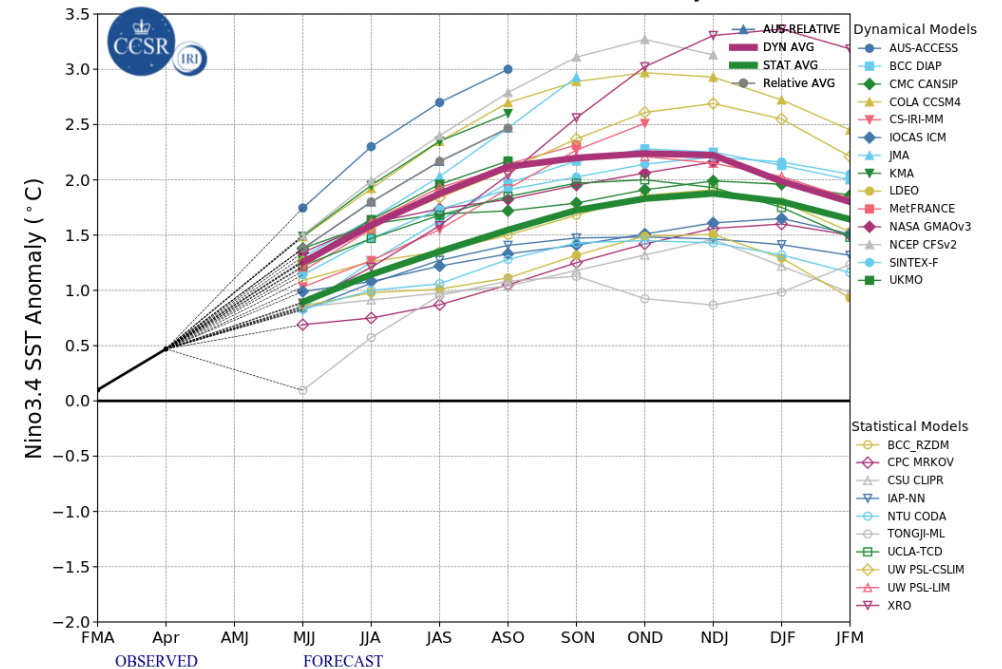
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued May 2026)

based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Relative Niño-3.4 index/RONI



## CPC/IRI ENSO Predictions Plume

CCSR/IRI Model Predictions of ENSO from May 2026



After a weak La Niña last winter, the tropical Pacific is now in ENSO-neutral conditions. This will be brief as a transition to El Niño is expected by this summer. Nearly 100% probability exists for El Niño by this fall and winter, and forecast data indicates 50-60% probability for a strong or very strong El Niño (not shown above).

ENSO teleconnections during the summer are less pronounced than during the winter, meaning local summer conditions are less correlated with ENSO status. However, El Niño composites generally favor **cooler than normal** conditions for the Great Lakes during the summer. Read more about the latest ENSO status and forecast from CPC [here](#).

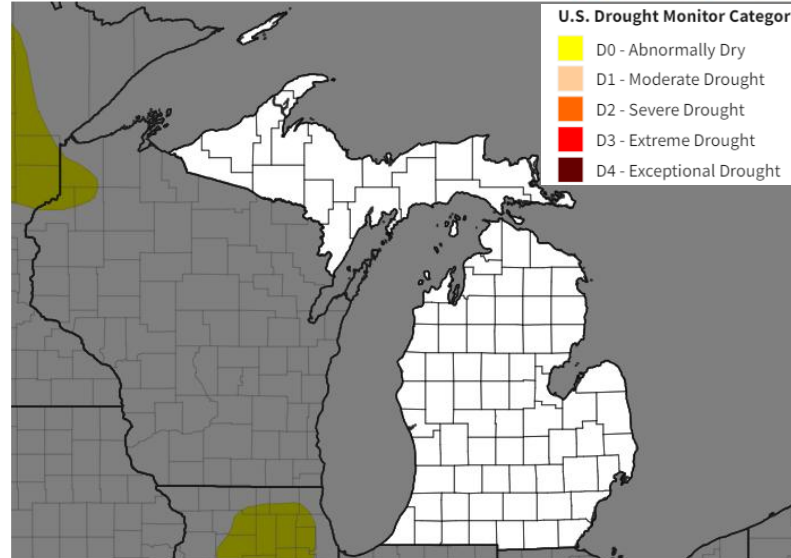
# Current Drought Status & Seasonal Outlook

## U.S. Drought Monitor: Michigan



### U.S. Drought Monitor Category

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



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA  
Data Valid: 05/19/26

[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

As of May 19, southeast Michigan is drought-free. The past 30 days have been drier than usual, with rainfall deficits of around 1.50" to 2.50" across much of the area. However, it was a wet spring and longer-term moisture surpluses still exist on the 3 to 6 month time scale. The exception is parts of Metro Detroit where longer term deficits persist.

## Recent Rainfall

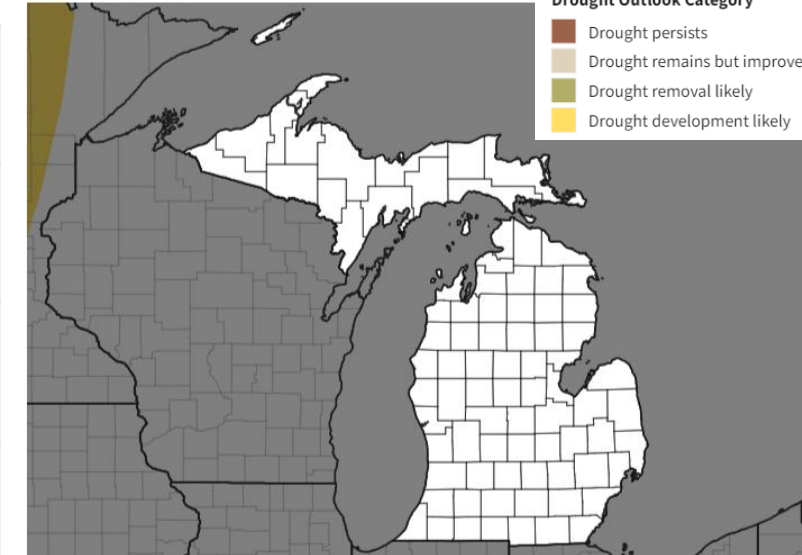
Rainfall (Departure)	Detroit	Flint	Saginaw
<b>1 Month</b> Apr 22 to May 21	2.00" (-1.64")	2.19" (-1.39")	0.93" (-2.41")
<b>3 Months</b> Feb 22 to May 21	8.09" (-0.77")	11.01" (+2.89")	10.57" (+2.50")
<b>6 Months</b> Nov 22 to May 21	12.74" (-2.87")	18.03" (+4.17")	16.07" (+2.34")
<b>1 Year</b> May 22, 2025 to May 21, 2026	28.60" (-8.06")	31.99" (+0.02")	30.55" (-1.57")
<b>2 Years</b> May 22, 2024 to May 21, 2026	59.14" (-9.50")	64.95" (+1.01")	57.33" (-6.91")

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 21–August 31, 2026



### Drought Outlook Category

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 05/21/26

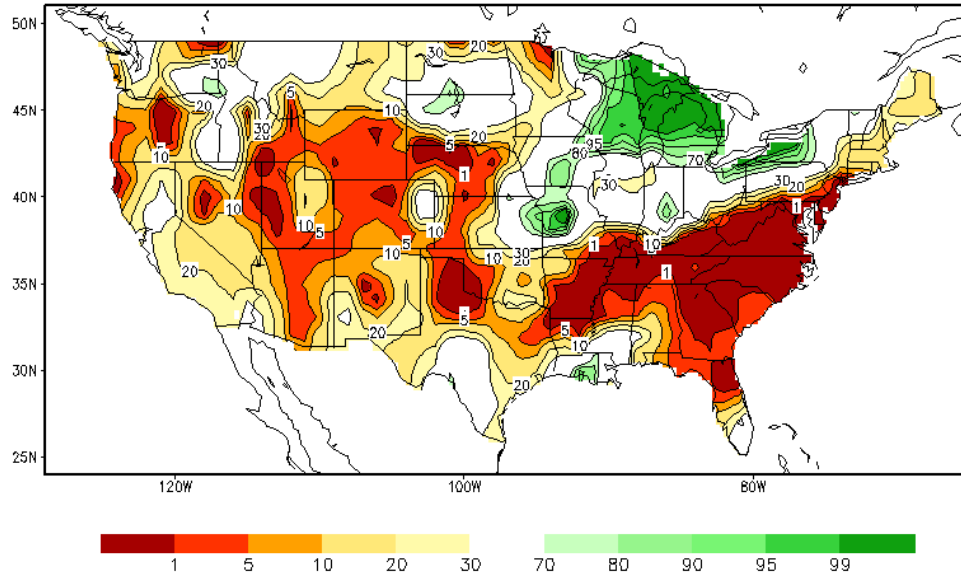
[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

The latest seasonal drought outlook indicates that **drought conditions are not predicted to develop this summer.**

# Recent Conditions

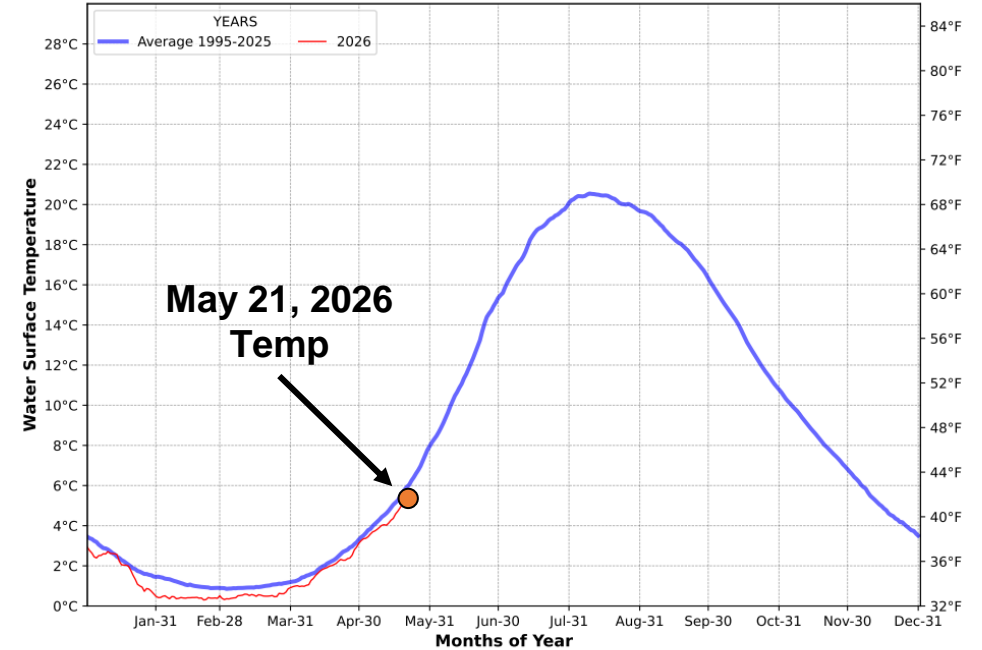
## Soil Moisture

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAY 21, 2026



## Lake Huron Temperature

Lake Huron Average Great Lakes Surface Environmental Analysis (GLSEA)  
Surface Water Temperature Compared to Current Year



NOAA CoastWatch Great Lakes Node

May 22, 2026 06:40:09

Soil moisture is calculated to be above normal for much of the Great Lakes region including parts of Southeast Michigan. These positive soil moisture anomalies may temper excessive heat potential, at least early in the season. Meanwhile, Great Lakes water temperatures (Lake Huron shown above) are running near the long-term average for this time of year.

# CPC Soil Moisture Analogs

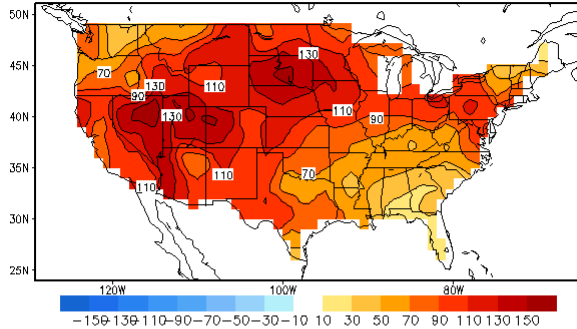
## June

## July

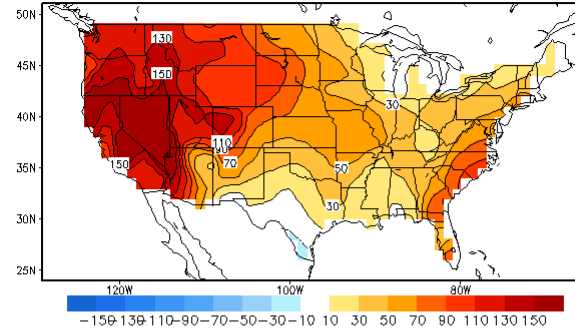
## August

Temperature

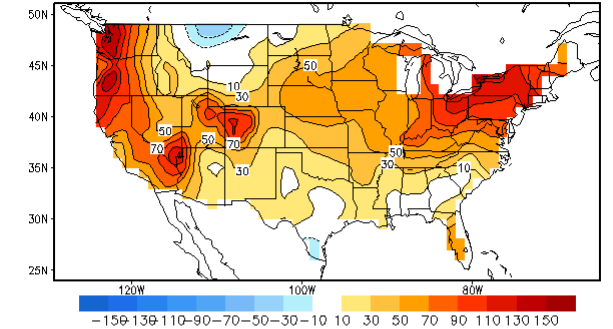
Lagged Averaged Temperature Outlook for JUN 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521



Lagged Averaged Temperature Outlook for JUL 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521

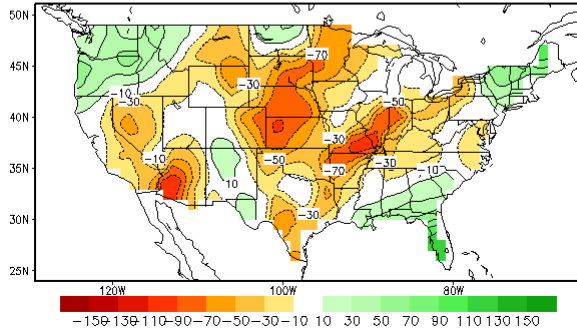


Lagged Averaged Temperature Outlook for AUG 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521

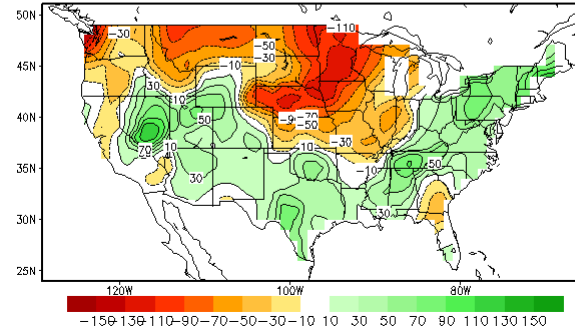


Precipitation

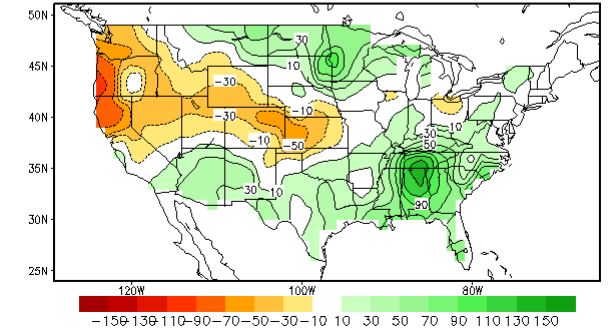
Lagged Averaged Precipitation Outlook for JUN 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521



Lagged Averaged Precipitation Outlook for JUL 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521



Lagged Averaged Precipitation Outlook for AUG 2026  
units: anomaly (sdX100), SM data ending at 20260521

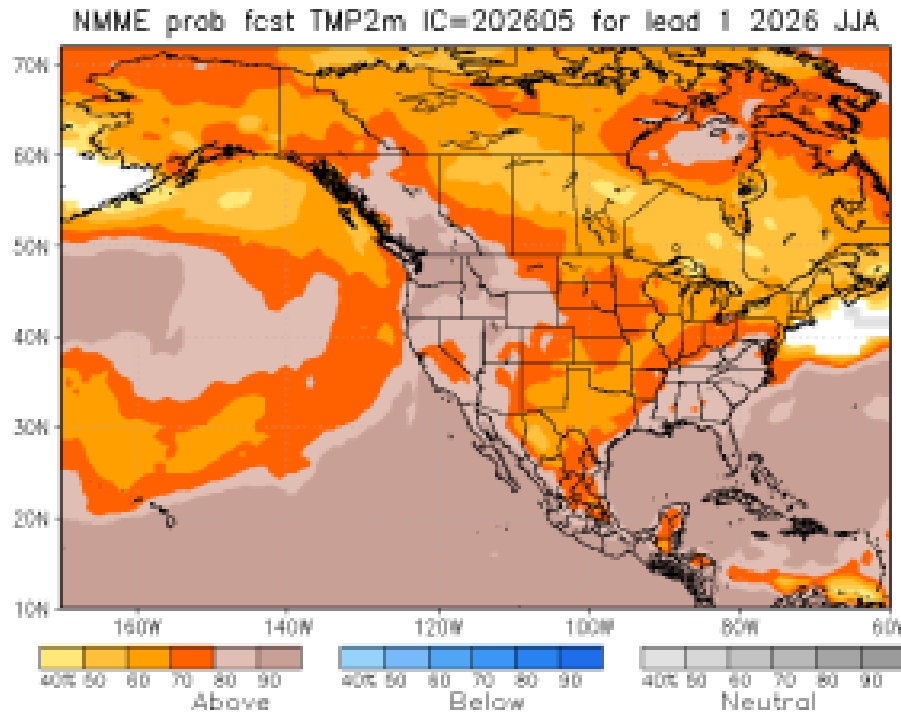


Soil moisture and drought have predictive value leading into the summer, and CPC soil moisture analogs provide a depiction of how summers with similar antecedent conditions evolved. Analogs (above) with similar soil moisture conditions to this year showed a lean toward **warmer than normal** conditions across the Great Lakes for each month. The analogs also showed a lean toward **drier than normal**, particularly June and July.

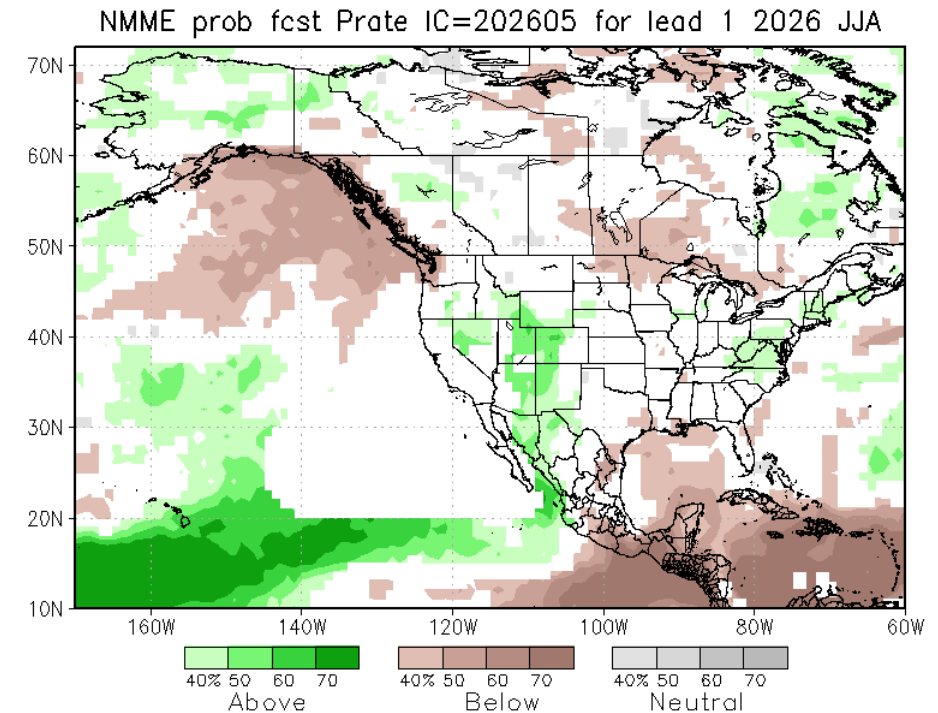
# Model Ensemble Guidance

The North American Multi-Model Ensemble ([NMME](#)), a seasonal forecasting system featuring coupled models from US and Canadian modeling centers, is another tool that provides additional guidance to inform seasonal forecasts. The latest output offers a 60-70% probability for **above normal temperatures** across the Michigan. **Little signal is present for precipitation.**

## Temperature



## Precipitation

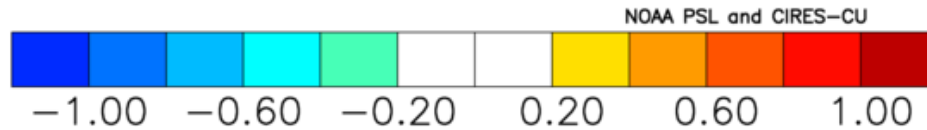
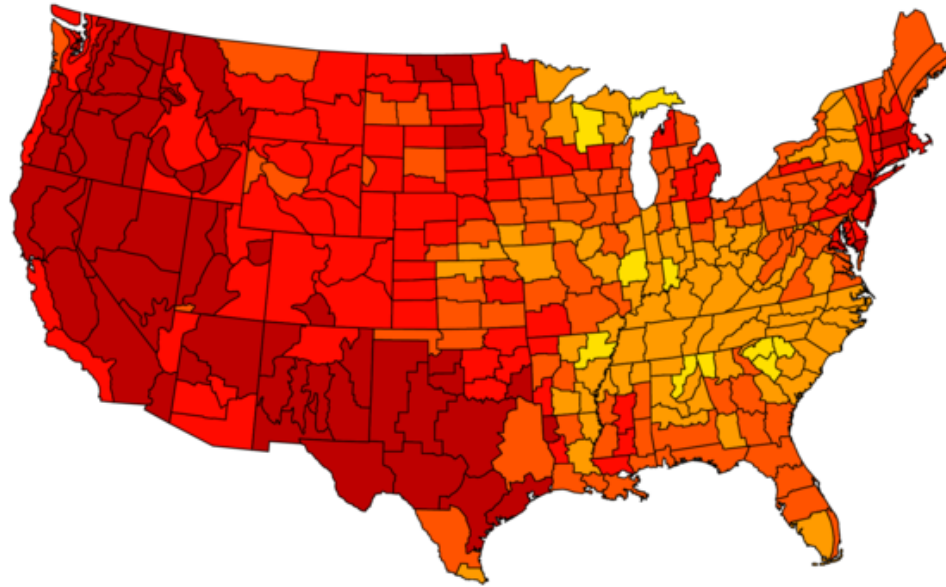


# Trends in Recent Summers

Composite anomalies of the past 15 years show that **summers have trended warmer and wetter** across Southeast Michigan. These trends highlight the changing “normal” and are important to consider in the seasonal forecast. Given low predictability from the state of ENSO conditions, decadal trends hold some of the largest predictable signal in the summer outlook.

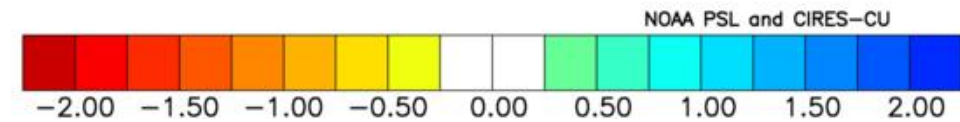
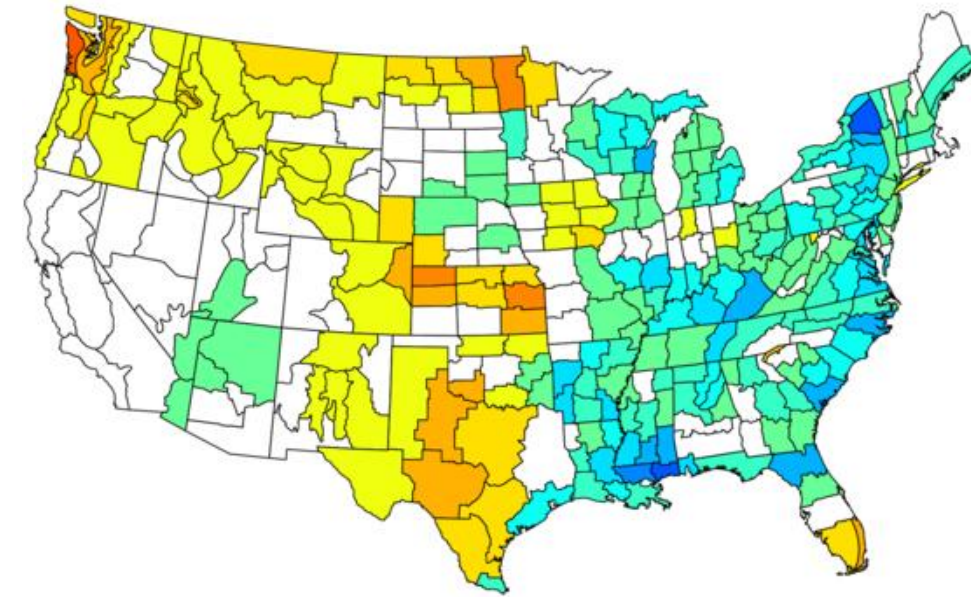
## Temperature

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Jun to Aug 2010 to 2025  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



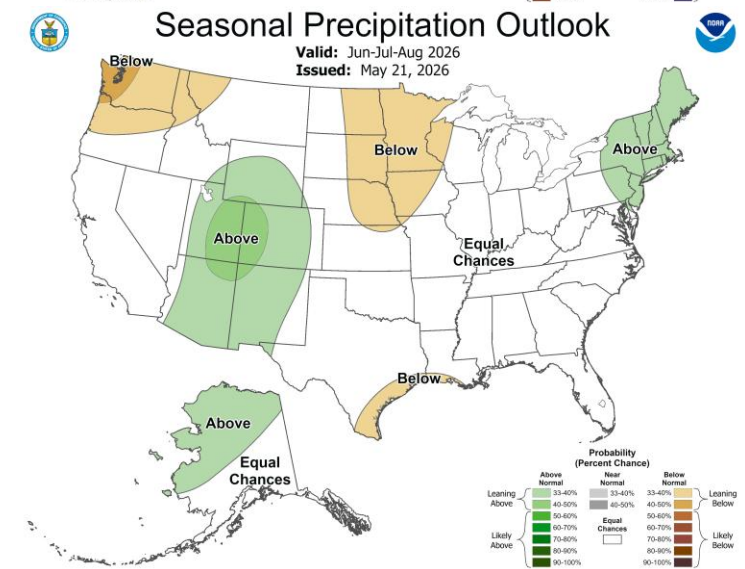
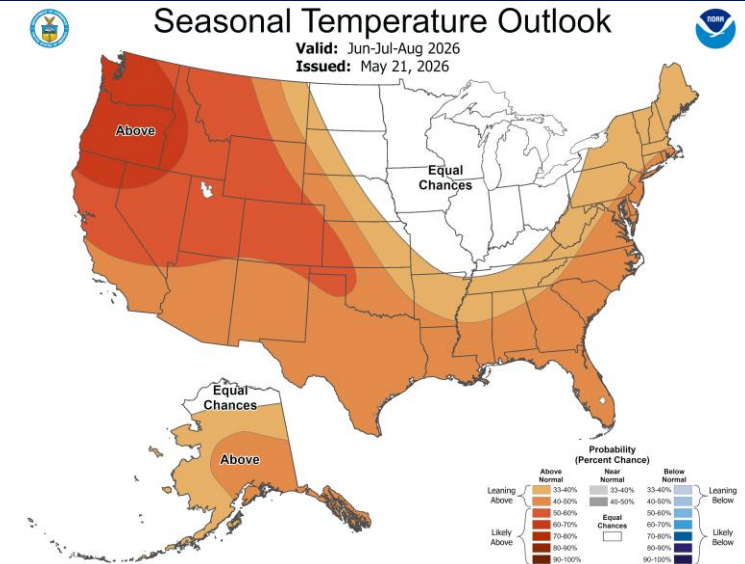
## Precipitation

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)  
Jun to Aug 2010 to 2025  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



# Summer Outlook Summary

- A transition to El Niño is occurring. Composites of El Niño summers generally show a lean toward below normal temps for the area. However, the predictive signal of ENSO is relatively weak during the summer.
- More predictable signal for this outlook comes from trends over recent years/decades, and these trends show that summers in Southeast Michigan are gradually trending warmer and wetter. Dynamical models and soil moisture analogs favor warmer than normal conditions as well.
- Soil moisture is above normal and drought conditions are not forecast to develop across the area this summer.
- Seasonal forecasters considered the competing factors above and determined overall, Southeast Michigan has **equal chances for above, near, or below normal temperatures and precipitation.**
- “Equal chances” does not necessarily mean near normal conditions – there are equal chances (33% each) for above, below, and near normal.



# Summer Records and Trivia – Temperature

Normal High Temp	June	July	August	Summer (JJA)	Normal Low Temp	June	July	August	Summer (JJA)
<b>Detroit</b>	79.7	83.7	81.4	<b>81.6</b>	<b>Detroit</b>	60.2	64.4	63.2	<b>62.6</b>
<b>Flint</b>	78.2	82.1	79.9	<b>80.1</b>	<b>Flint</b>	55.9	59.7	58.3	<b>58.0</b>
<b>Saginaw</b>	78.5	82.2	80.0	<b>80.2</b>	<b>Saginaw</b>	57.7	61.2	59.4	<b>59.4</b>
Warmest...	Temperature	Month	Summer (JJA)	Coolest...	Temperature	Month	Summer (JJA)		
<b>Detroit</b>	<b>105</b> (7/24/1934)	<b>79.3</b> (July 2011)	<b>74.9</b> (2016)	<b>Detroit</b>	<b>36</b> (6/1/1966 & 6/11/1972)	<b>62.8</b> (June 1903 & June 1985)	<b>66.5</b> (1915)		
<b>Flint</b>	<b>108</b> (7/8/1936 & 7/13/1936)	<b>78.0</b> (July 1921)	<b>74.2</b> (1933)	<b>Flint</b>	<b>33</b> (6/1/1966 & 6/4/1998)	<b>60.1</b> (June 1969)	<b>65.4</b> (1992)		
<b>Saginaw</b>	<b>111</b> (7/13/1936)	<b>77.5</b> (July 1921)	<b>73.0</b> (1931)	<b>Saginaw</b>	<b>33</b> (6/10/1941 & 6/8/1949)	<b>60.6</b> (June 1982)	<b>64.8</b> (1915)		

Normal number of 90+ degree days per summer: Detroit: 11.2; Flint: 9.7; Saginaw: 7.7

All temps in °F; normals reflect 1991-2020 period

# Summer Records and Trivia – Precipitation

Normal Precipitation	June	July	August	Summer (JJA)
Detroit	3.26"	3.51"	3.26"	<b>10.03"</b>
Flint	3.12"	3.41"	3.16"	<b>9.69"</b>
Saginaw	3.28"	2.83"	3.85"	<b>9.96"</b>
Wettest...	Day	Month	Summer (JJA)	
Detroit	<b>4.74"</b> (7/31/1925)	<b>8.76"</b> (July 1878)	<b>16.96"</b> (1896)	
Flint	<b>4.50"</b> (8/8/1937)	<b>11.18"</b> (Aug. 1937)	<b>18.39"</b> (1937)	
Saginaw	<b>6.93"</b> (8/10/2012)	<b>10.76"</b> (June 2017)	<b>16.28"</b> (1928)	
Driest...	Month		Summer (JJA)	
Detroit	<b>0.16"</b> (Aug. 1894)		<b>3.58"</b> (1911)	
Flint	<b>0.16"</b> (July 1939)		<b>3.76"</b> (1930)	
Saginaw	<b>0.27"</b> (Aug. 1927)		<b>3.54"</b> (1927)	





# Questions?

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