

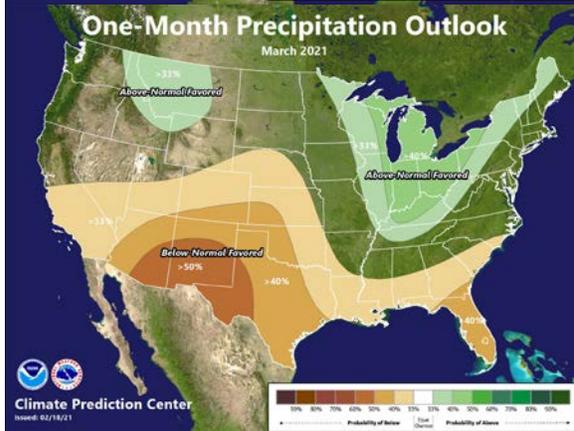
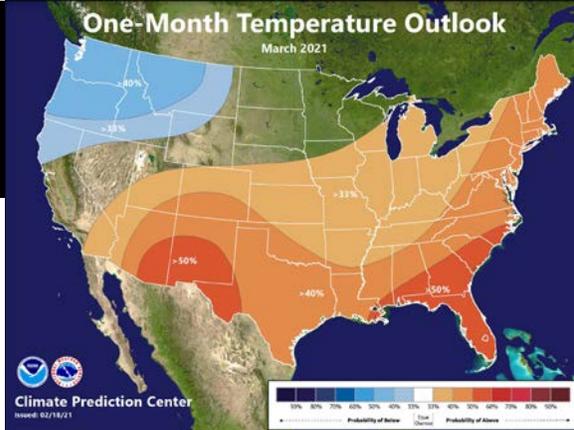


✓ Important Message: La Niña Continues

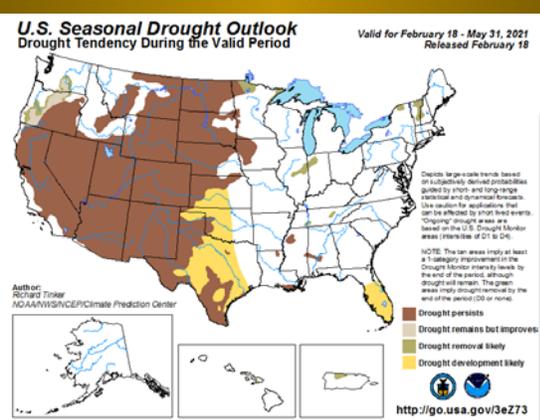
- ✓ La Niña is expected to linger into early spring (82% FMA / 62% MAM), with a potential transition to ENSO-neutral during late Spring (~60% for AMJ/MJJ).
- ✓ CPC/IRI forecasts continue to indicate a slight favoring toward a potential return to La Niña conditions by this fall (August-October and September-November). Looking back to 1950, a second year of La Niña conditions occurs in around half of La Niña events.
- ✓ Despite the current trends toward a +AO/NAO in the short term, impacts from the stratospheric warming event from January may linger into March and allow a brief return to negative indices.

March 2021 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

- Odds are tilted toward warmer-than-normal conditions for southern and eastern portions of Central Region, with the greatest odds over southern CO and southwest KS. Equal chances for below-, near- and above-normal temps are present in the upper plains, with a small area with odds shifted toward below-normal across northwest WY.
- Great Lakes, eastern corn belt and NW WY are exhibiting a tilt of odds toward above-normal precipitation. Drier than normal conditions are favored in NE/KS/CO, with impact on drought maintenance/development.
- Teleconnections typically are strongest during March, and expect a large and typical La Niña influence.



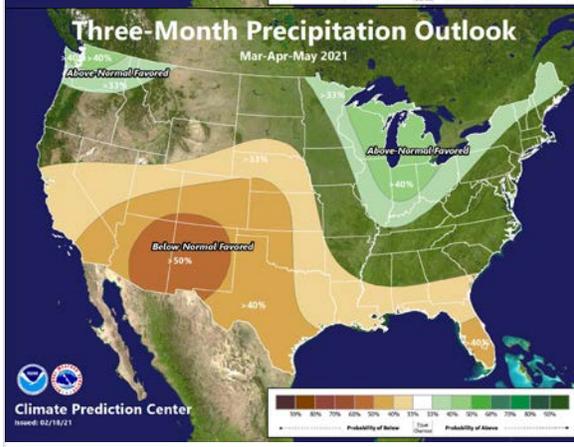
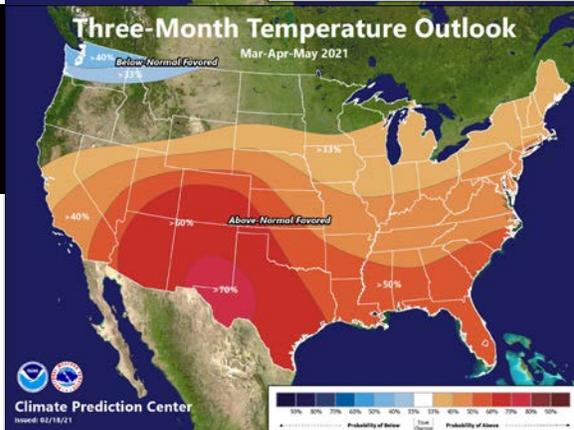
Seasonal Drought Outlook



- Improvement in moderate (D1) drought is expected from central IL to northern IN, as well as in a small part of northern MN.
- Drought conditions will persist across the western half of the region, with additional development likely in parts of KS.

March through May 2021 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

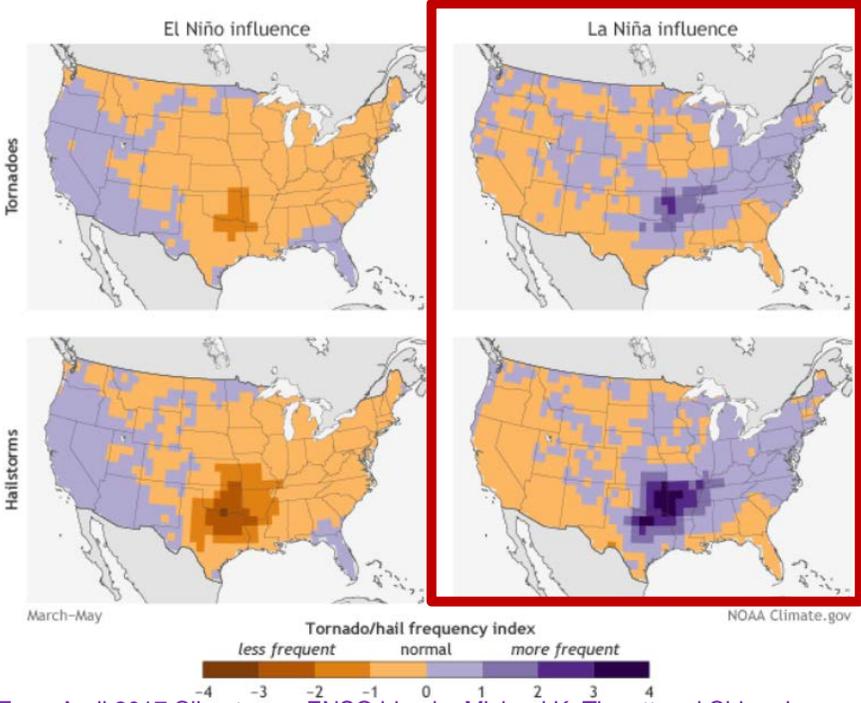
- Most of Central Region exhibits odds tilted toward warmer-than-normal temperatures, with strongly tilted odds (>60%) in southern CO and southwest KS. Influence here is largely from soil moisture.
- Equal chances for below-, near- and above-normal temps are found from ND to the northern Great Lakes, with the potential for a cooler than normal March across this area being the main contributor to the seasonal forecast.
- The seasonal precipitation outlook mirrors the March outlook, tilted toward wetter-than-normal conditions east of the Mississippi, and drier-than-normal conditions across the central Plains to the Rockies.





ENSO Status: *La Niña Advisory*

IRI/CPC Probabilistic ENSO Forecast/Plumes

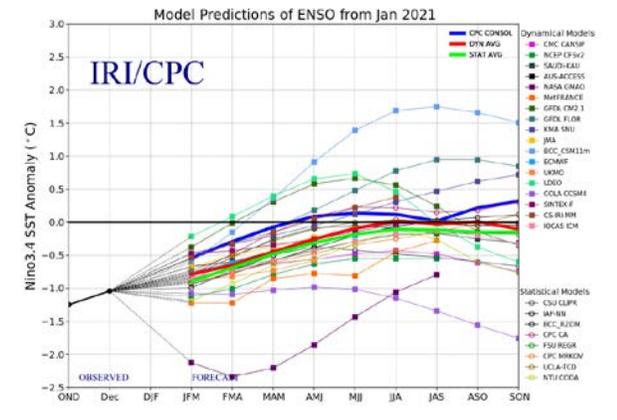
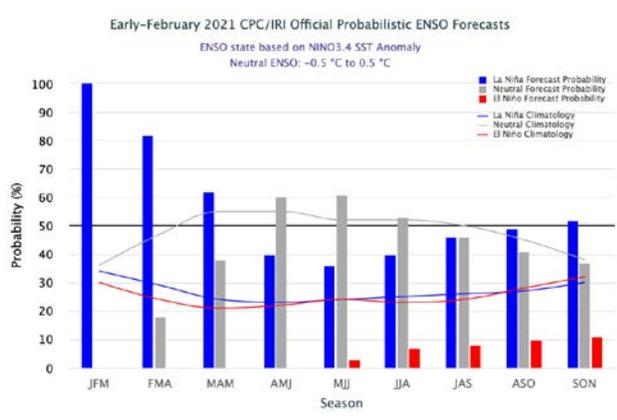


From April 2017 Climate.gov ENSO blog by Michael K. Tippett and Chiara Lepore

- With concerns gradually shifting to severe weather, keep in mind the link between La Niña and the frequency of hail and tornadoes across the region. Several research studies have shown a tendency for a poleward positioning of the jet and increased moisture transport/instability favoring the conditions necessary for the development of severe storms.

Useful Links/Info:

- News from [Climate.gov](https://climate.gov)
- [Latest ENSO Blog](#) from Climate.gov
- [Sea Surface Temperatures](#) from the Climate Prediction Center
- [Latest ENSO Discussion](#) from the Climate Prediction Center
- [Drought Information](#) from the US Drought Monitor
- [Interactive GIS Mapping](#) from NCEI (Anomalies/Rankings)
- [Local Climate Analysis Tool](#) (LCAT) – Account registration required
- [NWS Forecast Maps](#) from Western Region



- ENSO-neutral conditions are favored by late spring and summer.
- There is considerable spread in model solutions by the time we reach the ASO/SON periods, but still a suggestion for a potential return to La Niña conditions toward next fall.

Other Teleconnection Effects

- MJO remains a minimal influence on the larger scale. The eastward translation earlier in the month is weakening.

