



Drought Information Statement for New Hampshire and Western Maine

September 24, 2026

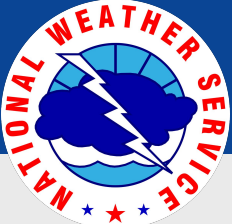
Issued By: NWS Gray Maine

Contact Information: gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov

- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
- Weekly updates to the US Drought Monitor can be found at droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Current Status: Severe Dryness Holds Firm Across Maine as New Hampshire Sees Slight Relief. Drought Conditions Moderate to Extreme in Maine, Moderate to Abnormally Dry in New Hampshire

What has Changed: Drought Conditions Unchanged in Maine; New Hampshire Capital Region Sees Minor Improvement

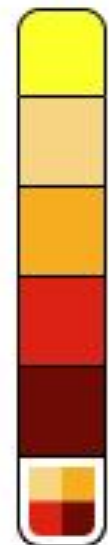


U.S. Drought Monitor

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Northeast

Drought & Dryness Categories



D0 – Abnormally Dry	
D1 – Moderate Drought	
D2 – Severe Drought	
D3 – Extreme Drought	
D4 – Exceptional Drought	
Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)	

% of ME

0.0%

80.7%

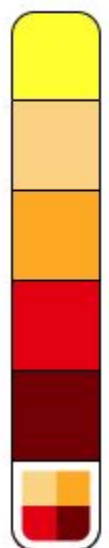
14.4%

4.9%

0.0%

100.0%

Drought & Dryness Categories



D0 – Abnormally Dry	
D1 – Moderate Drought	
D2 – Severe Drought	
D3 – Extreme Drought	
D4 – Exceptional Drought	
Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)	

% of NH

39.4%

53.3%

0.0%

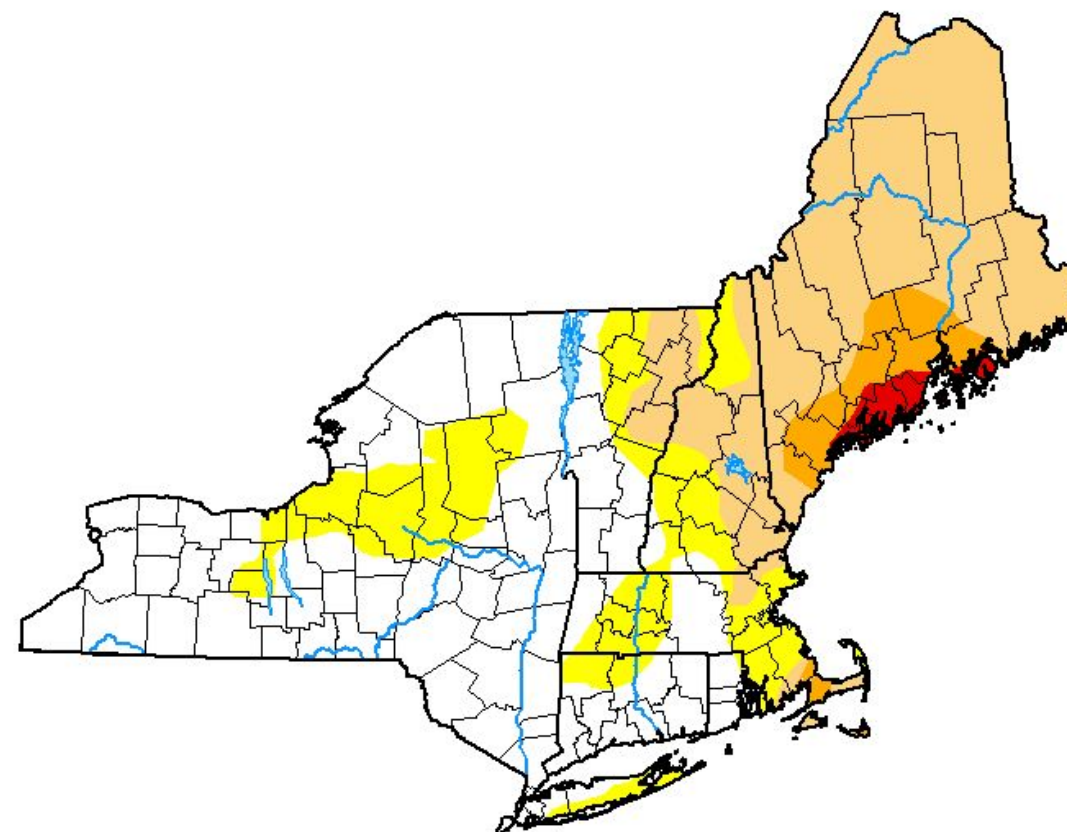
0.0%

0.0%

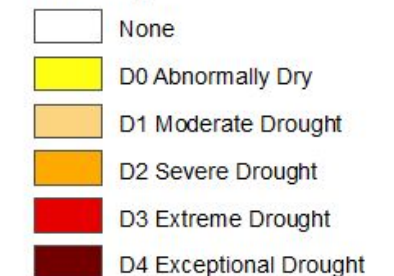
53.3%

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast DEWS

September 22, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 24, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:



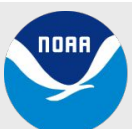
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Mocko
NASA/GSFC/SSAI

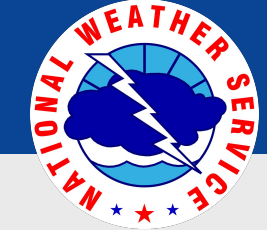


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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Gray-Portland, ME



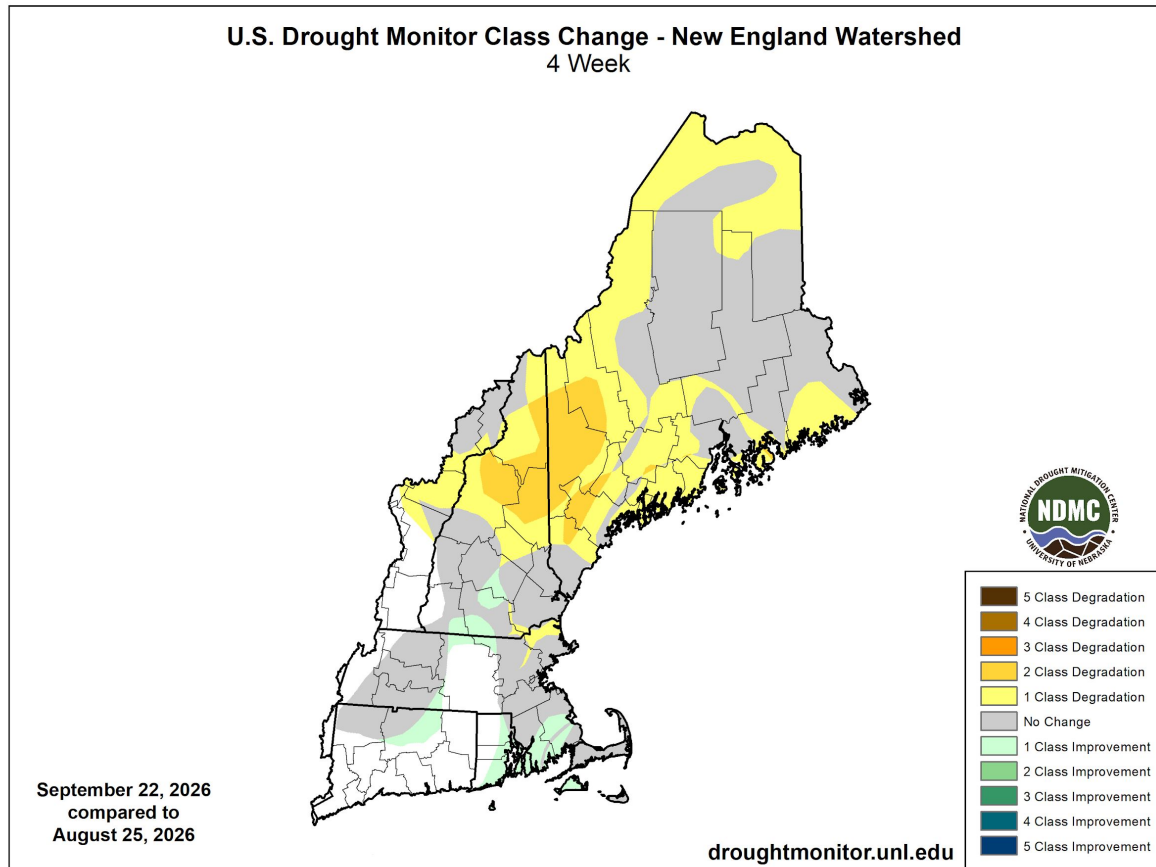
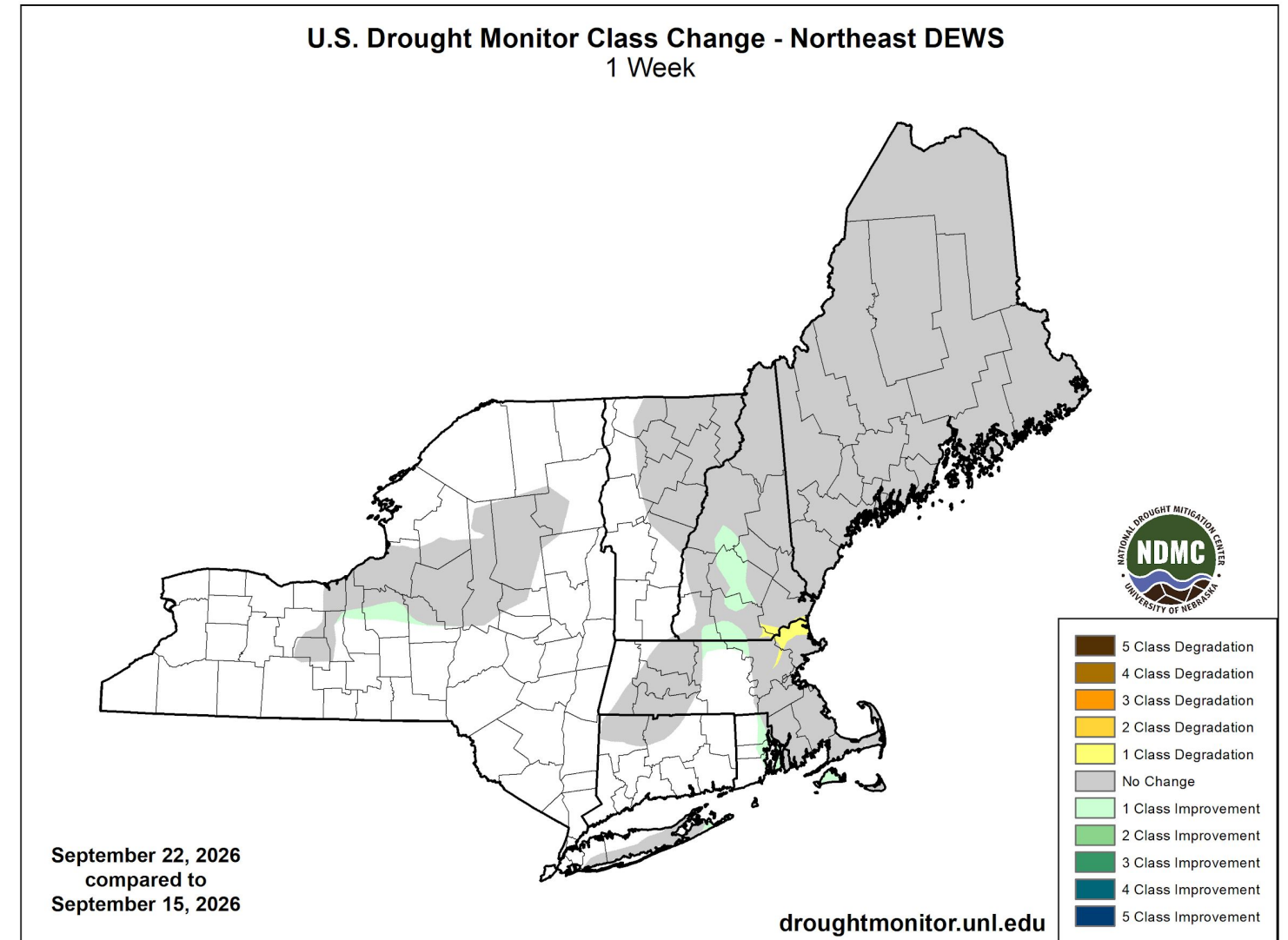
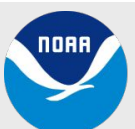
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

Link to the latest 1 week [change map](#) for New England

DROUGHT CHANGES

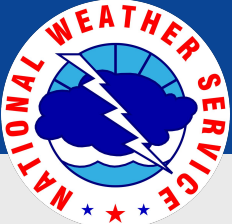
- Over the last month drought coverage area has expanded across both Maine and New Hampshire.



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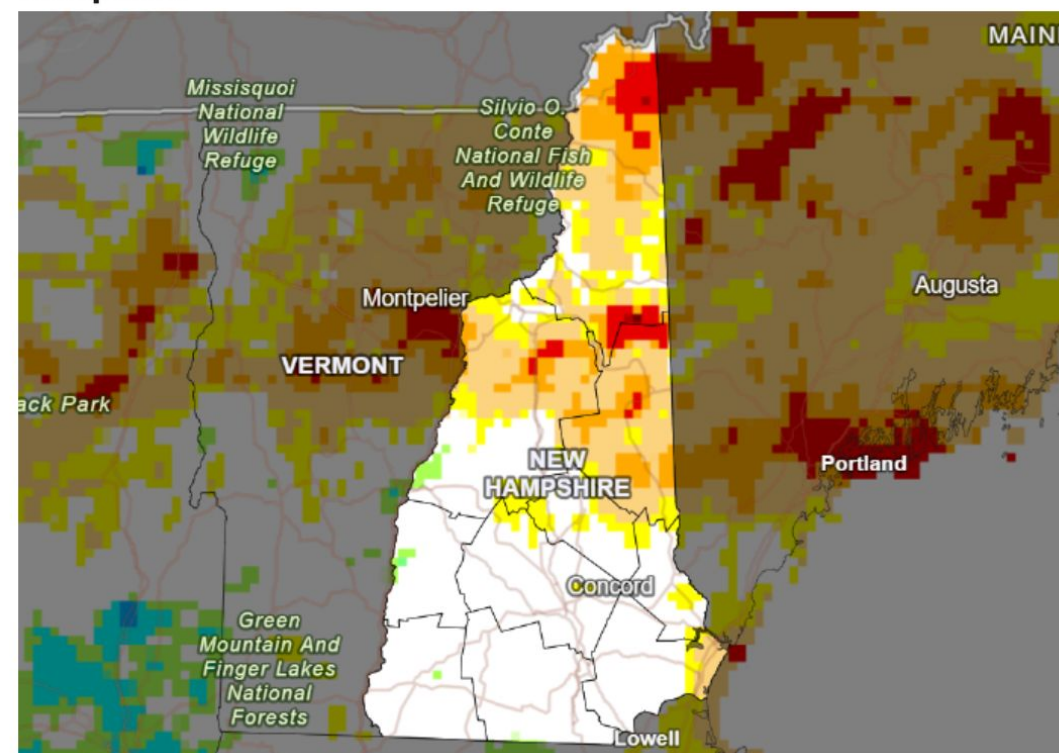
Short Term Drought Index

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

The Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current short-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single map reflecting changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 3 months.

This experimental map is based on methodology from the NOAA National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: New Hampshire



Dry Conditions



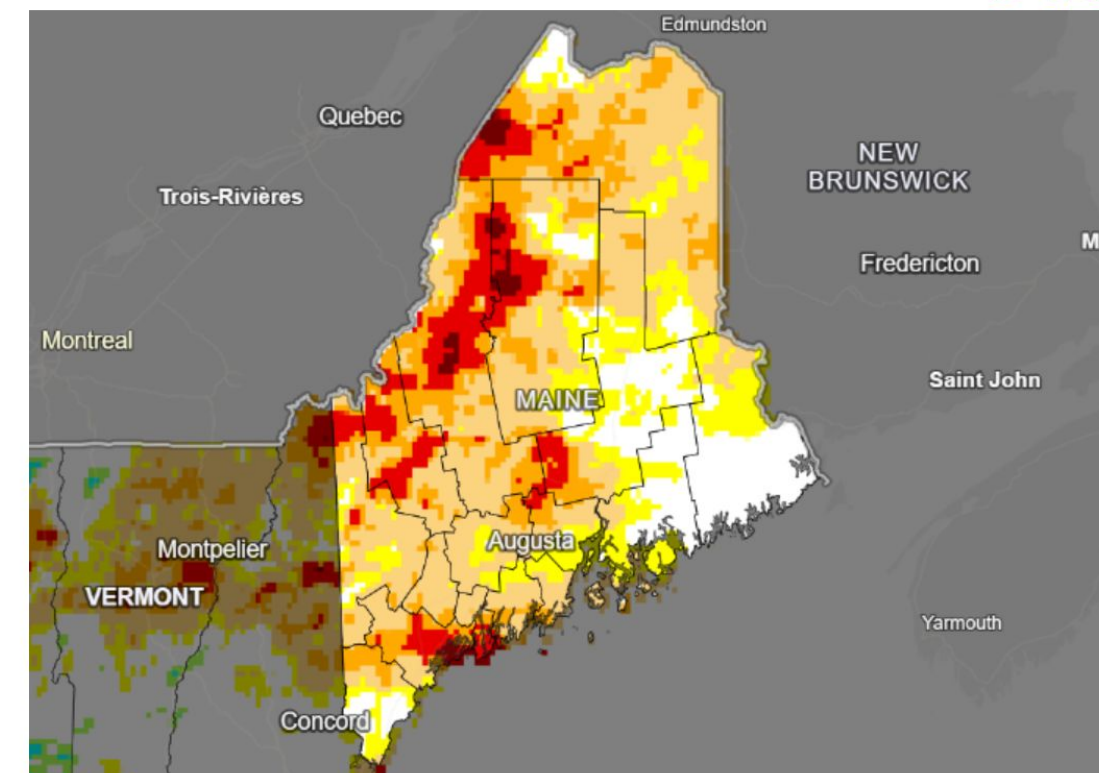
Wet Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 09/17/26

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

Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions



Wet Conditions



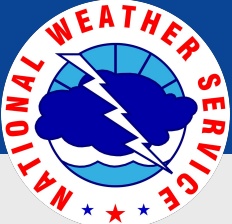
Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
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[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)



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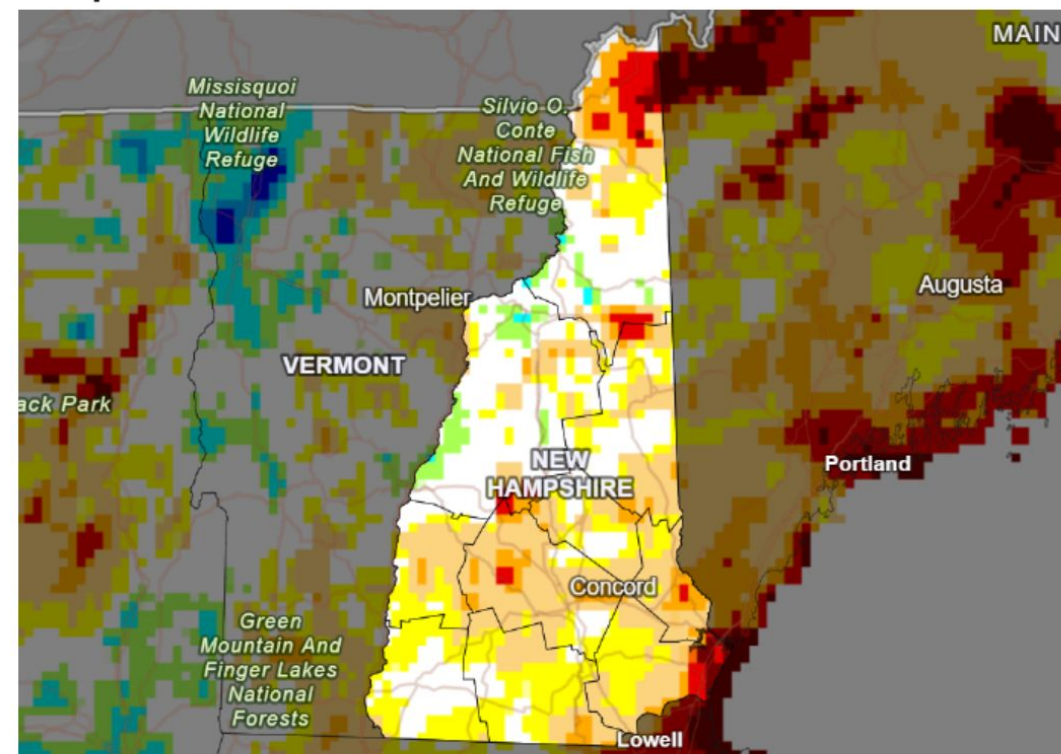
Long Term Drought Index

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

The Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current long-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 5 years.

This experimental map is based on methodology from the NOAA National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: New Hampshire



Dry Conditions



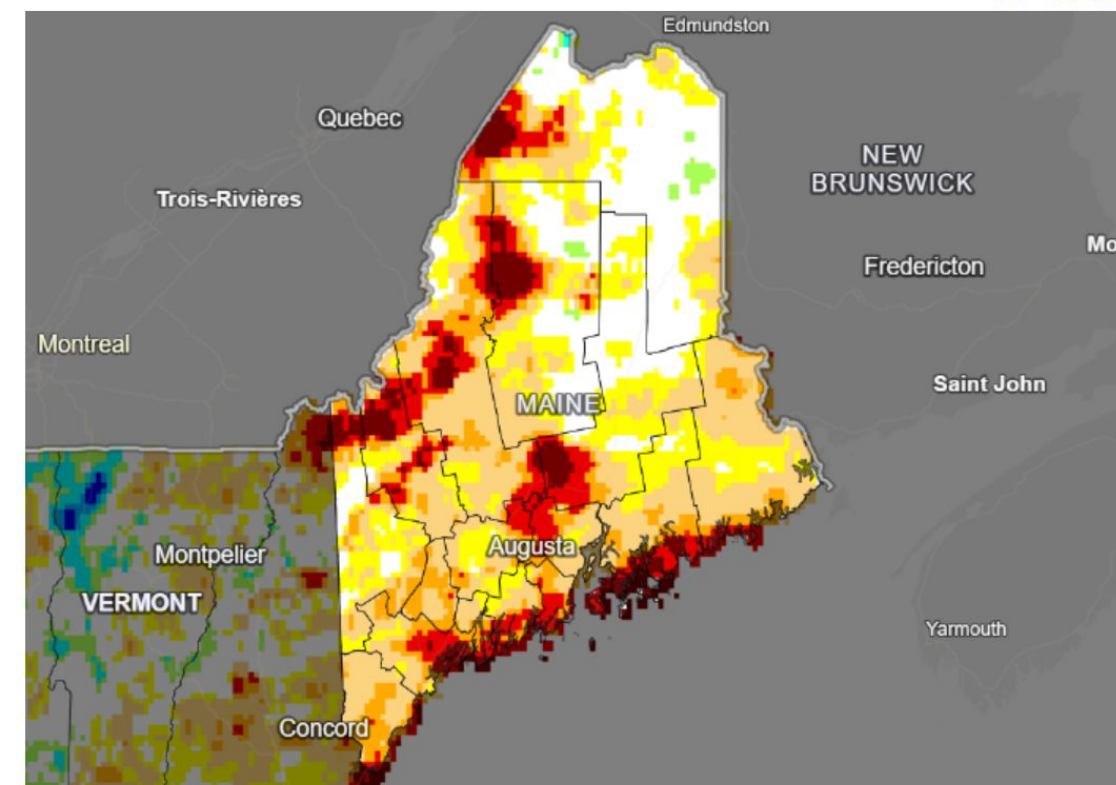
Wet Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 09/17/26

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

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions



Wet Conditions



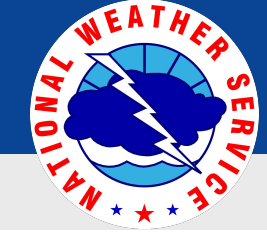
Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
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[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)



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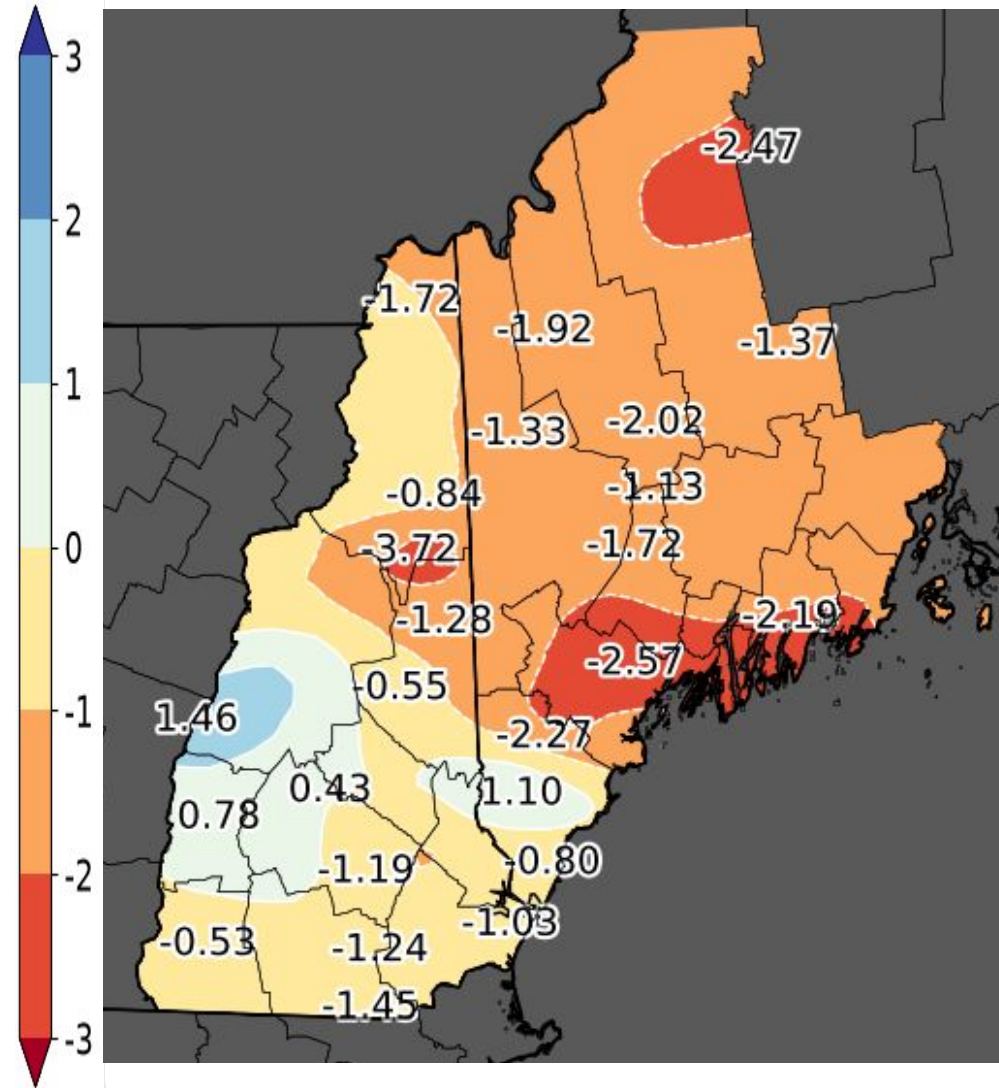
Precipitation Departures from Normal

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

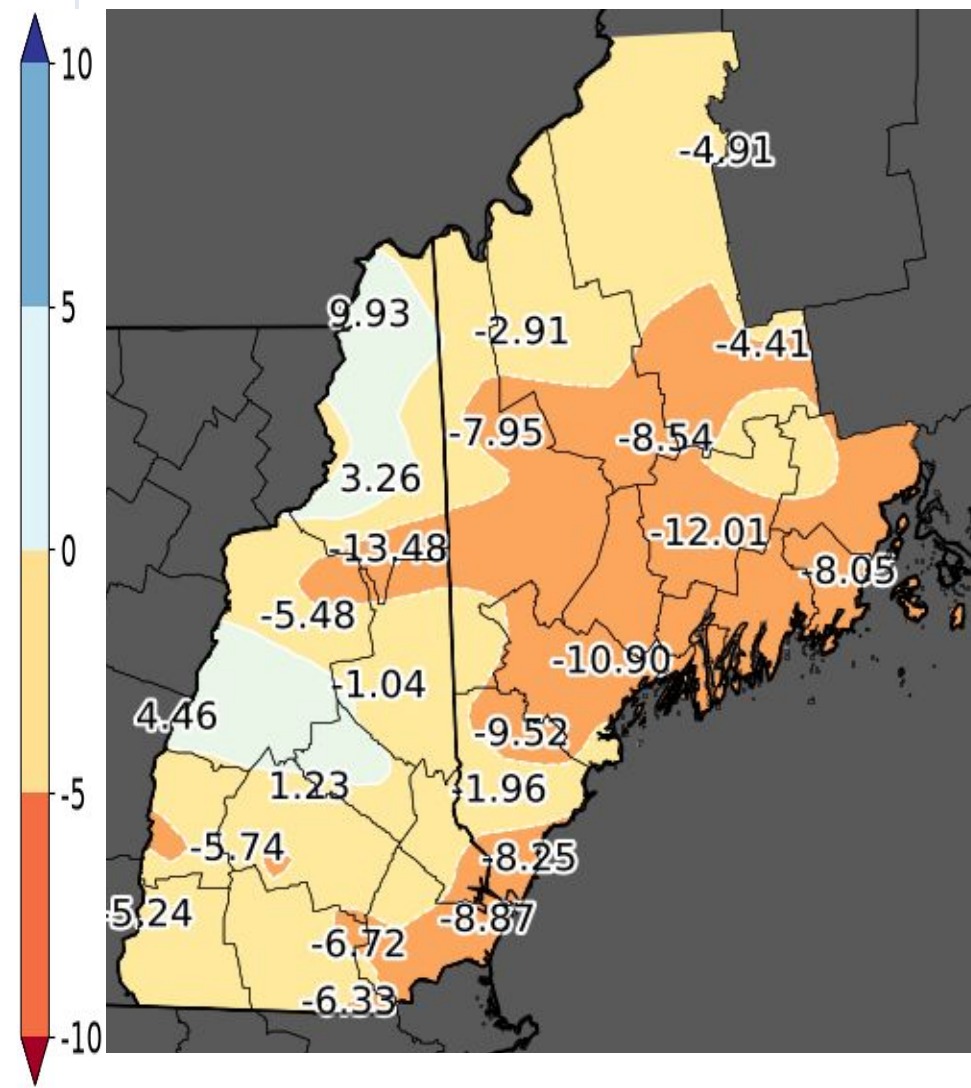
How dry (or wet) have Maine and New Hampshire been?

Ending September 23, 2026

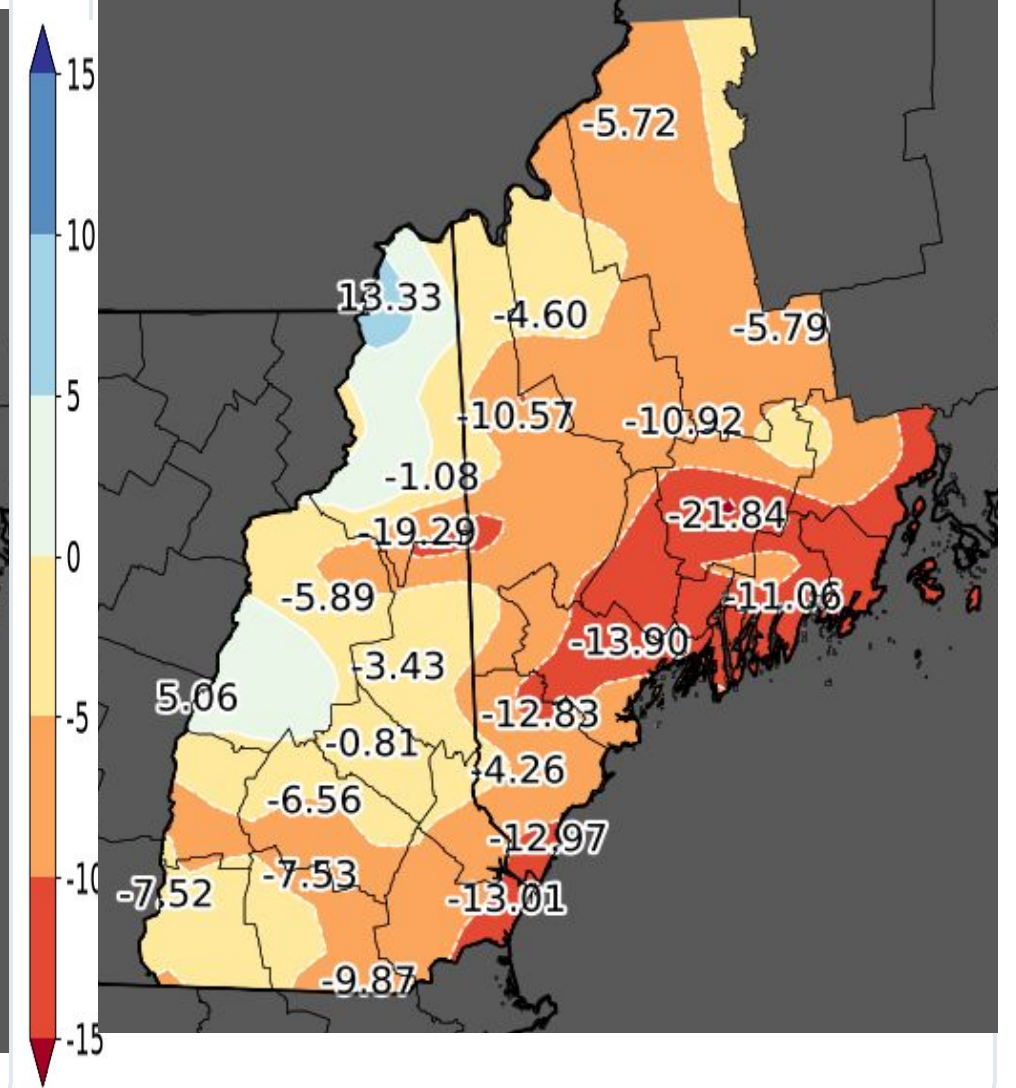
LAST 30 DAYS



YEAR TO DATE

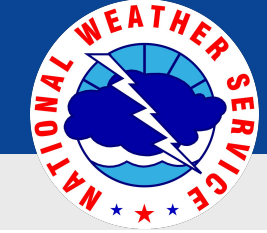


Last 365 Days



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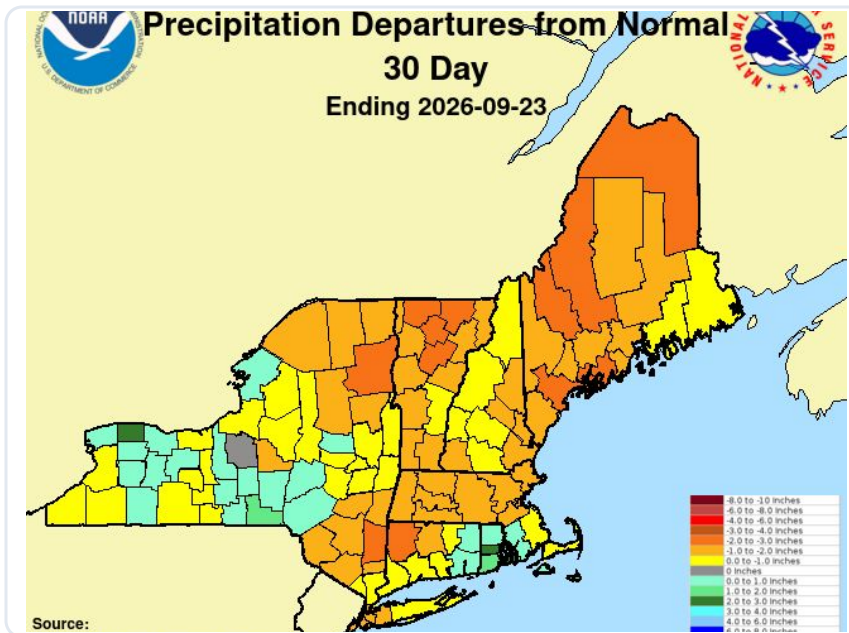
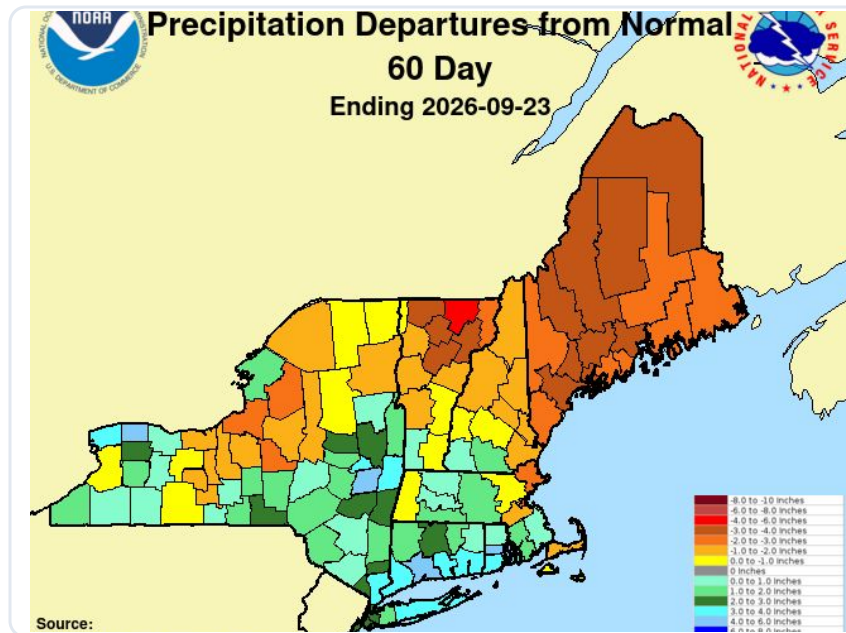
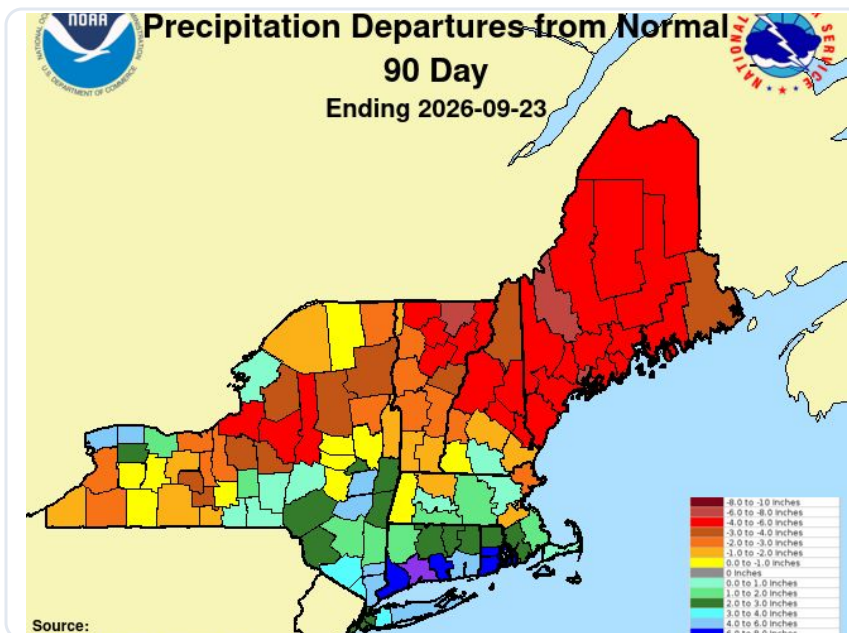
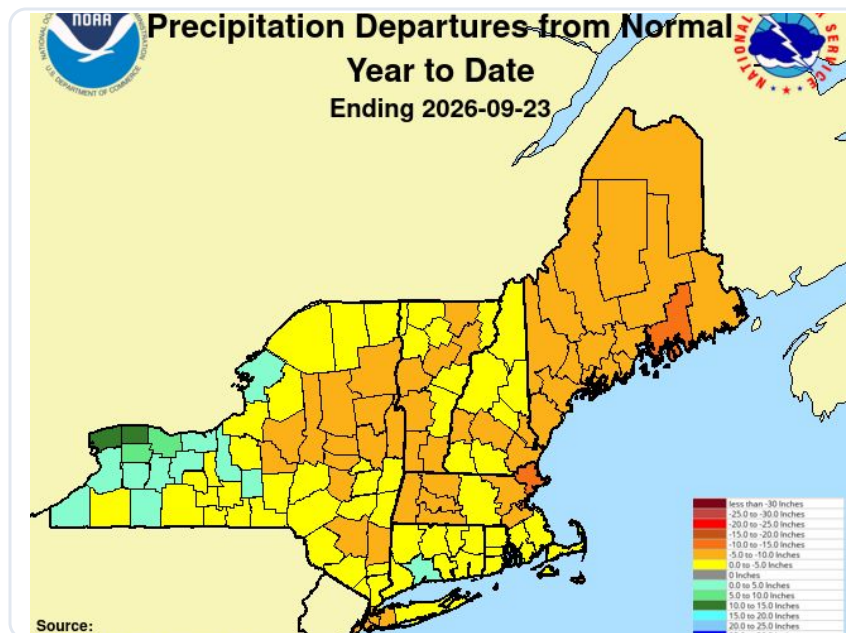
National Weather Service
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Precipitation Deficits- Regional View

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

[Maps](#) of Departures from Normal by County

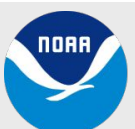


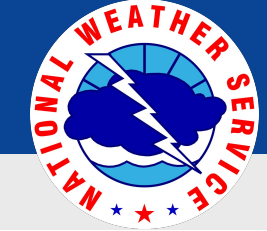
Precipitation Deficits

These county-level maps illustrate departures from normal precipitation over the last 30, 60, 90 days, and Year-to-Date.

While recent rain provides short-term topsoil relief, longer-term deficits of 9 to 17 inches persist across southern, coastal, and eastern Maine, keeping deep groundwater tables heavily taxed.

www.weather.gov/nerfc/watersupply





Soil Moisture

Satellite-Based

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 24 Sep 2026

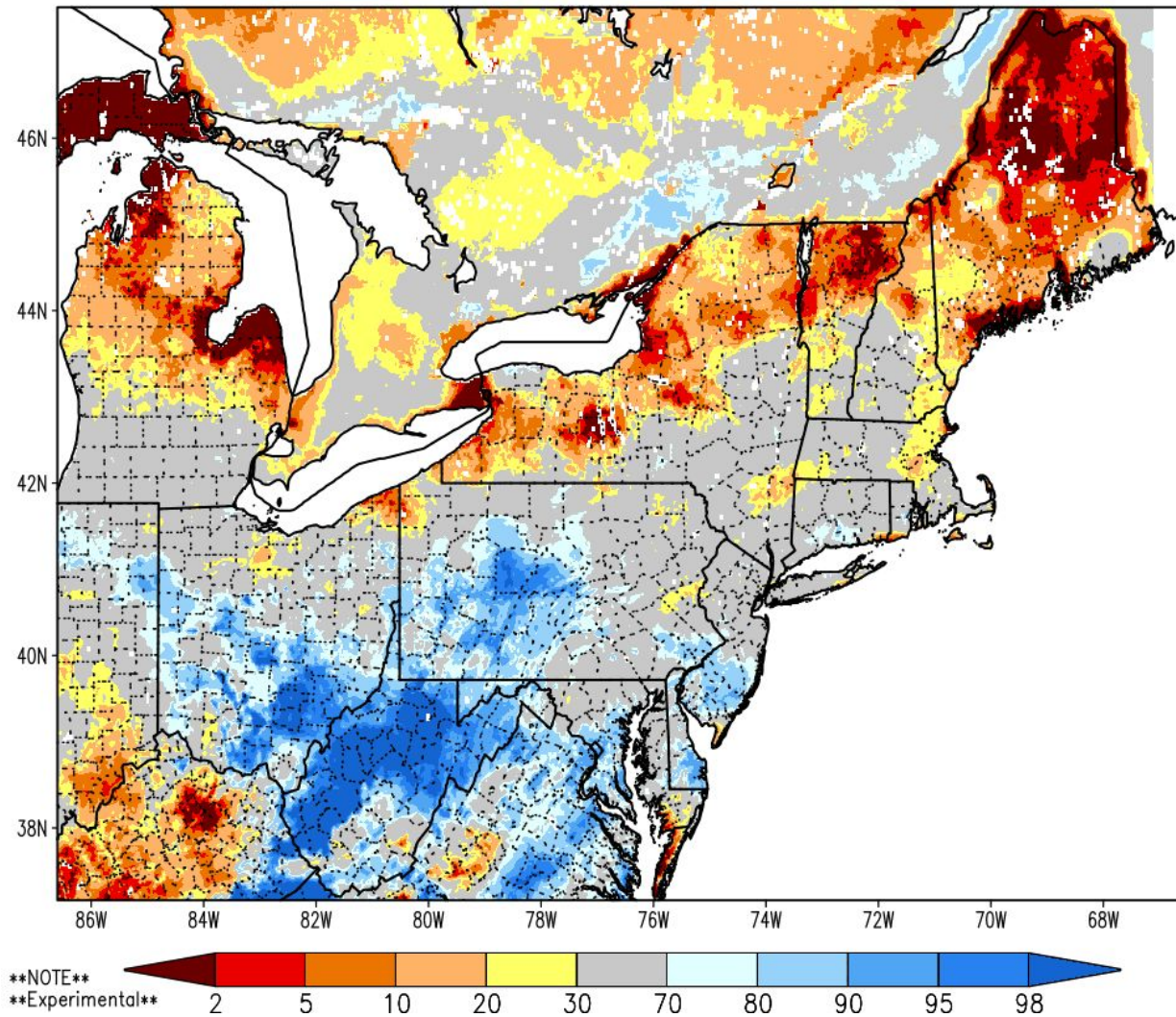


Image: NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm percentiles soil moisture (top soils)

SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 24 Sep 2026

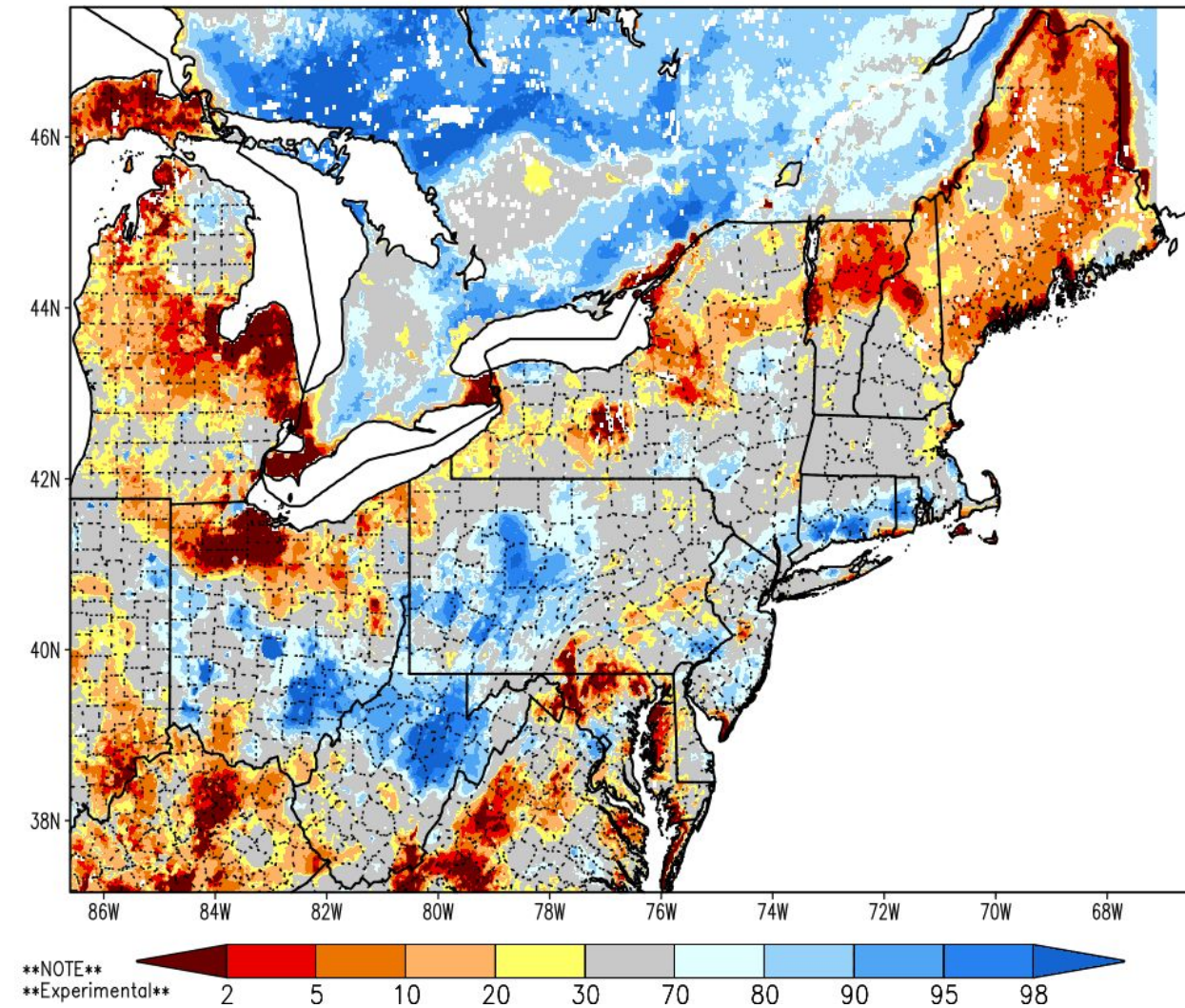
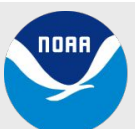
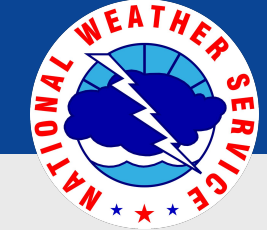


Image: NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm soil moisture percentiles (0-6ft)

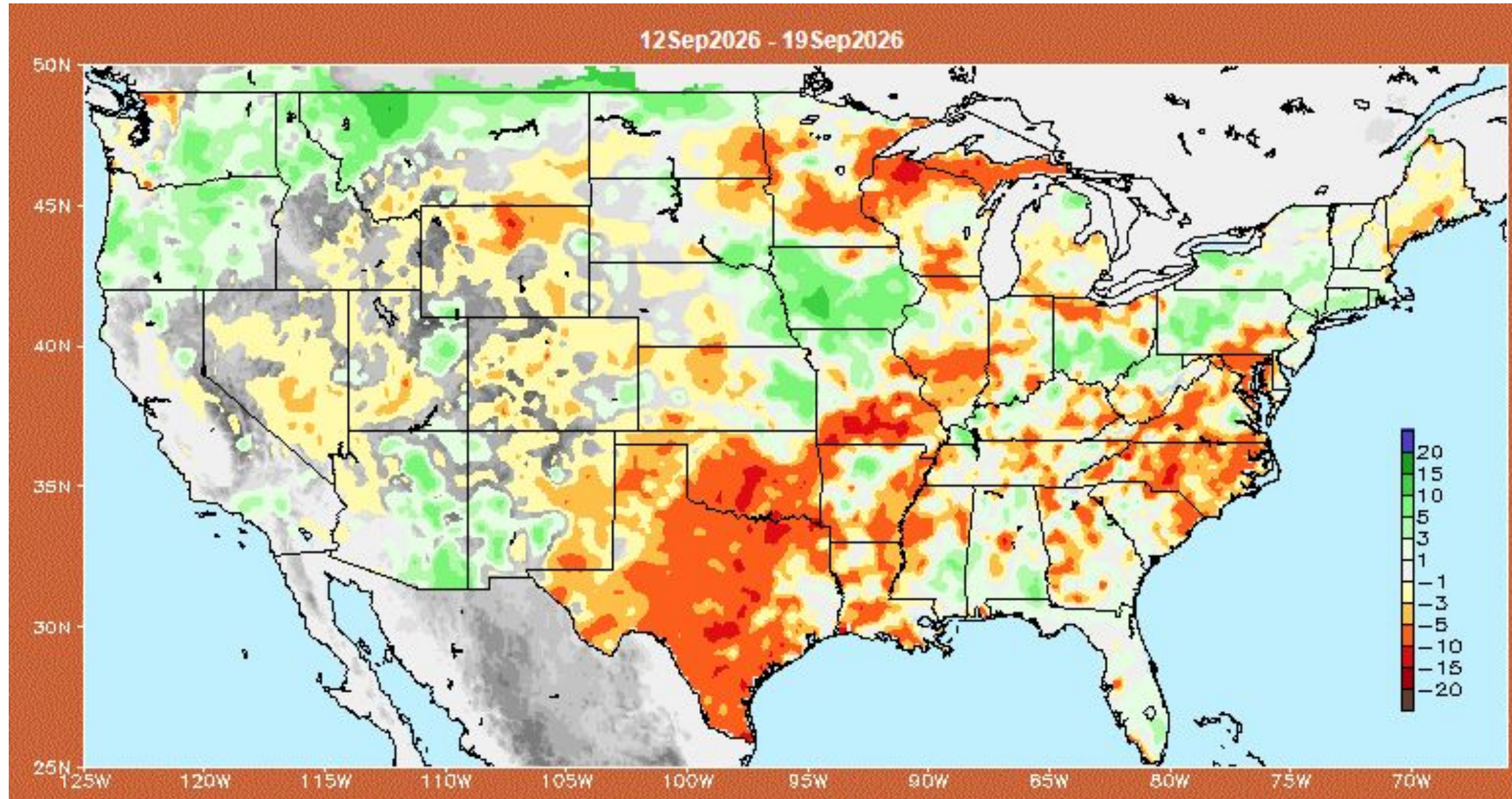




Soil Moisture Anomaly

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

MOSAIC Soil Moisture Anomaly 0-10 CM

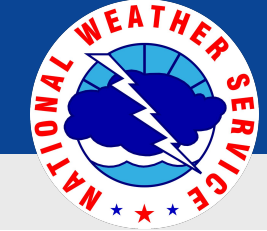


Surface Hydrology: MOSAIC Soil Moisture Profile Anomaly: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/monthly-SM-mosaic.shtml>



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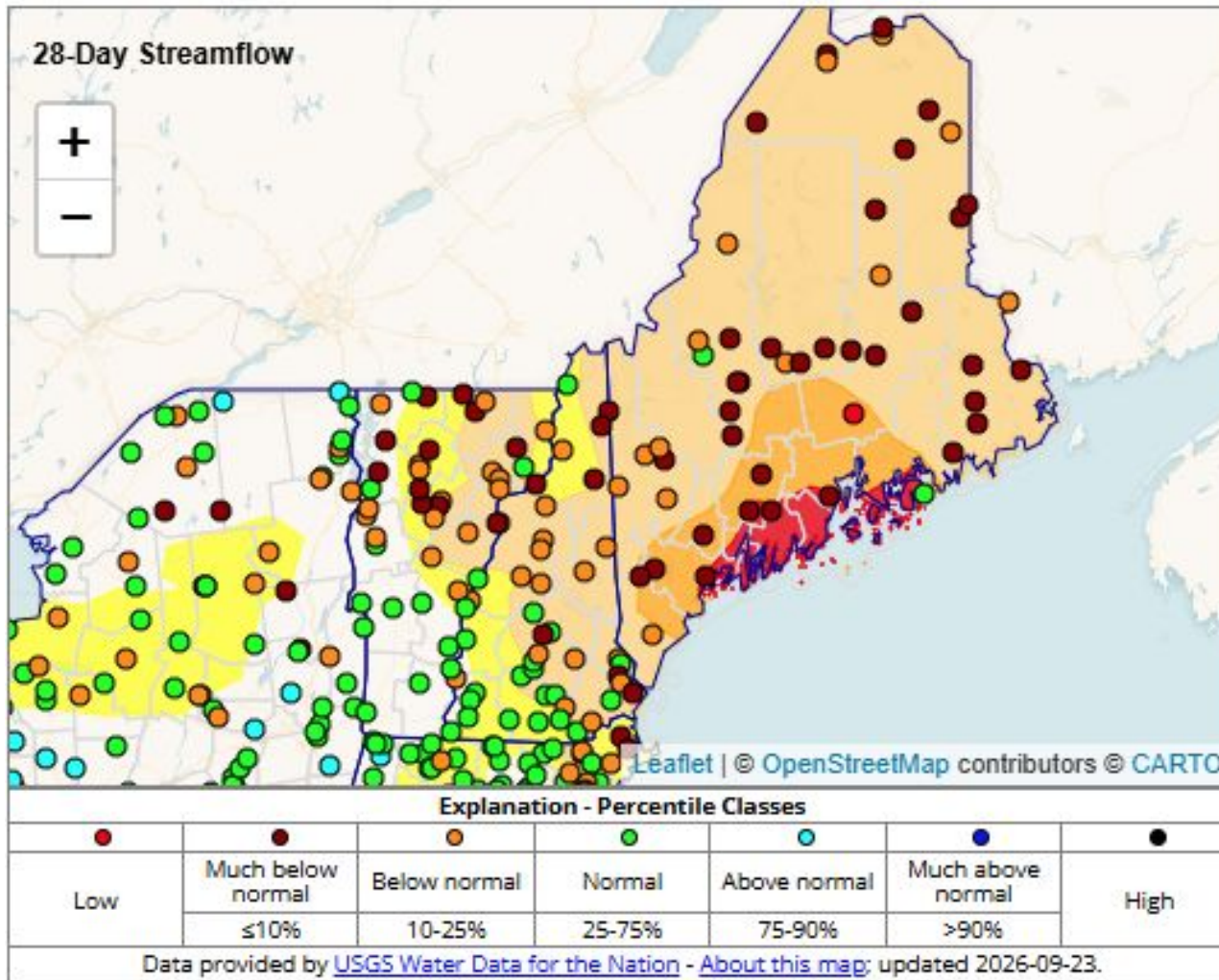
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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

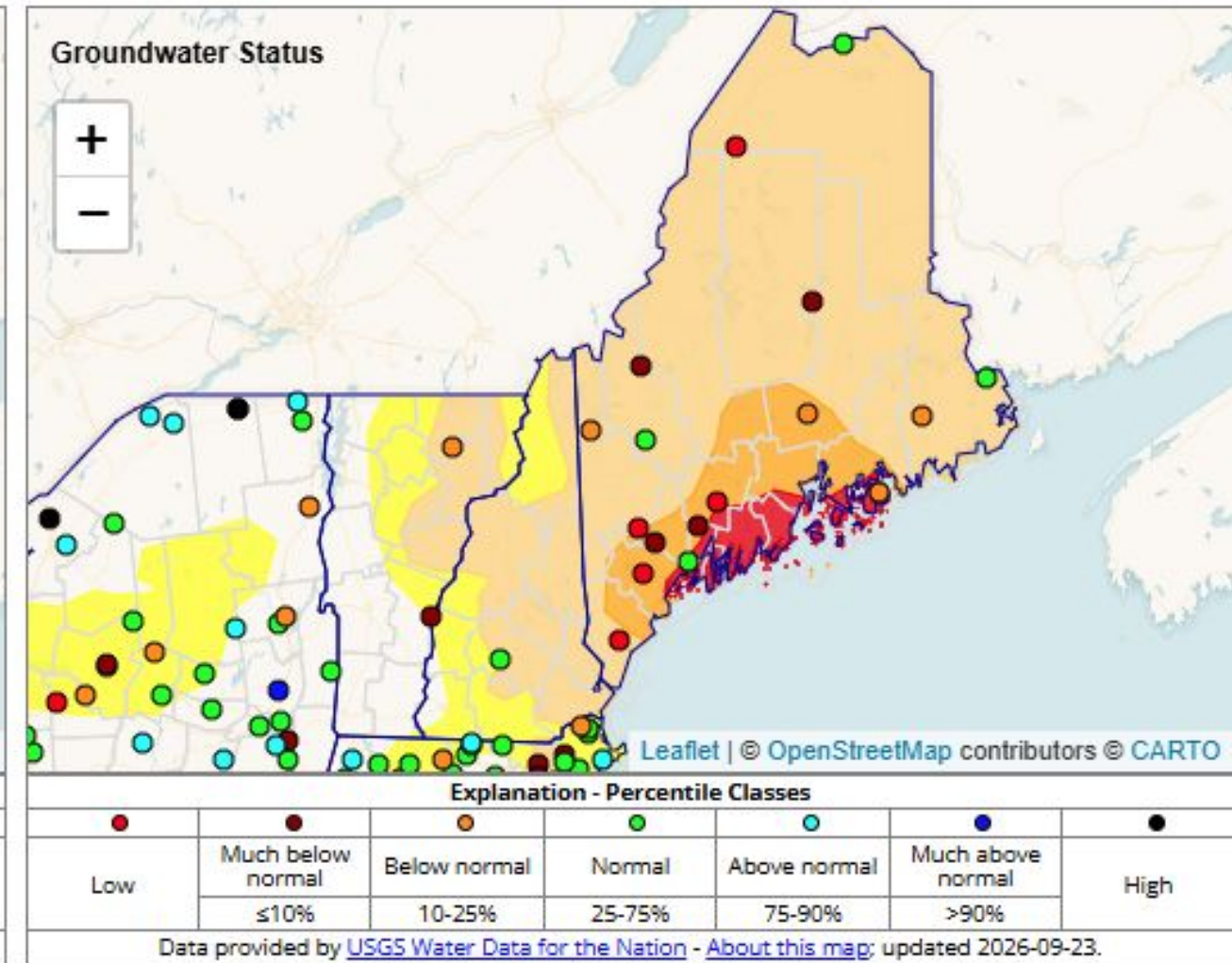
September 24, 2026
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USGS Streamgauge and Well Status



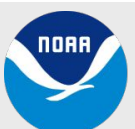
Streamflow Relative to Normal

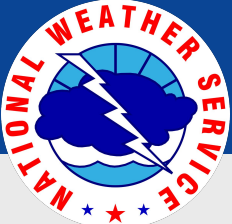
Monthly streamflow averages show the variability of the drought depending on location.



Groundwater Deficits

Groundwater recharge lags behind with lingering significant deficits in parts of Maine and New Hampshire.





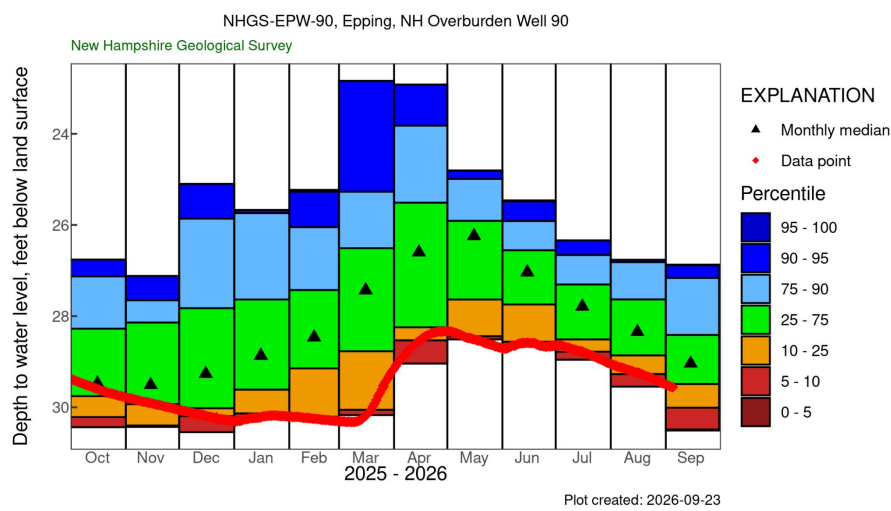
Current Assessment

Several groundwater monitoring wells are **Below to Much Below Normal** across the region.

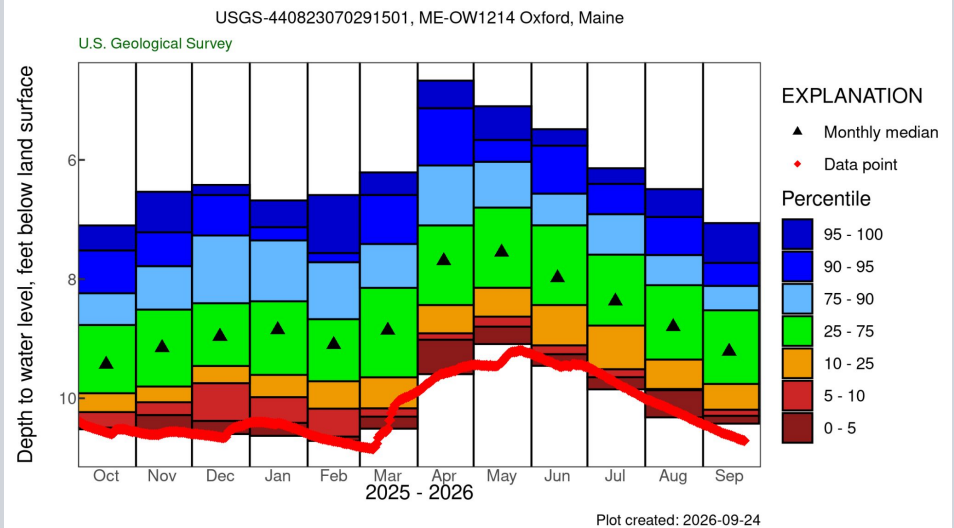
Explore Live Dashboards for additional sites:

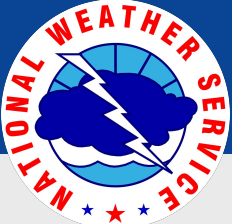
- [NH Groundwater Monitoring Dashboard](#)
- [USGS Groundwater Levels in New England](#)

EPW-90: Epping, NH Overburden Well 90



USGS Oxford, Maine ME-OW1214





Medium Range Outlooks

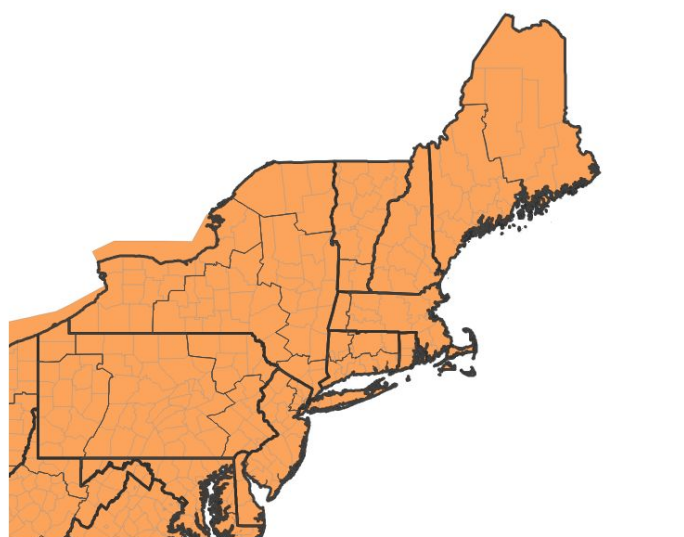
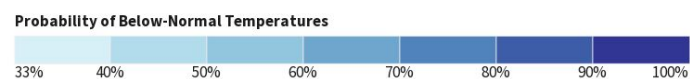
September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

6-10 Day Temperature Outlook for September 29,
2026-October 3, 2026

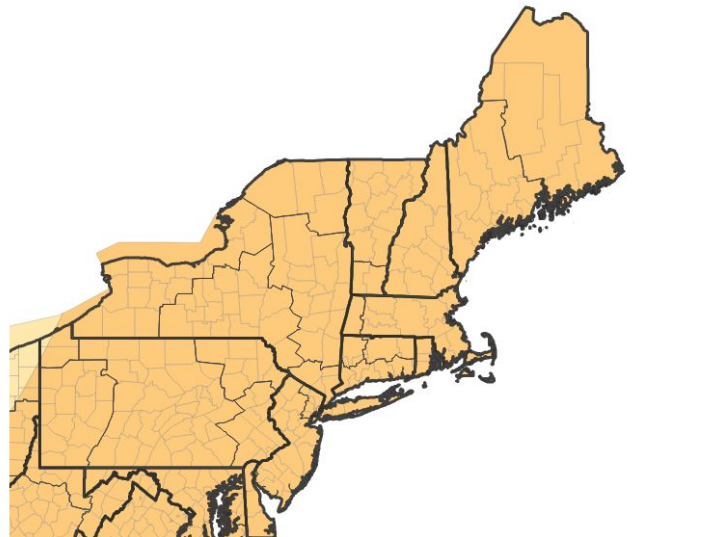
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for October 1,
2026-October 7, 2026

6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook for September 29,
2026-October 3, 2026

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 1,
2026-October 7, 2026



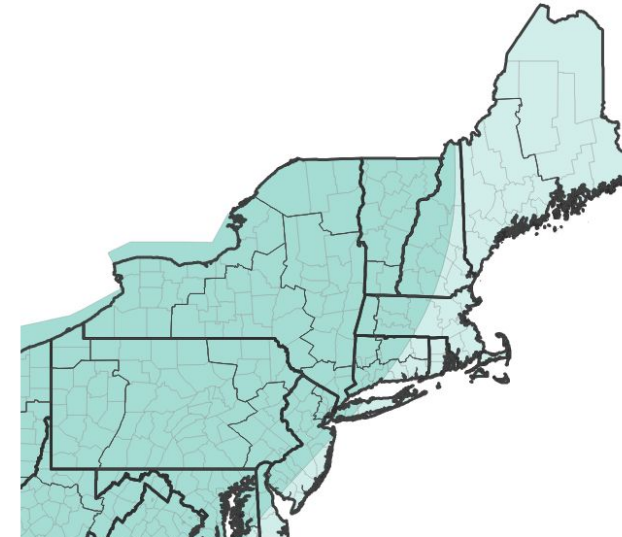
■ Near-Normal Conditions
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 09/23/26



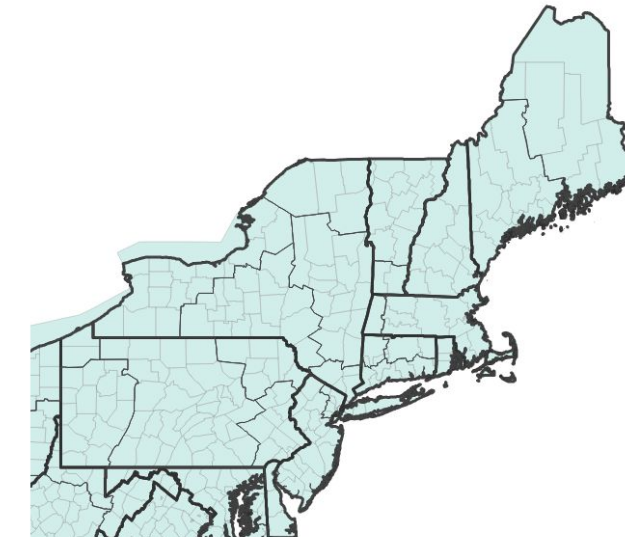
■ Near-Normal Conditions
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 09/23/26

TEMPERATURE

- Temperature signal above normal temperatures into early October.



■ Near-Normal Conditions
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 09/23/26



■ Near-Normal Conditions
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 09/23/26

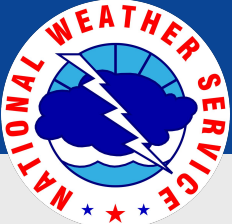
PRECIPITATION

- The pattern becomes more active, increasing the probability of beneficial rainfall



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Long-Range Outlook

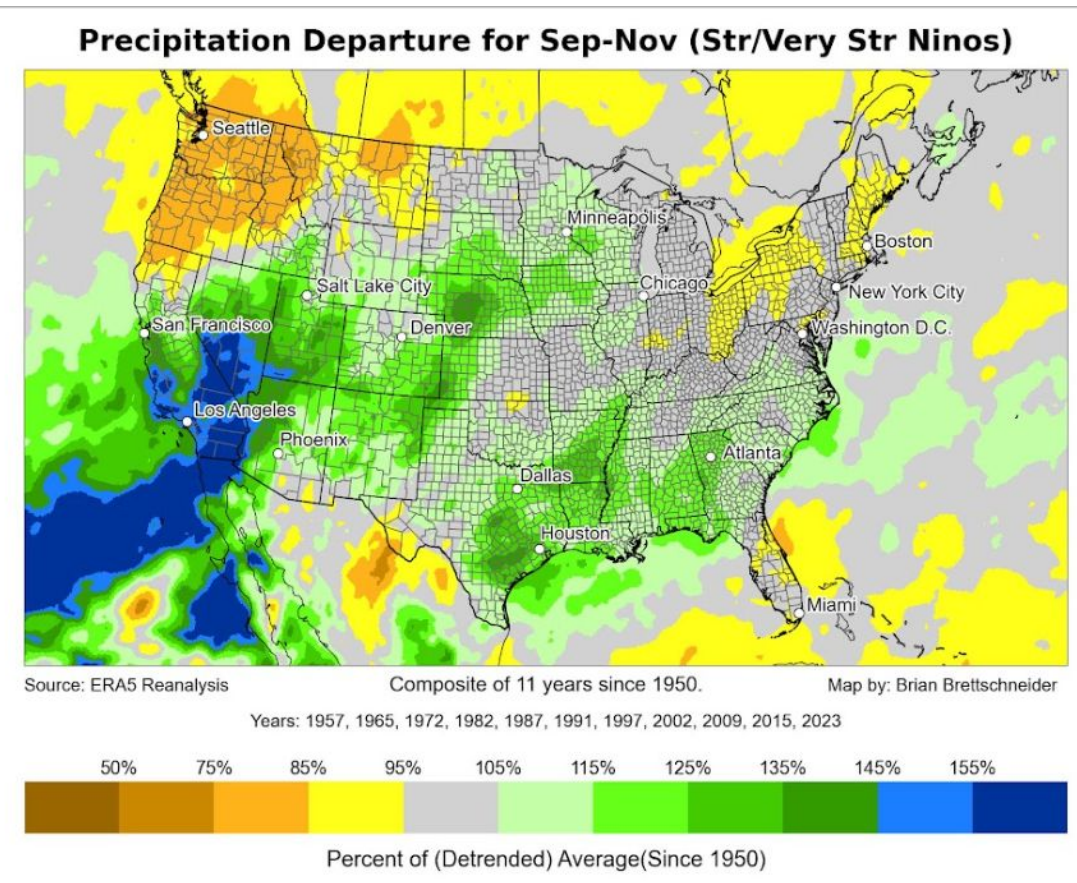
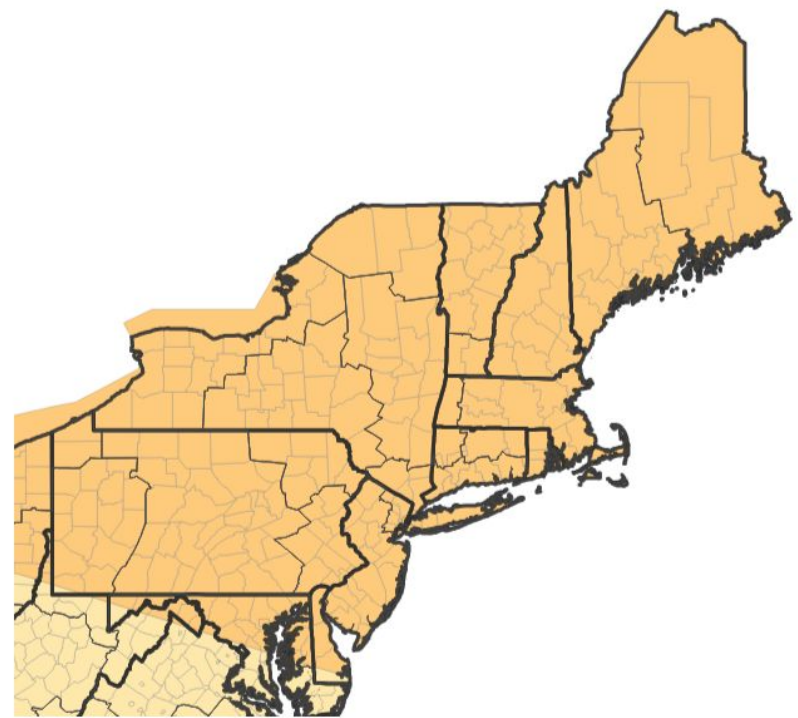
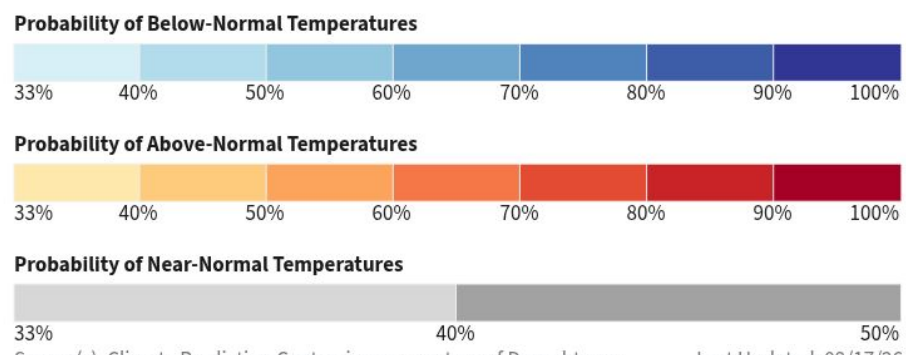
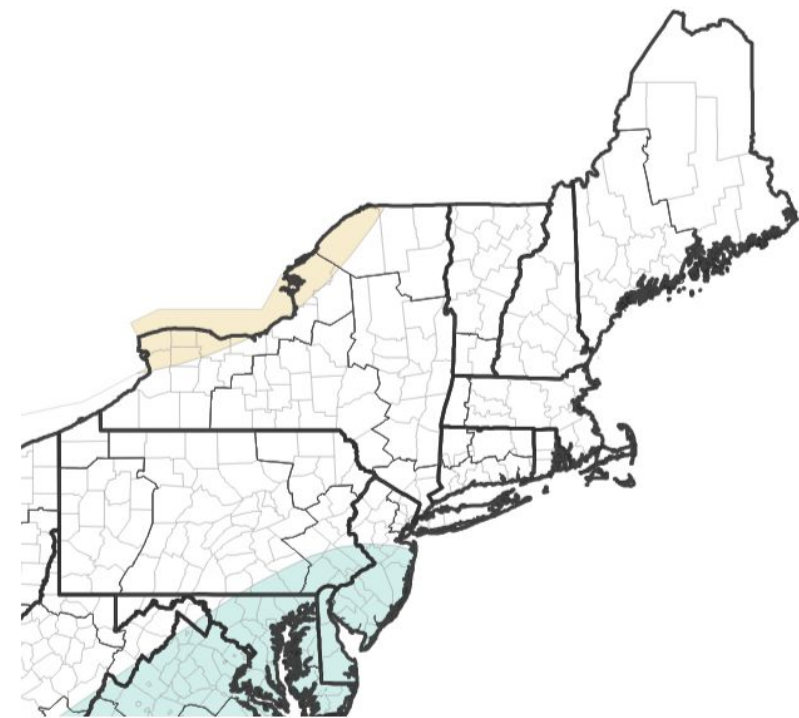
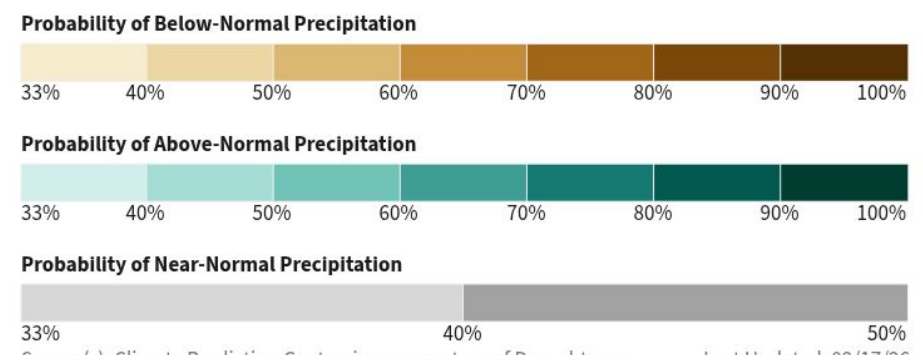
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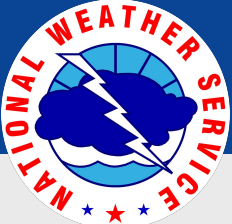
- Fall outlooks favors normal precipitation, and above normal temperatures.

Source: Climate Prediction Center www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026





EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

Current Strength & Outlook

El Niño is strengthening, with a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27. Even after it begins to weaken, impacts are expected across the U.S., with the strongest impacts most typically affecting the U.S. between December and March

Historical Winter Impacts (ME & NH)

Strong to Very Strong events historically deliver above-normal winter temperatures and precipitation:

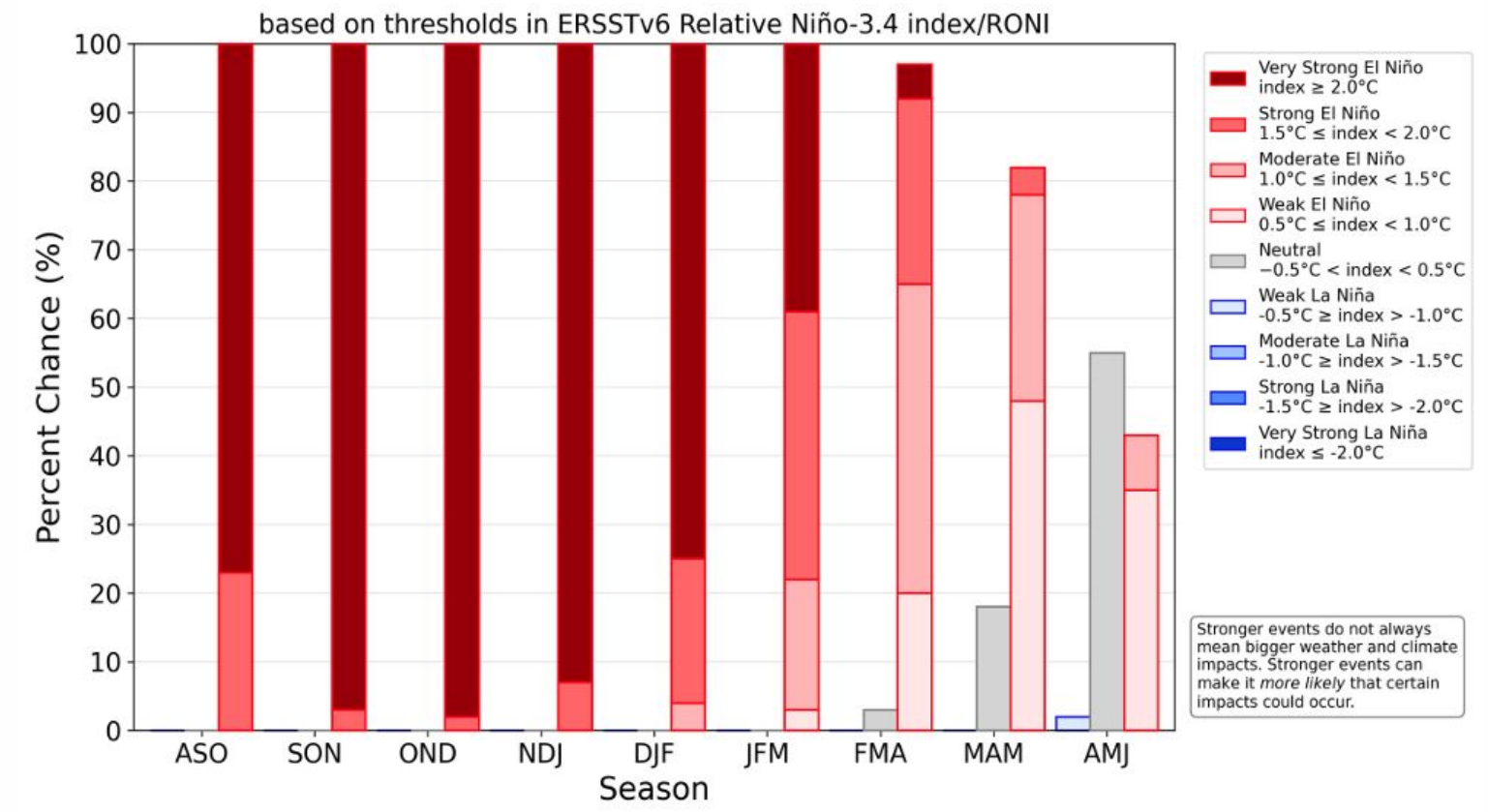
- **Storm Type & Precipitation**
Higher proportion of winter storms produce rain/sleet/freezing rain rather than long-lasting dry snow, particularly in coastal and southern valleys.
- **Repeated Snowpack Melt**
Periods of mild temperatures between weather systems often cause existing snowpack to melt repeatedly throughout the season.
- **Runoff & Hydrologic Recharge**
Frequent runoff events favor robust surface water replenishment (lakes, reservoirs, streamflows), while shallow ground frost aids deep groundwater recharge.

Net Drought Outlook

Even with expectations of a deficient seasonal snowpack, the net hydrologic impact is often **favorable for reducing drought**.

Source: Climate Prediction Center | www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued September 2026)

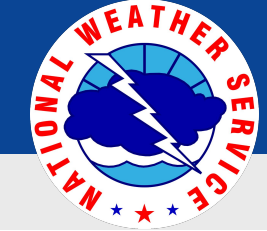


El Nino is expected to persist through March-May 2027, with a possible chance of ENSO Neutral in April-June. Source: Climate Prediction Center



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Gray-Portland, ME



Summary of Impacts

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

Hydrologic Impacts

- [USGS data](#) shows a critical water deficit across Maine, where nearly two-thirds of monitoring stations show extreme low flows. While New Hampshire fares relatively better, 40% of its streams are still impacted by drought.
- Severely depleted river levels are putting direct pressure on local municipal water supplies and curtailing regional hydropower output.
- Low, warmer river flows deplete dissolved oxygen, severely threatening cold-water species such as wild brook trout and salmon. Wetlands are rapidly drying up.

Aquifer & Residential Water Deficits

- Thousands of rural residents depend on private, shallow bedrock or dug wells face declining water tables. Declining well levels are forcing households to haul water or undergo expensive re-drilling to reach deeper groundwater.

Agricultural & Forestry Impacts

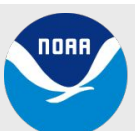
- Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs) highlight expanding agricultural impacts beyond classified drought zones, including reduced crop yields, browned pastures, and aggressive weed growth. Early-fall harvests—including apples, blueberries, and potatoes—face diminished sizes and yields unless growers rely heavily on drip irrigation.
- Parched pastures are forcing dairy and livestock producers to deplete winter hay reserves early or purchase costly supplemental feed.
- Trees are shedding leaves and acorns prematurely due to water stress. While drought can cause patchy or muted foliage, crisp autumn nights and clear days may still support localized vibrant fall colors.

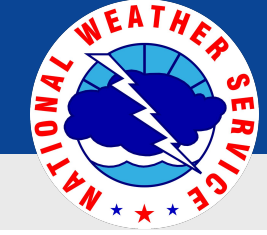
Local Guidance: Residents should consult their local municipality or public water supplier for region-specific water conservation guidelines and restrictions.

Click on your respective state for a link to
report a dry well

[Maine Dry Well Survey](#)

[New Hampshire Dry Well Survey](#)





Main Takeaways

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT

Bottom Line: Drought Conditions Unchanged in Maine; New Hampshire Capital Region Sees Minor Improvement

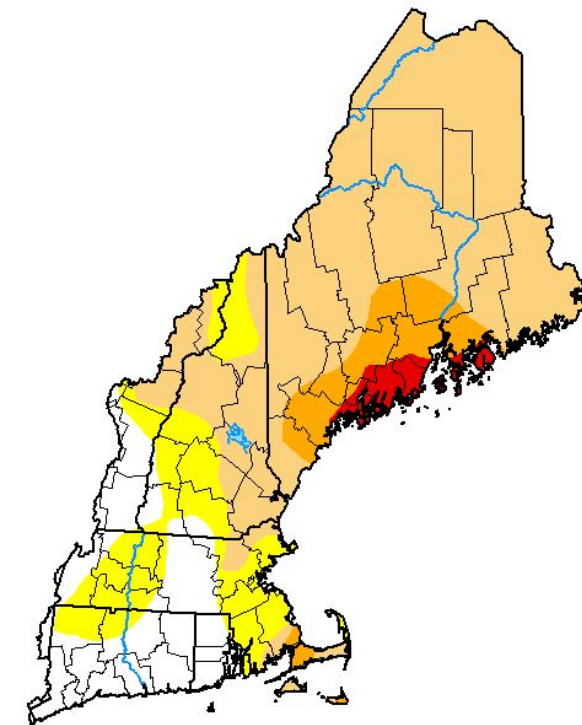
- In Maine, conditions remain unchanged. Severe and Extreme drought persist along the Midcoast, while Moderate Drought (D1) prevails across much of the rest of the state.
- New Hampshire saw minor relief, with a modest reduction in Moderate Drought (D1) reported near the Capital Region and near the stateline. However, the remainder of the state continues to experience conditions ranging from Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1).

Outlook- Persistent Drought Conditions Through Fall

- The short-term forecast favors some drought relief with a drawn-out soaking rainfall event
- CPC Outlooks suggest continued active weather into early October signalling continued opportunities for incremental improvement.
- The region needs about 150% of normal rainfall (12-15") through the rest of fall to meaningfully erase deficits before winter freeze-up.
- Upcoming winter conditions will be influenced by a strong El Niño, which historical patterns suggest could net a net positive effect on precipitation and drought recovery.

U.S. Drought Monitor New England Watershed

September 22, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 24, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

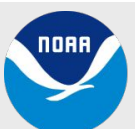
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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NASA/GSFC/SSAI



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME



Contact Information

September 24, 2026
9:15 AM EDT



Briefing Webpage

www.weather.gov/gyx/EMhome



<https://www.weather.gov/gyx/drought>



<https://www.weather.gov/gyx/droughtinformationstatement>



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Facebook

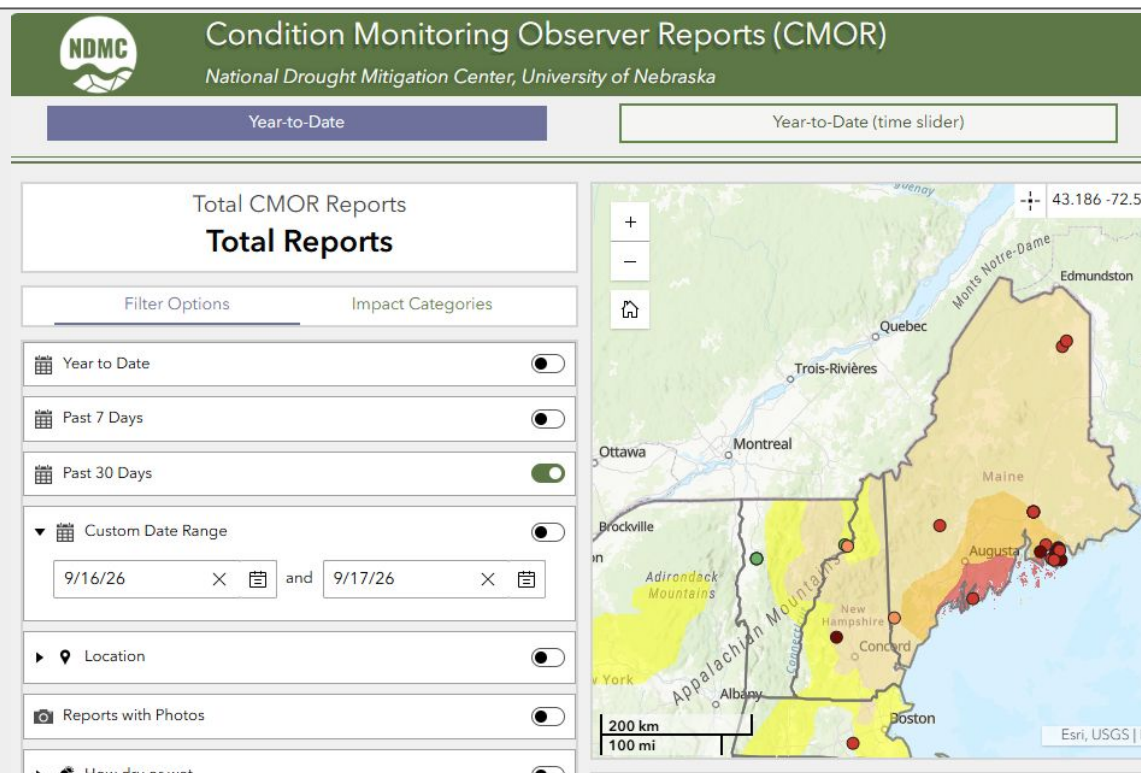


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