



Drought Information Statement for Kansas

Valid October 3, 2026

Issued By: WFO Wichita

Contact Information: w-ict.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated as drought conditions warrant.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ICT/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- Drought continues across generally the southern half of Kansas, although recent rainfall will likely cause some improvement





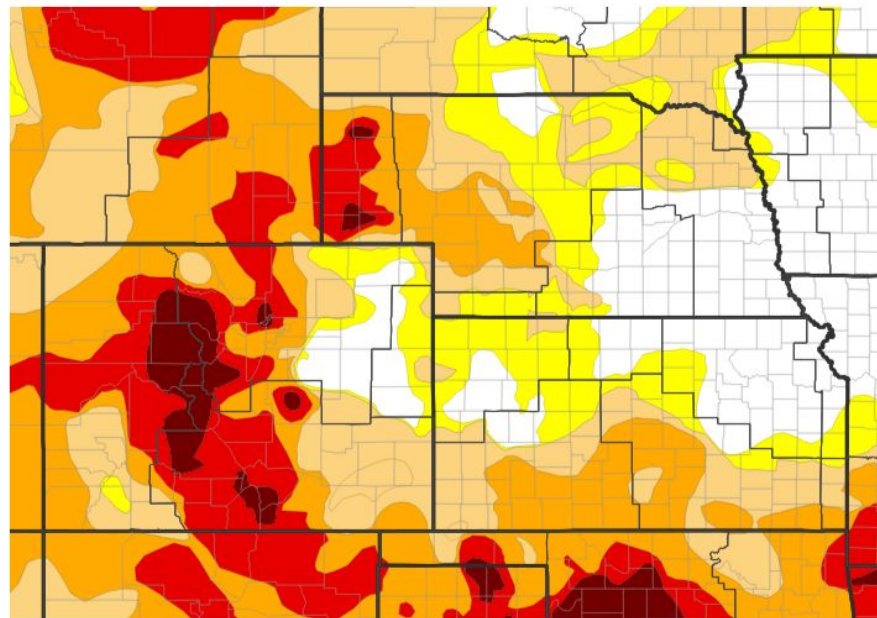
Kansas Drought Monitor (as of Sep 29)

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

Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** None
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of central and southern Kansas
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Much of the southern half of Kansas, and small portions of northwest Kansas
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Much of Kansas except northeast portions and a small portion of west-central Kansas

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/29/26



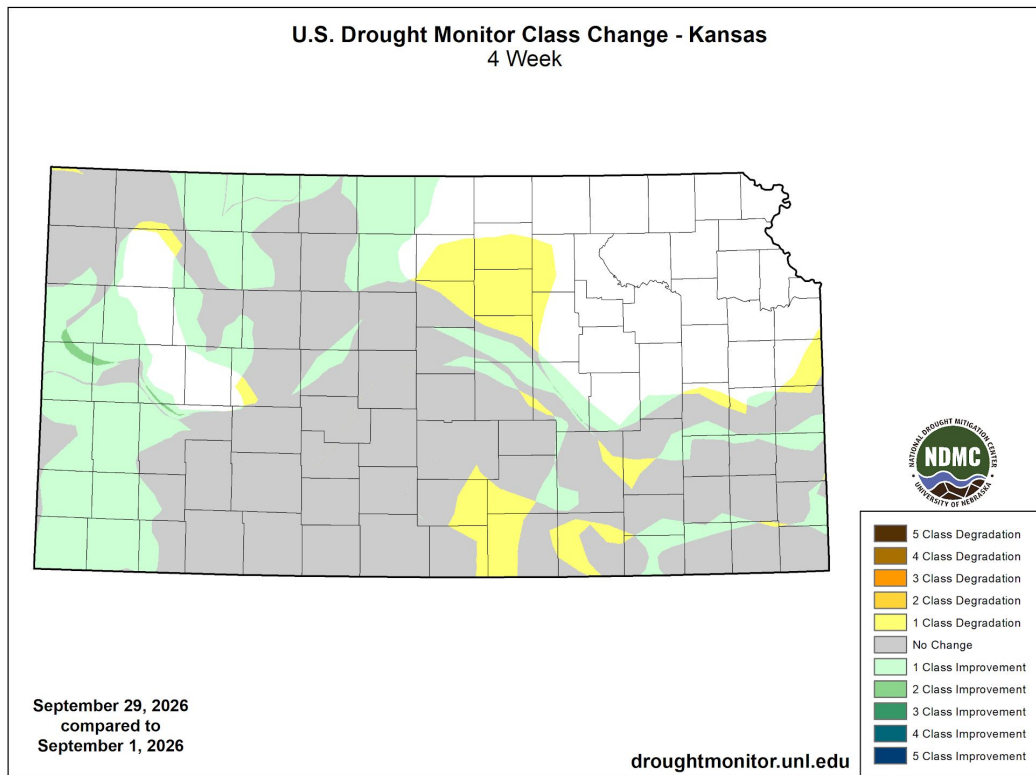


4-Week Drought Change

[Link to Drought Monitor Change Maps](#)

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened:** 1 category across small portions of western, central, and eastern Kansas
- **Drought Improved:** 1 to 2 categories for portions of western, central, and eastern Kansas



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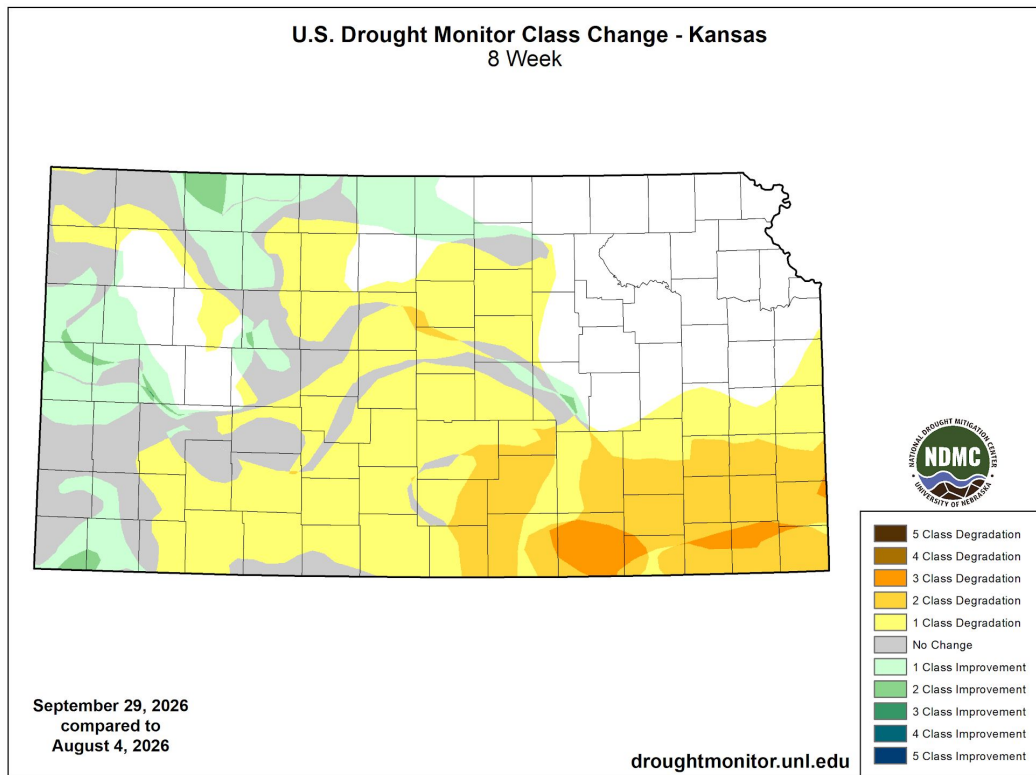


8-Week Drought Change

[Link to Drought Monitor Change Maps](#)

Eight Week Drought Monitor Class Change

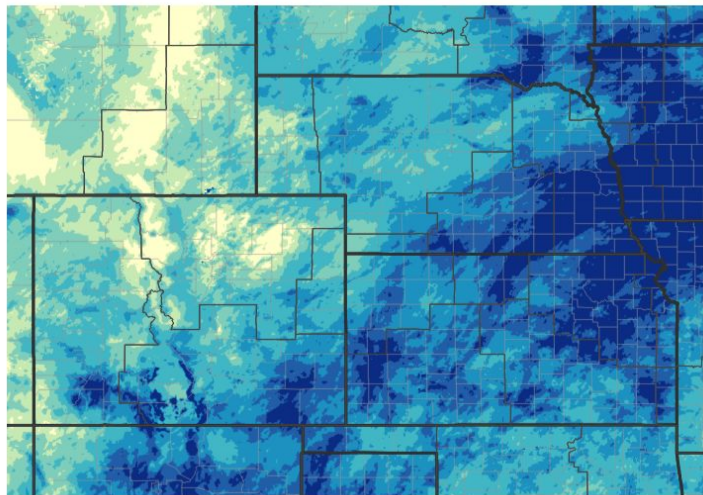
- **Drought Worsened:** 1 to 3 categories for large portions of central and southeast Kansas
- **Drought Improved:** 1 to 2 categories for portions of central and western Kansas



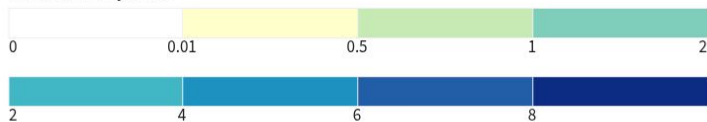


Precipitation Past 30 Days

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

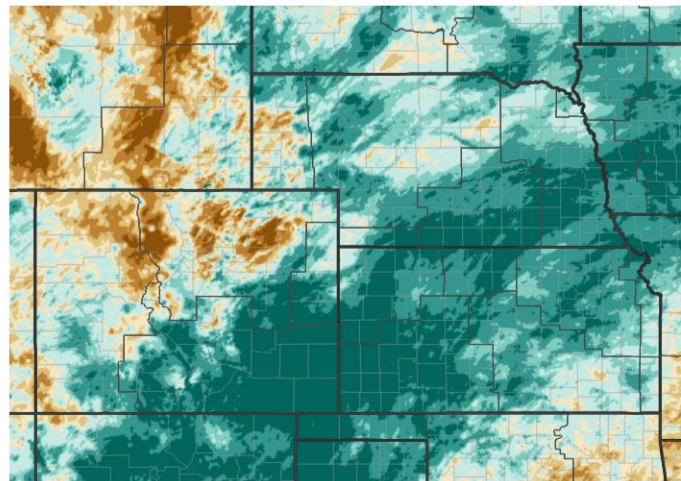


Inches of Precipitation

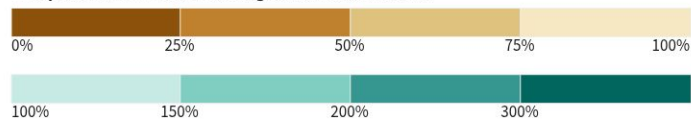


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/03/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/03/26

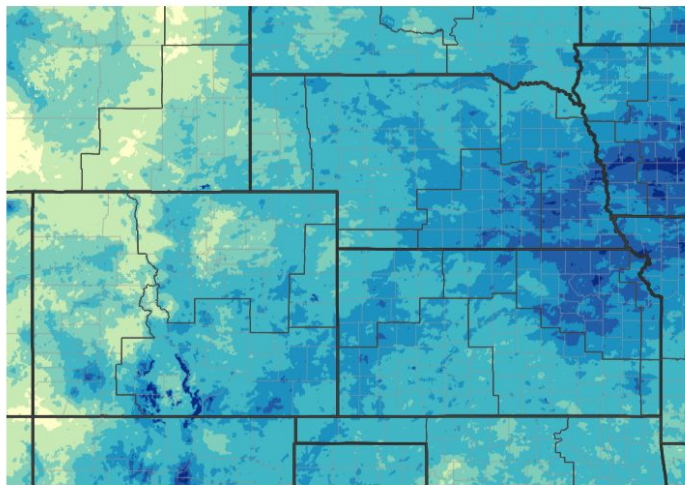
- Precipitation the past 30 days has been mostly well above average across Kansas, although small portions of southeast Kansas are near to below average.



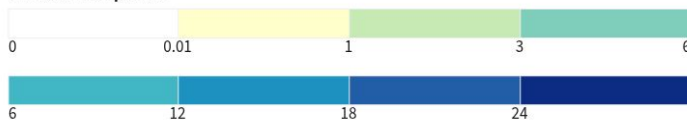


Precipitation Past 90 Days

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



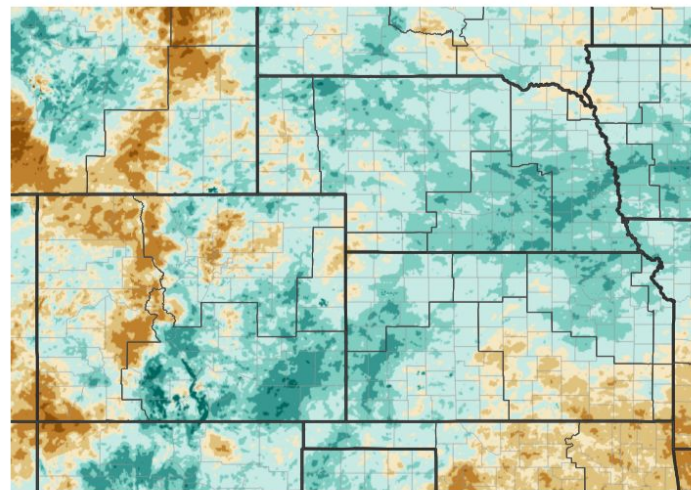
Inches of Precipitation



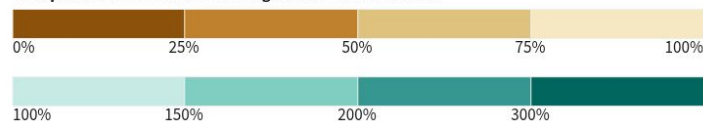
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/03/26

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/03/26

- Precipitation the past 90 days has been mostly near to above average, with mostly below average over portions of south-central and southeast Kansas.





Kansas Agriculture Conditions

As of September 27

Agriculture and Crop Conditions Across Kansas Per the [USDA's Latest Weekly Report](#)

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton Condition	9%	25%	40%	22%	4%
Corn Condition	16%	19%	26%	30%	9%
Soybean Condition	12%	20%	32%	31%	5%
Sorghum Condition	15%	24%	37%	20%	4%
Pasture/Range Condition	15%	22%	39%	22%	2%

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	14%	30%	46%	10%
Subsoil Moisture	19%	35%	42%	4%

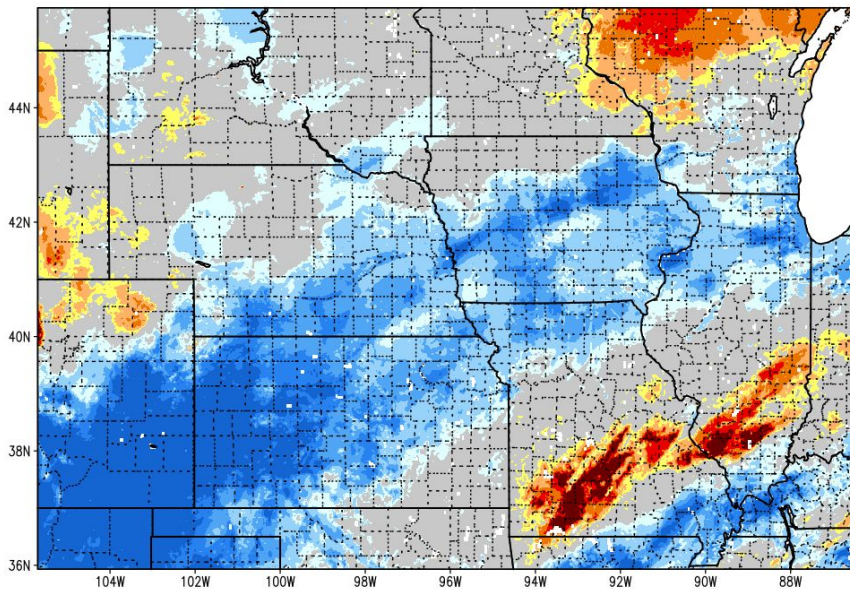




Agricultural Impacts (Soil Moisture Percentile and Change)

[Link to CPC Soil Moisture Page](#)

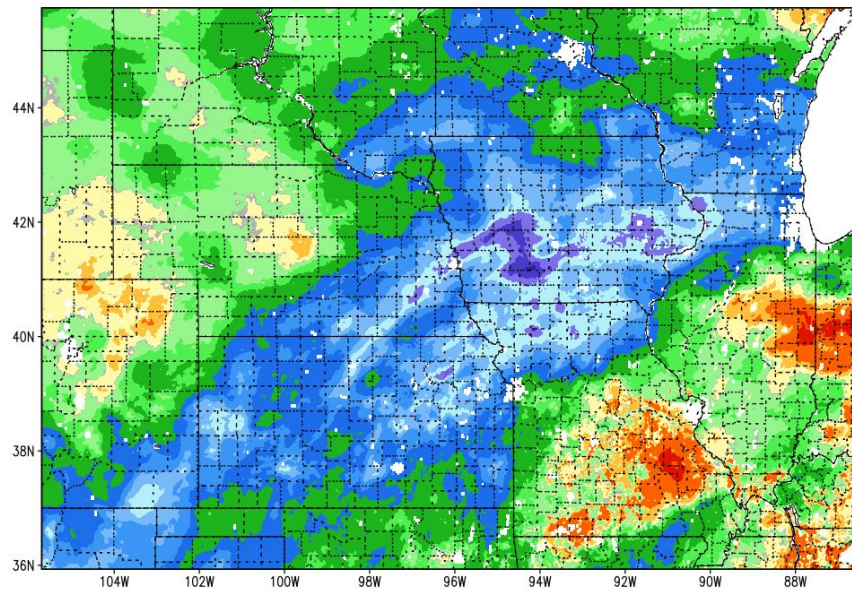
SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 03 Oct 2026



NOTE
Experimental

- Soil moisture increased substantially the past month over much of the state (right image) due to mostly above average precipitation. Soil moisture as of October 3rd was well above average over much of the state (right image) due to recent beneficial rainfall.

1-Month Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 03 Oct 2026



NOTE
Experimental



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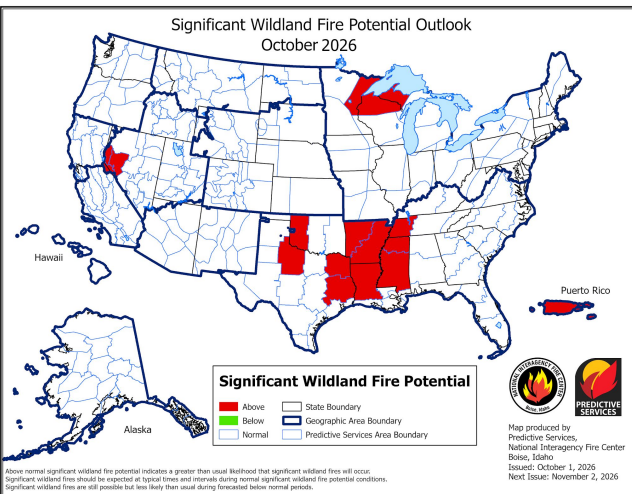
National Weather Service
Wichita, Kansas



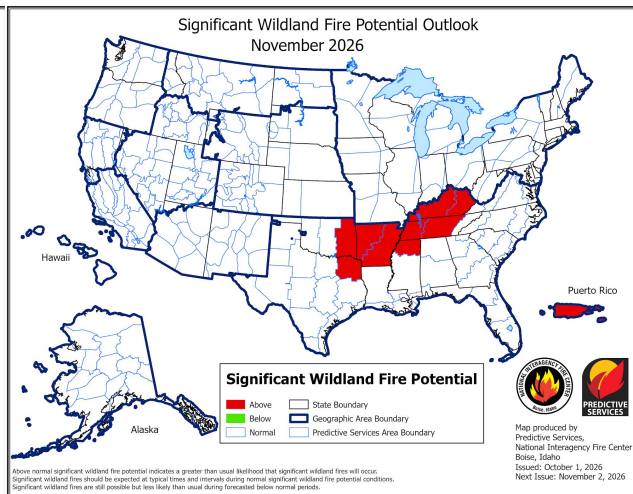
Significant Wildland Fire Potential

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

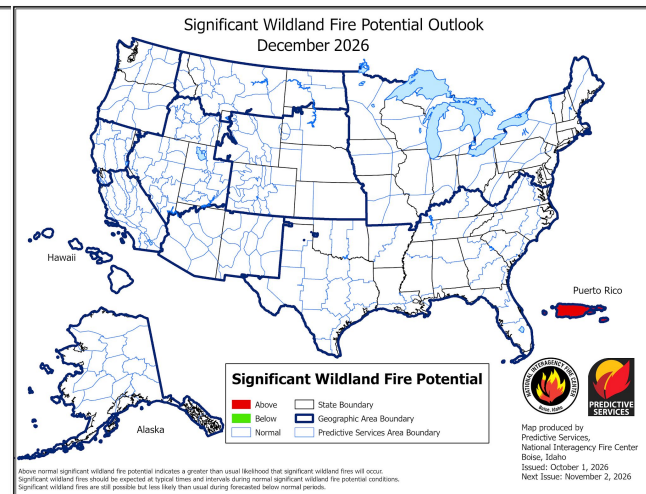
October



November



December



Per [Predictive Services](#), the forecast for significant wildland fire potential is ***near average*** across Kansas through December.



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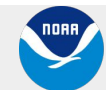
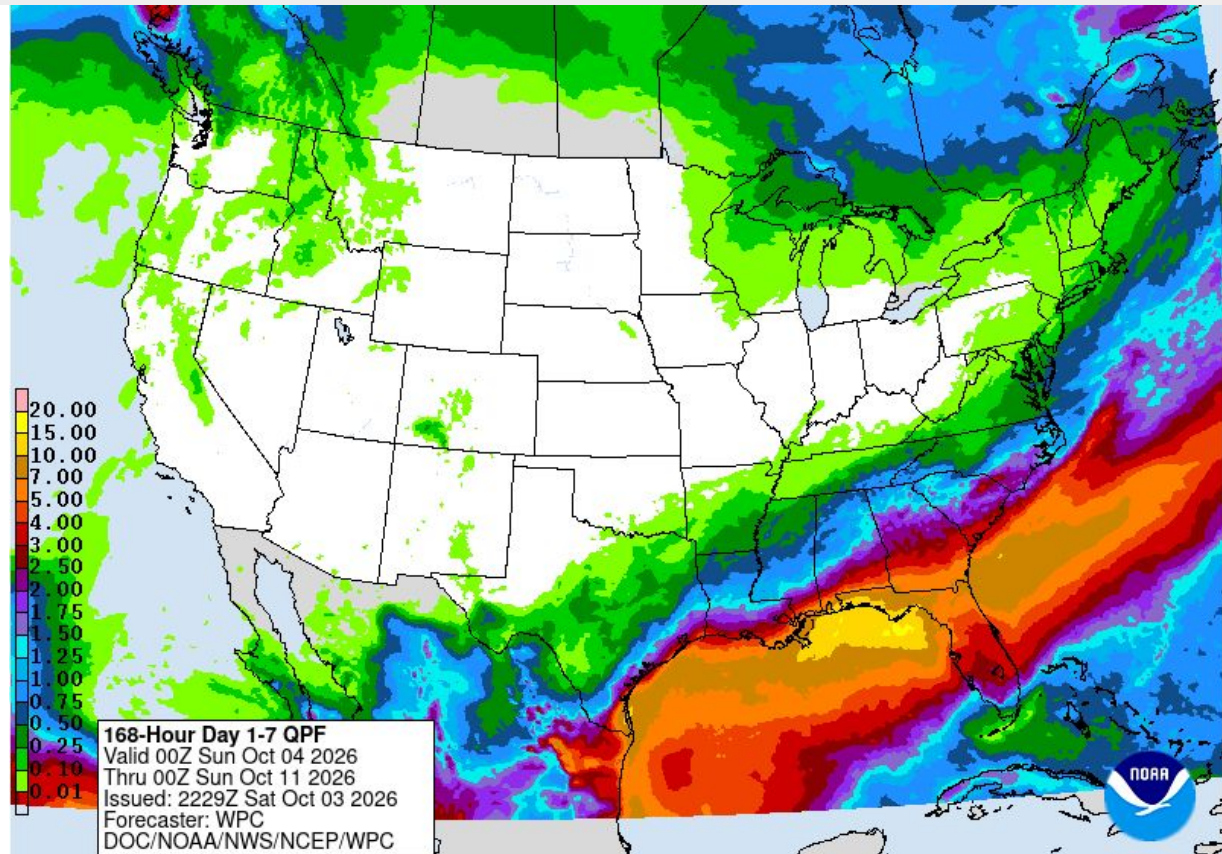
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7-Day Precipitation Forecast (thru October 11)

Next 7 days:

- Little to no rainfall is forecast across Kansas and adjacent regions the next 7 days.

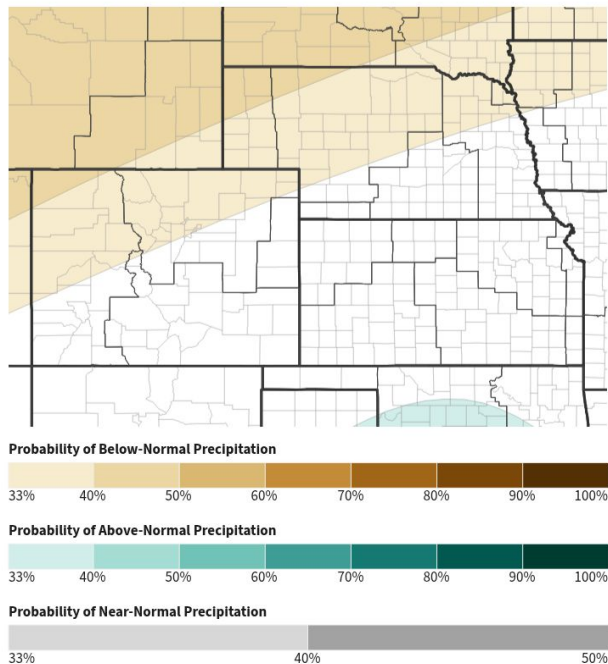




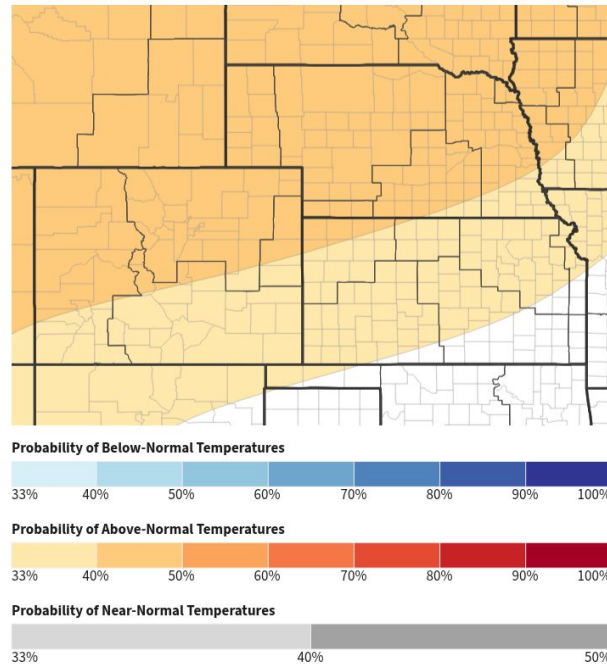
October Precipitation and Temperature Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1,
2026–October 31, 2026



Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1,
2026–October 31, 2026



- There is a **33-50%** chance for **above average temperatures** across mainly central to northern KS. There are equal chance for above, below, or near average precipitation.

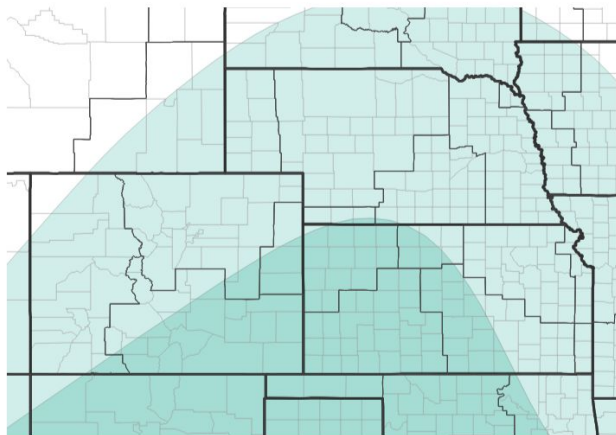




Precipitation and Temperature Outlook through December

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



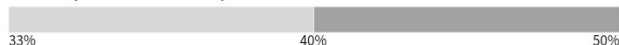
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



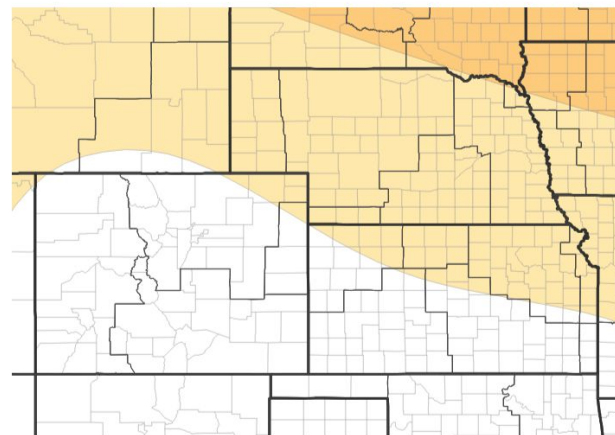
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



- There is a **33-40%** chance for **above average temperatures** across mainly the northeast half of KS. There is a **33-50%** chance for **above average precipitation** statewide.



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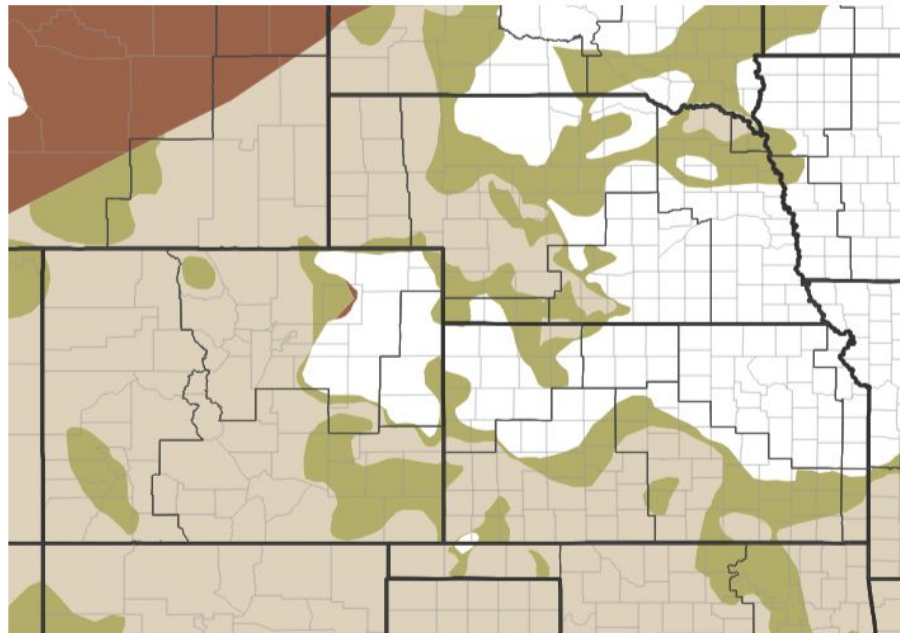


Drought Outlook Through December

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- **Drought improvement** and **removal** is possible across current drought-stricken areas of KS due to the potential for above average precipitation.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 30, 2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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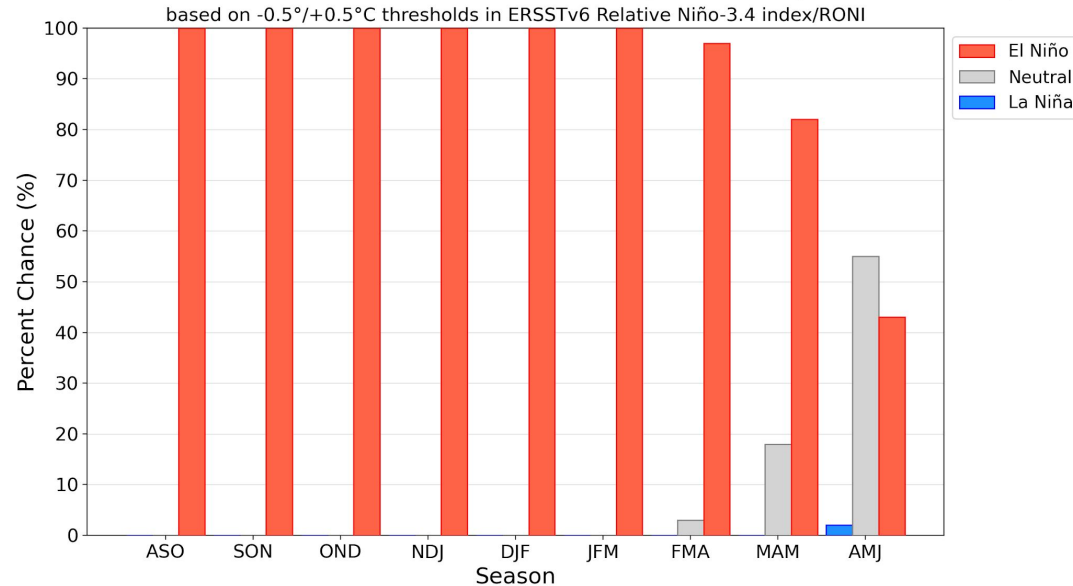
National Weather Service
Wichita, Kansas



Strong El Niño Likely into Spring 2027

- **El Niño** has emerged, and is forecast to strengthen into a **very strong El Niño**, persisting into spring 2027.
- **Strong El Niños** favor **above average precipitation** across Kansas during the **fall-winter-spring** months
- [What is El Nino, La Nina?](#)
- [Latest CPC El Nino Status Report](#)
- [USA La Niña precipitation and temperature correlations](#)

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued September 2026)



The above graph shows the 3-month percent chance for El Niño, Neutral, or La Niña through Feb-Apr 2027.

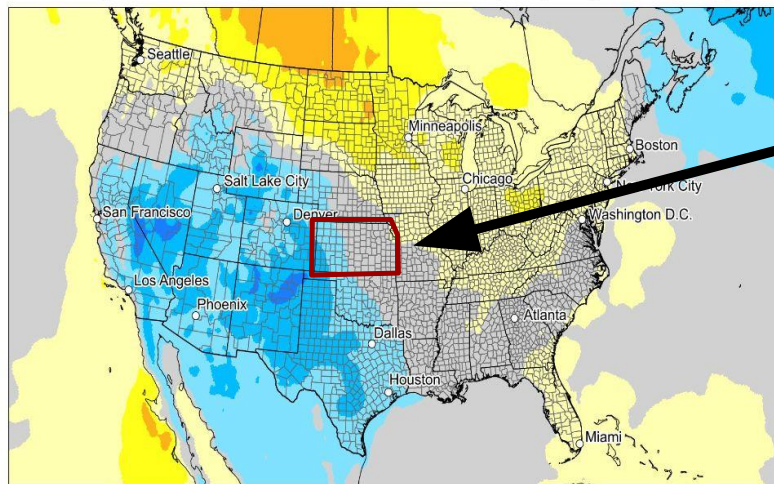




Strong El Niño Typical Impacts: October – December

Temperature Anomalies Strong El Niños (Oct-Dec)

Temperature Departure for Oct-Dec (Str/Very Str Ninos)



Source: ERA5 Reanalysis Composite of 11 years since 1950. Map by: Brian Brettschneider

Years: 1957, 1965, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1997, 2002, 2009, 2015, 2023

-2.7F -2.1F -1.5F -0.9F -0.3F 0.3F 0.9F 1.5F 2.1F 2.7F

Below Normal

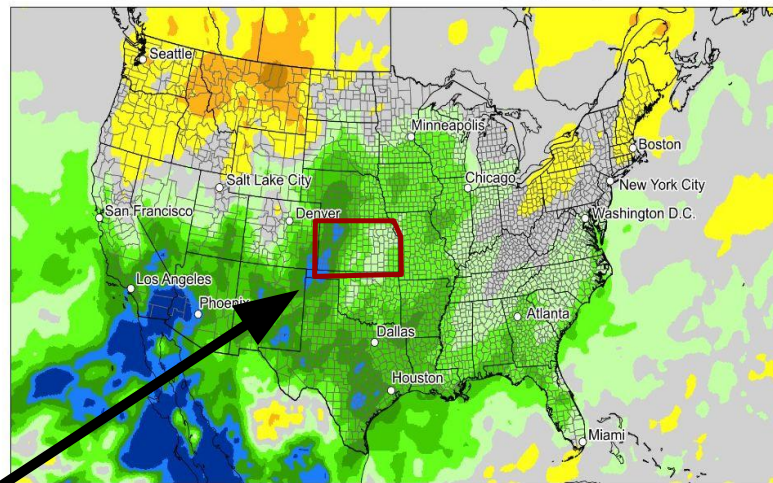
Above Normal

Strong El Niños
can lead to *near to below average temperatures*
Oct-Dec

Strong El Niños
can lead to *near to above average precipitation*
Oct-Dec

Precipitation Anomalies Strong El Niños (Oct-Dec)

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50% 75% 85% 95% 105% 115% 125% 135% 145% 155%

Below Normal

Above Normal



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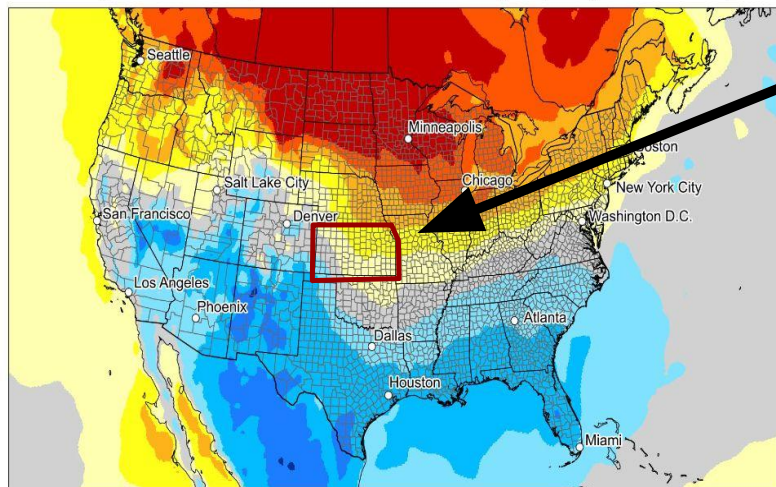
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-2.7F -2.1F -1.5F -0.9F -0.3F 0.3F 0.9F 1.5F 2.1F 2.7F

Below Normal

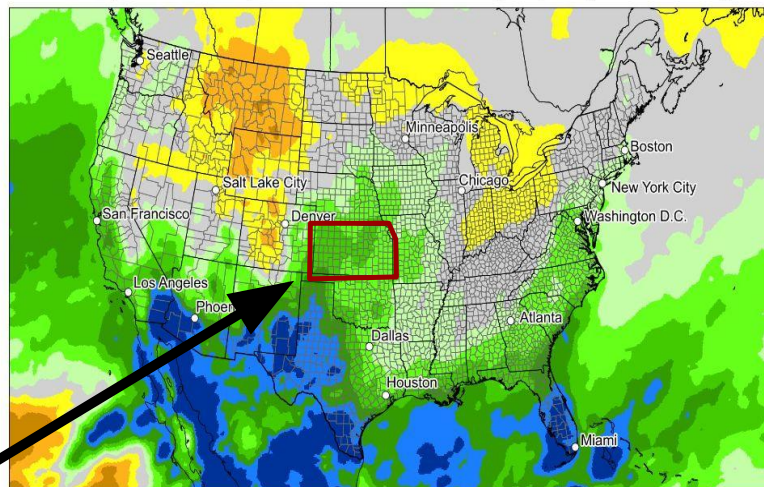
Above Normal

Strong El Niños
can lead to near
to *near to*
above average
temperatures
Dec-Feb.

Strong El Niños
can lead to
above average
precipitation
Dec-Feb

Precipitation Anomalies Strong El Niños (Dec-Feb)

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50% 75% 85% 95% 105% 115% 125% 135% 145% 155%

Below Normal

Above Normal

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Feedback and Contact

For feedback, comments, or questions specific to this Drought Information Statement please reach out to: nws.wichita@noaa.gov

