

Drought Information Statement for Kansas

Valid October 22, 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.

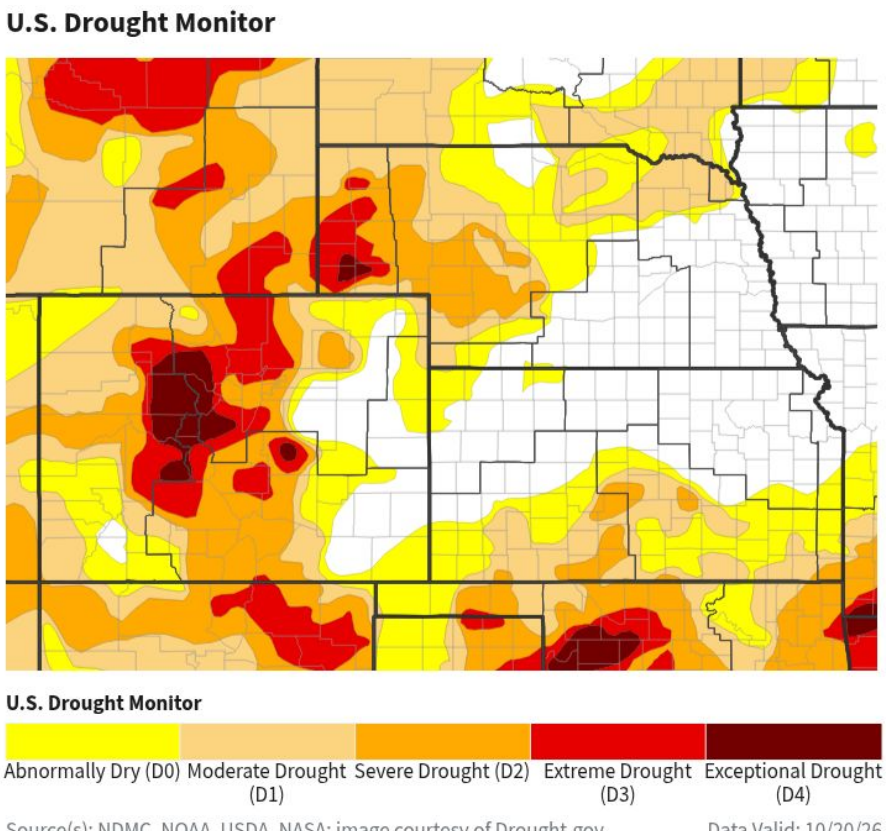
- Drought continues to improve across Kansas due to recent beneficial rainfall

Kansas Drought Monitor (as of Oct 20th)

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 south-central Kansas
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of central and southern Kansas
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of the southern half of Kansas, along with far northwest Kansas.

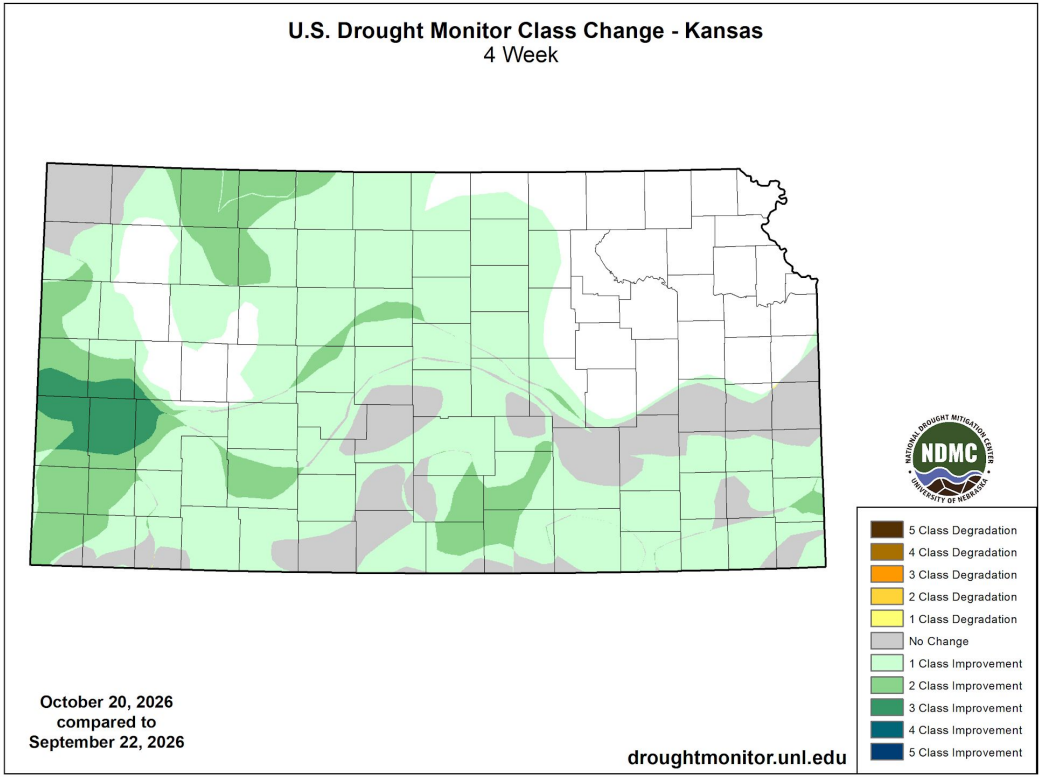


4-Week Drought Change

[Link to Drought Monitor Change Maps]

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Improved:** 1 to 3 categories across much of the state, most notably over south-central and western Kansas

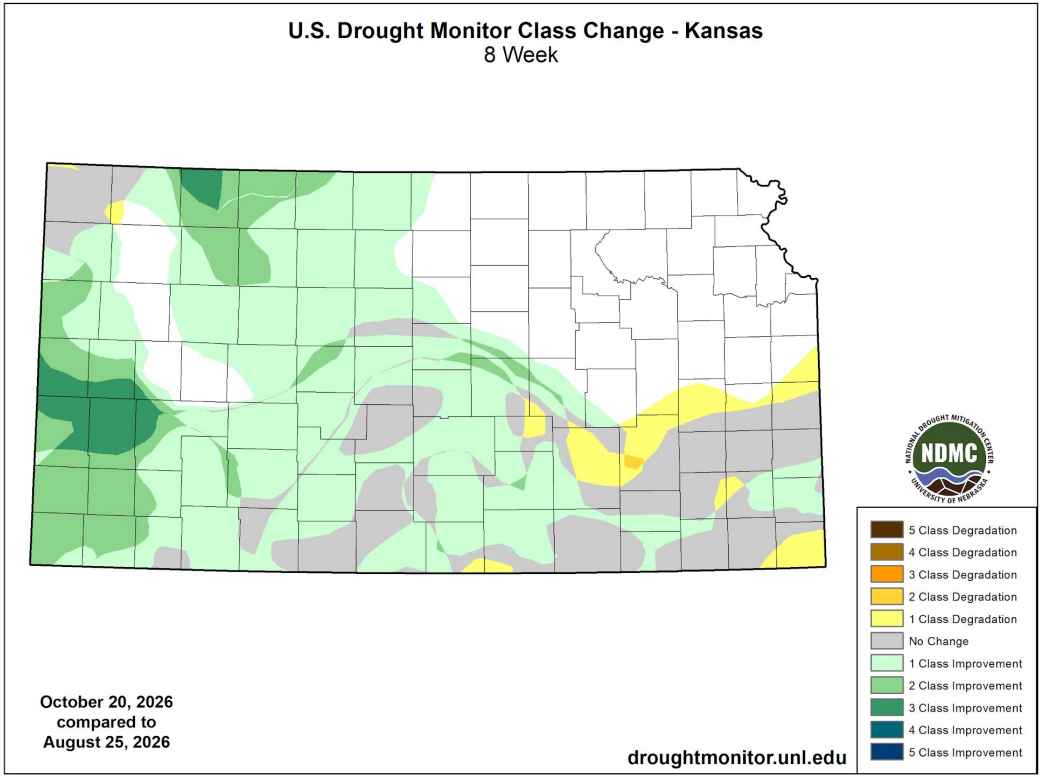


8-Week Drought Change

[Link to Drought Monitor Change Maps]

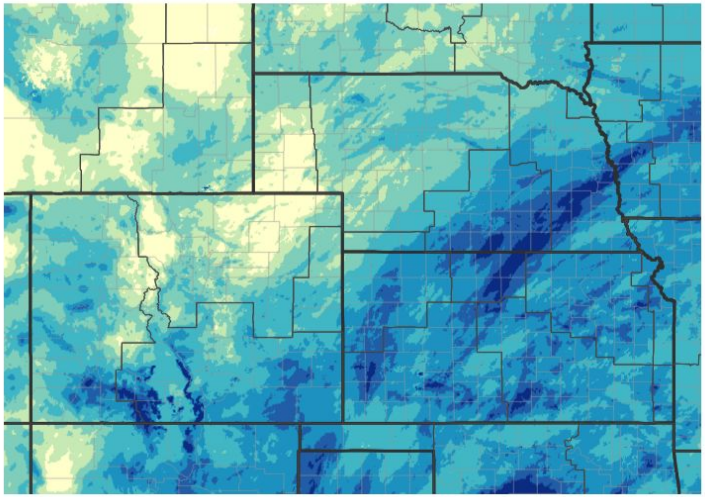
Eight Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- **Drought Worsened:** 1 to 2 categories for small portions of southeast and northwest Kansas
- **Drought Improved:** 1 to 3 categories for portions of southeast, central, and western Kansas, most notably over western Kansas



Precipitation Past 30 Days

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

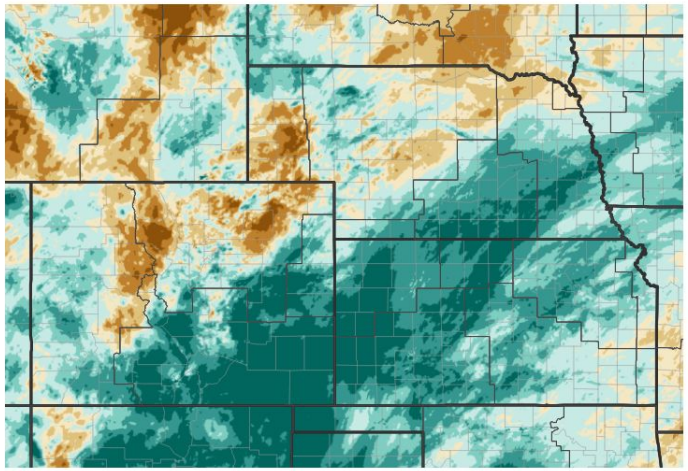
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

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

Last Updated: 10/22/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

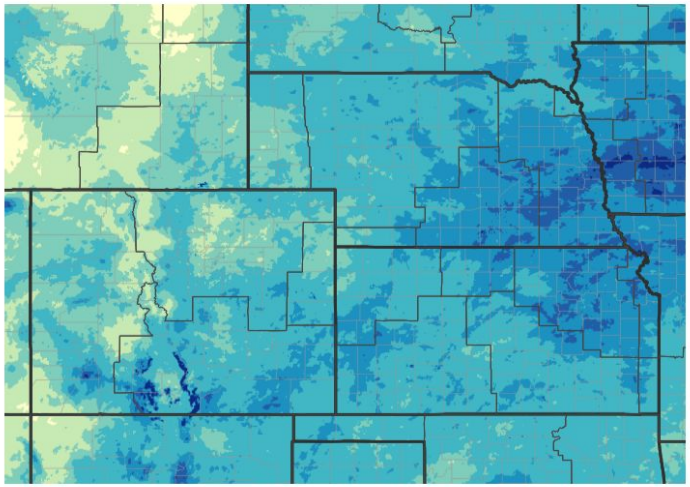
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/20/26

- Precipitation the past 30 days has been mostly above average across Kansas, especially over generally the northwest half of the state

Precipitation Past 90 Days

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

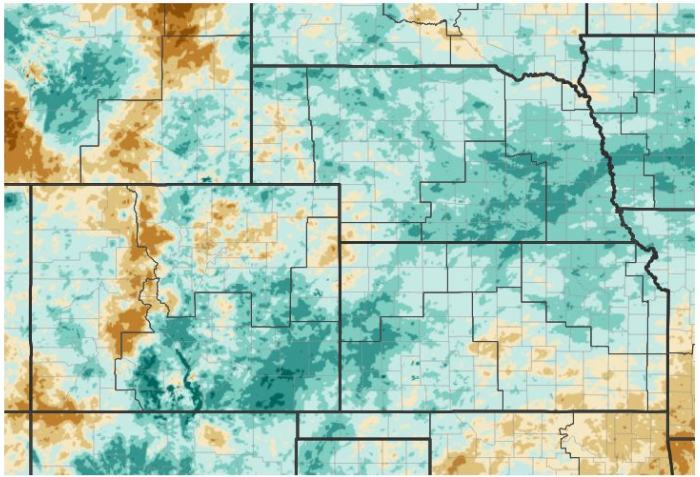
0 0.01 1 3 6

6 12 18 24

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

Last Updated: 10/22/26

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

Last Updated: 10/20/26

- Precipitation the past 90 days has been mostly near to above average across Kansas, although pockets of below average precipitation are noted over portions of central, southeast, and northwest Kansas.

Kansas Agriculture Conditions

As of October 18

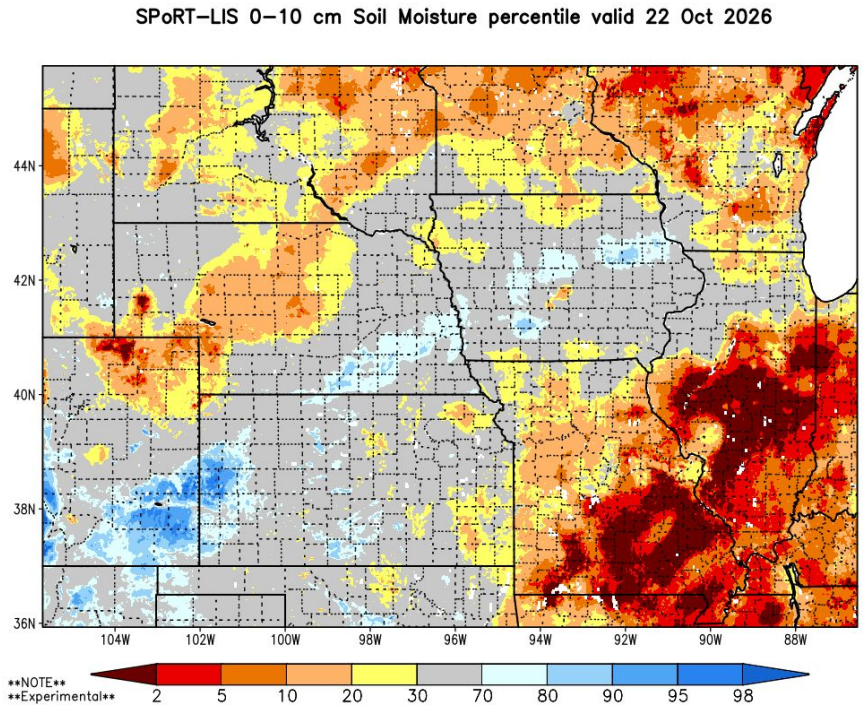
Agriculture and Crop Conditions Across Kansas
Per the USDA's Latest Weekly Report

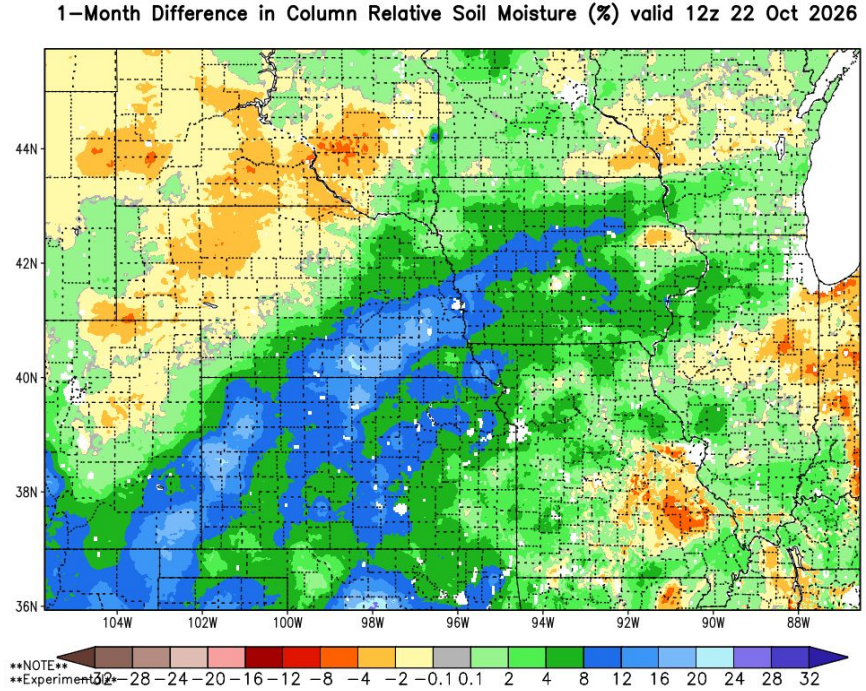
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Cotton Condition	11%	28%	37%	20%	4%
Soybean Condition	13%	21%	33%	29%	4%
Sorghum Condition	12%	25%	39%	20%	4%
Pasture/Range Condition	12%	18%	35%	32%	3%

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	5%	17%	66%	12%
Subsoil Moisture	8%	23%	63%	6%

Agricultural Impacts (Soil Moisture Percentile and Change)

[Link to CPC Soil Moisture Page]

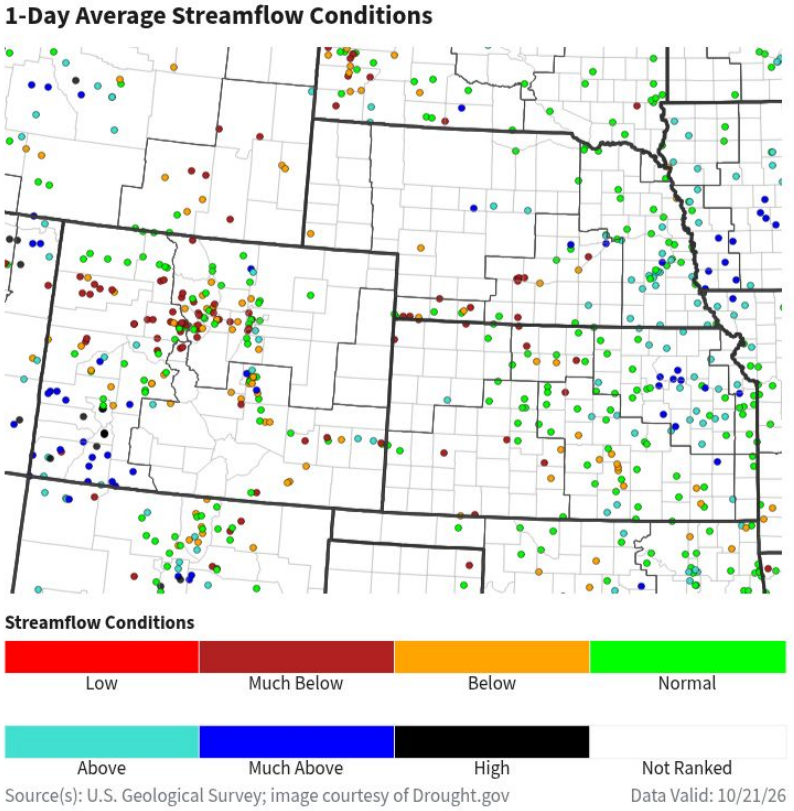




- Soil moisture increased substantially the past month over much of Kansas (right image) due to mostly above average precipitation. Soil moisture as of October 22nd was mostly near average across much of Kansas, although below average was noted over eastern Kansas, and above average over western Kansas (left image).

One-Day Average Streamflow (October 21st)

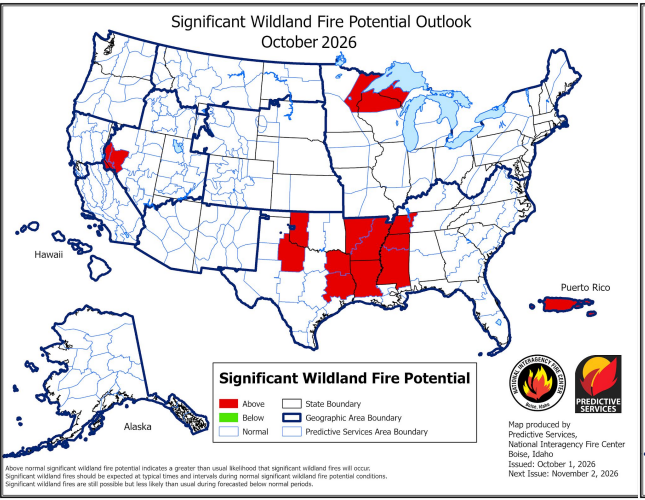
As of October 21st, flow on area rivers, creeks, and streams across the state was a mix of near, above, and below average.



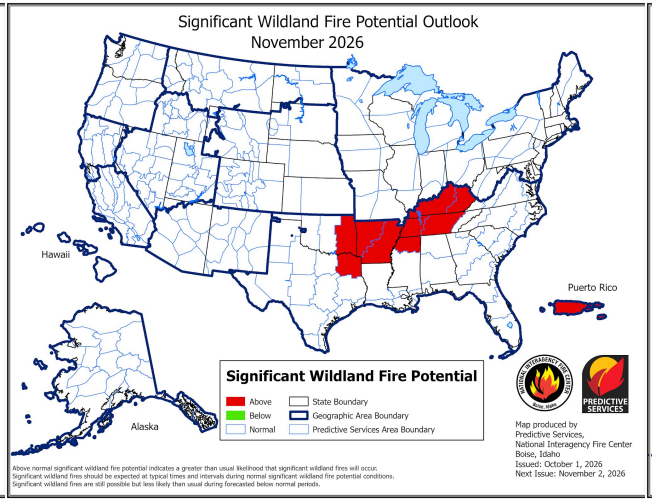
Significant Wildland Fire Potential

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

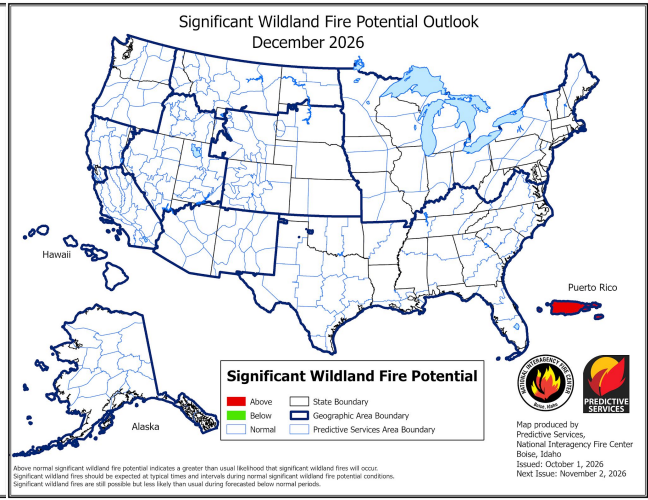
October



November



December

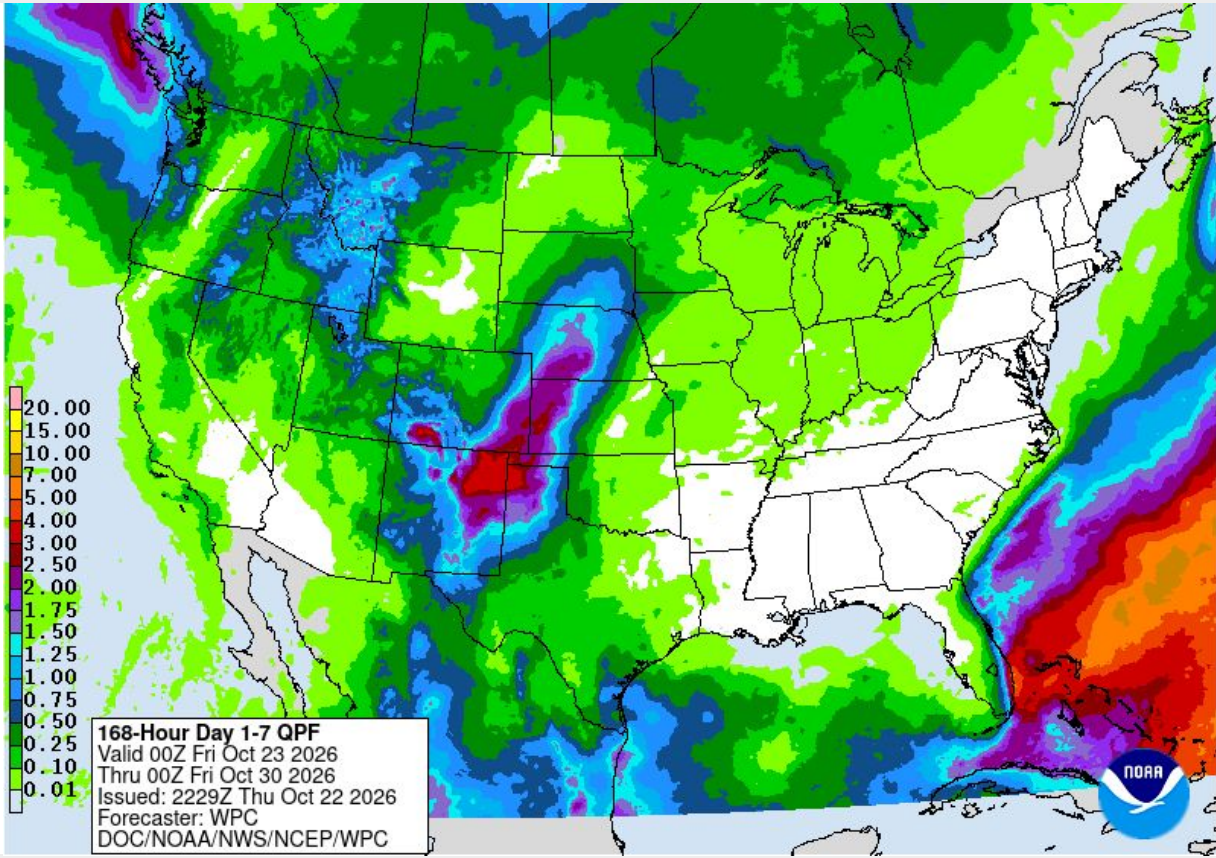


Per [Predictive Services,] the forecast for significant wildland fire potential is ***near average*** across Kansas through December.

7-Day Precipitation Forecast (thru October 30)

Next 7 days:

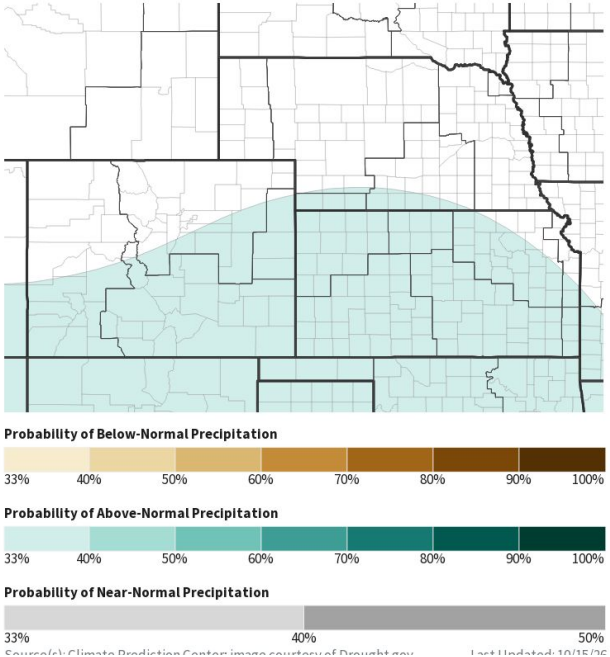
- Beneficial rainfall, heavy at times, is expected over the western two-thirds of Kansas through Oct 30.



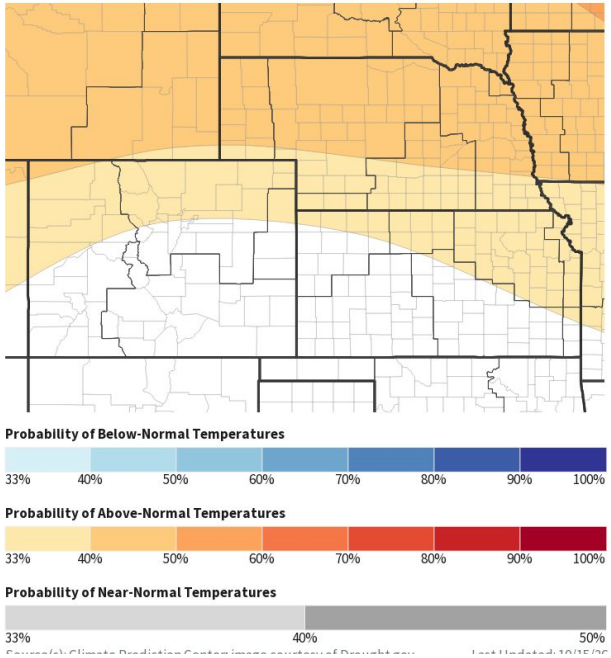
November Precipitation and Temperature Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



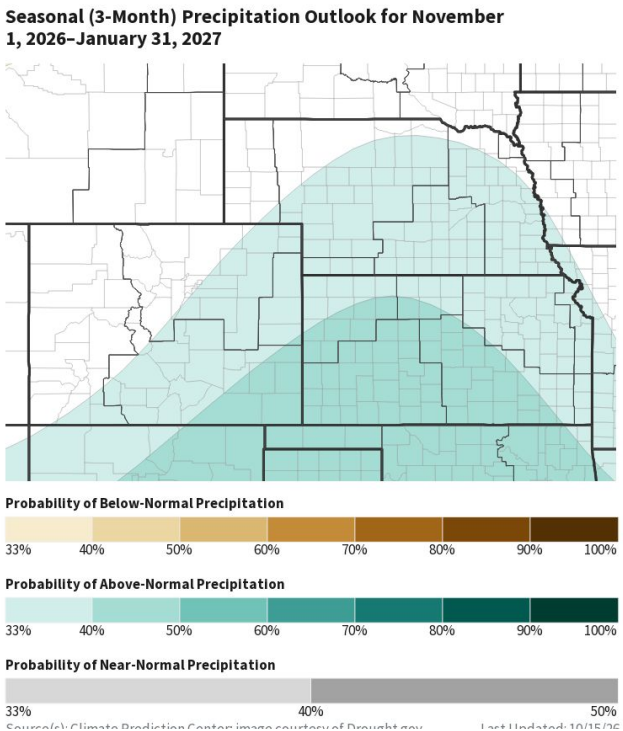
Monthly Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026

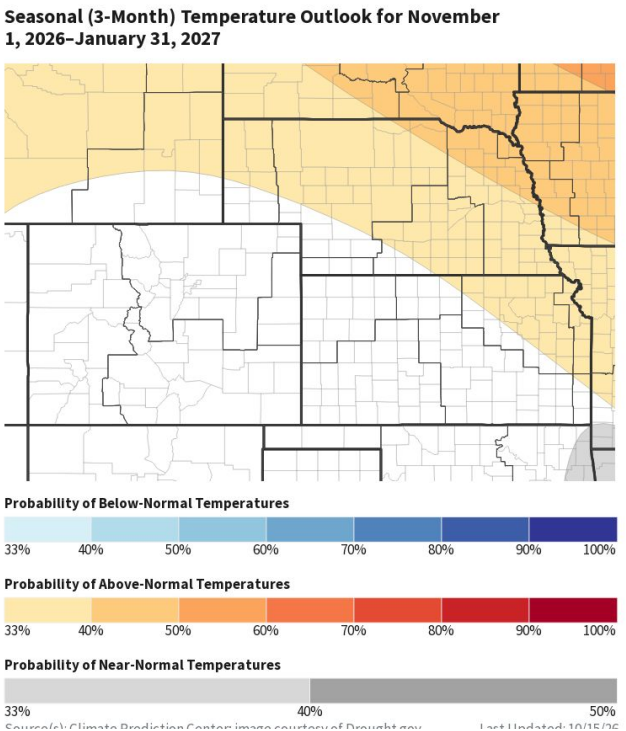


- There is a **33-40%** chance for ***above average temperatures*** across mainly north to northeast Kansas (right image). There is a **33-40%** chance for ***above average precipitation*** across much of the state (left image).

Precipitation and Temperature Outlook through January

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



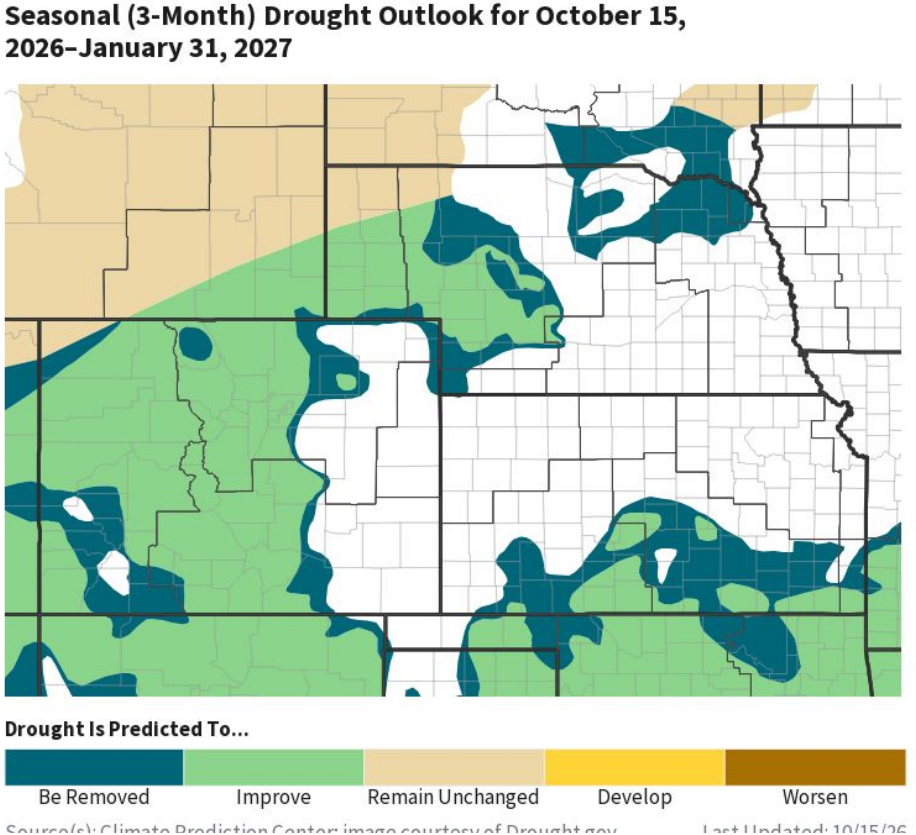


- There is a **33-40%** chance for ***above average temperatures*** across northeast Kansas (right image). There is a **33-50%** chance for ***above average precipitation*** statewide (left image).

Drought Outlook Through January

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

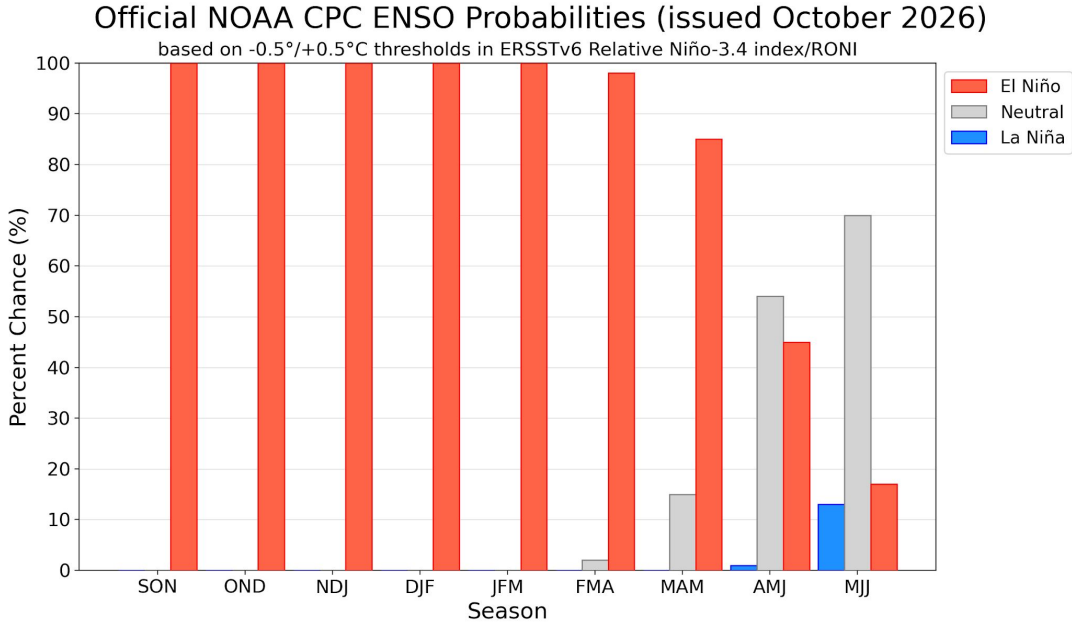
- ***Drought improvement*** and ***removal*** is possible across current drought-stricken areas of KS due to the potential for above average precipitation.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Strong El Niño Likely into Spring 2027

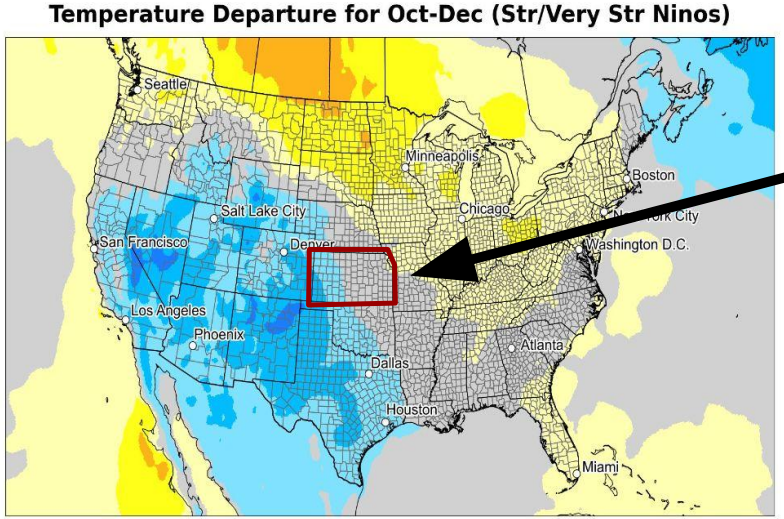
- ***El Niño*** has emerged, and is forecast to strengthen into a ***very strong El Niño***, persisting into spring 2027.
- ***Strong El Niños*** favor ***above average precipitation*** across Kansas during the ***fall-winter-spring*** months
- What is El Nino, La Nina?
- Latest CPC El Nino Status Report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



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

Strong El Niño Typical Impacts: October – December

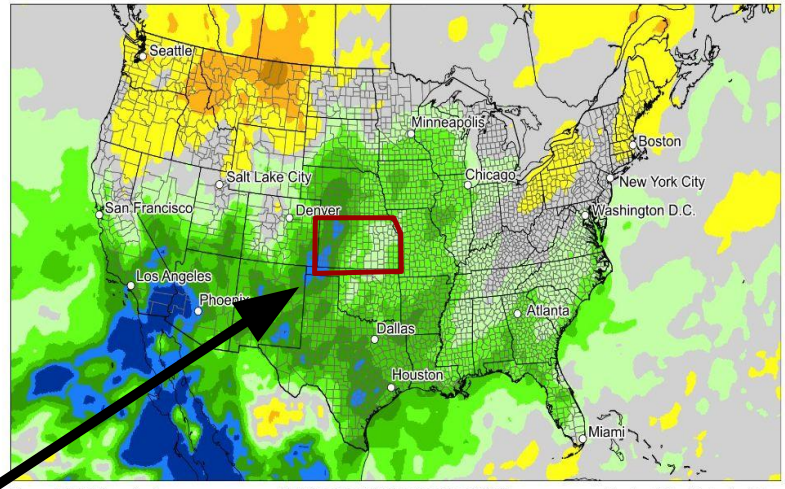
Temperature Anomalies Strong El Niños (Oct-Dec)



Strong El Niños can lead to near 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)

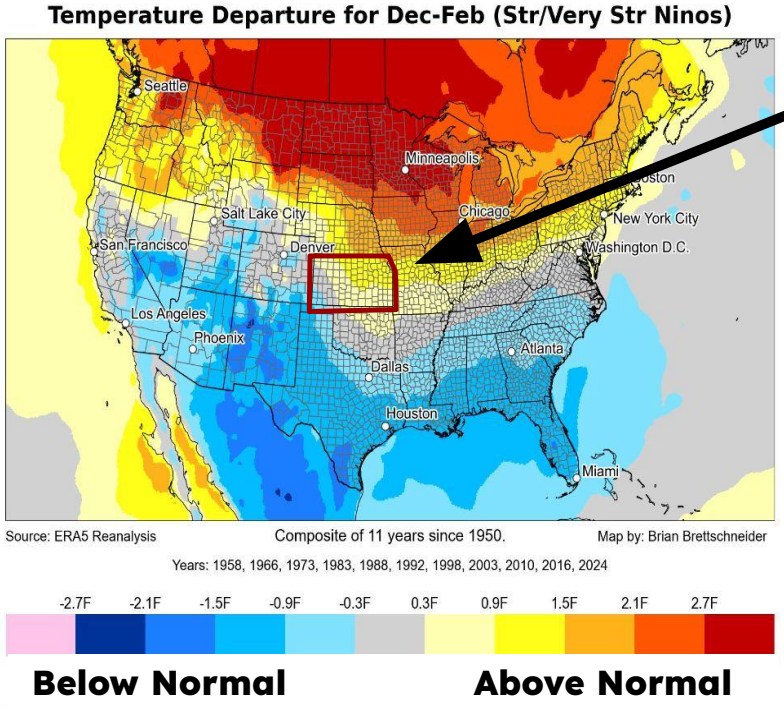


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Wichita, Kansas

Strong El Niño Typical Impacts: December – February

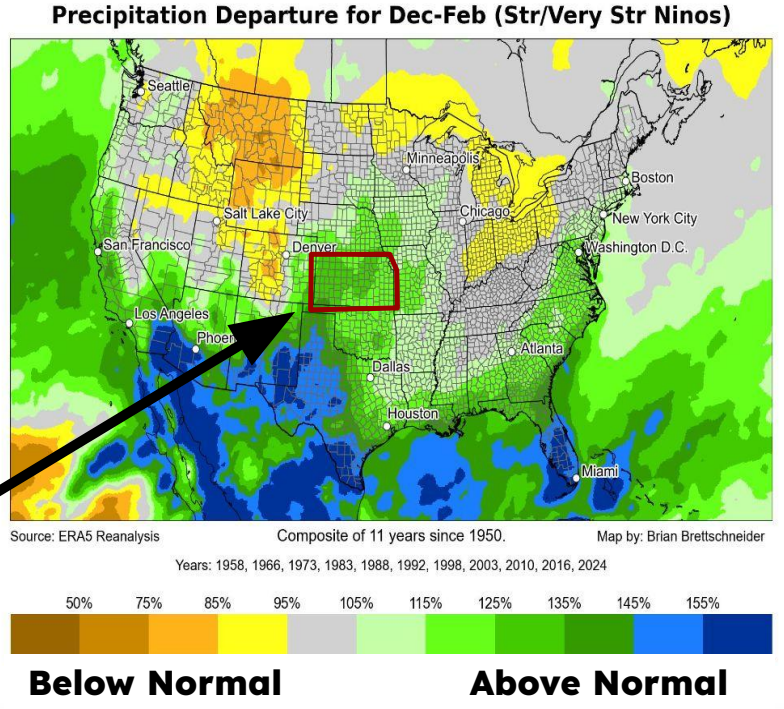
Temperature Anomalies Strong El Niños (Dec-Feb)



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)



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

National Weather Service
Wichita, Kansas

Feedback and Contact

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