



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid January 1, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be around Thursday, January 8th, if conditions persist or worsen.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

Key Messages:

- Significant precipitation occurred across northern and north-central Illinois last weekend, prompting some improvement of drought conditions. By contrast, another nearly dry week in southern Illinois has warranted some expansion.
- Little or no precipitation is forecast over the next week, likely leading to status-quo through mid-January.

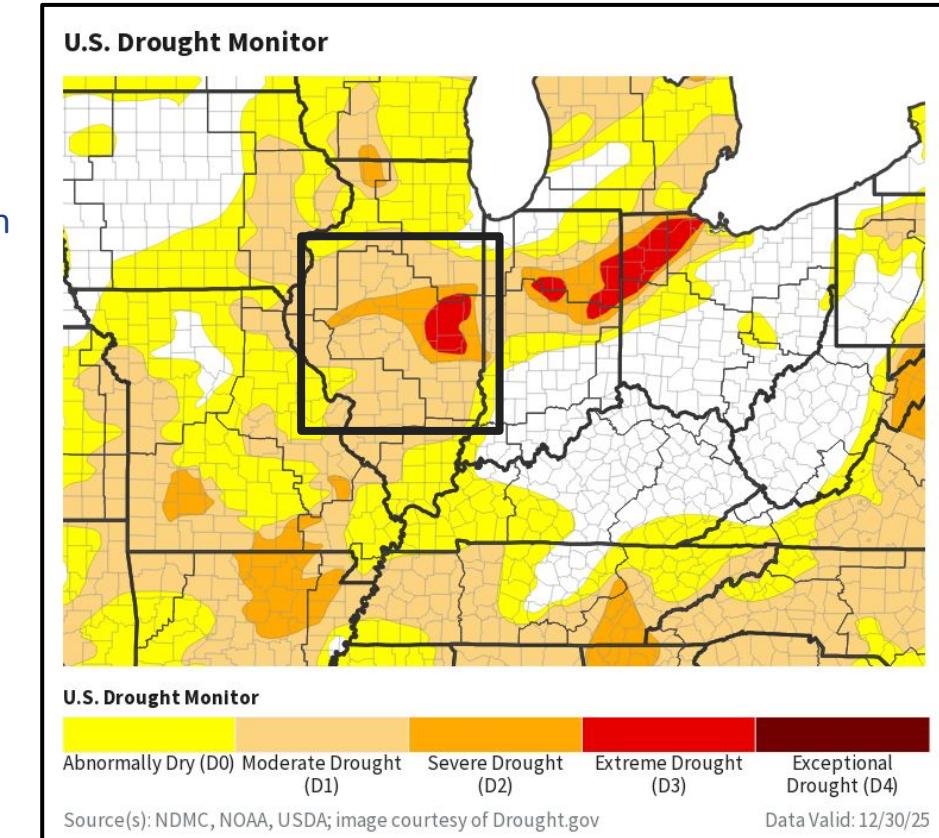




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): N/A
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of east-central Illinois including Piatt, Douglas, and Champaign Counties, and parts of Moultrie, Coles, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Most of east-central Illinois, extending but narrowing toward portions of west-central Illinois.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): The vast majority of counties across central and southeast Illinois.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small area in southeast Illinois near the Wabash River in Lawrence and southeast Crawford counties.



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened:
 - Portions of southern Illinois
 - Drought Improved:
 - Portions of northern and central Illinois
 - No Change:
 - The majority of central Illinois remains unchanged

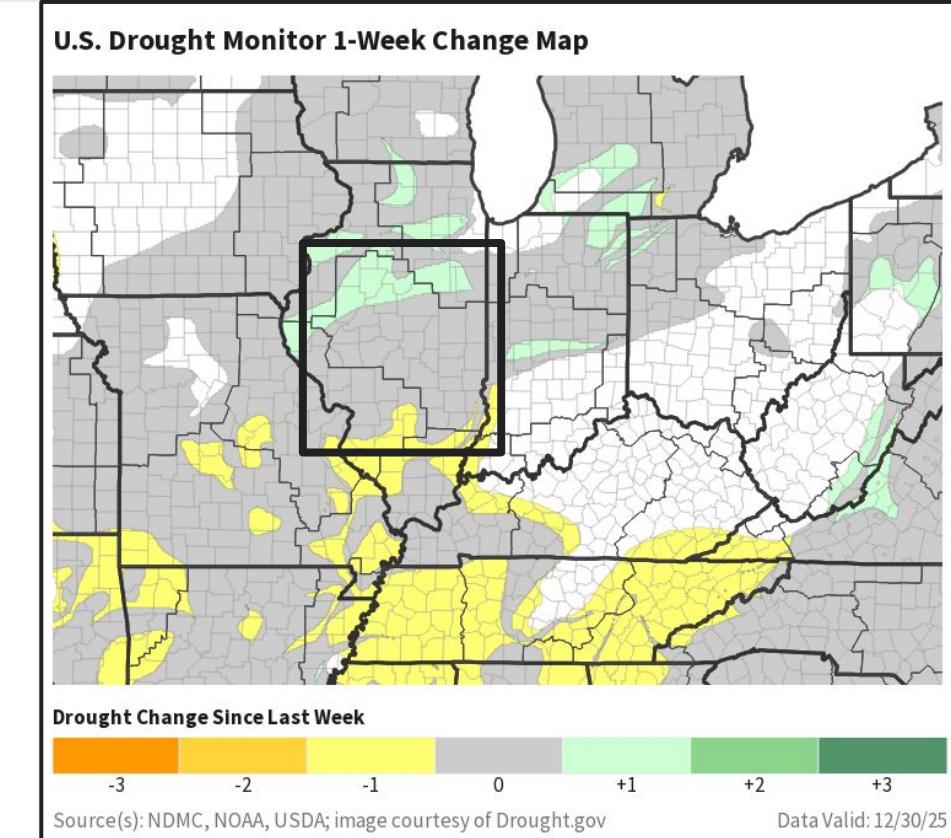


Image Caption: One week change in drought monitor categories. Image from [Drought.gov](#).



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Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Significant precipitation occurred over the last week (right) across portions of northern and central IL, where a slow-moving frontal system brought 1 to 3 inches of rainfall (200-300% of normal).
- The past 30 days (left) generally had a mix of above and below normal precipitation, with the driest areas across southern IL.

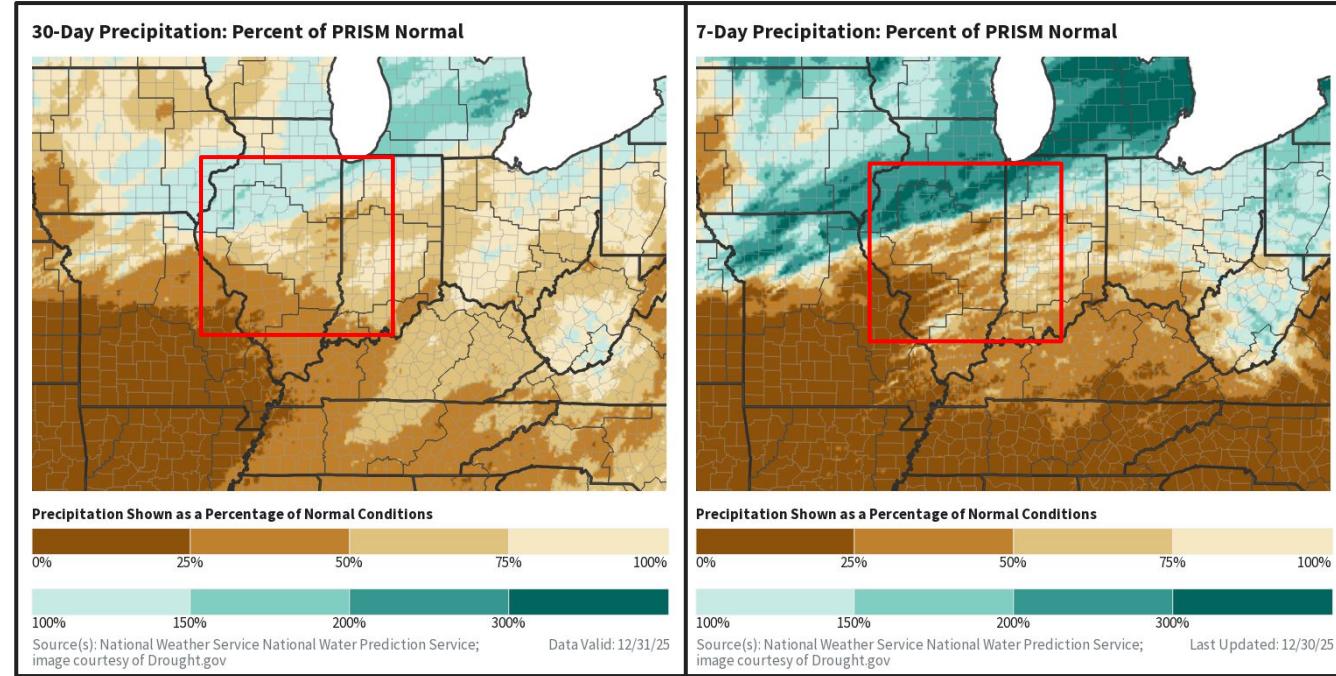


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of December 30th. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov).



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Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow on most rivers is below normal, with many basins below the 25th percentile and several below the 10th percentile.
- Near record low flow on the east end of the Sangamon River basin is impacting water supplies of Lake Decatur downstream.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts reported in the past week.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- None reported.

Other Impacts

- Extremely poor to record low water table and deep soil moisture conditions.

Mitigation Actions

- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.

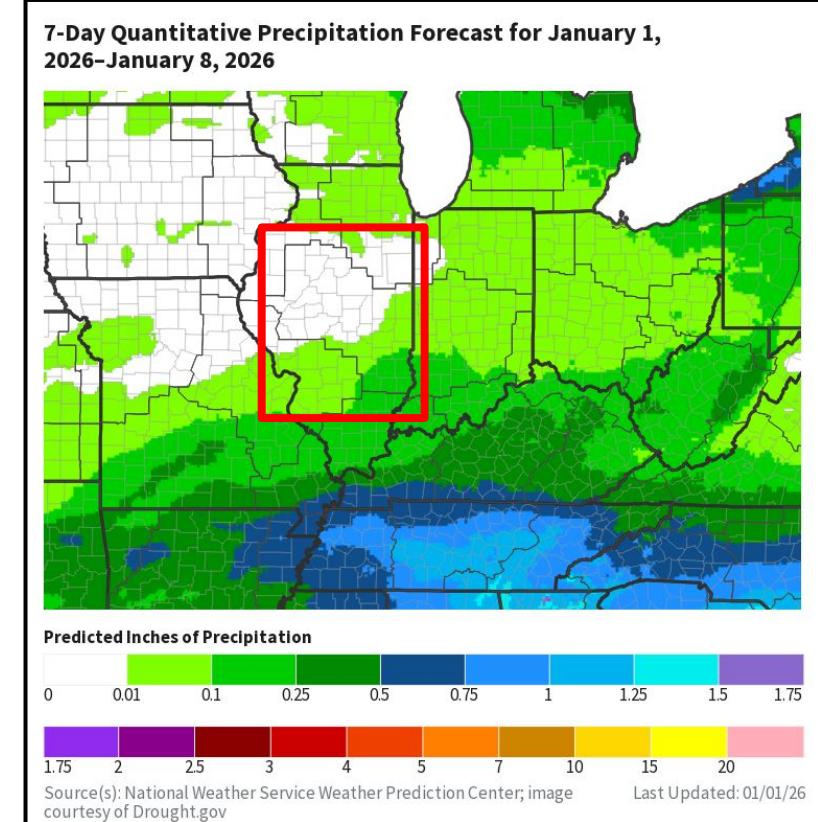




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little or no precipitation is forecast to occur across central and southeast IL, likely maintaining the status-quo of current drought conditions.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Thursday, January 8. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.



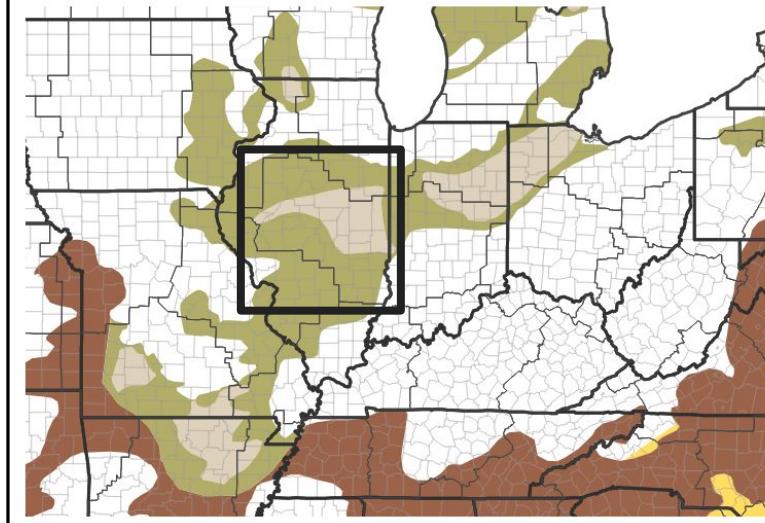


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is forecast to persist across portions of central IL through March, although with improving conditions.
- Elsewhere across central and southeast IL, drought is forecast to end.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 31, 2025–March 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/31/25

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Dec. 31, valid through March 31, 2026. Images from Drought.gov.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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