



# Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid January 15, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: [nws.lincoln@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.lincoln@noaa.gov)

- The next update will be around Thursday, January 22nd, 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:

- Showers and storms brought pockets of heavy rain last week, which overlapped with a few of the hardest hit drought areas. Otherwise, light precipitation fell areawide over the last 7 days.
- Minor improvements to the D1 and D2 drought areas were noted in parts of western and central IL.

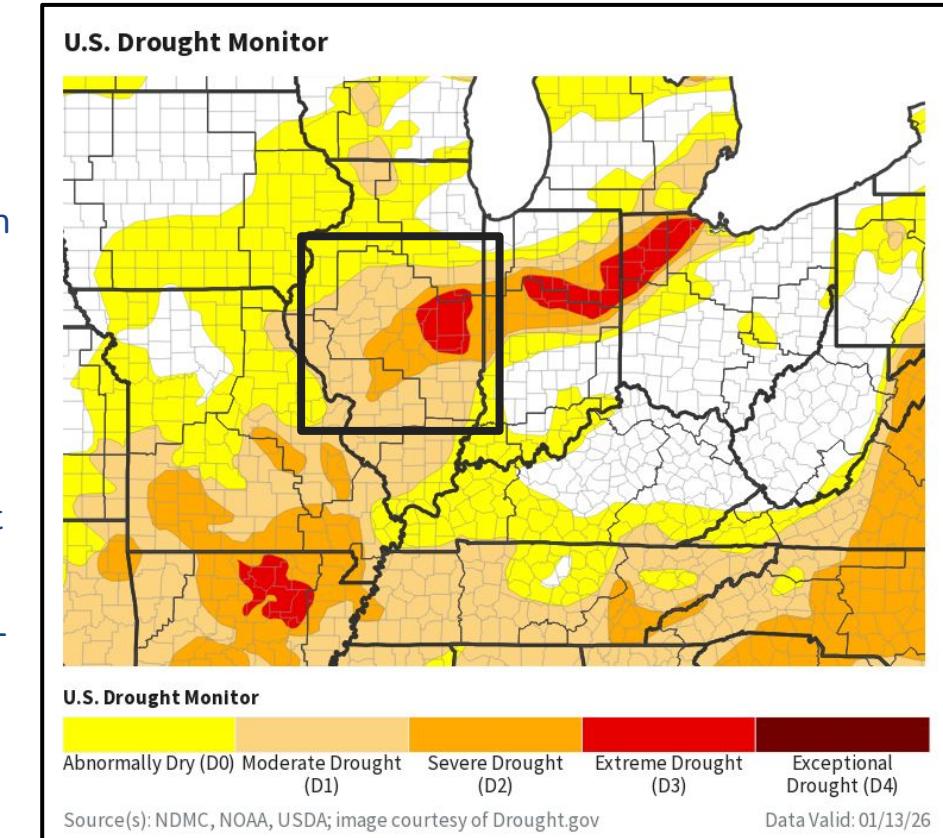




# U.S. Drought Monitor

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, De Witt, McLean, Coles, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Most of east-central Illinois.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): The vast majority of counties across western, central, and southeast Illinois.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small area west of the IL River and in southeast Illinois near the Wabash River in Lawrence and southeast Crawford counties.



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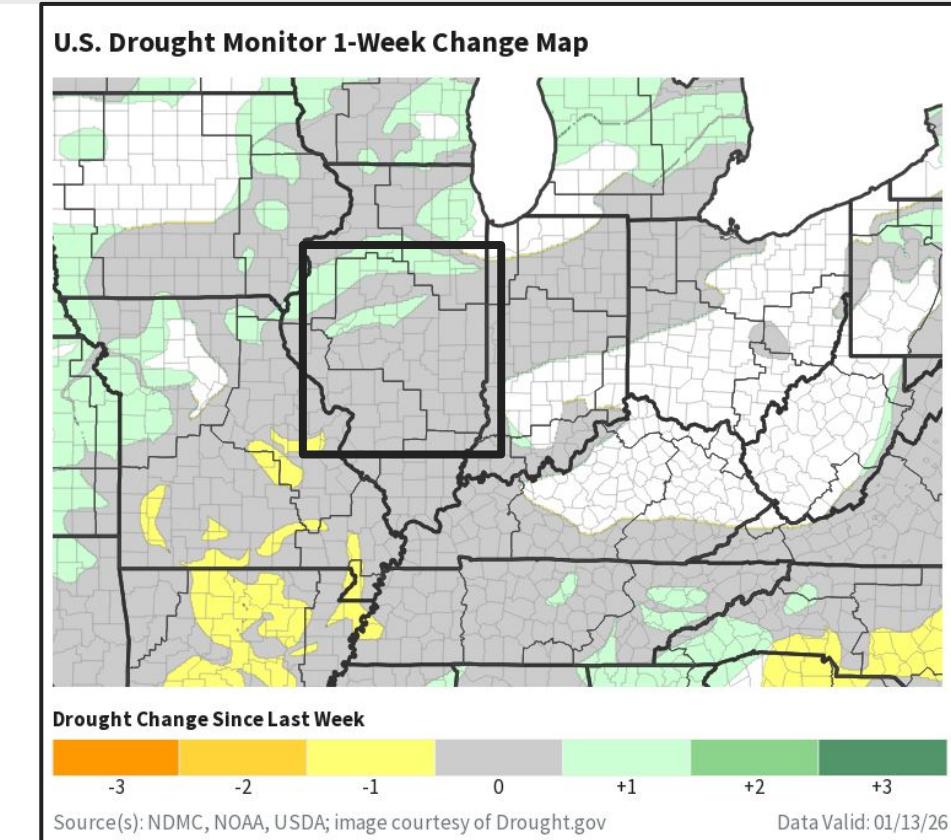
National Weather Service  
Lincoln, Illinois



# 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:
    - None.
  - Drought Improved:
    - Portions of western and central Illinois.
  - No Change:
    - The majority of the area remains unchanged.



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



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Atmospheric Administration  
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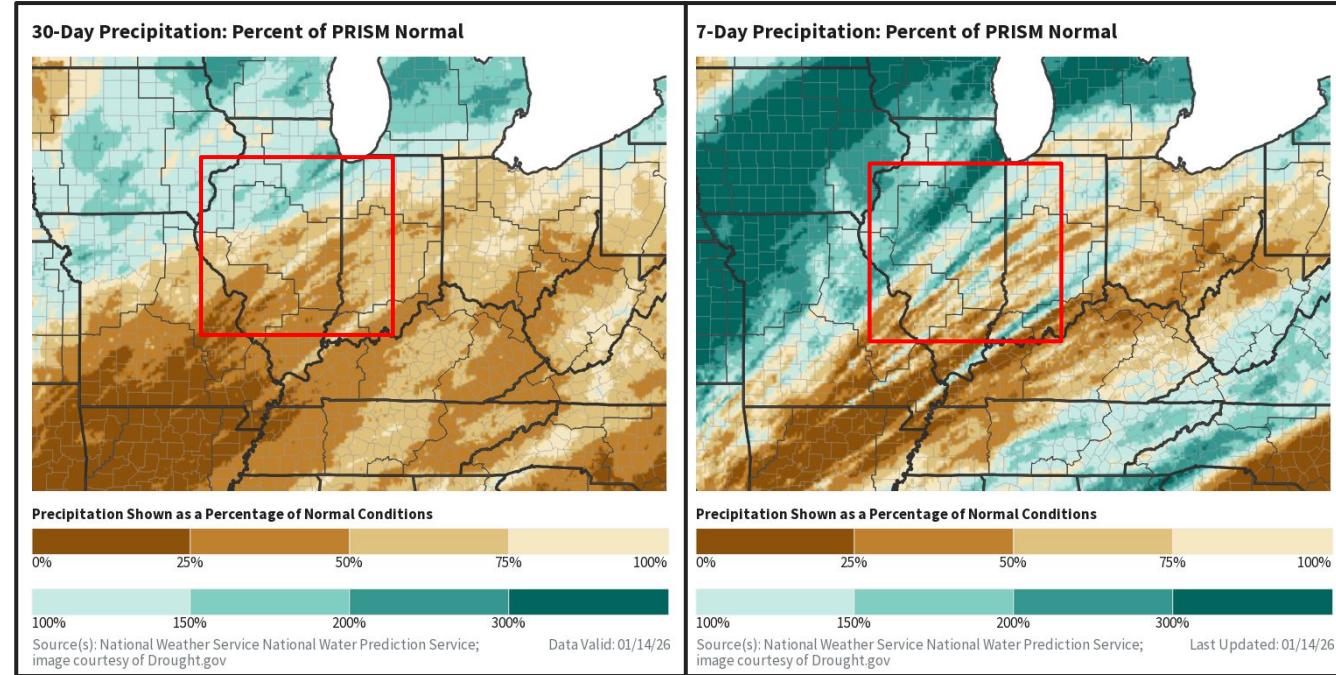
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# Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Pockets of heavy rain fell with showers and storms last week, bringing areas of near to above normal rainfall to parts of central IL (right).
- The past 30 days (left) generally had a mix of above and below normal precipitation, with the driest areas across central and southeast IL.



**Image Caption:** Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of January 14. 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.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington.

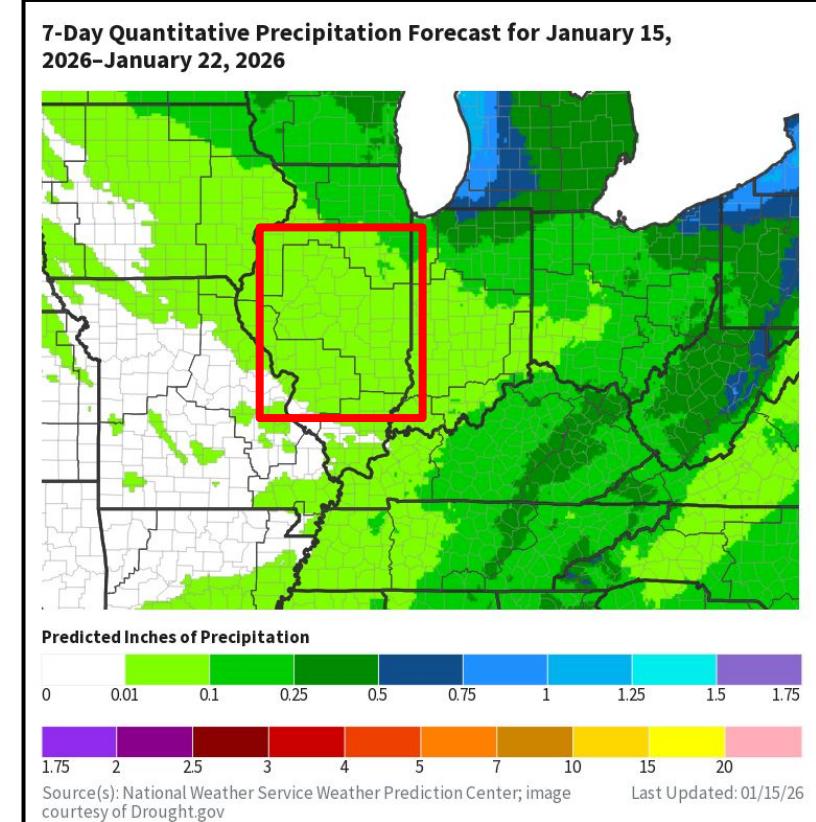




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A few quick hitting snow systems will bring light precipitation (<0.10" of liquid equivalent) to the area through next week. This will likely result in little change or worsening conditions with the next update.

**Image Caption:** Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Thursday, January 22. Check [weather.gov/ilx](http://weather.gov/ilx) for updated forecasts.



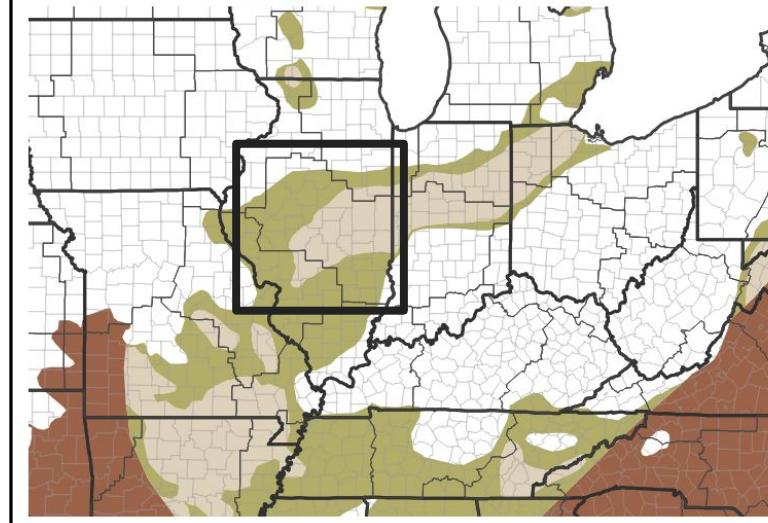


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is forecast to improve or end across the area through the end of April.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026-April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

#### Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Jan. 15, valid through April 30, 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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