



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid February 5, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be around Thursday, February 12, 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:

- A cold, dry week prevented drought conditions from significantly improving or degrading over the last 7 days.
- A pattern change will occur early next week, bringing much warmer temperatures and a few periods of light precipitation. There is currently a two-thirds (66%) chance that central and southeast Illinois will receive one-quarter inch (0.25") of precipitation or more between Tuesday and Thursday (2/10 - 2/12).

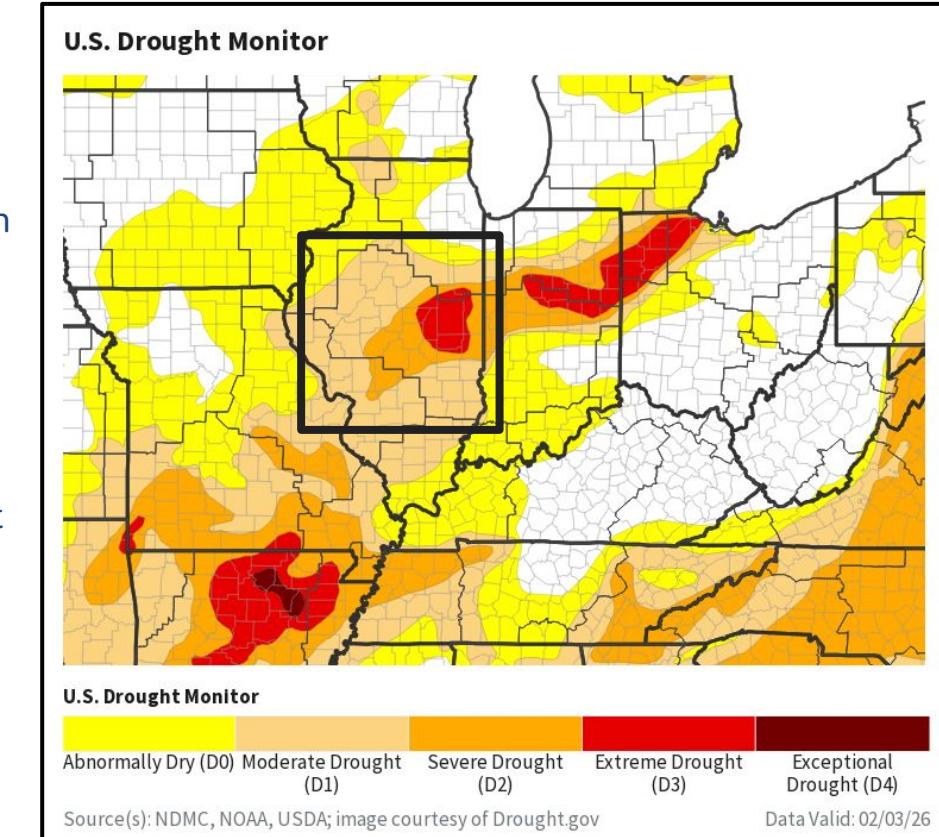




U.S. Drought Monitor

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 remaining portions of east-central Illinois.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): The vast majority of counties across western, central, and southeast Illinois.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small area northwest of the Illinois River.



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Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

Over the past seven days (right), precipitation was minimal to non-existent due to a lingering dry, arctic air mass.

Looking at the last 30 days (left), the region was generally drier than normal. The exception was a narrow band of near-to-above-normal precipitation that fell mostly between January 8-10, extending from east-central Missouri to northeast Illinois.

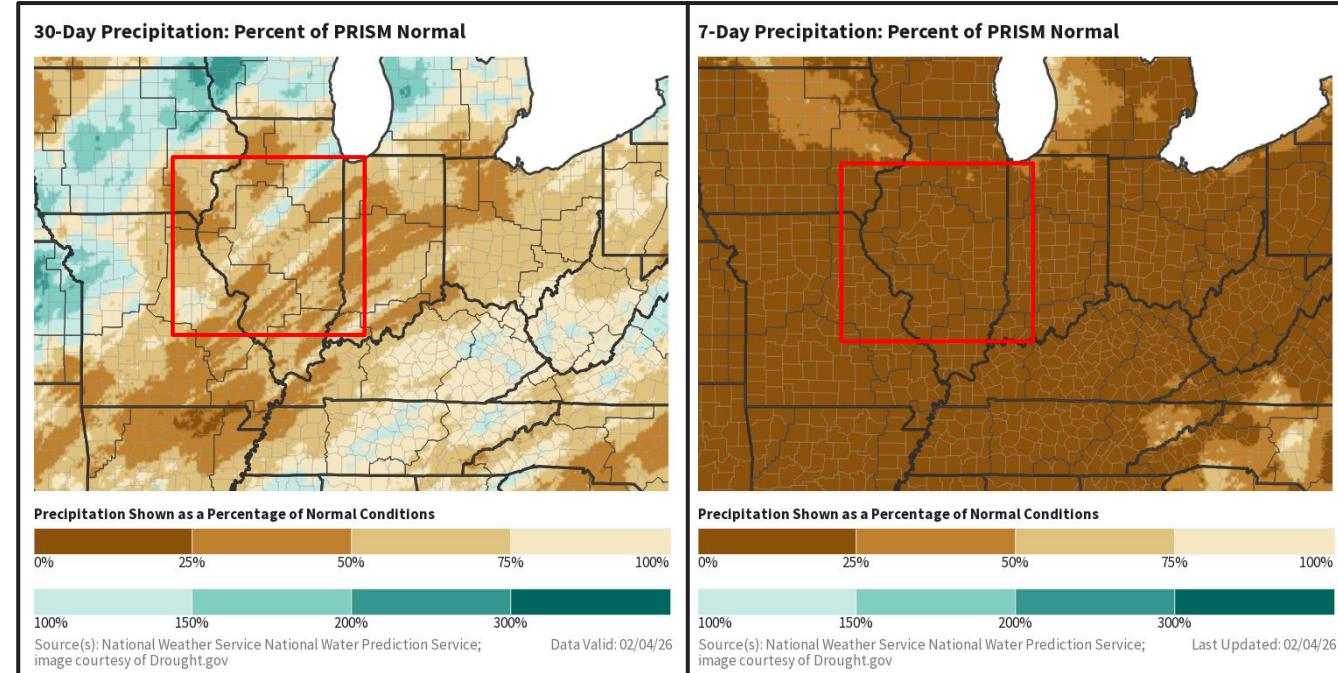


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of January 14. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from [Drought.gov](#).



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is below normal for most rivers from the Sangamon River southward (< 25 percent of normal).
- Near record low flow on the east end of the Sangamon River basin is impacting water supplies of Lake Decatur downstream.
- Lake Decatur is reported to be several feet below normal. Lake Springfield is slightly below normal.

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.
- Several reports of dry wells across east-central Illinois, particularly Vermilion County.

Mitigation Actions

- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington and Sullivan.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A pattern change will occur early next week, bringing much warmer temperatures and a few periods of light rain.
- There is currently a two-thirds (66%) chance that central and southeast Illinois will receive one-quarter inch of precipitation or more between Tuesday and Thursday (2/10 - 2/12).

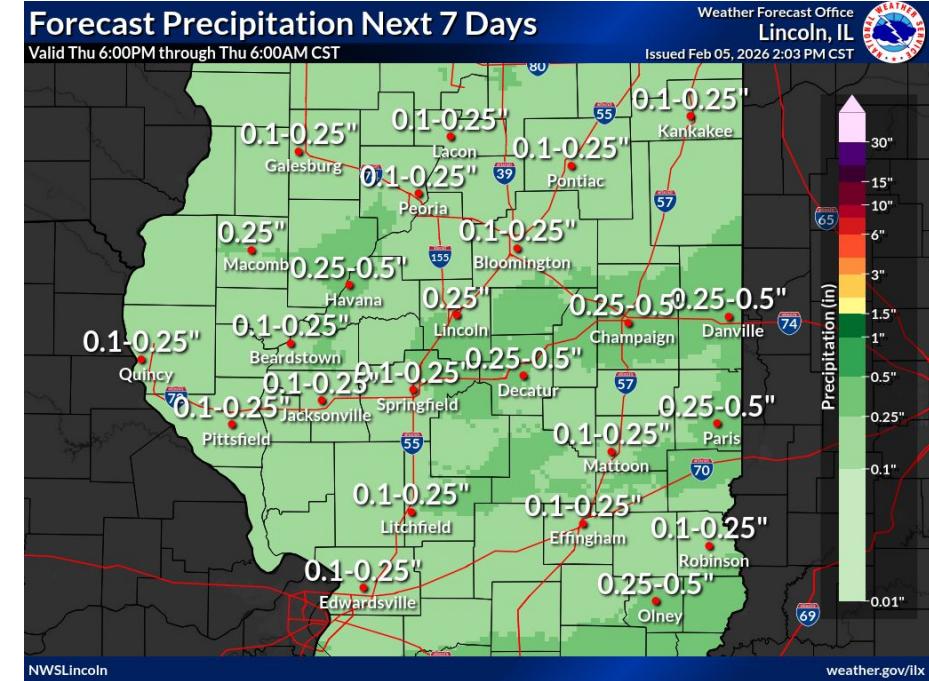


Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Wednesday, February 11. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.



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Long Range Outlooks

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

- There are approximately equal chances for above or below normal precipitation for the month of February.
- Below normal temperatures are favored (40% to 50% chance) across central IL for February.

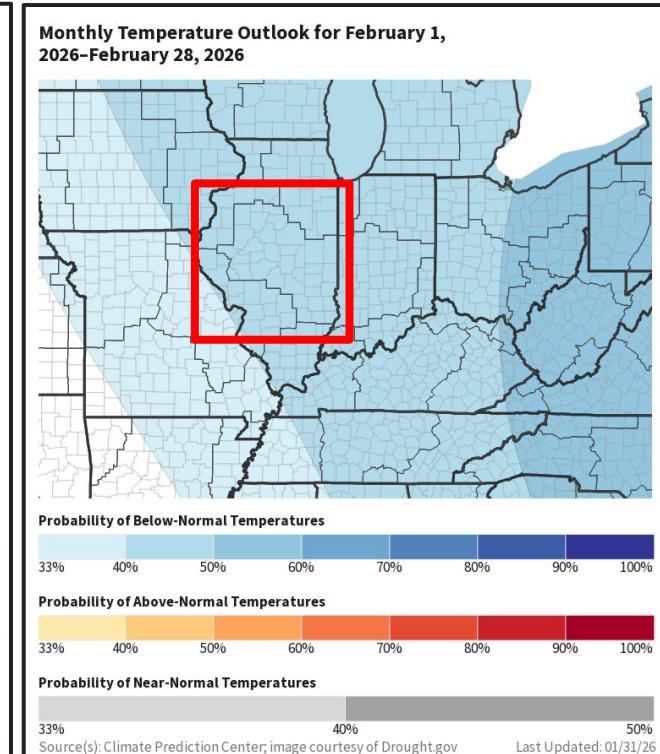
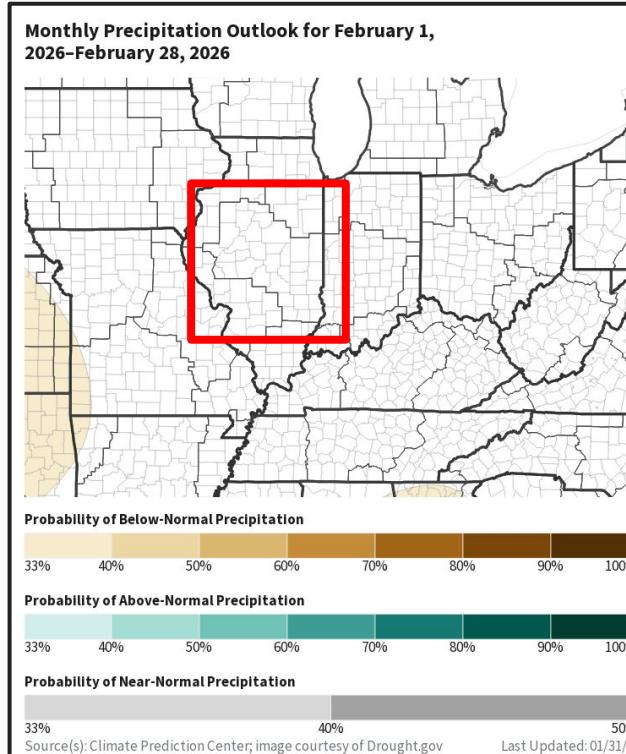


Image Caption: Precipitation (left) and temperature (right) outlooks for February. Check [weather.gov/ilx](#) for updated forecasts.



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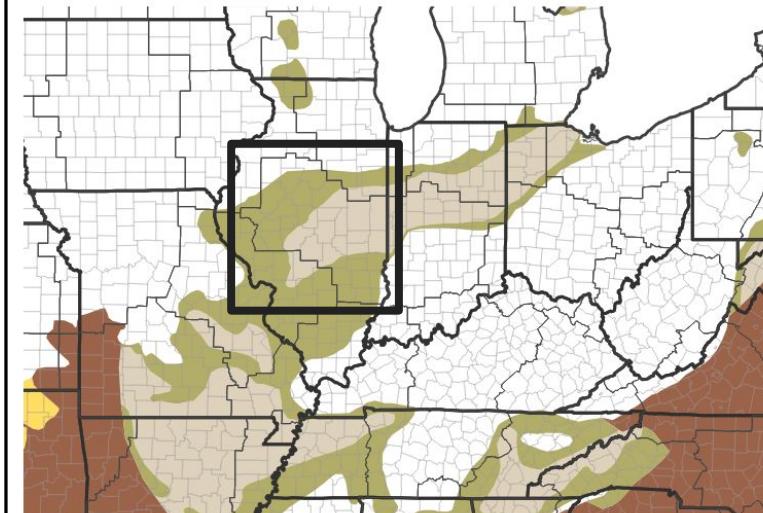


Drought Outlook

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 31, 2026-April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/31/26

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Jan. 31, 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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