



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid March 6, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around March 12, 2026 if drought conditions change significantly.
- 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:

- **Recent Precipitation:** Southern portions of central IL saw heavy rain in the past week, while northern areas have yet to see significant amounts. This rainfall will likely have impacts on drought in the upcoming week.
- **Improvement Possible:** Recent and forecast precipitation could result in improving drought conditions, especially if wet weather persists.





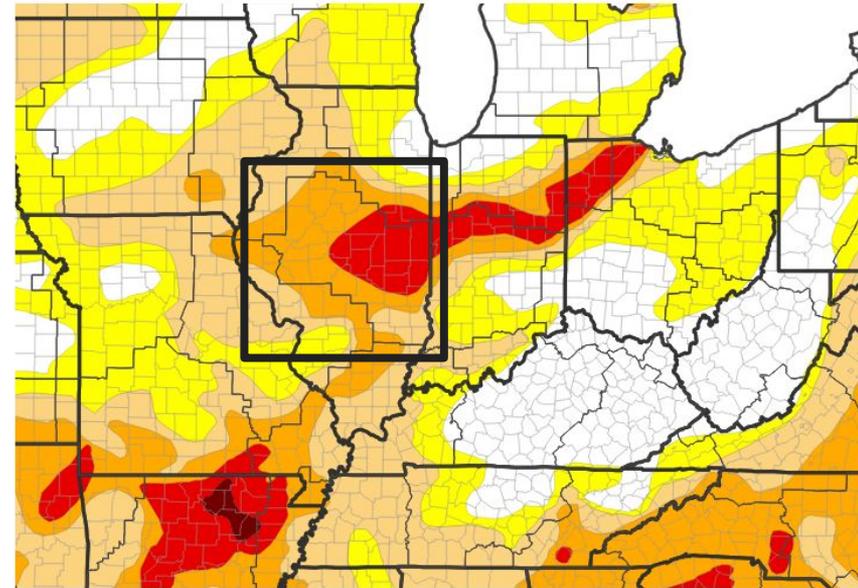
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **Drought intensity and Extent**

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of east-central Illinois including DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, Douglas, Moultrie, Coles, Edgar, Champaign, and Vermilion Counties, and parts of McLean, Logan, Sangamon, and Clark Counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Most areas west of I-55, Christian, Effingham, Shelby, and Cumberland Counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Parts of Knox, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, and Lawrence Counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/03/26

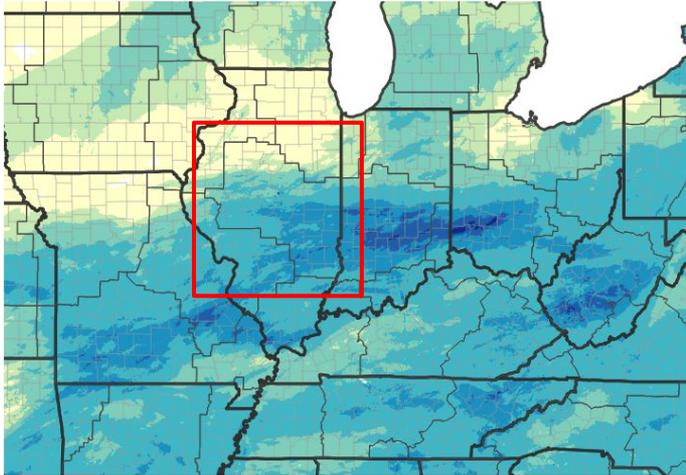




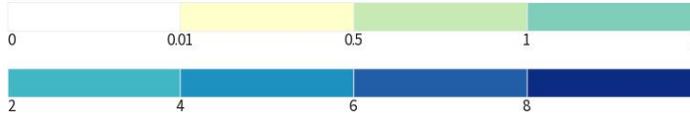
Precipitation

Over the past 30 days, precipitation has been above normal in southern portions of central IL, and below normal in northern portions. Heavy rainfall responsible for above normal areas came from multiple days of rainfall starting Tuesday March 3, and will likely influence drought category this upcoming week.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

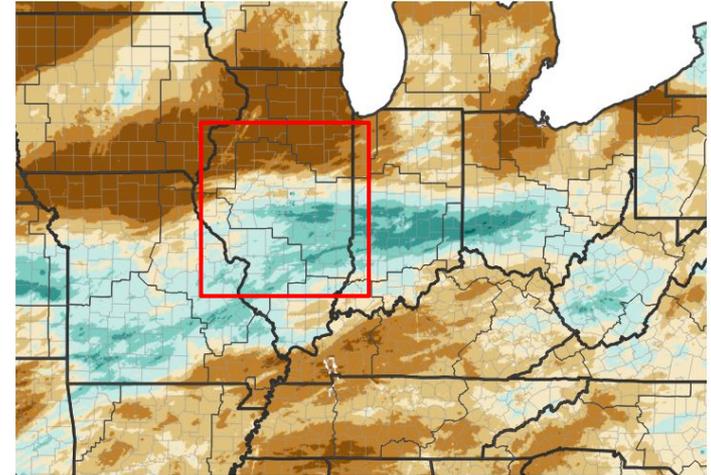


Inches of Precipitation

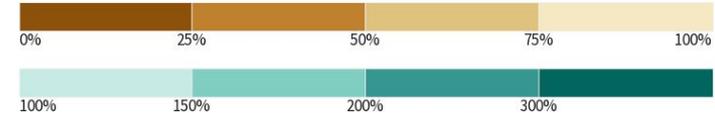


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/06/26

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: 03/06/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is much below normal for most rivers in central parts of the state (less than 10 percent of normal), including a few streams reporting all-time low flow for the date.
- Lake Decatur is reported to be about 3.0 feet below normal. Lake Springfield is about 2 feet below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts reported in the past week.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- No recent impacts.

Other Impacts

- Natural water sources and creeks have dried up, ponds are very low in northern parts of central IL.
- Soil moisture remains low to record low at deep levels in northern parts of central IL. Water tables are near record low levels.
- The town of Sullivan declared a water emergency on February 11th due to ongoing drought and a reduced water supply. Restrictions on non-essential water use are in effect until June 1st, and residents are urged to conserve water.

Mitigation Actions

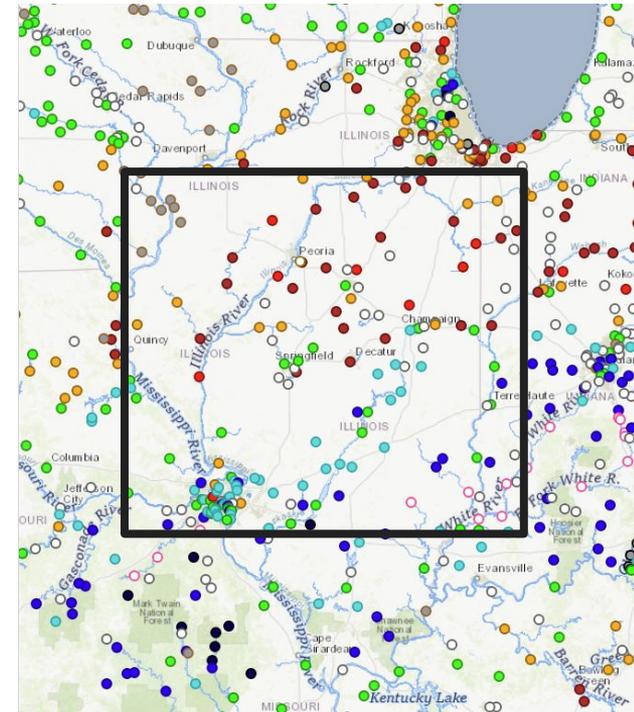
- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows remain much below normal in northern parts of central IL, but are normal to much above normal in southern portions in response to recent rainfall.
- All-time low flow for the date is reported for a few locations in northern parts of central IL.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Image Caption: USGS average streamflow valid March 6, 2026

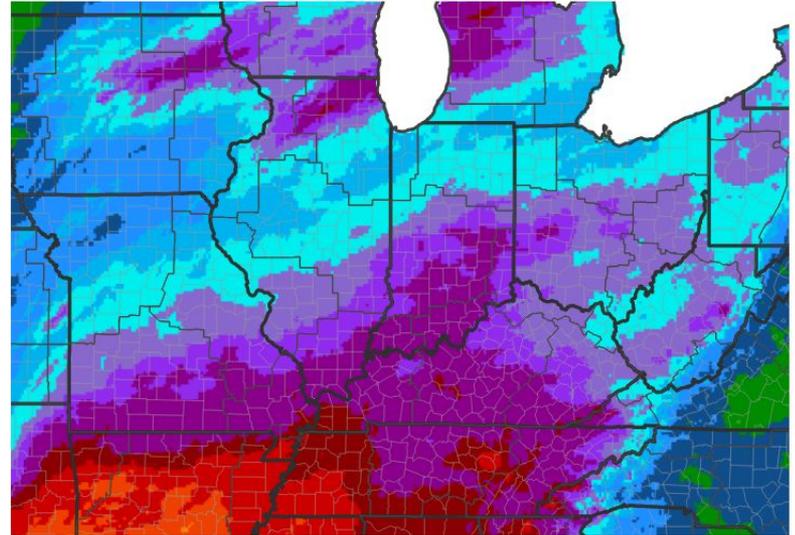




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Another week of beneficial rainfall is expected during the week of March 6-13.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 6, 2026–March 13, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/06/26





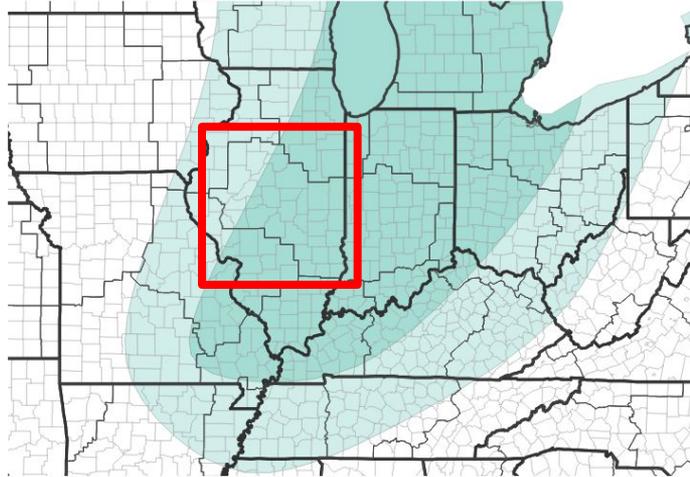
Long-Range Outlooks

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

Above normal precipitation is favored (40-50% chance) for most of central and southeast IL for March.

Above normal temperatures are favored (40% to 50% chance) across central IL for March.

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



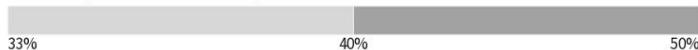
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



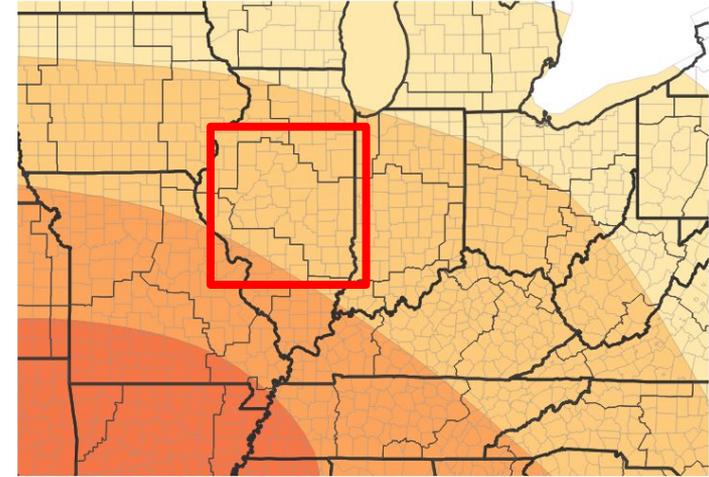
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/19/26

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



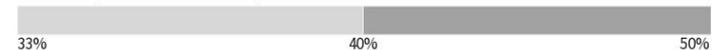
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 02/19/26



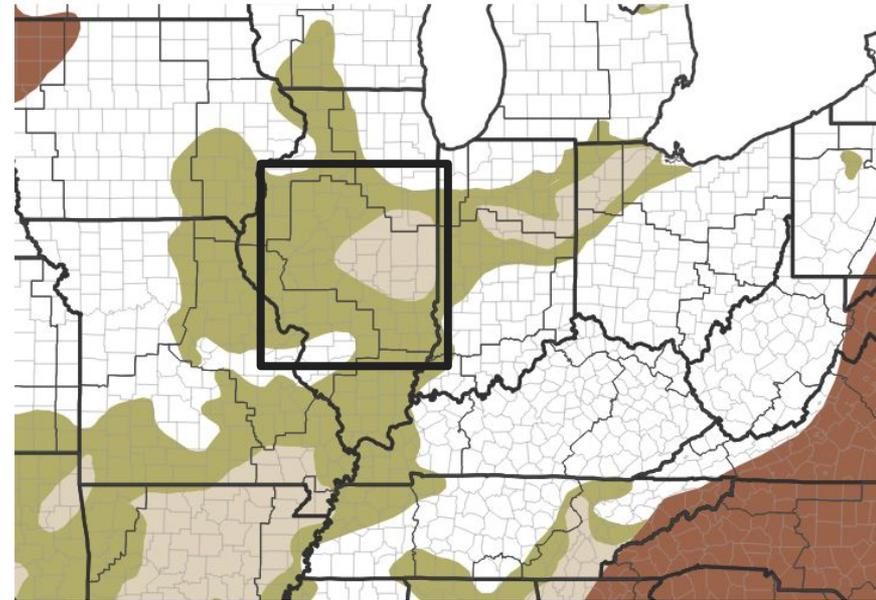


Drought Outlook

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 May.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 28, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 02/28/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Lincoln, IL