



# Drought Information Statement for Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana

Valid Feb 19, 2026

Issued By: WFO Chicago, Illinois

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

- The next scheduled update is March 25, 2026, or sooner if drought conditions worsen significantly
  - Current statements: [drought.gov/drought-information-statements](https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements).
  - Previous local statements: [www.weather.gov/lot/DroughtInformationStatement](https://www.weather.gov/lot/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.
  - Regional Updates: [www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews\\_region=54&state=All](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=54&state=All)
- 
- Drought conditions continue across portions of northern Illinois and northwest Indiana.



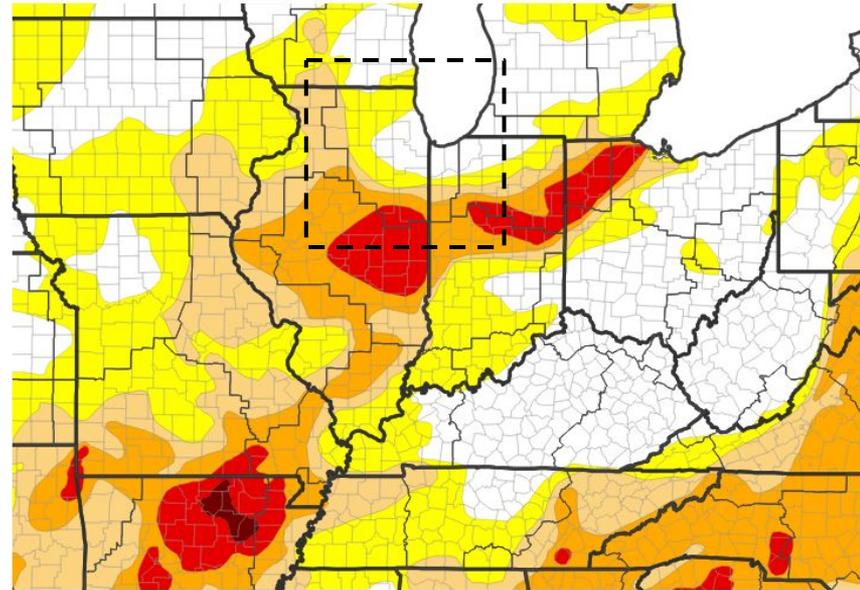


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: In Illinois: Far southeastern Livingston, southern Ford, and southwestern Iroquois counties.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: In Indiana: Benton County. In Illinois: portions of Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, LaSalle counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: In Illinois: Portions of Winnebago, Ogle, Lee, LaSalle, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois counties. In Indiana: Portions of Newton and Jasper counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: In Illinois: Portions of Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, McHenry, Kane, Lake, LaSalle, Grundy, Livingston, and Kankakee counties. In Indiana: Portions of Newton and Jasper counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/17/26

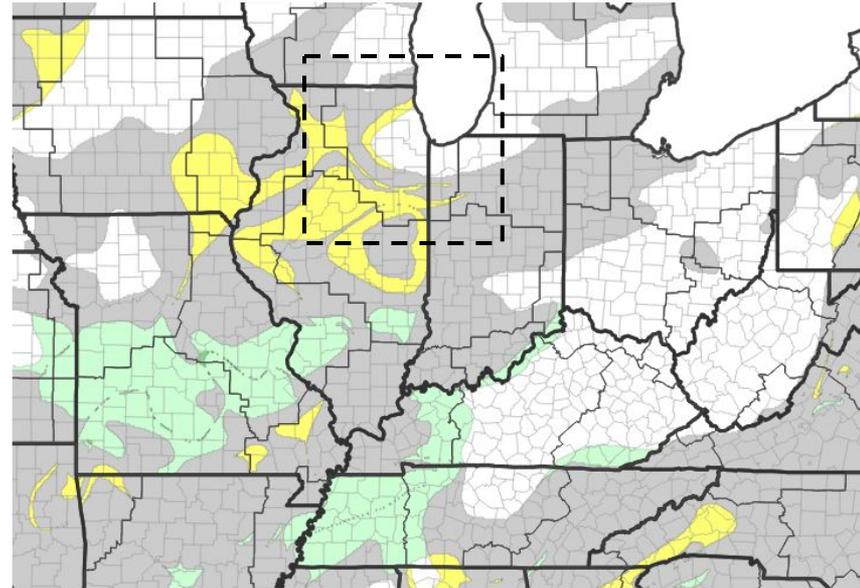




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [drought changes map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - There was a 1 class degradation in drought monitor status in portions of the area, with no change elsewhere.
  - Largest areas of drought status change were in Lee, Ogle, Livingston, Ford, and Iroquois counties.



Drought Change Since Last Week



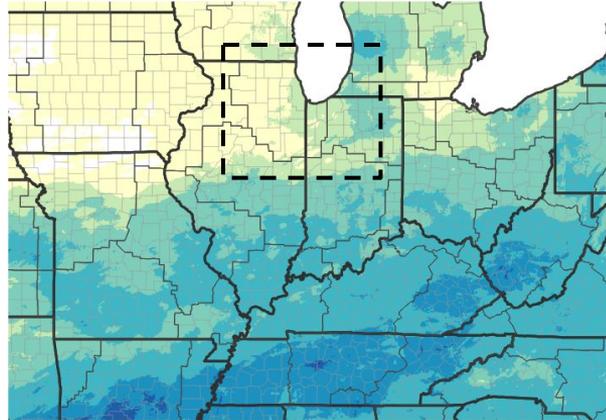


# Precipitation

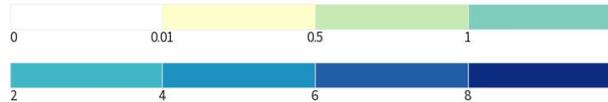
Link to [latest temperature and precipitation maps from MRCC](#)

- 30-day precipitation generally well below average across the area for this time of year.

### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

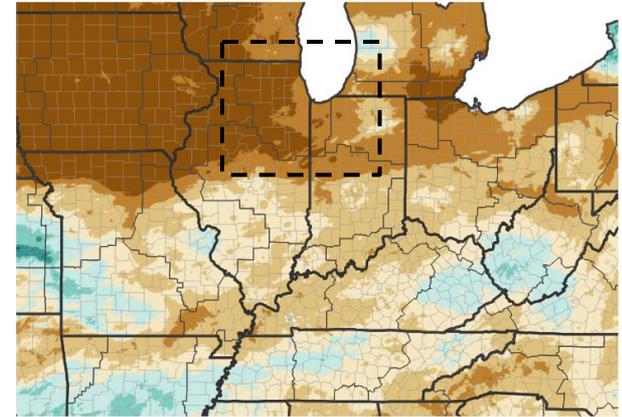


#### Inches of Precipitation

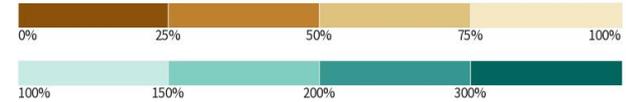


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/20/26

### 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: 02/20/26



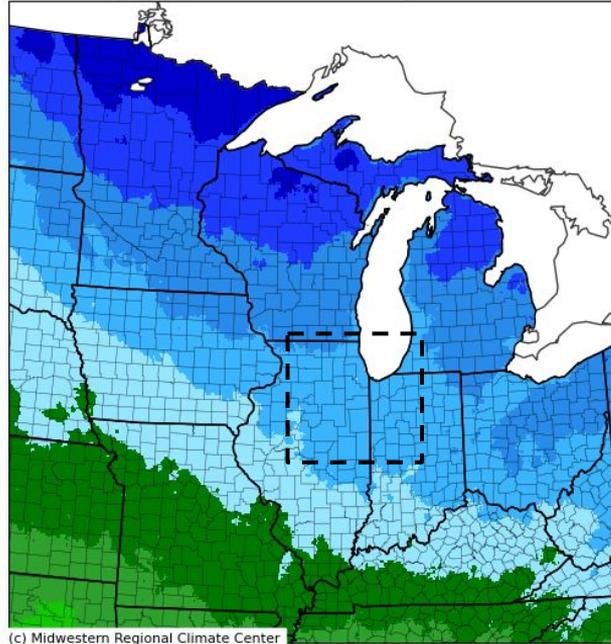


# Temperature

Link to [latest temperature and precipitation maps from MRCC](#)

- The second half of January and early February featured well below average temperatures, with recent well above average temperatures cutting into the overall negative departures over the 30-day period.

**Average Temperature (°F)**  
January 21, 2026 to February 19, 2026



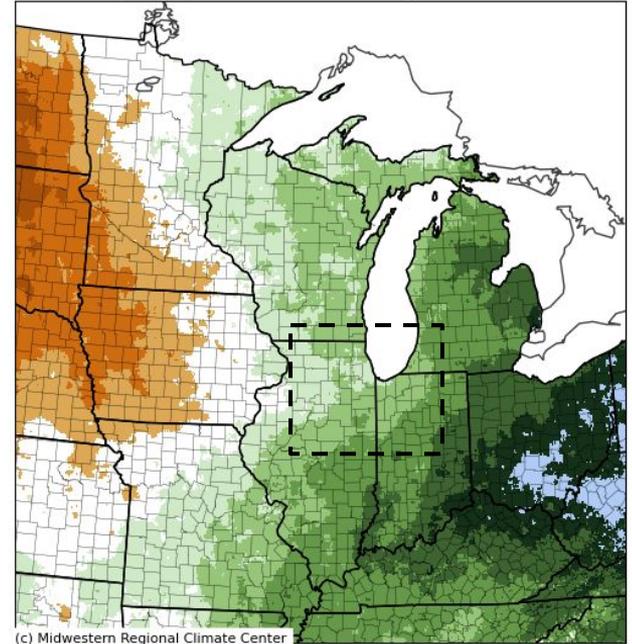
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



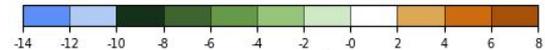
Source: PRISM Weather Data

Generated on: Fri Feb 20, 2026 14:05:38 EST

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals**  
January 21, 2026 to February 19, 2026



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



Source: PRISM Weather Data

Generated on: Fri Feb 20, 2026 14:07:15 EST





# Summary of Impacts

View or submit a [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Rivers across portions of central Illinois and central Indiana range from below average to much below average. Some groundwater sensors across northeastern Illinois indicate water table levels below average.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although some burn bans have been enacted in northwestern and central Illinois, no burn bans are known to be in effect across the NWS Chicago forecast area.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

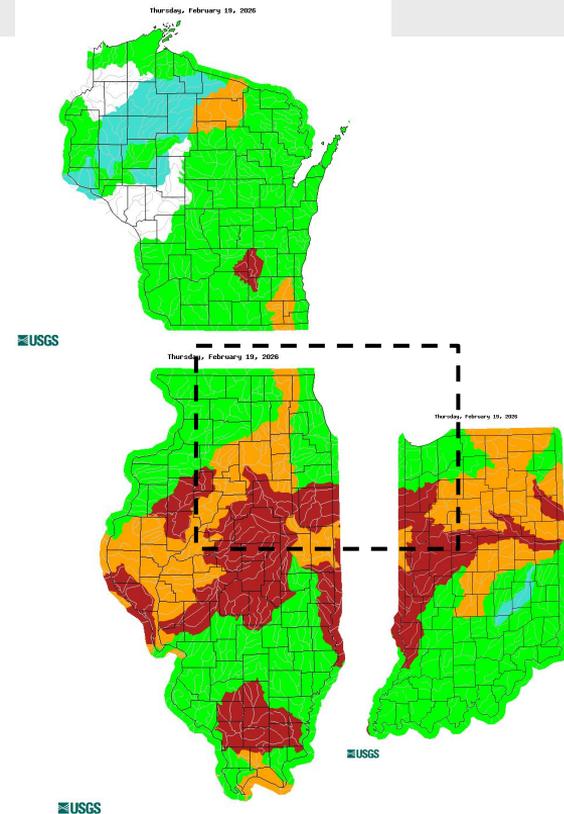
- None reported.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- River streamflow values are much below average from central Illinois into central Indiana.
- River streamflow values are near average across most of Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, northeastern Illinois, and portions of northwestern Indiana.



USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 2026/02/19

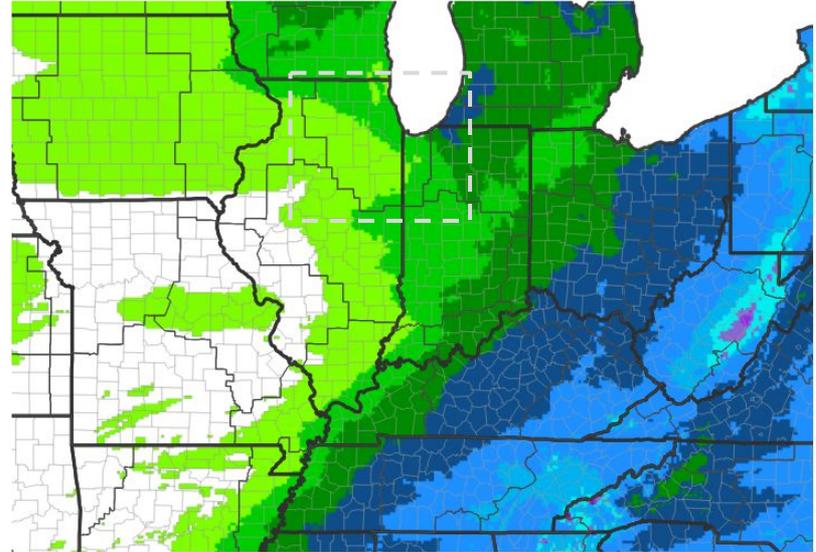




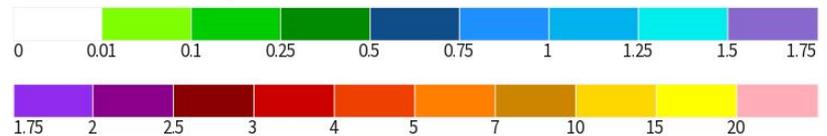
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- No widespread heavy precipitation is currently forecast across the area.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 20, 2026–February 27, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/20/26

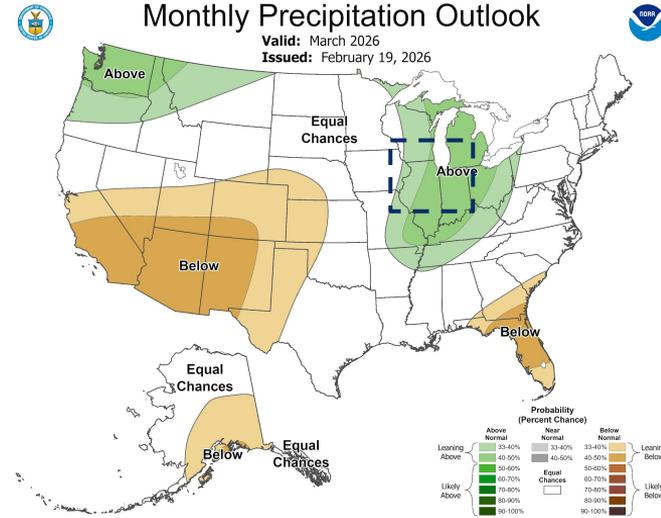
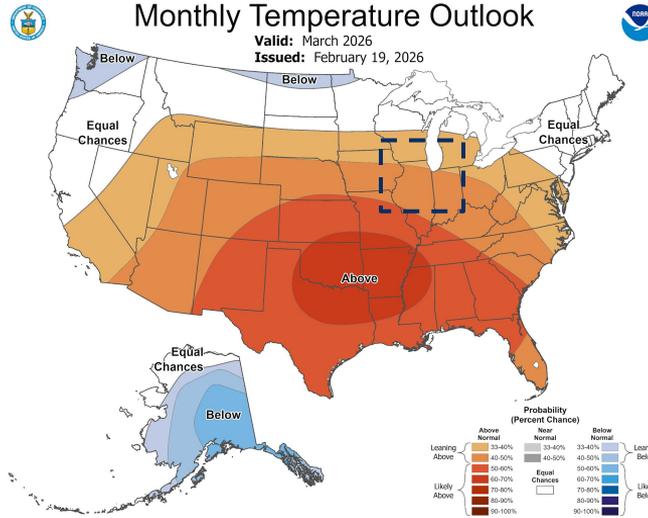




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation is favored for the month of March across the area.



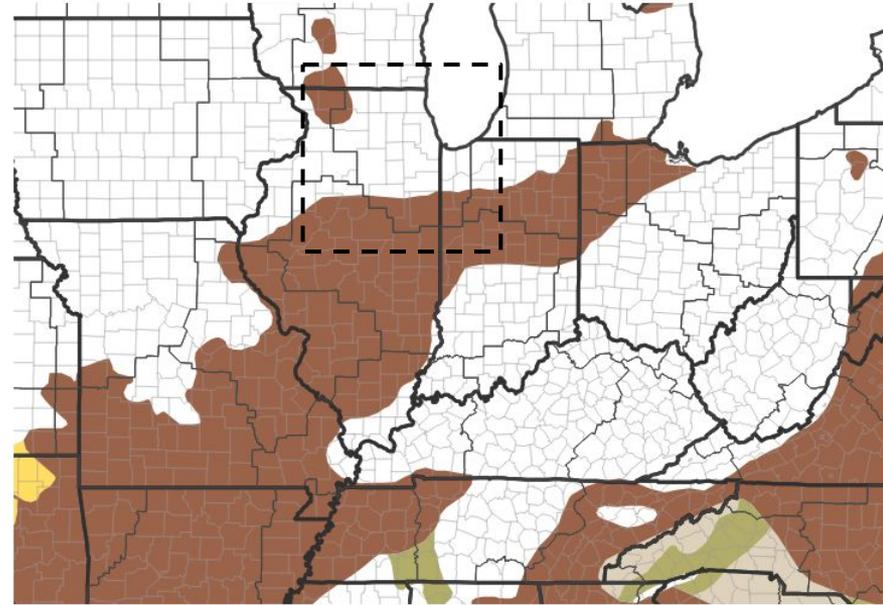


# Drought Outlook

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

- The monthly drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center indicates that drought is likely to persist across central Illinois and central Indiana.

## 1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/31/26

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  
Chicago, IL