National Weather Service
Central Region Climate Outlook

May 2025 – July 2025

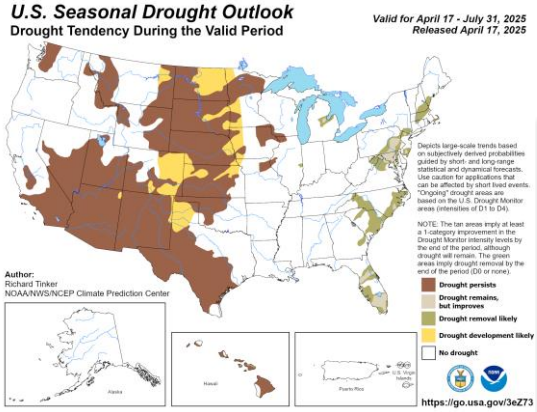
Friday, April 18, 2025 12:13 AM

Important Messages:

La Niña has ended

- The final La Niña Advisory was issued on April 10, 2025, and ENSO neutral conditions are now present.
- The tropical atmosphere is still consistent with weak La Niña conditions, but this signal continues to weaken. ENSO neutral conditions are expected through summer.
- Widespread warm and dry conditions are expected to lead to persistent and expanding drought for most of the western half of Central Region.

Seasonal Drought Outlook



- **Drought is expected to persist and expand** across most of the Plains and Rockies thanks to the largely warm and dry outlook for this area.
- **Drought improvement** is expected in small pockets of remaining drought in Michigan and Illinois.

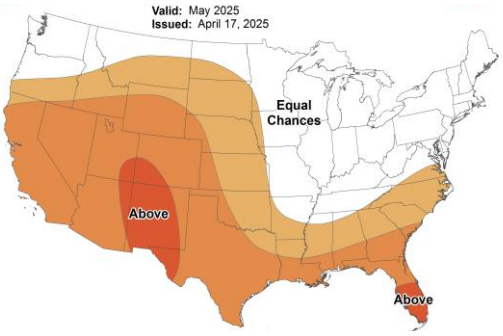
May 2025 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

- Above normal temperatures are favored for much of the Plains and Rockies during the month of May.
- Drier than normal conditions are favored for portions of the northern Plains and much of the Rockies.
- Wetter than normal conditions are favored for much of the Ohio River Valley region, partially due to very moist soil conditions currently present.
- Elsewhere in central Region, there are equal chances of above-, near-, and below-normal temperatures and precipitation.

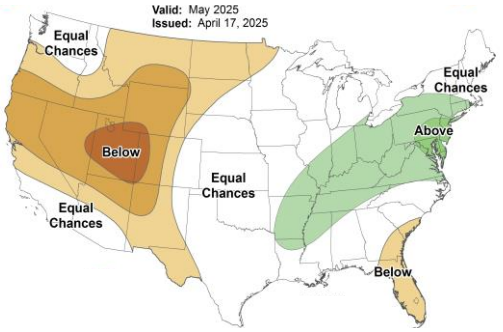
May-June-July 2025 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

- Above normal temperatures are favored for most of Central Region, except portions of the northern Plains and upper Midwest, where there are equal chances for above and below normal temperatures.
- Below normal precipitation is favored for most of the Plains and Rockies through mid summer.
- This outlook is based on weak lingering La Niña impacts/analogs and good dynamical model agreement showing widespread warm and dry conditions over the central and western CONUS.
- Soil conditions are very dry over most of the Plains and parts of the Midwest, supporting continued warm and dry into mid summer.

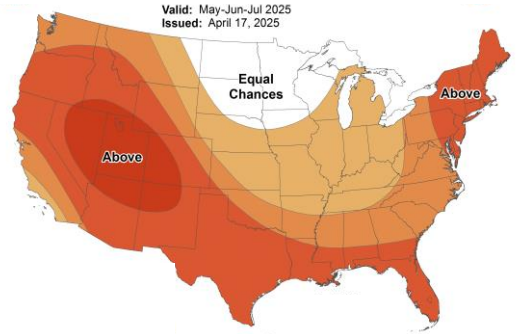
One Month Temperature Outlook



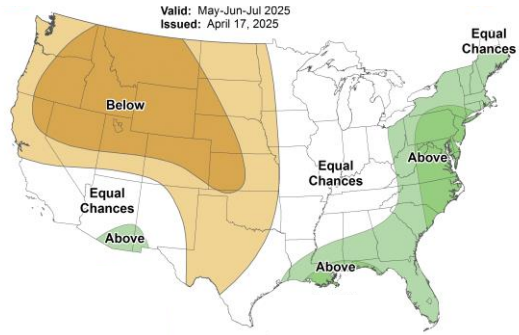
One Month Precipitation Outlook



Three Month Temperature Outlook



Three Month Precipitation Outlook



For more info, contact: **shawn.rossi@noaa.gov**

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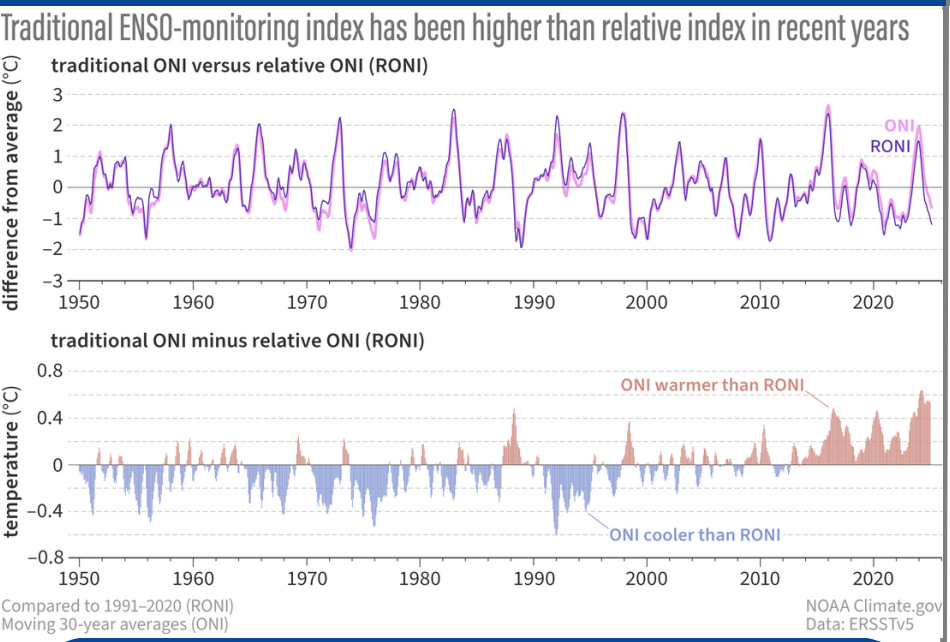
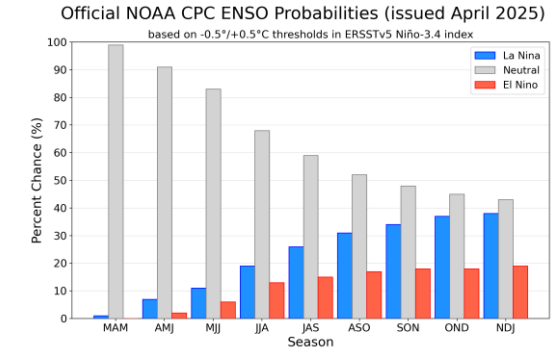
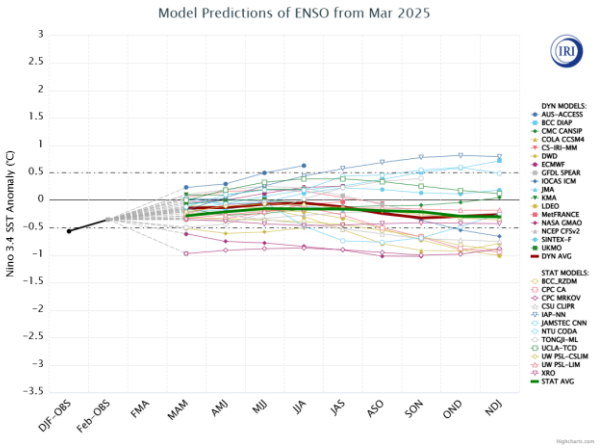
A Look Back at the 2024-25 La Niña and Implications for the Next Outlook



The 2024-25 La Niña may not officially be counted as a La Niña event because it did not meet the length requirement of 5 consecutive three-month seasons observing sea surface temperature anomalies at or below -0.5C. Recently, a new "relative" oceanic Niño index (RONI) was created, which subtracts the average SST of the entire tropics from the traditional ONI index. By this measure, the 2024-25 event was more consistent with a moderate strength La Niña, relative to the rest of the tropics. Observed precipitation patterns over North America better matched with those predicted by the RONI than the traditional ONI. For more info, see the ENSO blog from the end of March.

IRI/CPC Probabilistic ENSO Forecast/Plumes





- ENSO neutral (neither La Niña or El Niño) conditions are expected to persist into summer
- Forecasts are split between continued neutral and another La Niña for the fall/winter, with El Niño a little less likely (~20% chance)
- ENSO forecasts made in the spring are inherently more uncertain due to the "spring predictability barrier". See ENSO blog for more.

Useful Links/Info:

News from Climate.gov
Latest ENSO Blog from Climate.gov
Sea Surface Temperatures from the Climate Prediction Center
Latest ENSO Discussion from the Climate Prediction Center
Drought Information from the US Drought Monitor
Interactive GIS Mapping from NCEI (Anomalies/Rankings)
Local Climate Analysis Tool (LCAT) – Account registration required

Other Teleconnection Info

- The MJO has been fairly inactive for the last month or so, but may re-emerge across the western Pacific in the coming weeks.
- Due to their weak signals, the MJO and other teleconnections contributed very little to this month's outlook.

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

For more info, contact: **shawn.rossi@noaa.gov**

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