
THE MID-SOUTH
CLIMATE REPORT
OCT 2017
NWSMemphis
#CLIMATESOCIAL

October 2017 Mid-South Climate Summary

OVERVIEW

October was characterized by warmer than normal temperatures around the Mid-South, with near to drier than normal conditions experienced areawide.

TEMPERATURE

Warmer than normal temperatures prevailed across the region for the month, a return to areawide warmer conditions after a few months of near to cooler than normal conditions. These departures varied from 1.1° above normal at Memphis to 2.8° above at Jonesboro. Per usual, Memphis recorded the warmest average temperature with 65.2°, 1.1° warmer than normal, while currently at 2.1° warmer than normal for 2017 to date. Tupelo's monthly average temperature of 64.6° was enough to be 1.6° warmer than normal, while the site remains warmer than normal for the year to date by 2.3°. Jonesboro, with an average monthly temperature of 64.0°, was 1.3° warmer than normal. With only two months left in the year, Jonesboro remains warmer than normal for 2017 by 2.5°. Jonesboro recorded both the warmest daily high temperature, with 94°, and the lowest daily low temperature, with 30°, of the four official sites during October. Jackson had the coolest average monthly temperature by more than a couple degrees with 61.8°. However, the site was still 1.3° warmer than the monthly normal, while the site carries the largest departure from normal of the four sites for 2017 to date, currently 2.7° warmer than normal.

October Temperature Data for the Mid-South:

	Memphis	Jackson	Jonesboro	Tupelo
Average Temperature (MONTH)	65.2	61.8	64.0	64.6
Normal Avg. Temp (MONTH)	64.1	60.5	61.2	63.0
Departure from Normal (MONTH)	**1.1**	**1.3**	**2.8**	**1.6**
Average Temperature (YEAR)	68.0	65.3	65.5	67.5
Normal Avg. Temp (YEAR)	65.9	62.6	63.0	65.2
Departure from Normal (YEAR)	**2.1**	**2.7**	**2.5**	**2.3**
Maximum Temperature	92.0	90.0	94.0	90.0
Minimum Temperature	31.0	32.0	30.0	32.0

PRECIPITATION

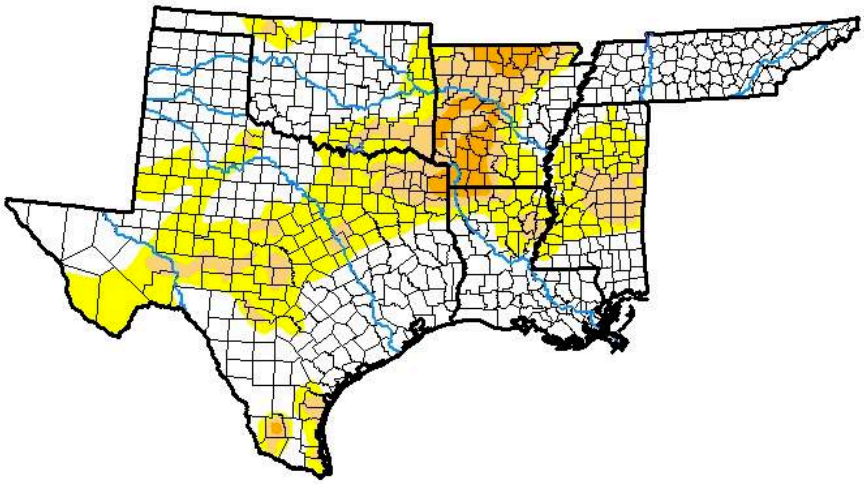
Other than portions of west Tennessee, most of the Mid-South was drier than normal for the duration of October. Portions of northeast Arkansas have been so dry recently they are now classified in abnormally dry to severe drought conditions in the latest Drought Monitor product (see next page). Jonesboro was the driest of the four sites for October, recording only 1.04” of rain, which was 3.22” drier than normal. However, for the year to date the site remains 2.62” of precipitation above normal. Tupelo only recorded 1.42” of rain during the month, a 2.70” rainfall deficit for October, while remaining drier than normal for the year to date by 4.28”. Jackson was not far below normal for the month, recording 3.27” of precipitation, a departure of just 0.50” drier than normal. However, the site remains drier than normal by 2.86” for 2017 through the end of October. Finally, Memphis was the wettest of the four official sites this month, recording 4.04” of precipitation, which was just 0.06” above the normal. Memphis is near normal for the year through the end of October, currently at just 0.14” below normal.

October Precipitation Data for the Mid-South:

	Memphis	Jackson	Jonesboro	Tupelo
Total Precipitation (MONTH)	4.04	3.27	1.04	1.42
Normal Precipitation (MONTH)	3.98	3.77	4.26	4.12
Departure from Normal (MONTH)	**0.06**	**-0.50**	**-3.22**	**-2.70**
Percent of Normal	102%	87%	24%	34%
Total Precipitation (YEAR)	42.31	40.16	41.05	39.75
Normal Precipitation (YEAR)	42.45	43.02	38.43	44.03
Departure from Normal (YEAR)	**-0.14**	**-2.86**	**2.62**	**-4.28**
Percent of Normal (YEAR)	100%	93%	107%	90%

U.S. Drought Monitor
South

November 7, 2017
(Released Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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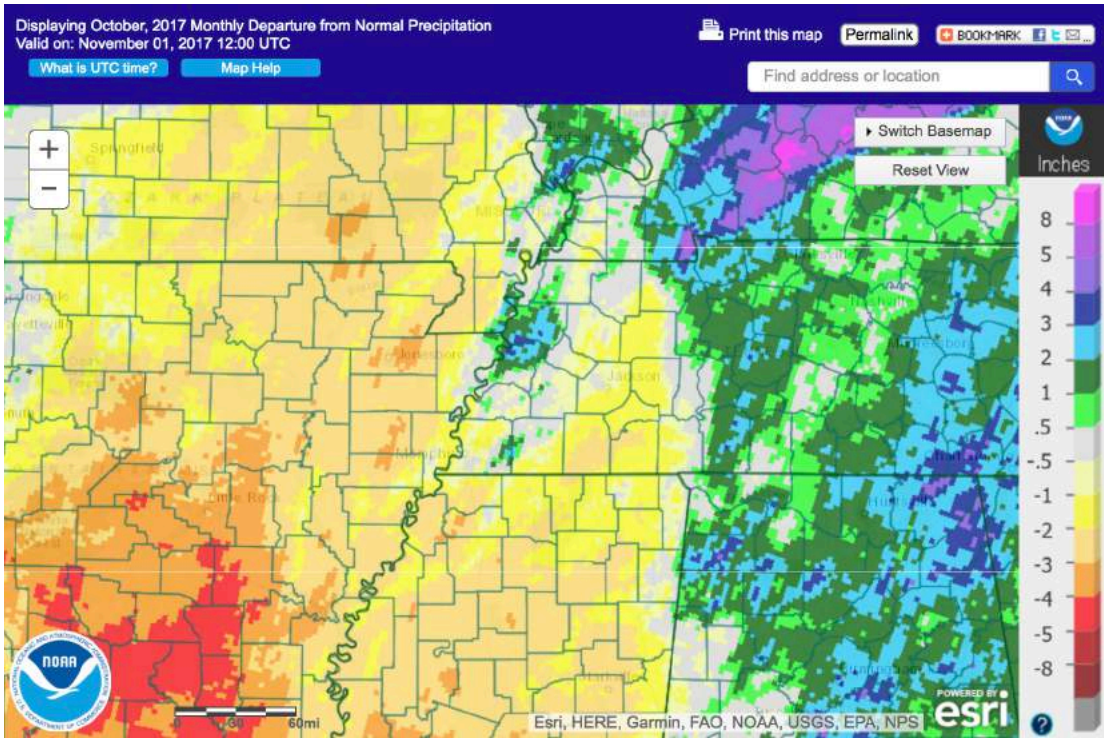
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

^^ The November 7th edition of the US Drought Monitor product, depicting up to severe drought conditions across portions of northeast Arkansas.

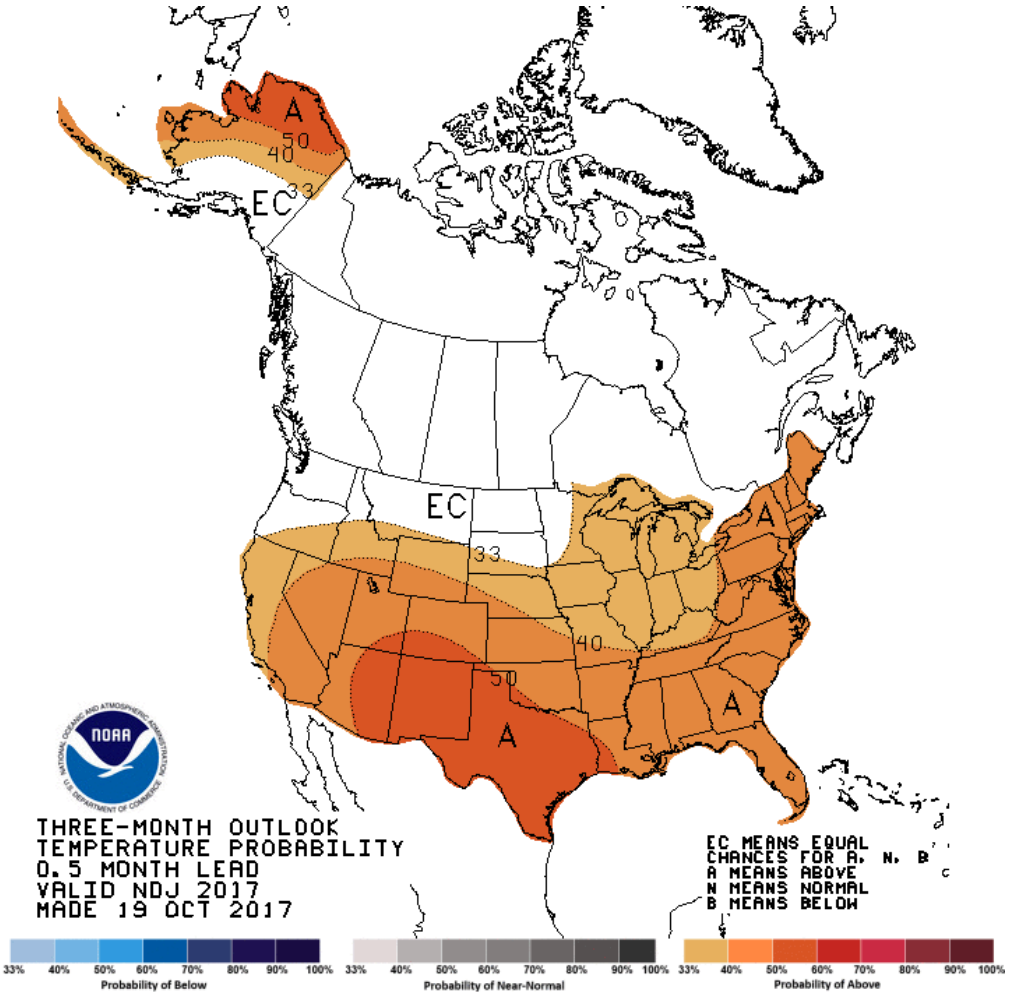


October Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation >>

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURE

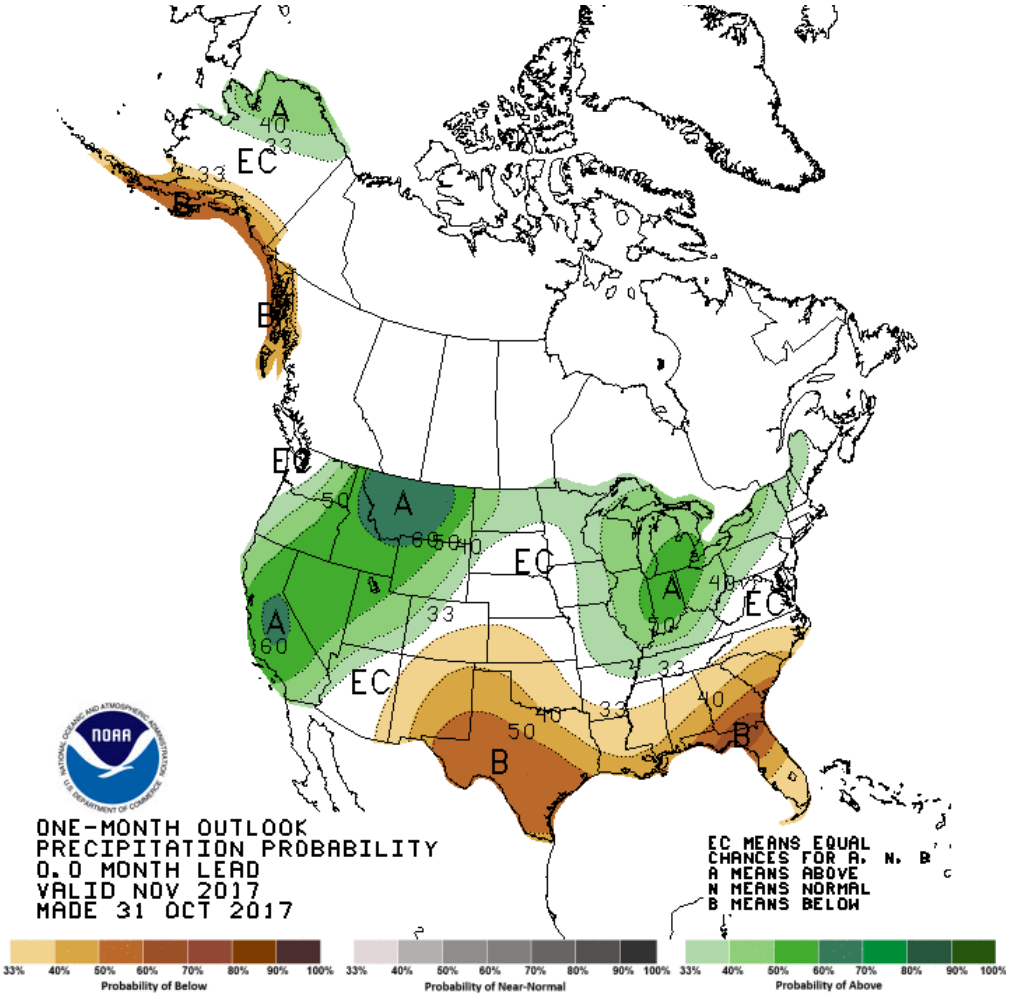
November is the final month of meteorological fall. The season is currently running near to just slightly warmer than normal, with only one month remaining. The latest one month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) for the month of November depicts enhanced odds for warmer than normal conditions for the region.



Similarly, the three month outlook, collectively encompassing the months of November, December, and January *(featured to the left)*, currently favors enhanced odds of warmer than normal conditions for the Mid-South. A great contributor to the signal for enhanced odds of warmer than normal temperatures for the upcoming months is the developing, weak La Niña across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña alters the jet stream aloft, which directly has an impact on temperatures and precipitation amounts over the continental United States. Typically, for the Mid-South, a moderate La Niña event can result in warmer and wetter conditions throughout the winter, though many other factors combine to influence the local climate. Hence, much of the confidence in the latest outlooks for the late fall and winter months comes from the anticipated La Niña event.

PRECIPITATION

With regions of northeast Arkansas now being classified as being in drought, substantial rainfall is important over the coming months. Currently the one month outlook *(featured below)* from the CPC highlights the northern half of the region (namely northeast Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, and western Tennessee) in a region of enhanced odds for wetter than normal conditions during November. Meanwhile, southern portions of the region, including northern Mississippi, carry an equal chance of above, near, or below normal precipitation totals for the month. The three month outlook, encompassing November, December, and January collectively, currently has northern Mississippi in a region of enhanced odds of drier than normal conditions, while the rest of the region has an equal chance of above, near, or below normal totals. As with the temperature outlooks, the good likelihood of a La Niña event over the cold season contributes to the wet forecast, particularly for ares to the north of the Mid-South.



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