



Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 09/21/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Sep. 28, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



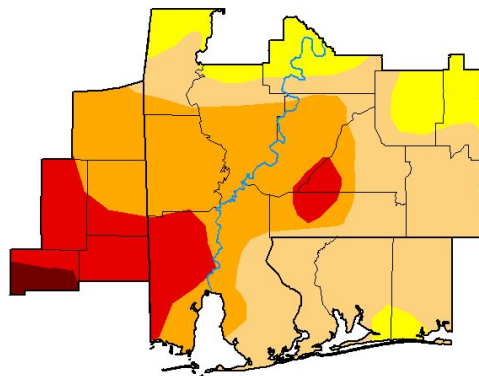


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Drought turns Exceptional for portions of the southwest sections of Interior Southeast Mississippi.
- Severe to Extreme Drought remainder of Interior Southeast Mississippi eastward into Southwest Alabama.
- Moderate to Severe Drought Expands to Areas Mostly Along and South of US Highway 84.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Much of Stone Co. MS.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Much of the southern third of interior southeast MS into much of Mobile Co. Northwest Escambia and southwest Conecuh Co's in Alabama.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Expands east into the Lower Tombigbee and Alabama River Basins. Western Baldwin Co.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Elsewhere for much of the remainder of the local area.

U.S. Drought Monitor Mobile, AL/ Pensacola, FL WFO



September 19, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 21, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	88.06	48.04	16.62	1.45
Last Week 09-12-2023	1.19	98.81	74.00	32.18	12.31	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-20-2023	99.99	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	46.95	53.05	17.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	31.79	68.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-20-2022	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor NWS Mobile/Pensacola Forecast Area valid 8am EDT September 19th.



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Over much of the interior of southeast MS and eastward over much of the interior of southwest AL. Drought has also worsened over south central Alabama.
 - No Change: Mainly along and south of the Interstate 10 corridor.

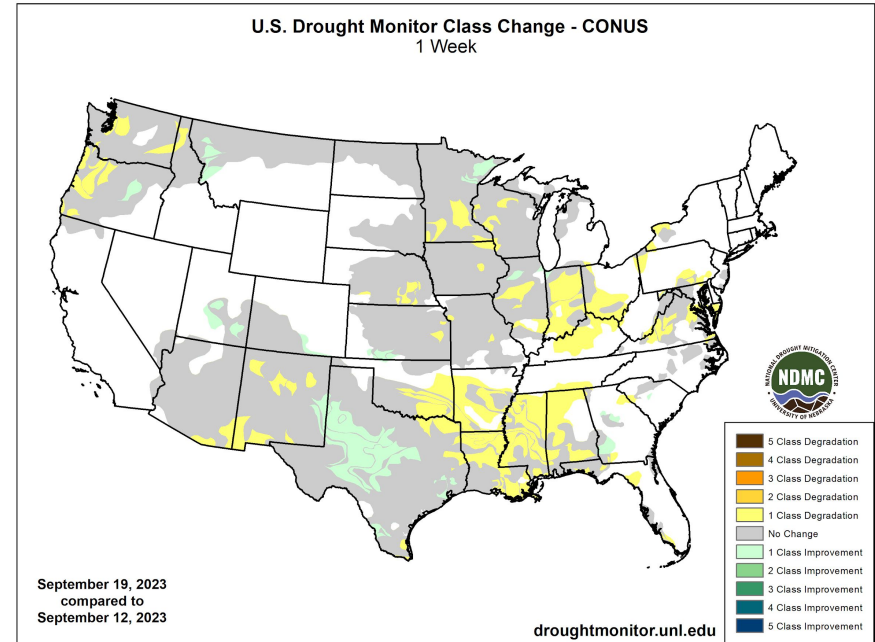


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT September 19th.



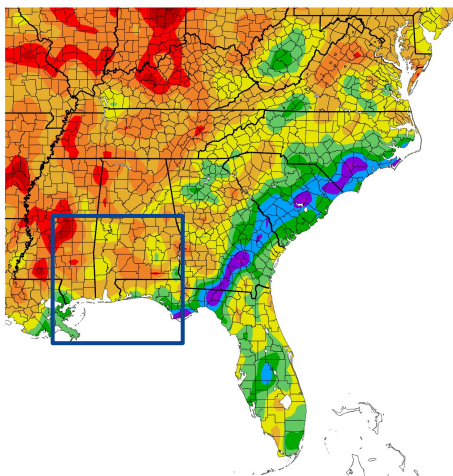


Precipitation

Table of Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - August 1 to September 20, 2023

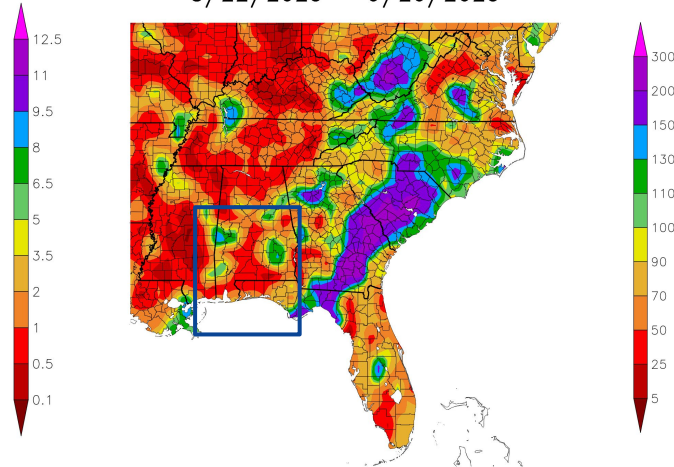
Station	Observed	Normal	Departure
Brewton AL 3NNE (COOP)	1.16	11.10	-9.94
Beaumont MS (COOP)	1.16	8.48	-7.32
Atmore AL (COOP)	1.93	9.23	-7.30
Fairhope AL 2NE (COOP)	4.56	11.72	-7.16
Niceville FL (COOP)	6.84	13.84	-7.00
Evergreen AL (ASOS)	2.43	8.45	-6.02
Pensacola FL (ASOS)	6.05	11.96	-5.91
Bay Minette AL (COOP)	6.28	12.10	-5.82
Crestview FL (ASOS)	4.11	9.88	-5.77
Pensacola FL 7NNE (COOP)	5.20	10.87	-5.67
Dauphin Island AL (COOP)	4.14	9.77	-5.63
Mobile AL (ASOS)	5.62	10.46	-4.84
Waynesboro MS 2W (COOP)	2.96	7.37	-4.41
Downtown Mobile AL (ASOS)	6.12	10.27	-4.15
Leakesville MS 6WSW (COOP)	4.46	8.26	-3.80

Precipitation (in)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



Generated 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:

Left - The box inset shows the central Gulf Coast region at mostly 1 to 5 inches for the period.
Right - The box inset shows much of the Central Gulf Coast 25 to 50% of Normal for the period.

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending September 20, 2023





Temperature

- With persistent dryness comes above normal heat with past 30 days average temperatures coming in well above normal.
- Of note, much of southeast MS has seen average temperatures 3 to 6° above normal.

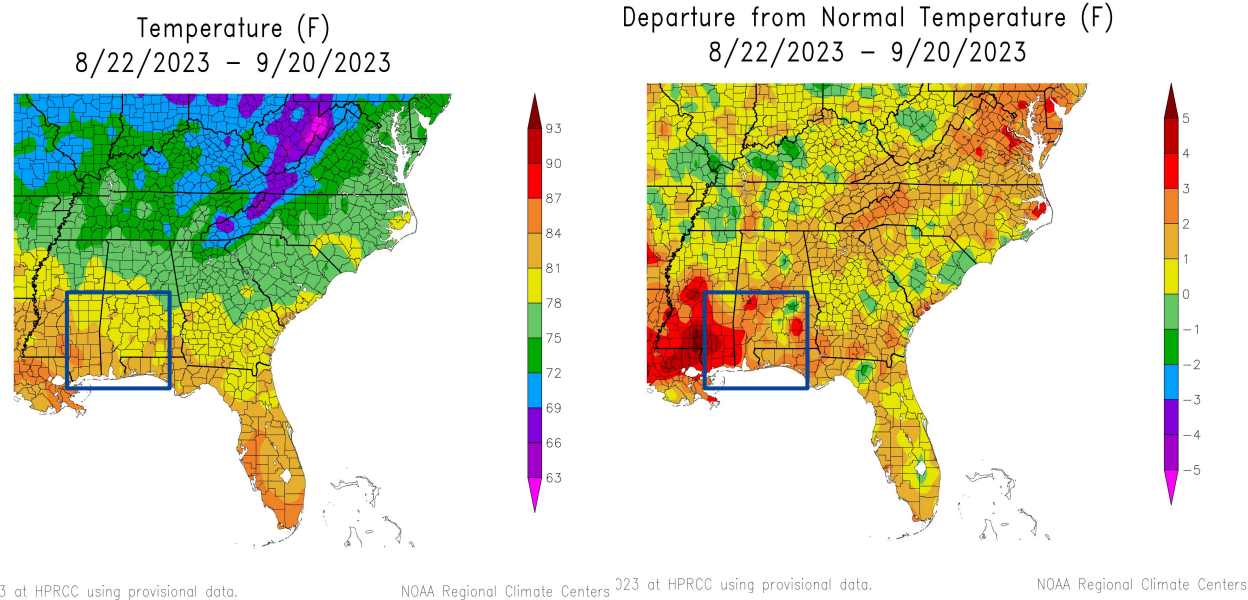


Image Captions:

Left - The inset box shows the Central Gulf Coast ranging in the upper 70's/lower 80's for average temperatures

Right - The box shows the western half of local area mostly 3 to 6° above normal

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Data over the past 30 days ending September 20, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Despite worsening drought for nearly half of the local area, many local streams and rivers over the past week have shown little change in stages and flow. Regardless, stages and flow remain below or much below normal for many stream and river points. This can lead to hazards and increased difficulty in safe navigation of recreational boating and commercial waterway needs.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas remains very poor and pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The risk of wildfire remains above normal over southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama.

Societal Impacts

- Increase in air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Select River/Stream Points at Below Normal Levels - Valid 8AM September 21, 2023

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Cyprus Creek near Janice MS	7.64	5.65	19, Below Normal
Red Creek at Vestry MS	135	4.12	5, Much Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd 63 near Wilmer AL	15.4	1.56	12, Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	45.6	2.77	8, Much Below Normal
Fish River Near Silver Hill AL	56.7	0.98	19, Below Normal
Styx River near Elsanor AL	110	1.63	7, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Bradley AL	26.3	0.72	5, Much Below Normal
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	24.6	4.76	4, Much Below Normal
Perdido River at Barrineau Park FL	237	1.32	7, Much Below Normal
Shoal River near Crestview FL	316	2.56	5, Much Below Normal
Yellow River at Milligan FL	250	0.76	13, Below Normal

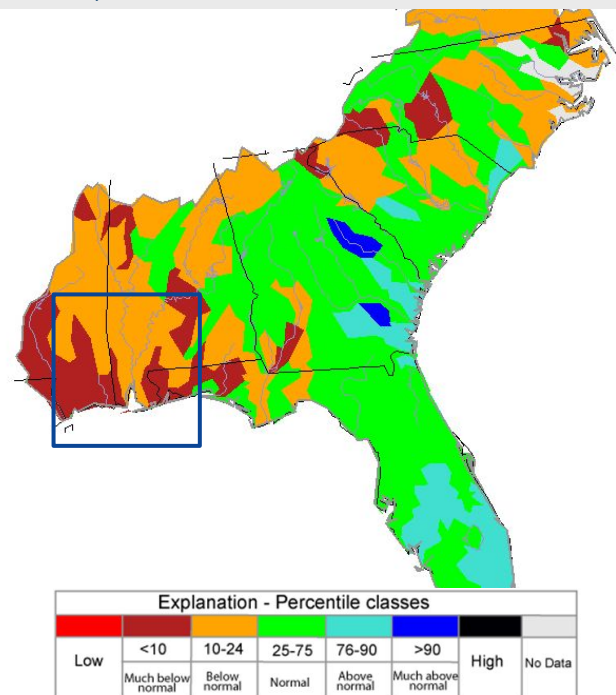


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 09/21/2023. Box Inset - Central Gulf Coast is seeing stream flows below to much below normal.

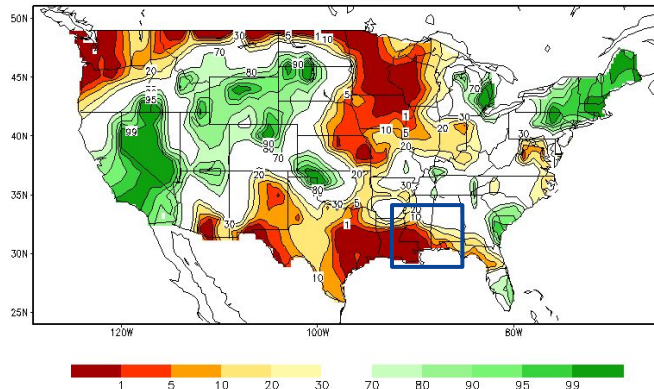




Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas is very poor. Crop disease elevated. Pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Leading to very poor crop conditions is the parched sub-soil moisture makeup.
- The latest state-wide top soil moisture metrics vs 5 year means (Depth 6", courtesy of USDA 09/17/23).
 - MS: 74% Dry (Avg: 38.8%).
 - AL: 41% Dry (Avg: 27.2%).
 - FL: 27% Dry (Avg: 9.2%).

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 19, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 16, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

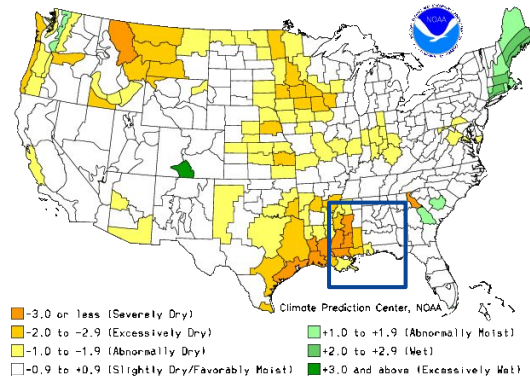


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 19, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending Sep 16, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands pose an above normal risk for significant wildfire potential over southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama.

Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:

[Mississippi](#)

[Alabama](#)

[Florida](#)

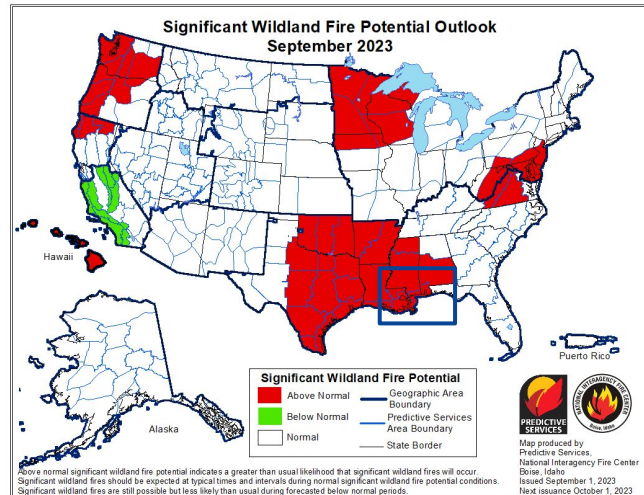


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2023



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Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Much needed rainfall over the central Gulf coast appears to be in short supply once again through next week.
- Basin average rain amounts look to be less than a quarter inch over the forecast area through the period.

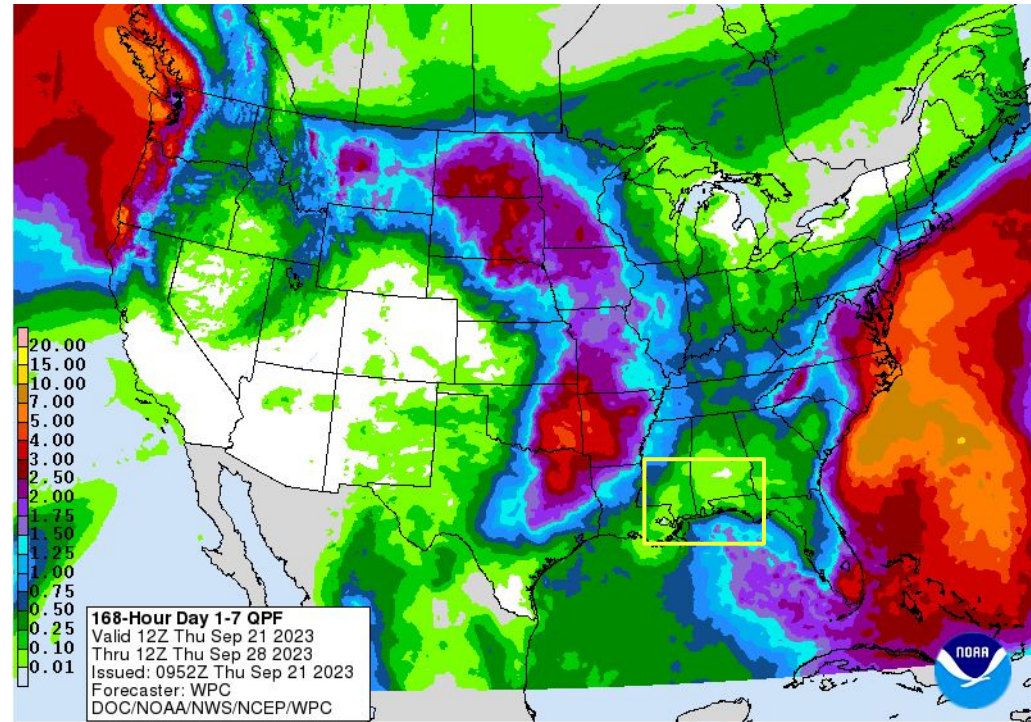


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday September 21 to Thursday September 28, 2023. Central Gulf Coast mostly less than a quarter inch.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

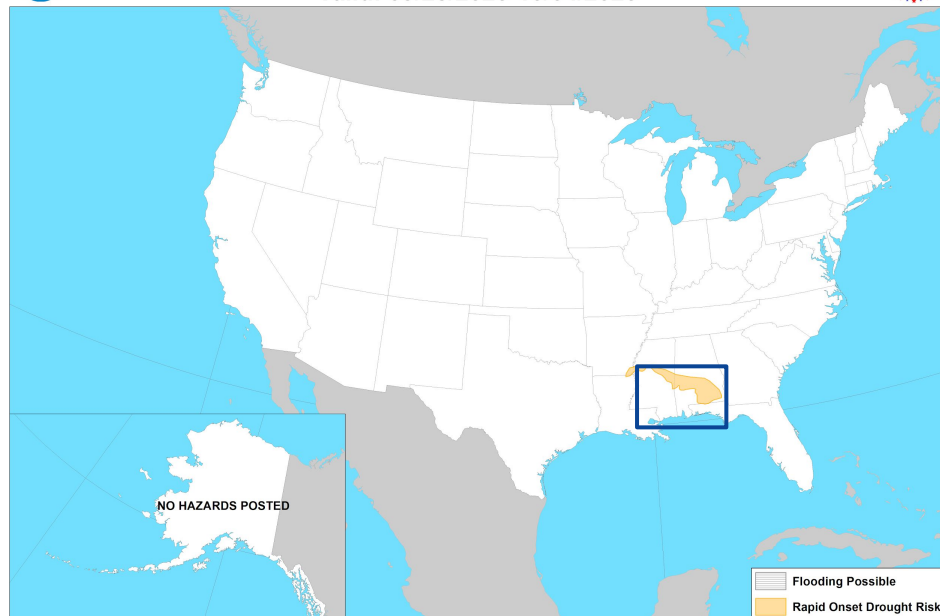
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- A narrow strip of rapid onset drought is outlooked for areas mainly along and north of the US Highway 84 corridor into the first week of October.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: 09/28/2023-10/04/2023



Climate Prediction Center

Made: 09/20/2023 3PM EDT

Follow us:  

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Image Caption:

[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid Sep. 28 to Oct. 4, 2023.



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Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures are favored to be likely above normal going through the month of September, while equal chances of above or below normal precipitation is outlooked for the central Gulf coast.

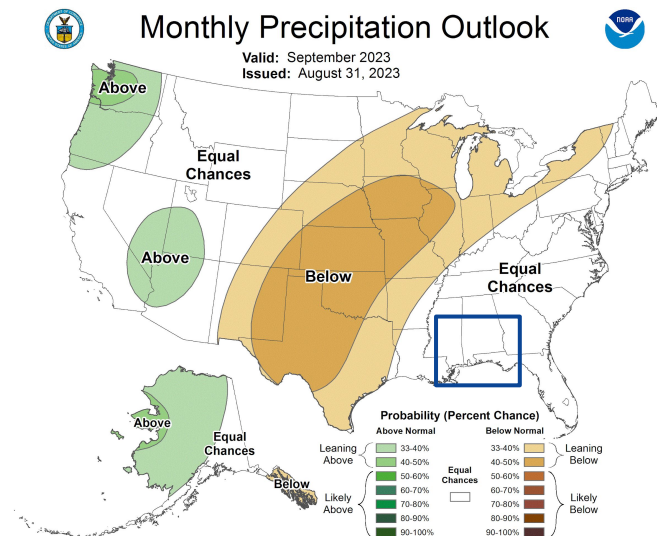
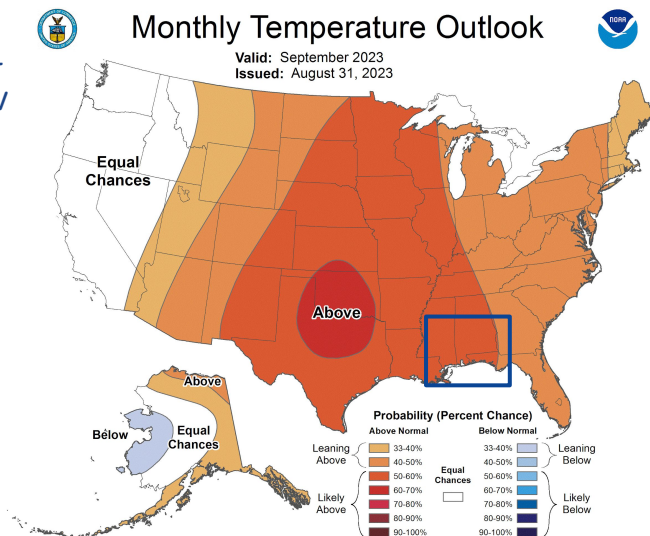


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid September 2023



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Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is favored to hold over extreme southern Mississippi but may show some improvement in the coming weeks. To the east, indications suggest that drought removal will be likely over the western Florida Panhandle.
- Over the interior counties, potential of rapid onset drought suggests persistence of drought or worsening conditions.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

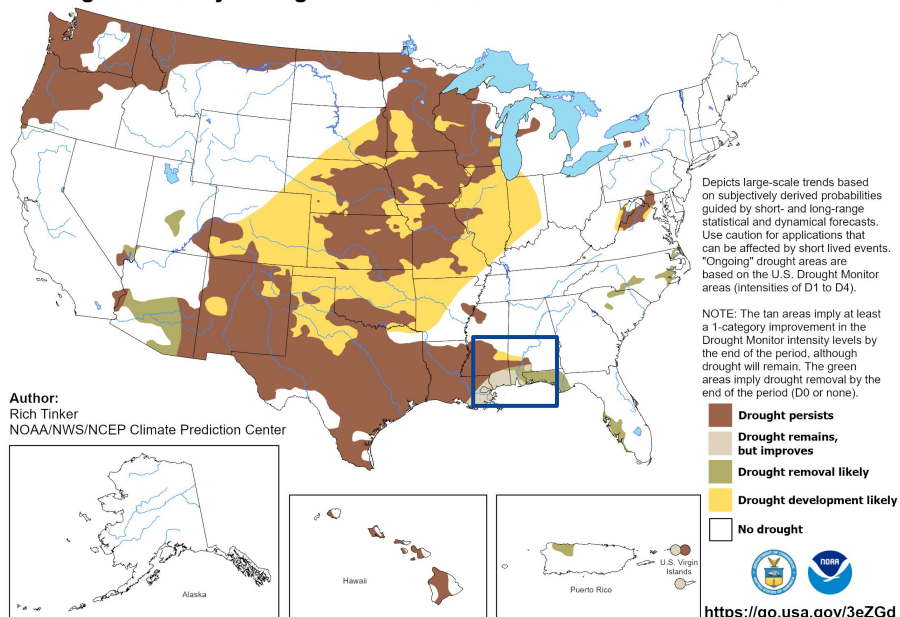


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released
August 31, 2023 valid for September 2023

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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