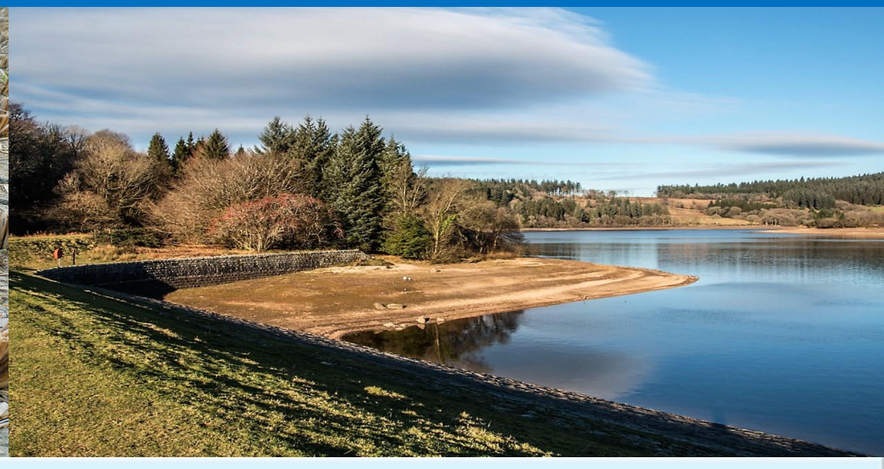
Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

Valid January 8, 2026

Issued By: *WFO Springfield, MO*

Contact Information: *contact.sgf@noaa.gov*

- This product will be updated by February 5, 2026 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/sgf/SGFDroughtMonitor for additional information.



U.S. Drought Monitor

January 8, 2026
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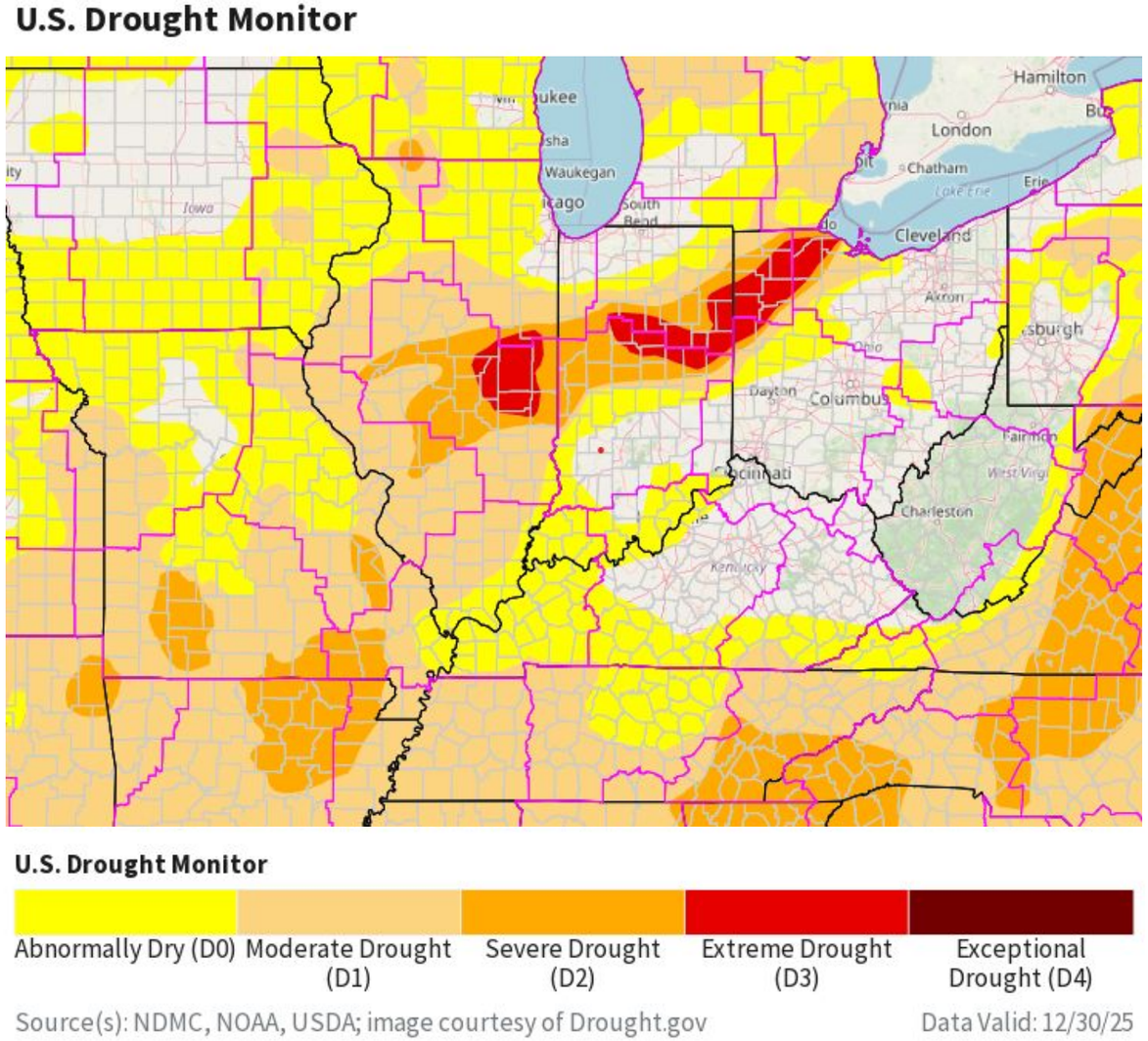
Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Lower Midwest

- **Drought Persists and Expands Across the Ozarks Region**

- **Drought Intensity and Extent**
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Cedar, Polk, Dade, Lawrence, Greene, Webster, Howell, Oregon, McDonald, Christian, Stone, Taney, Barry and Shannon Counties in Missouri.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee Counties in Kansas. Vernon, Barton, Jasper, St.Clair, Cedar, Dade, Lawrence, Barry, Cedar, Hickory, Dade, Lawrence, Barry, Maries, Polk, Dallas, Webster, Texas, Christian, Stone, Taney, Ozark, Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Shannon Counties in Missouri.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): McDonald, Barry, Stone, St.Clair, Benton, Hickory, Dallas, Laclede, Morgan, Miller, Maries, Phelps, Webster, Wright, Texas, Dent, Douglas, Howell, and Shannon Counties in Missouri.



State Drought Monitor

January 8, 2026
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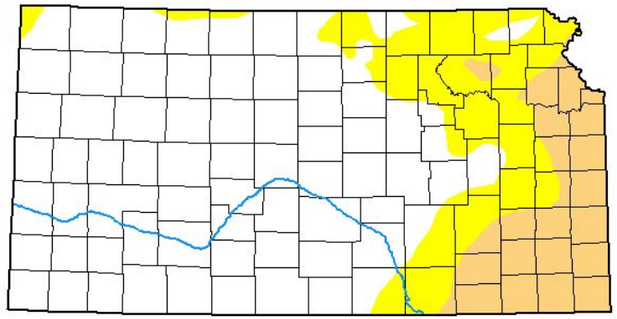
Link to Recent Change Maps

U.S. Drought Monitor
Kansas



January 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	68.26	31.74	13.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-30-2025	71.60	28.40	9.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-07-2025	81.37	18.63	7.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	68.26	31.74	13.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	81.75	18.25	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-07-2025	35.20	64.80	24.63	0.00	0.00	0.00

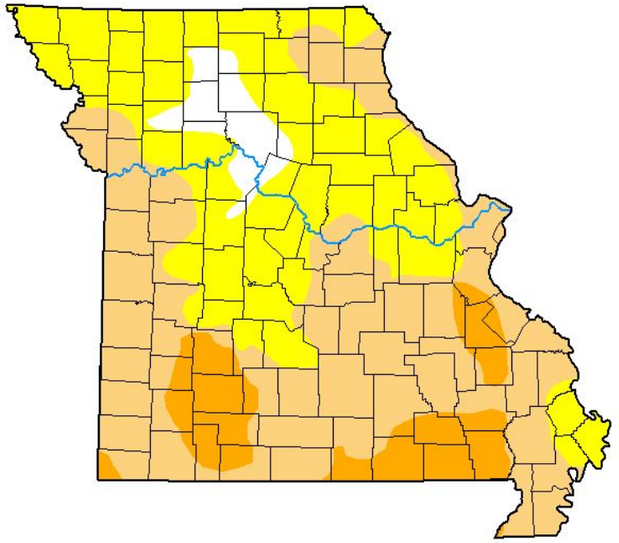
Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor
Missouri



January 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)
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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.72	95.28	57.54	11.61	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-30-2025	5.70	94.30	44.10	5.89	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-07-2025	2.50	97.50	70.93	26.76	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	4.72	95.28	57.54	11.61	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	6.56	93.44	63.57	22.18	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-07-2025	69.71	30.29	11.75	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
- None
- 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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

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Main Takeaways

- A near Record Dry December has allowed Drought conditions to expand across some portions of the Missouri Ozarks.
- Drought conditions persist across southeast Kansas.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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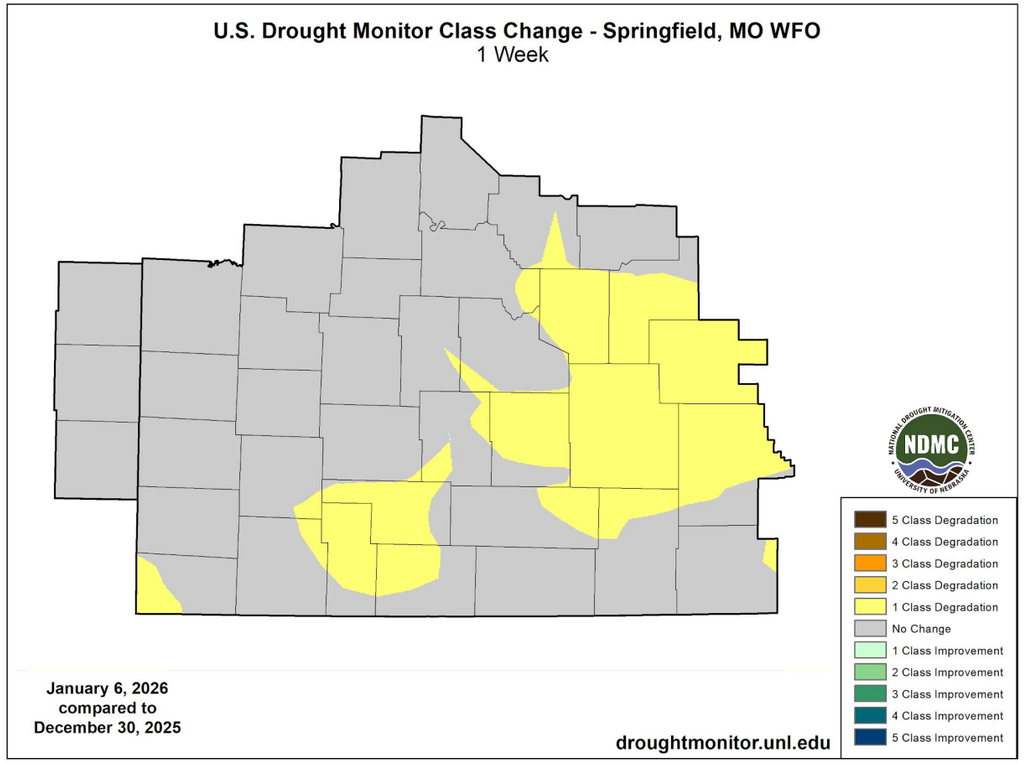
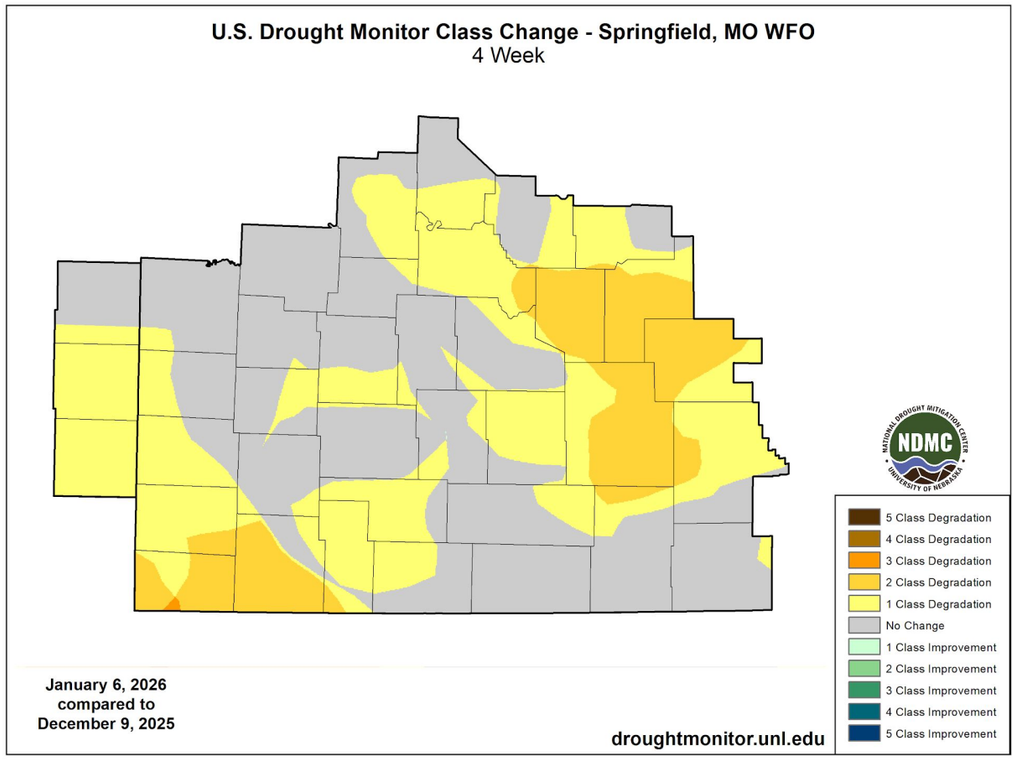
Link to Recent Change Maps





Main Takeaways

- Drought conditions remained unchanged or got worse by 1 to 2 categories for some locations across the area over the last 4 weeks.
- Localized areas of degradation occurred in the last week for portions of the Missouri Ozarks.

Precipitation

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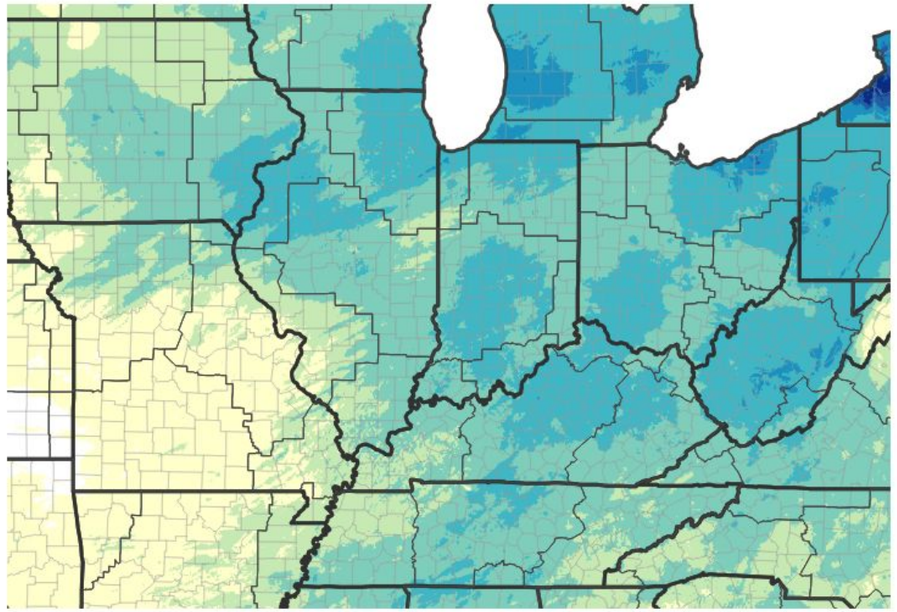
30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

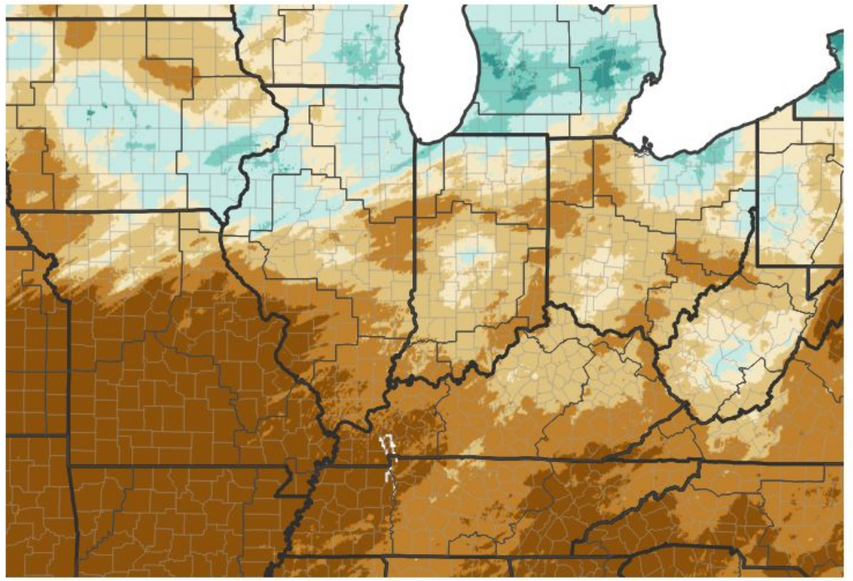
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/07/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/07/26

Main Takeaways

- Precipitation was well below normal across much of the area over the last 30 days after a near record dry December 2025.

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

● A number of locations continue to see below to well below normal streamflows, with reports of small creeks, streams, and ponds nearly dried up with large cracks in soil.

Agricultural Impacts

● Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs) from the last 7 days were limited as the active growing season ended in the fall, however dry conditions over the D1 and D2 areas continued the following:

- ○ Supplementing feed and feeding hay early (since August for some) with dead grass and little to no regrowth
- ○ Lack of water for livestock requiring water hauling, reduced water quality where water remains
- ○ Decreased stock weights, animal stress and livestock mortality, and farmers selling livestock to reduce hay and water consumption
- ○ Early crop harvests, crop stress and failures, reduced crop yields, increases in invasive insects, erosion (no-till practices not helping), inability to plant fall forage for lack of moisture
- ○ Farmers report: “Severe drought going into winter is devastating to my farm.”

Fire Hazard Impacts

● Increased risk of fires this winter fire season due to below normal precipitation, above normal temperatures, and dry soils.

- A few wildfires have occurred across the region over the past 30 days.

Other Impacts

● There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation actions

- The Missouri Drought Alert issued by the Governor has been extended through April 1, 2026.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture has an AgriStress Helpline at 833-897-2474.
- More information is available at muext.us/PSCFarmRanch.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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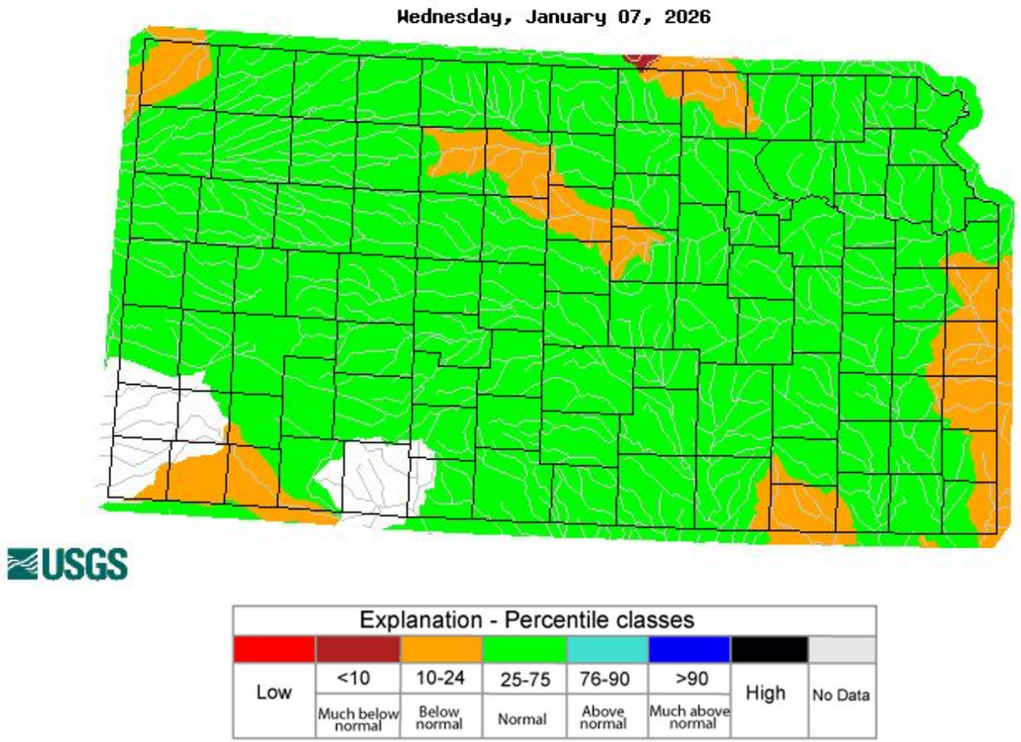

Image Caption: : [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map - Kansas](#).

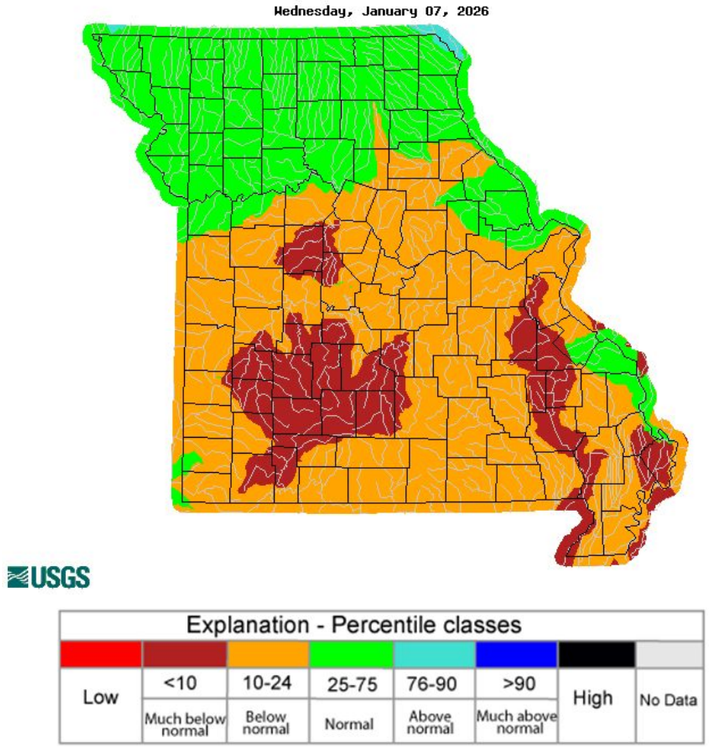

Image Caption: : [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map - Missouri](#).

Main Takeaways

- Streamflow percentiles over the past 7 days were below to well below normal across portions of southeast KS into southwest MO.

Agricultural Impacts

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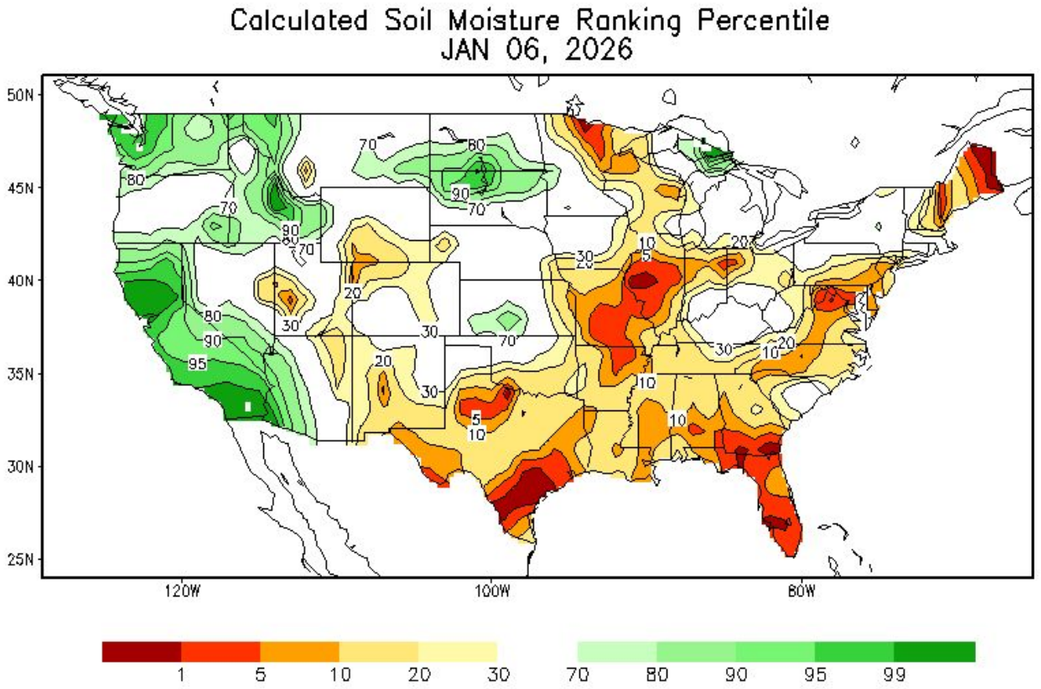

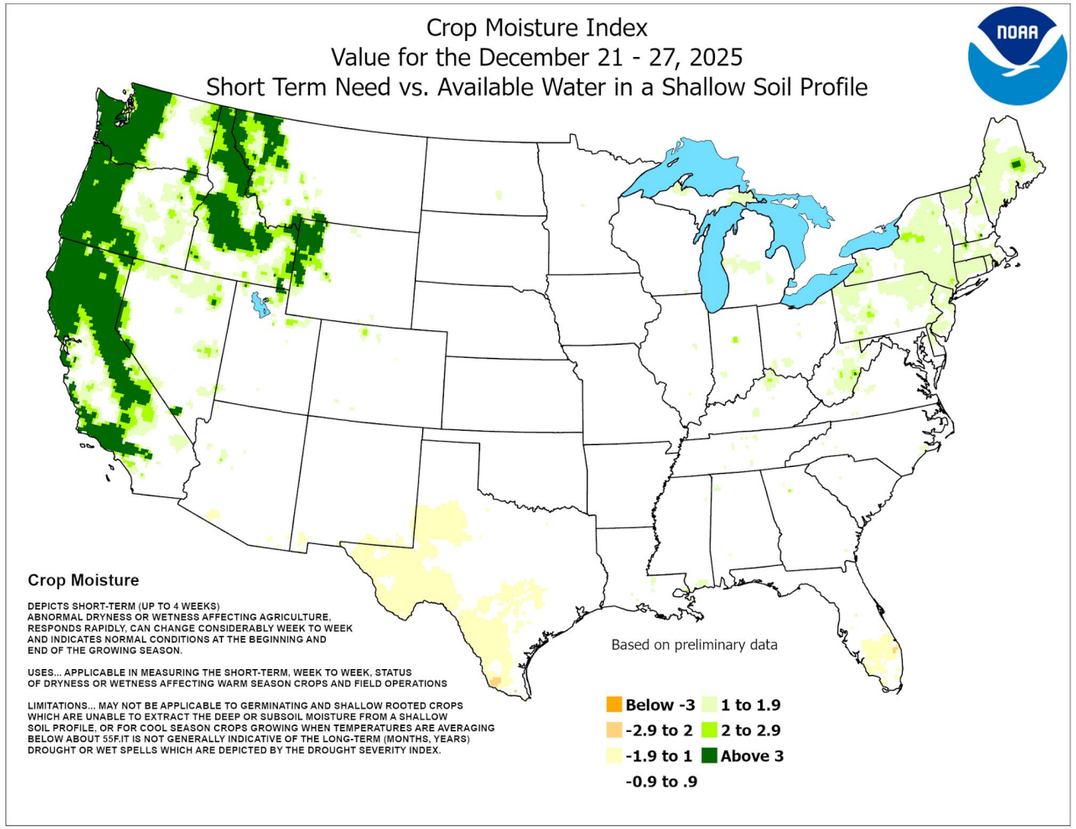

Main Takeaways

- January 6th soil moisture was below average across much of the area.
- Crop Moisture Index from December 21st - December 27th was around normal.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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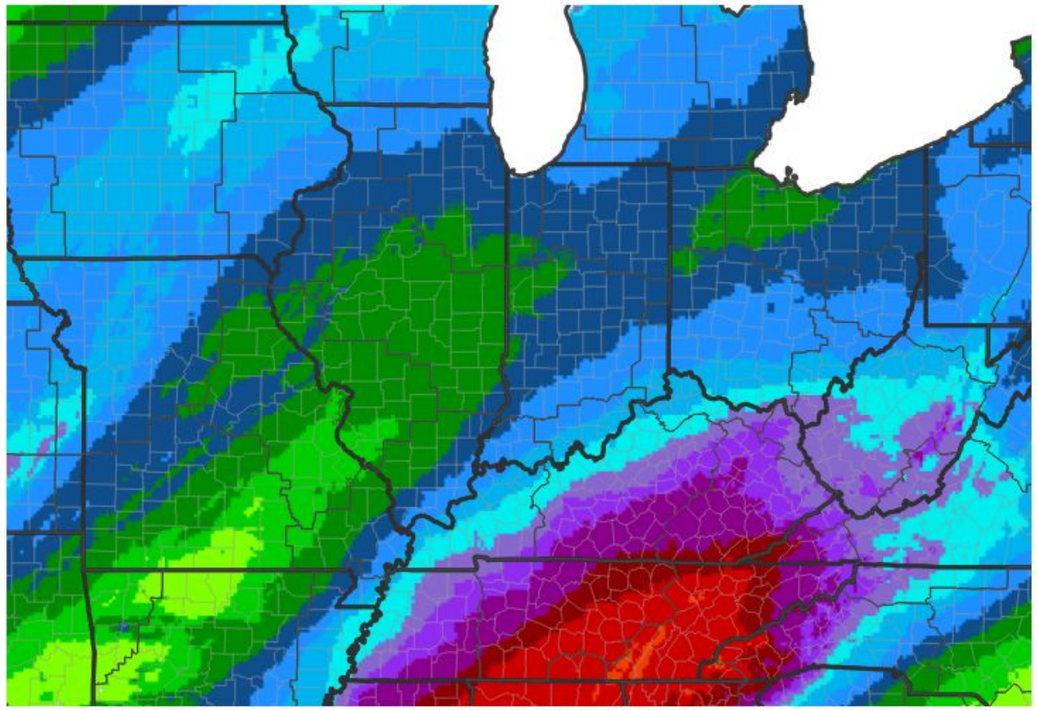
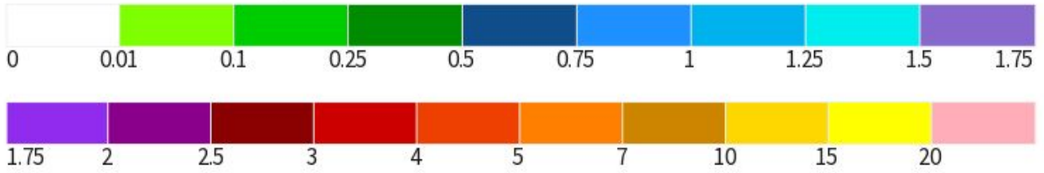
Main Takeaways

- Portions of the Ozarks are expected to receive precipitation over the next 7 days
- Rainfall amounts from 0.50” to 1.00” are forecast with some localized amounts in excess of and inch possible.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 7, 2026–January 14, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/07/26

8 to 14 Day Outlooks

January 8, 2026
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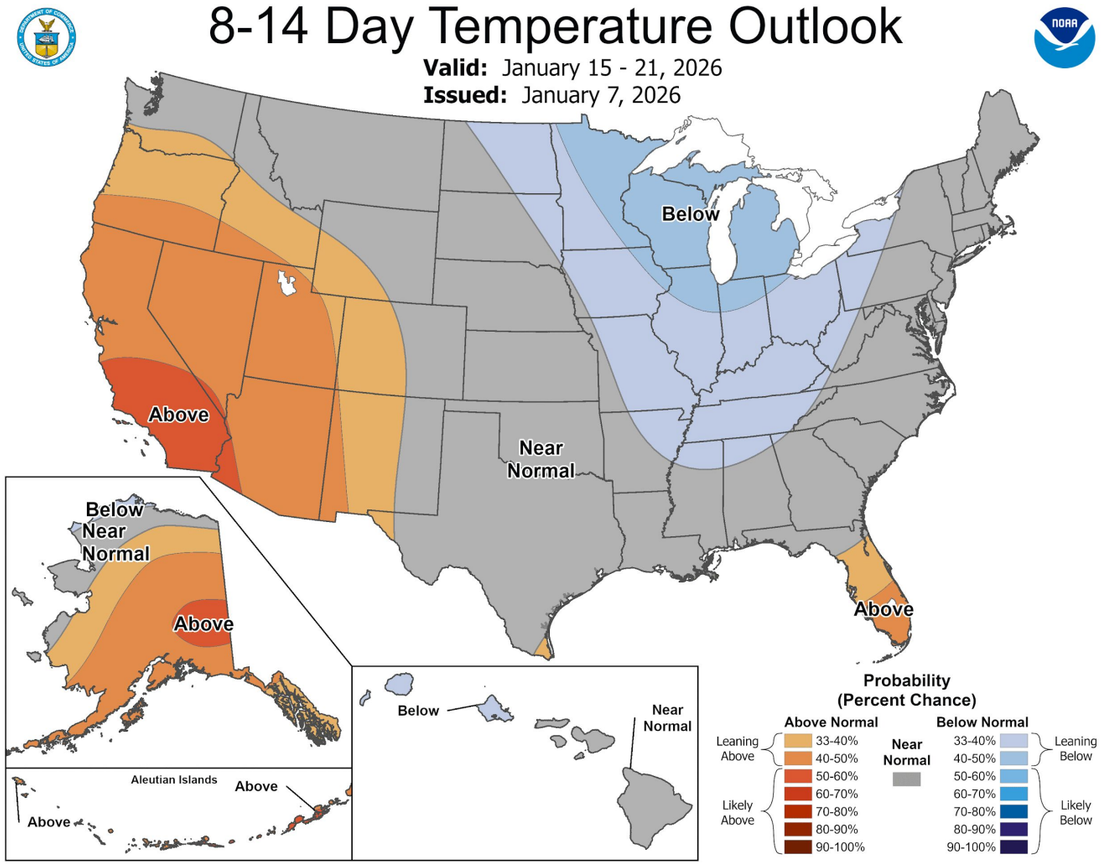
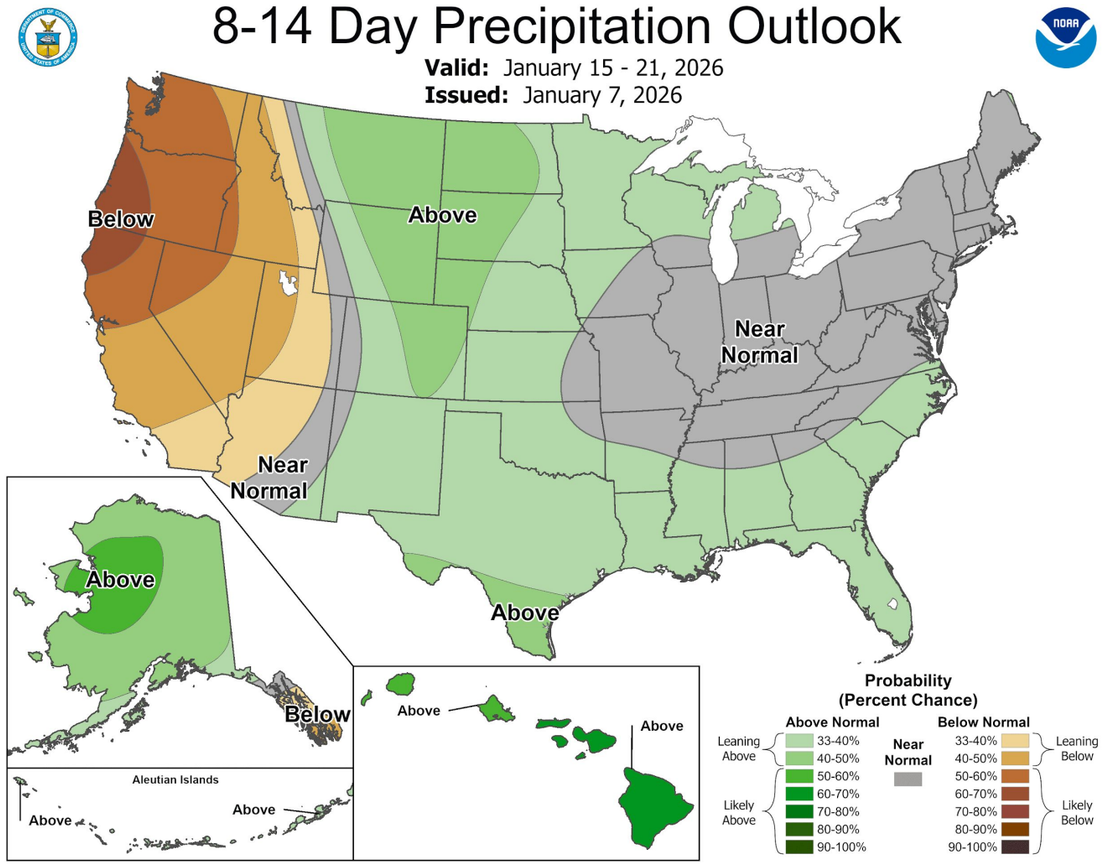
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage





Main Takeaways

- The signal favors better chances for near to below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for the January 15th - 21st timeframe.

Monthly Outlooks

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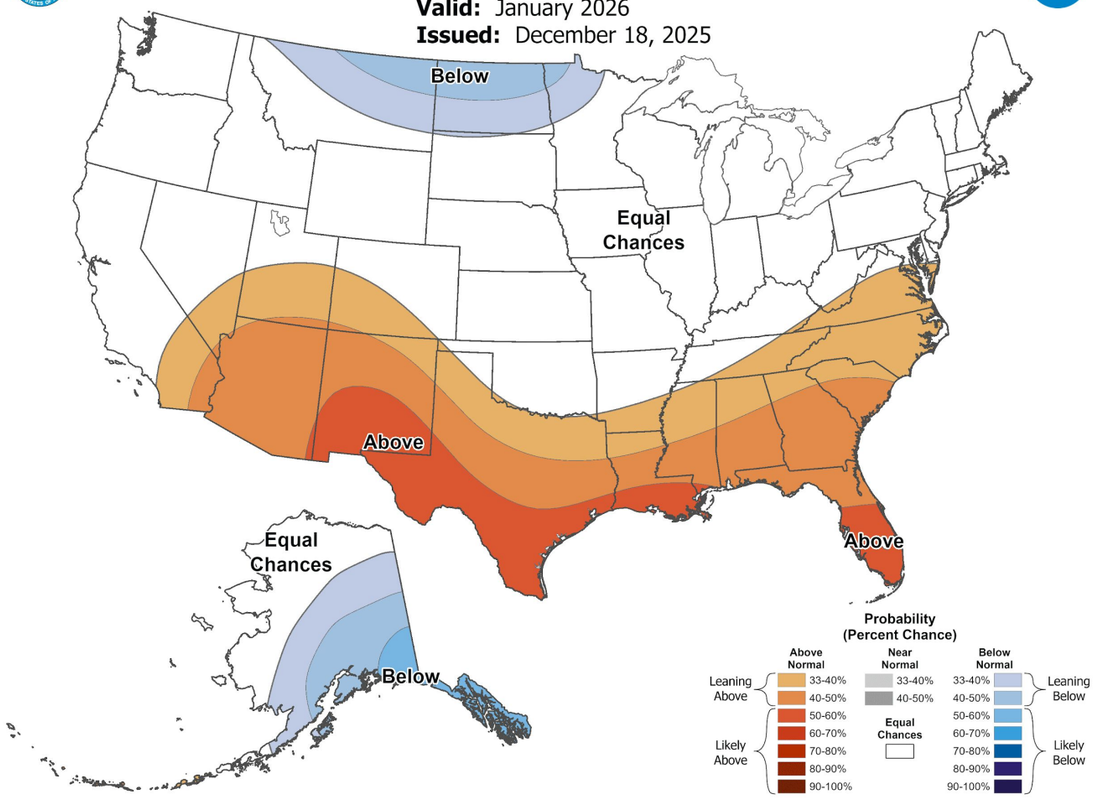
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

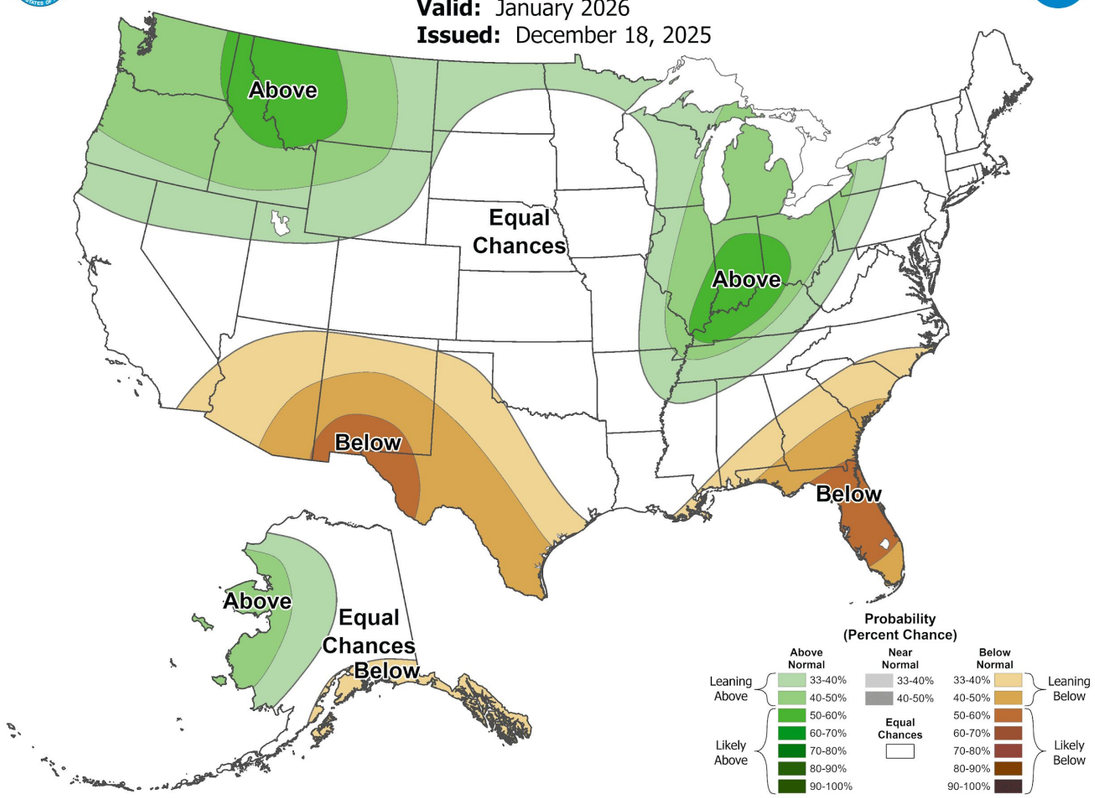
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: January 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Main Takeaways

- The signal favors equal chances for above/below normal temperatures and equal chances of above/below normal precipitation for the most of Missouri with a lead towards above normal precipitation for eastern portions of the statemonth of January.

Seasonal Outlooks

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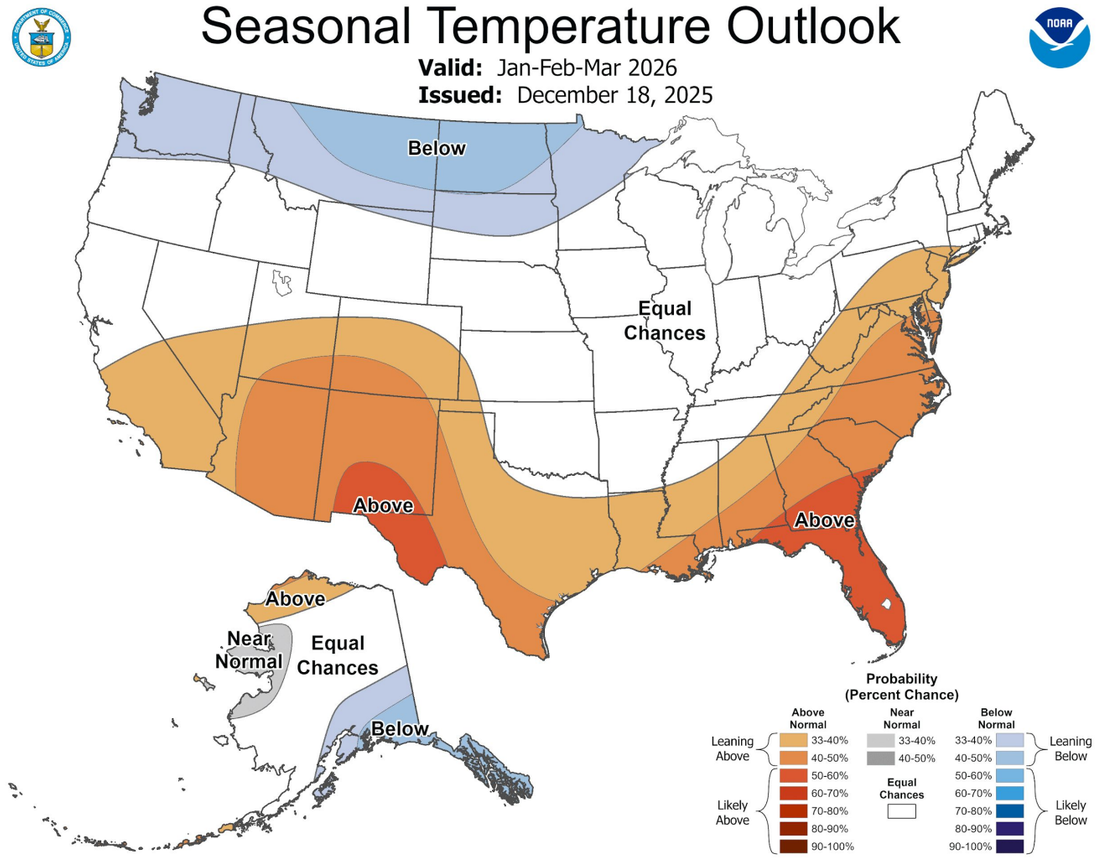
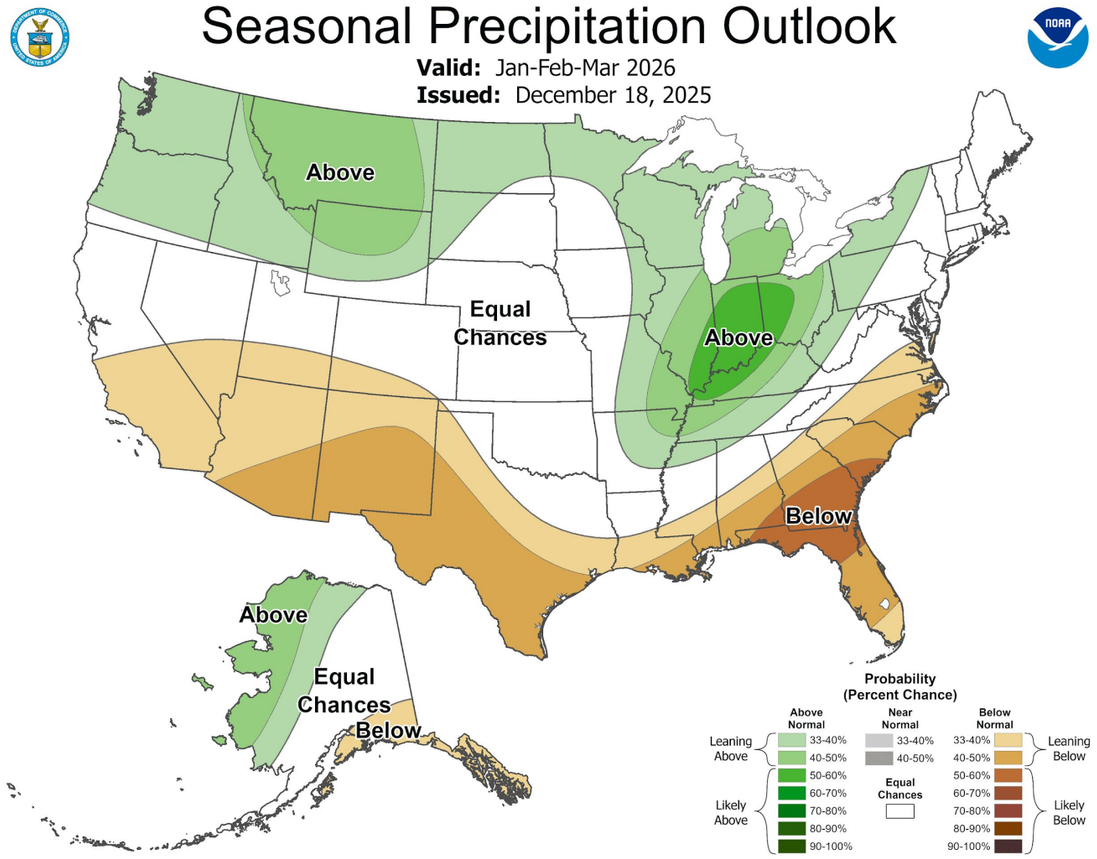
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage





Main Takeaways

- The signal slightly favors equal chances of above/below normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation for the period of January to March.

Drought Outlook

January 8, 2026
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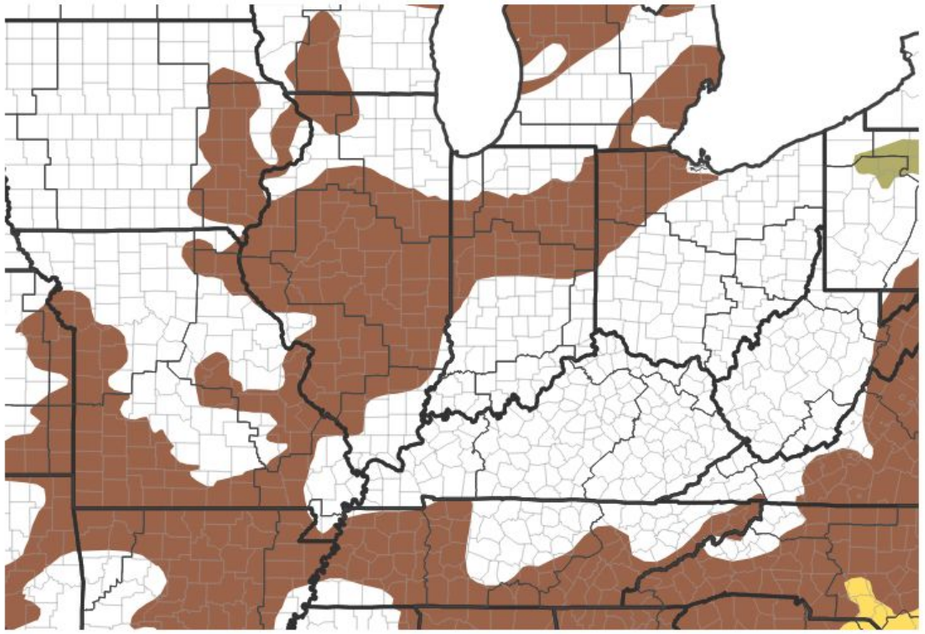
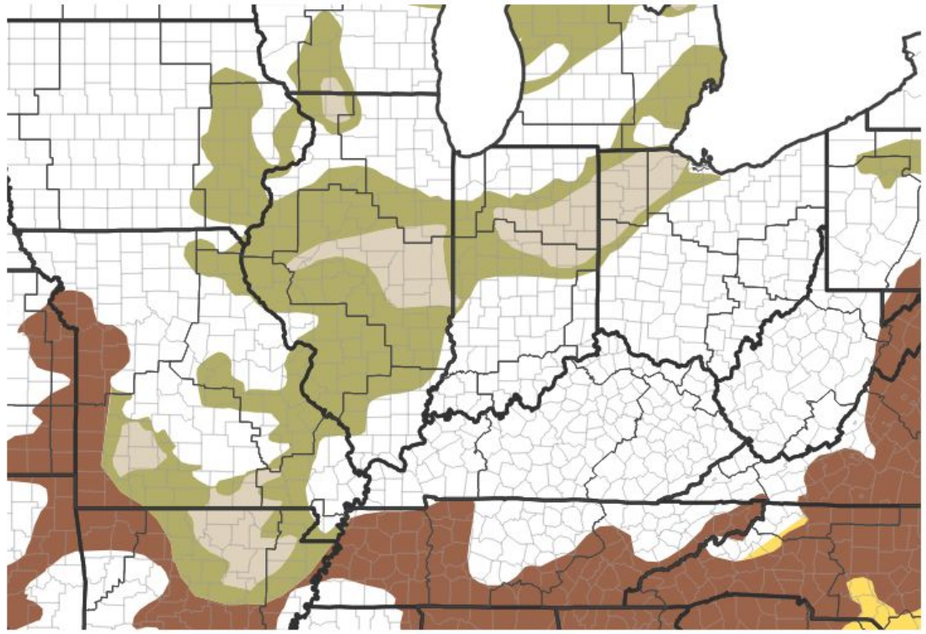
[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

1-Month Drought Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 12/31/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 31, 2025–March 31, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Last Updated: 12/31/25

Main Takeaways

- Drought likely to persist through January but show some potential improvement in late Winter (February through March).

Additional Drought Resources

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For Additional Information

- ➔ NWS Springfield Webpage | IDSS Point Forecasts
- ➔ Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook
- ➔ Missouri Drought Monitor | Kansas Drought Monitor
- ➔ Drought Monitor Archive
- ➔ CPC Drought Information
- ➔ National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
- ➔ National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
- ➔ Missouri USGS Streamflows | Kansas USGS Streamflows
- ➔ Drought Safety