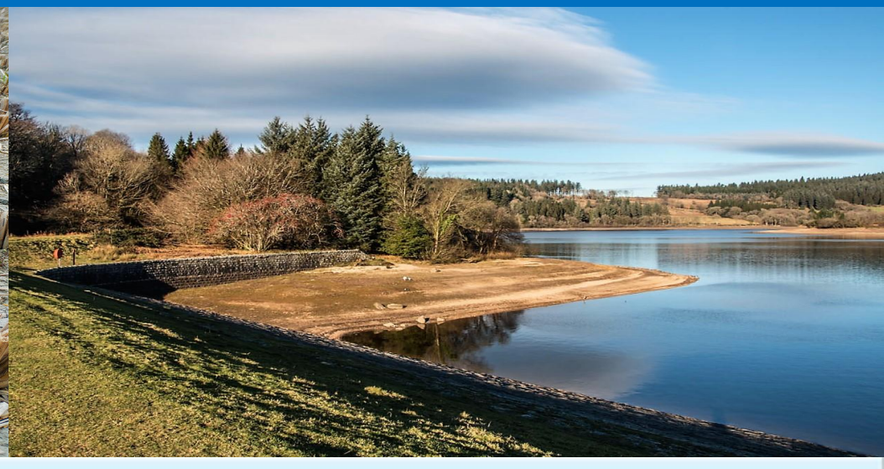
Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

Valid January 29, 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.



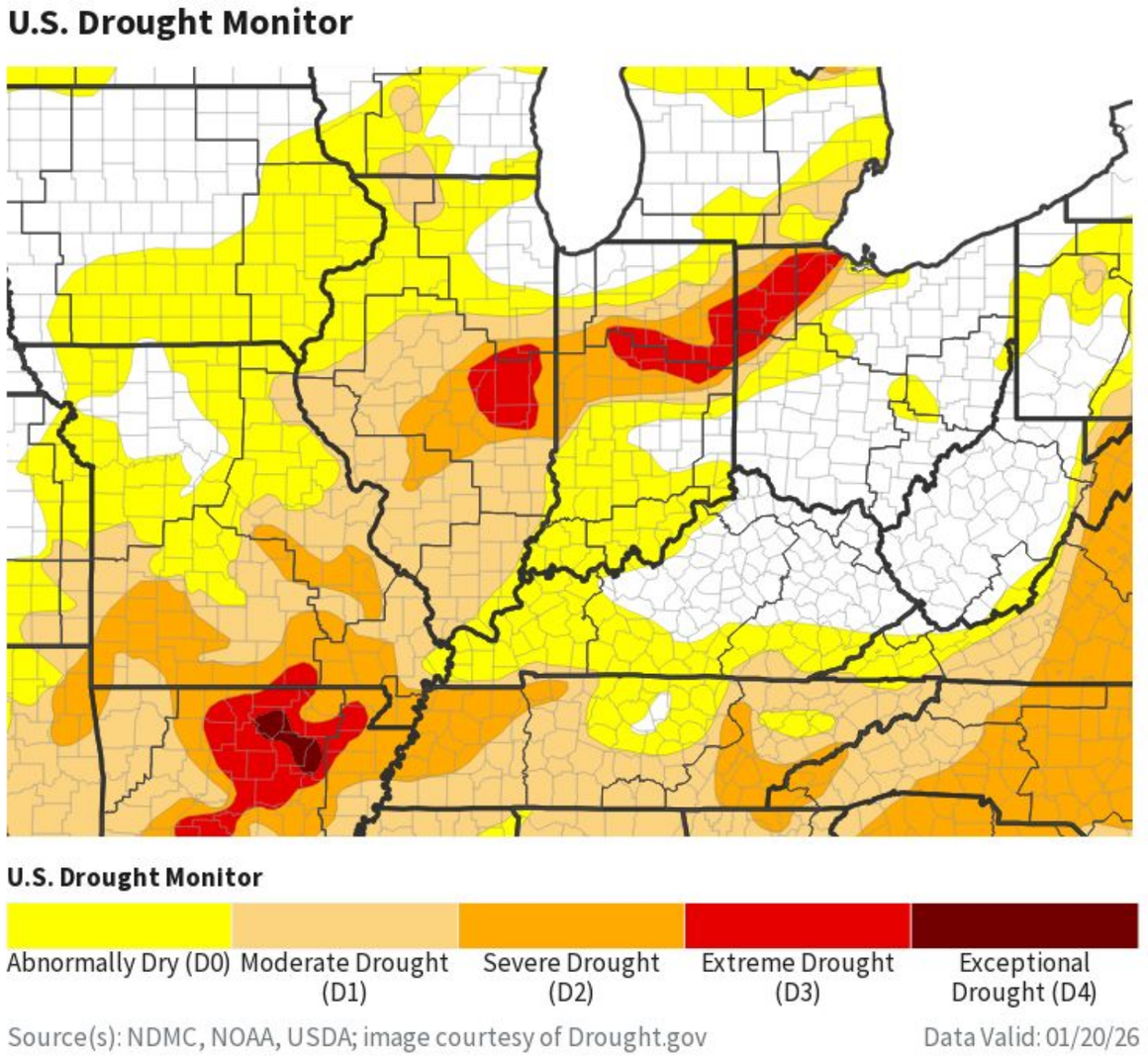
U.S. Drought Monitor

January 29, 2026
10:29 AM

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Lower Midwest

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

- **Drought Intensity and Extent**
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of Oregon and Howell Counties in Missouri.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Dade, Lawrence, Greene, Taney, Christian, Ozark, Oregon, Shannon Counties, and Portions of Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Cedar, Barry, Polk, Dallas, Webster, Stone, Douglas, Wright, Maries, Phelps, and Howell Counties in Missouri.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Bourbon, Cherokee Counties, and Portions of Crawford County in Kansas. Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Cedar, Barry, Polk, Stone, Webster, Douglas, Wright, Pulaski, Maries, Phelps, Dade, Texas, Howell Counties, and Portions of St. Clair, Hickory, Dallas, Laclede, Camden, and Miller Counties in Missouri.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Crawford County in Kansas. Morgan, Benton, St. Clair, Hickory, Camden, Miller, Dallas, and Laclede Counties in Missouri.



State Drought Monitor

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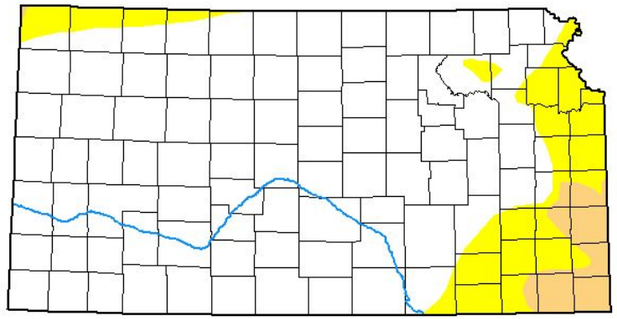
Link to Recent Change Maps

U.S. Drought Monitor
Kansas



January 27, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	83.09	16.91	4.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-20-2026	83.69	16.31	4.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-28-2025	74.87	25.13	8.33	1.33	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 01-28-2025	35.20	64.80	24.94	0.00	0.00	0.00

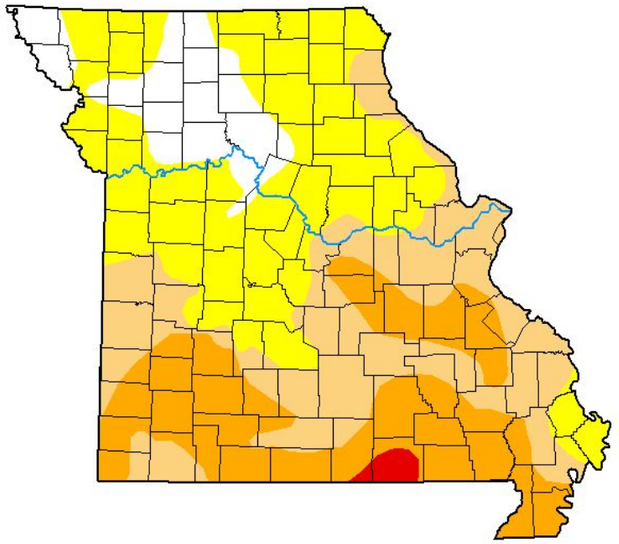
Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor
Missouri



January 27, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.85	89.15	52.88	24.95	0.86	0.00
Last Week 01-20-2026	10.81	89.19	53.73	24.95	0.86	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-28-2025	2.87	97.13	68.32	24.37	2.79	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 01-28-2025	60.70	39.30	14.71	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:
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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Main Takeaways

- Despite a recent snowstorm, monthly precipitation has remained below average, allowing Drought conditions to continue to expand and intensify across some portions of the Missouri Ozarks.
- Drought conditions persist across southeast Kansas.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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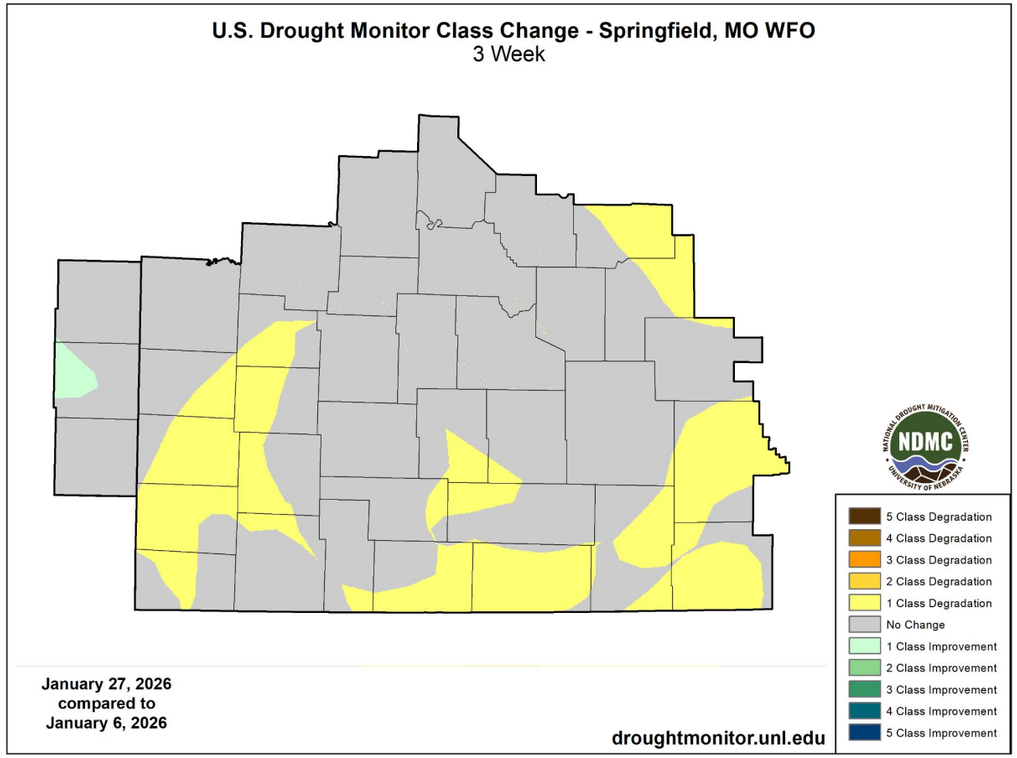
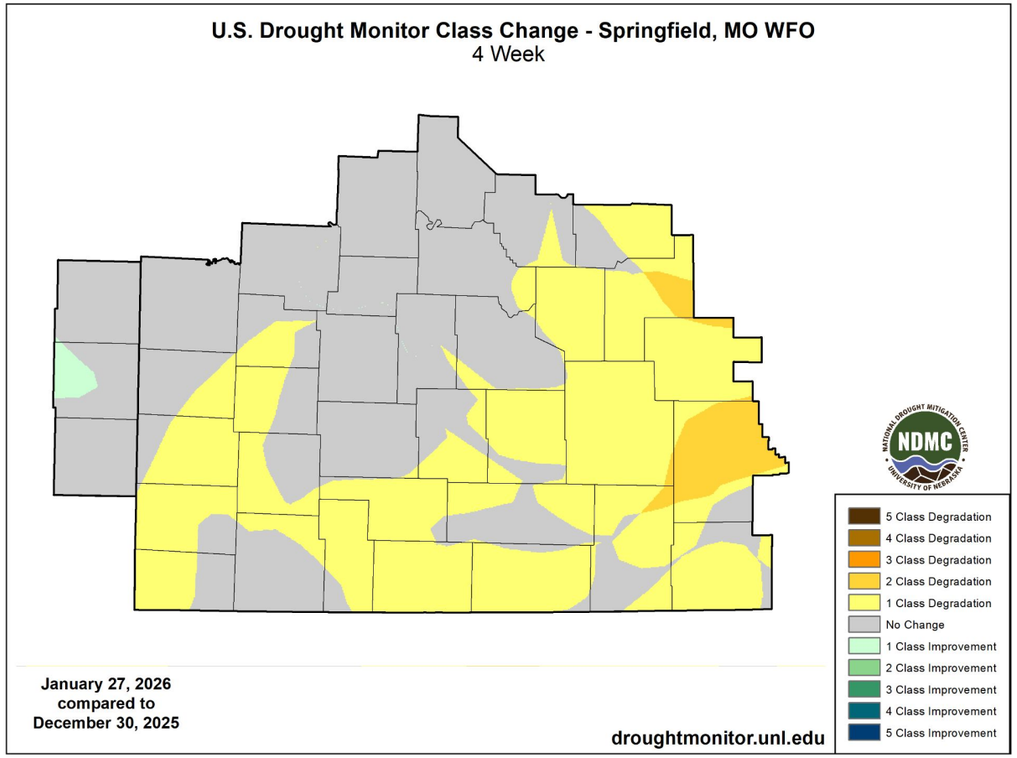
Link to Recent Change Maps





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.
- Marginal improvement was seen in portions of Crawford County, Kansas in the last week.

Precipitation

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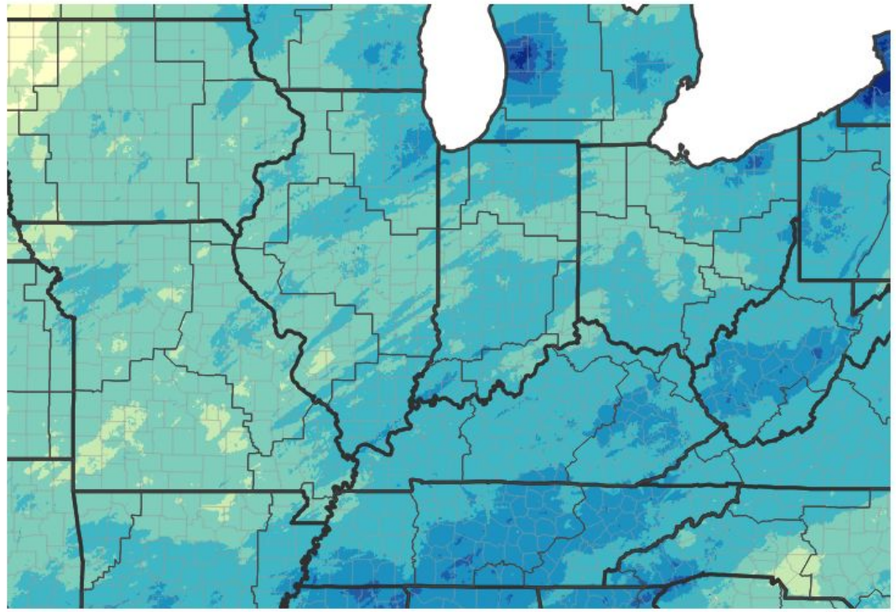
30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

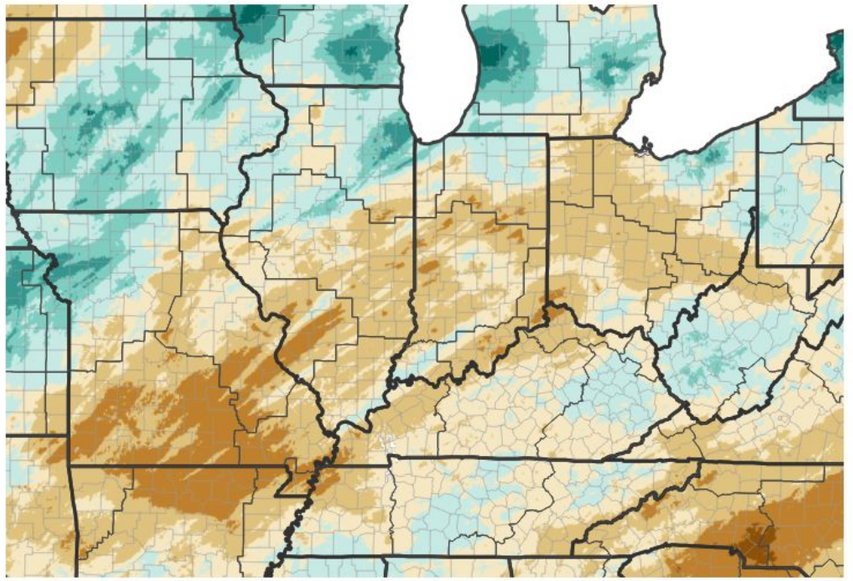
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

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

Last Updated: 01/28/26

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: 01/28/26

Main Takeaways

- Despite the recent storm, precipitation continues to be below normal across much of the area over the last 30 days.

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 to D3 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
- ○ Later crop harvests and/or planting, 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: “Misuse of ground water during severe drought has left no ground water for those trying to dry land row crop.”; “Complete devastation during winter months.”; “Nothing but dust right here.”

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

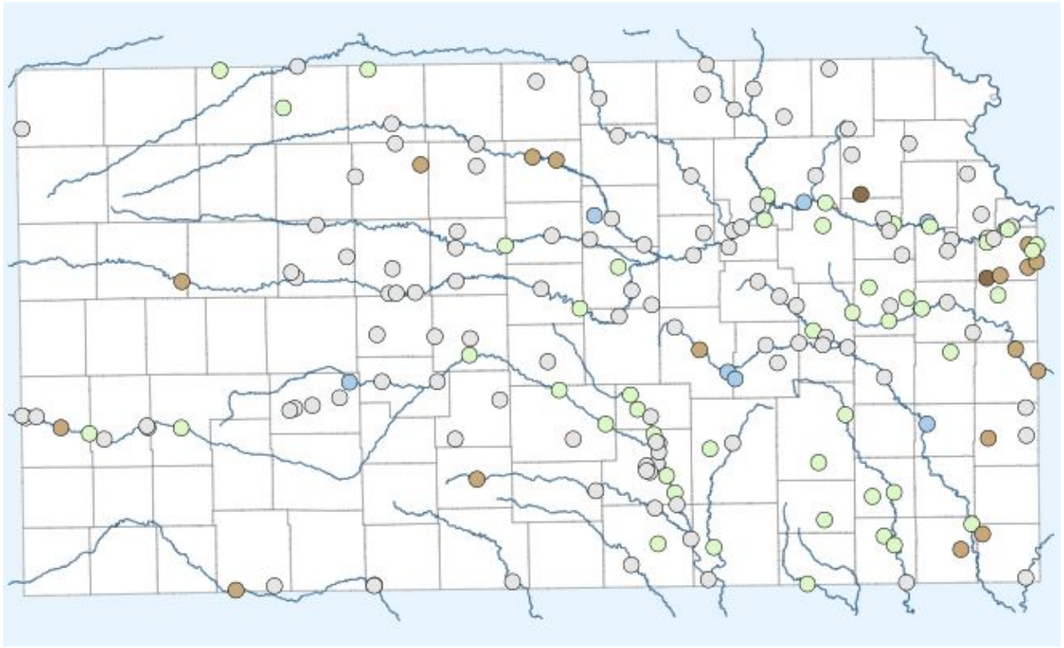
● Some reports of change in air quality due to dust along along with mental stress.

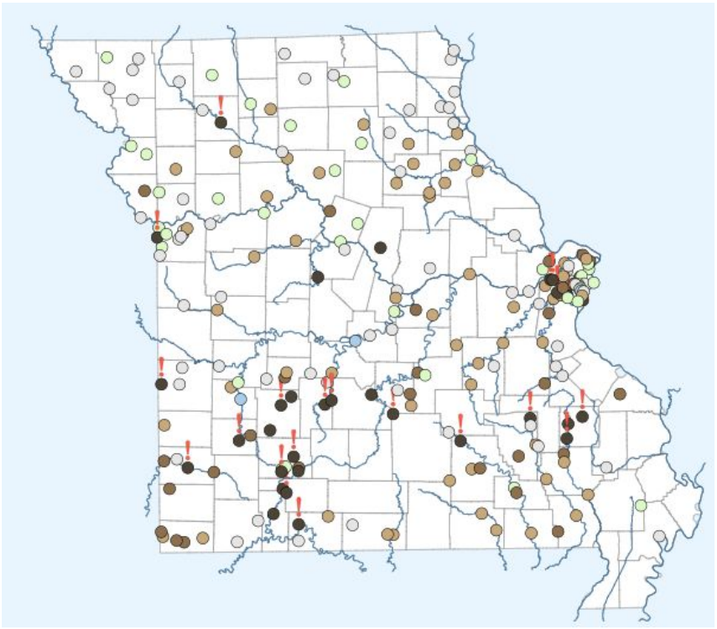
Mitigation actions

- 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

January 29, 2026
10:29 AM





Legend

○ Monitoring location with Discharge, cubic feet per second

! Extreme conditions

0-5 Extremely below	5-10 Much below	10-25 Below normal	25-75 Normal	75-90 Above normal	90-95 Much above	95-100 Extremely above

No estimate available
Location has less than 20 years of daily data

Image Caption: [USGS Water Conditions](#).

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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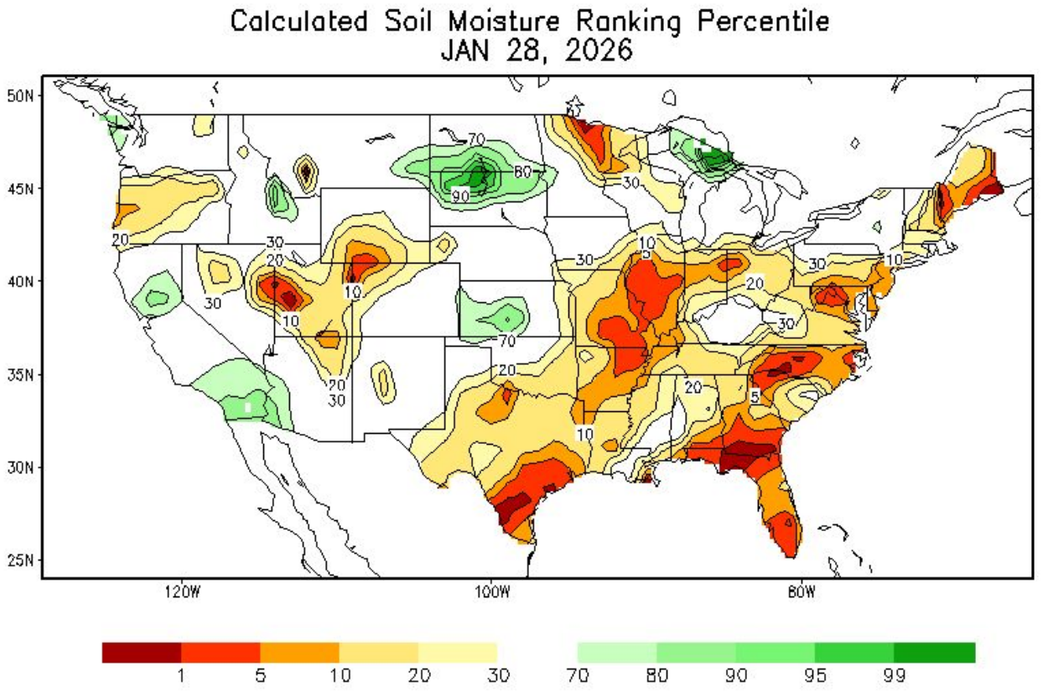

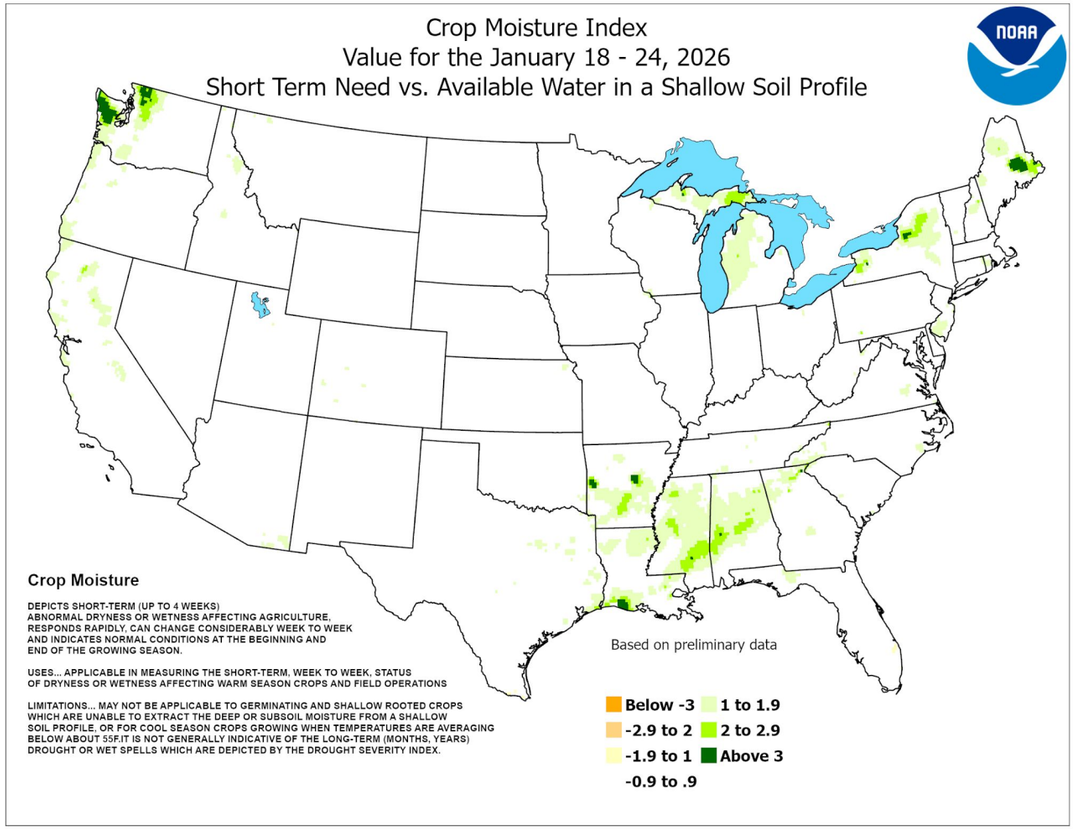

Main Takeaways

- January 28th soil moisture was below average across much of the area.
- Crop Moisture Index from January 18th - January 24th was around normal.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

January 29, 2026
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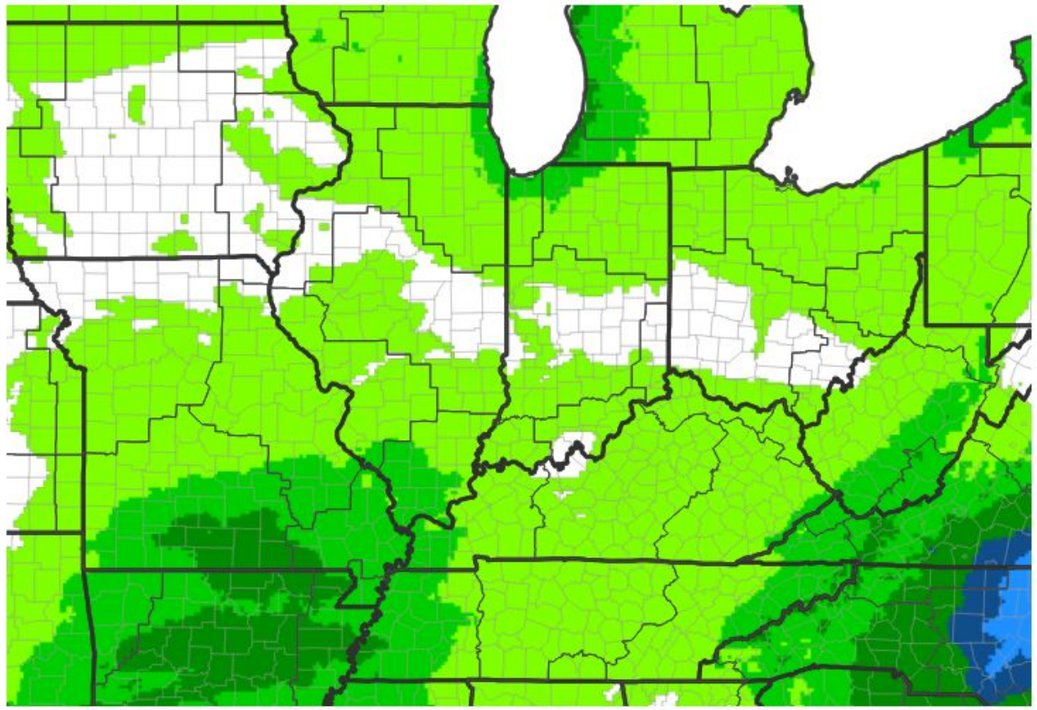
Main Takeaways

- Portions of the Ozarks are expected to receive some light precipitation over the next 7 days
- Precipitation amounts from 0.01” to 0.5” are forecast, though localized areas may see more than 0.5”, or no precipitation at all.
- Precipitation type could be liquid or frozen depending on the location, with a better chance for freezing precipitation north of Highway 60.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 28, 2026–February 4, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75

1.75 2 2.5 3 4 5 7 10 15 20

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

Last Updated: 01/28/26

8 to 14 Day Outlooks

January 29, 2026
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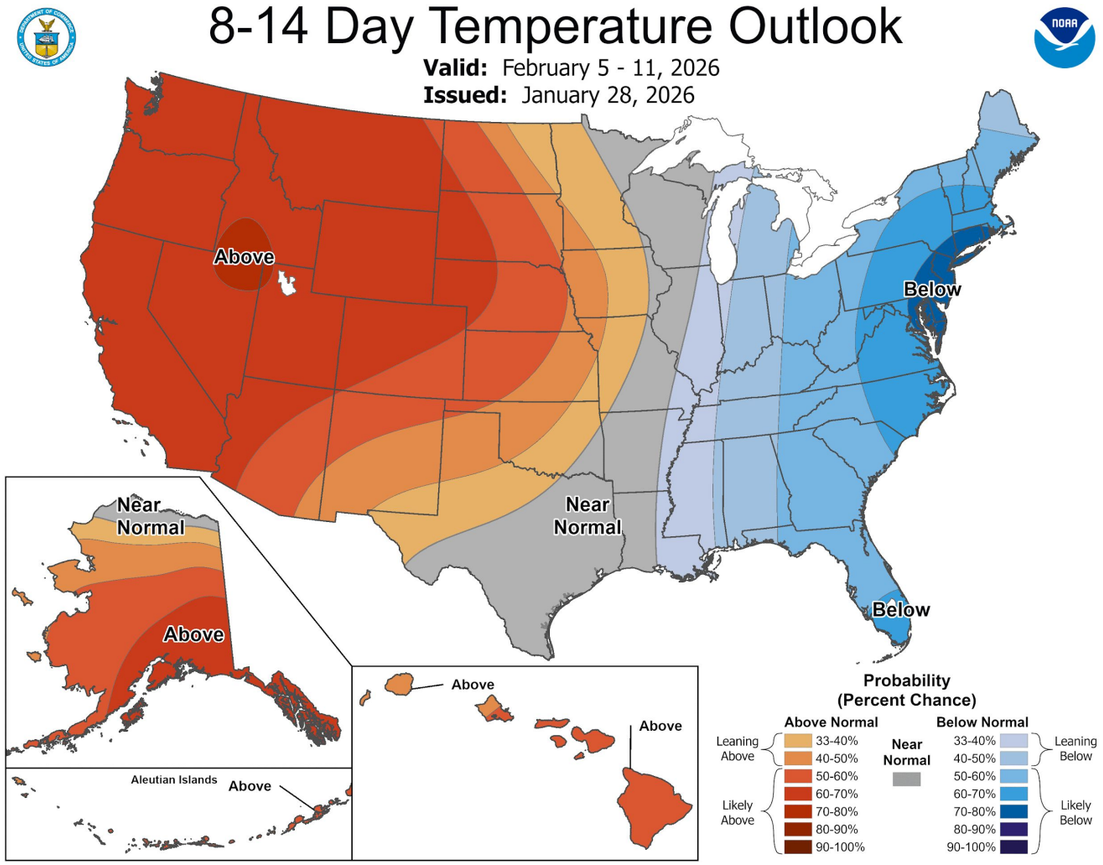
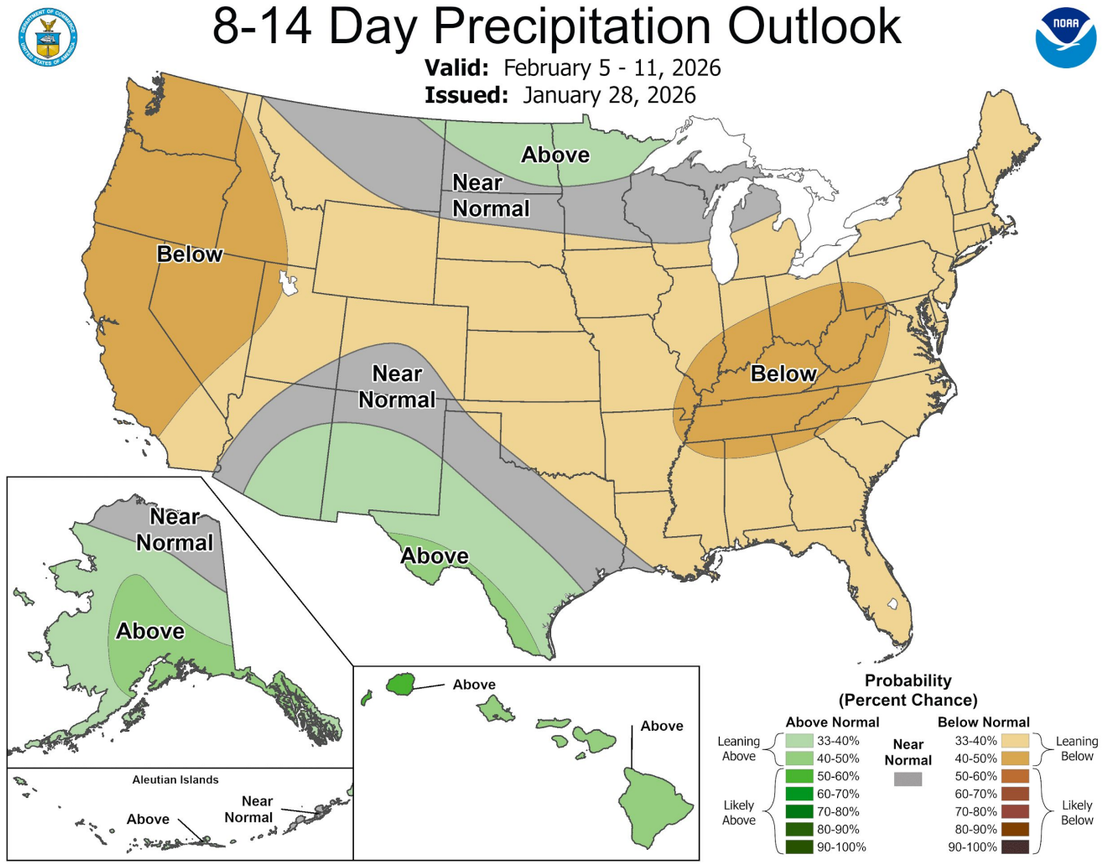
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage





Main Takeaways

- The signal favors near normal temperatures and a slight favoring toward below normal precipitation for the February 5th - 11th timeframe.

Monthly Outlooks

January 29, 2026
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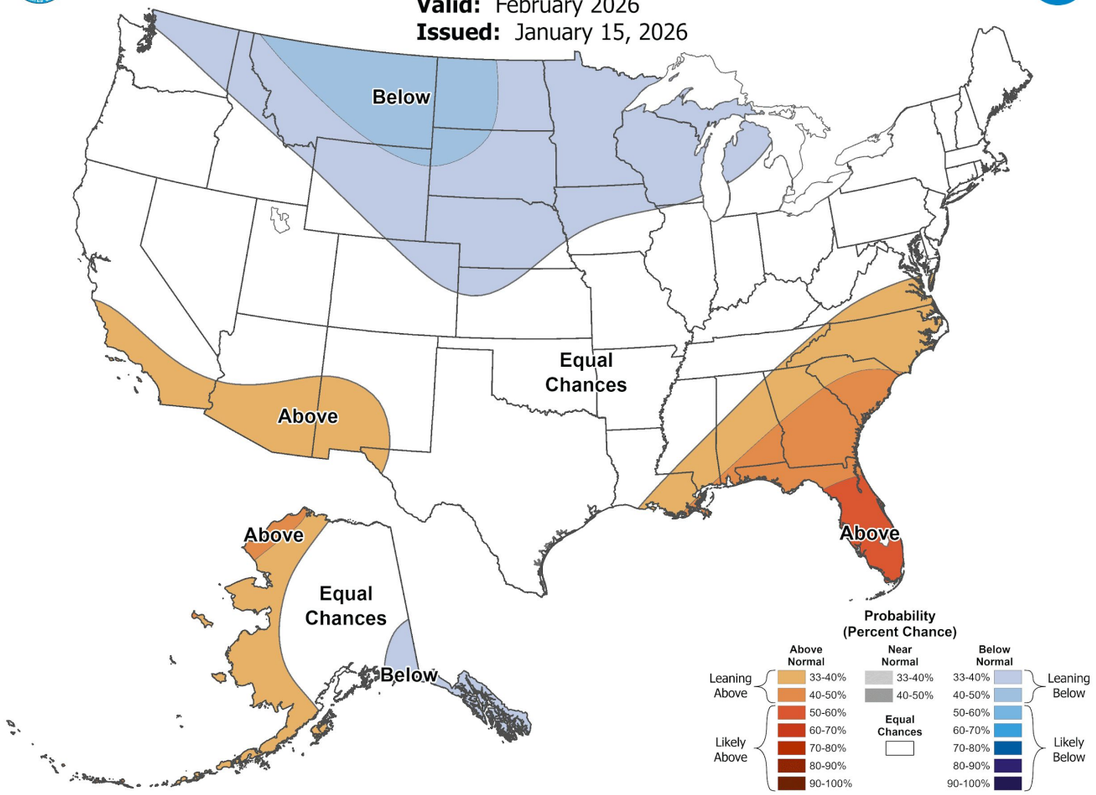
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

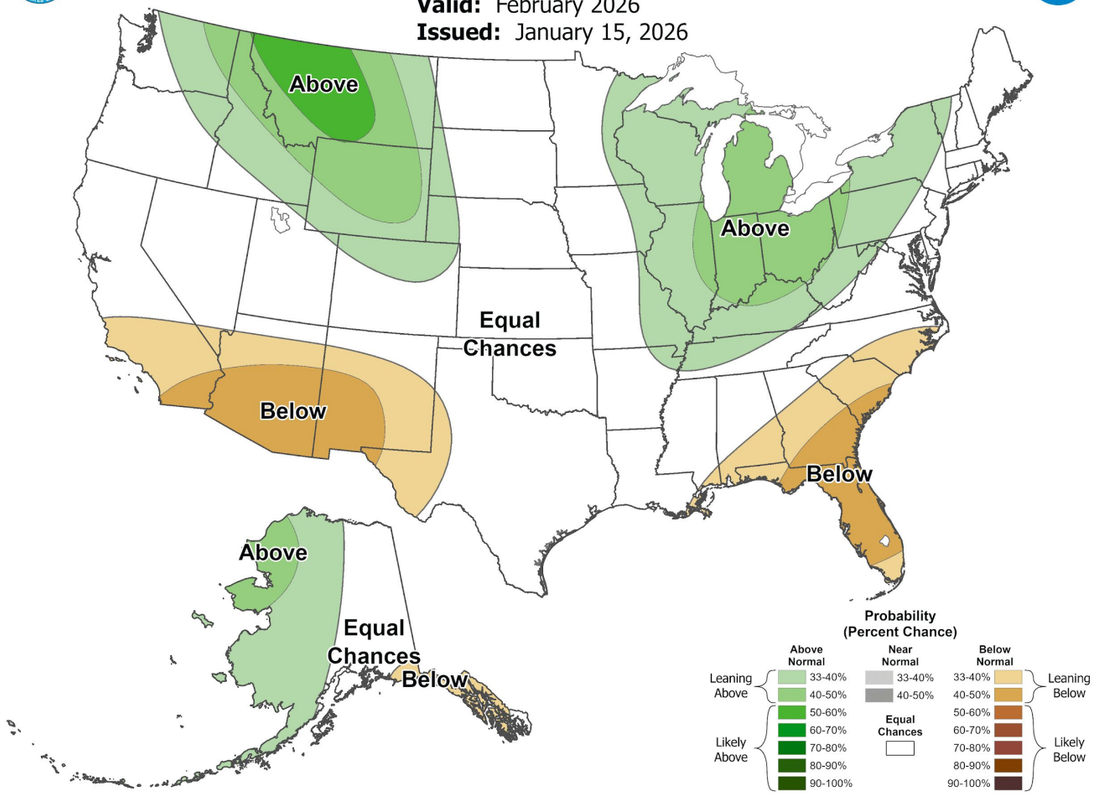
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: February 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: February 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026



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 state for the month of February.

Seasonal Outlooks

January 29, 2026
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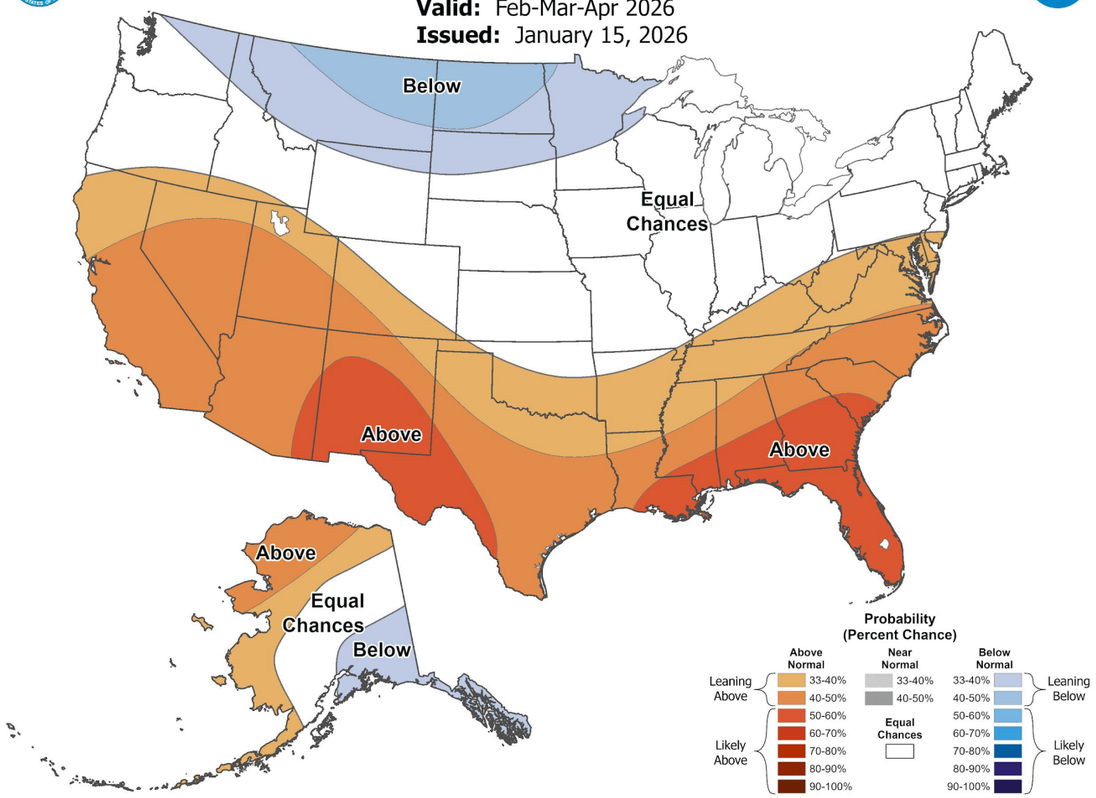
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

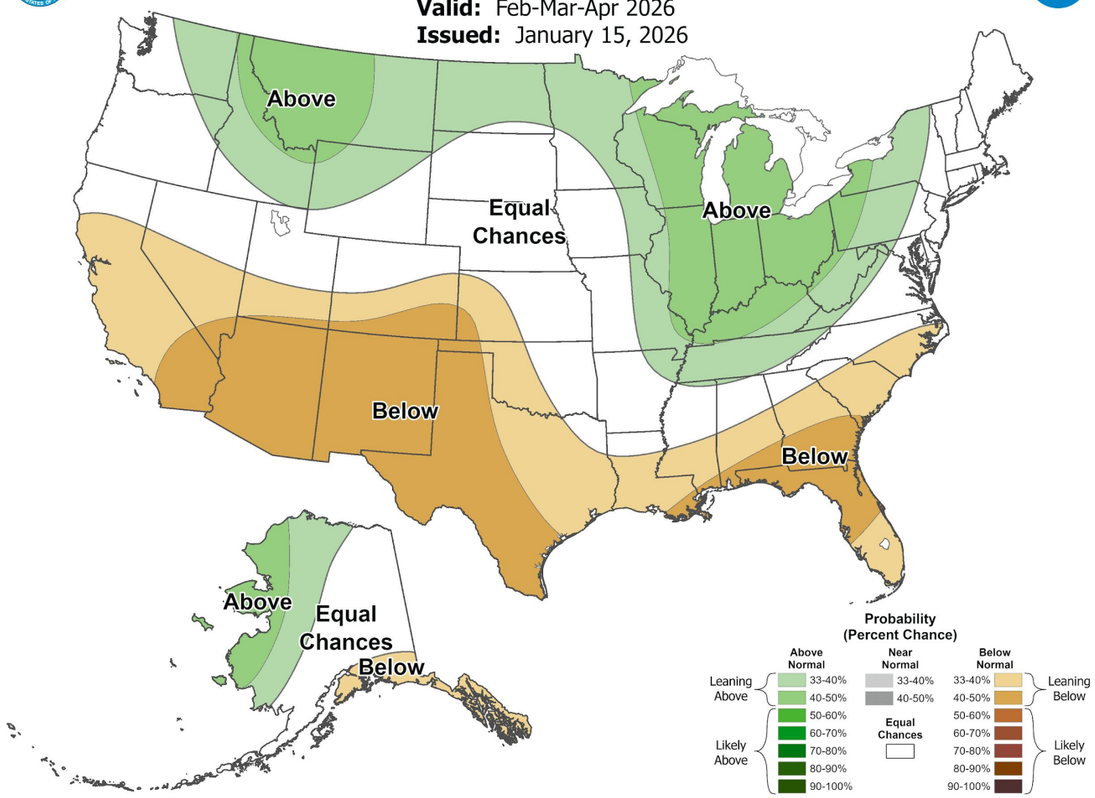
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2026
Issued: January 15, 2026



Main Takeaways

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

Drought Outlook

January 29, 2026
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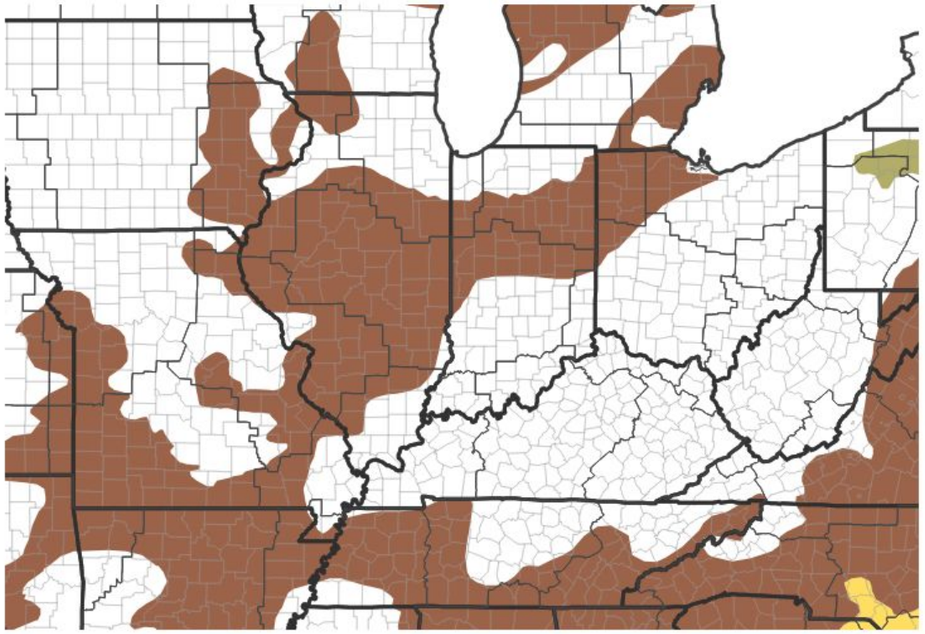
[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

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



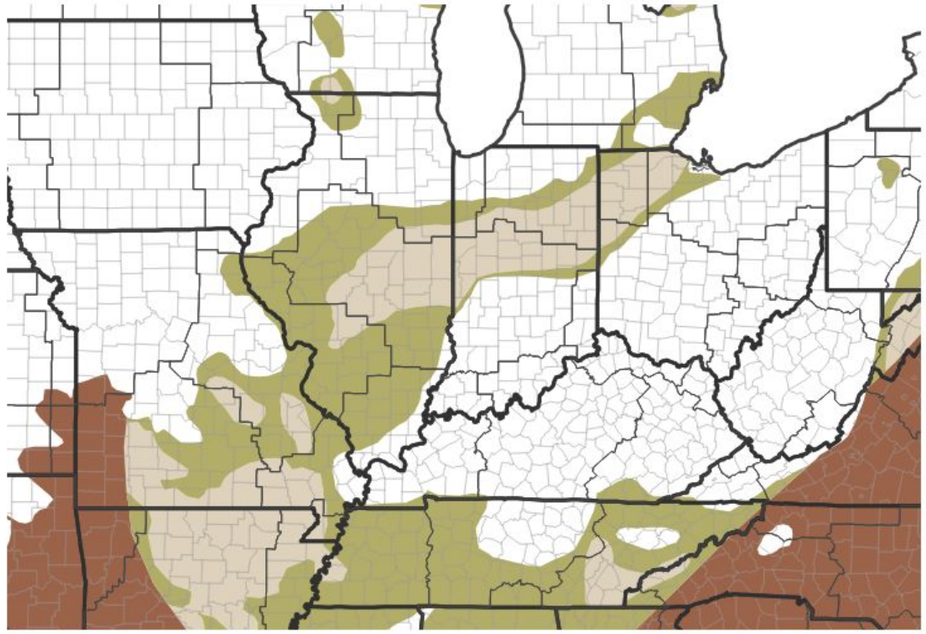
Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 12/31/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Main Takeaways

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

Additional Drought Resources

January 29, 2026
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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