

Drought Information Statement for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Valid September 3rd, 2026

Issued By: WFO San Juan, PR

Contact Information: sr-sju.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated when drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sju/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Caribbean

DROUGHT CONDITIONS: Recent rainfall cause a little improvement in drought coverage along Puerto Rico. However, **Extreme Drought (D3)** conditions persist in most of the east and the south.

Drought Intensity and Extent:

- **U.S. Virgin Islands:** Extreme Drought (**D3**) conditions.
- **Puerto Rico:** Extreme Drought (**D3**) are present along the south and eastern interior, Severe Drought (**D2**) along the east. Moderate drought (**D1**) is present along portions of the central interior and southeast, and Abnormally Dry conditions (**D0**) cover the north Central and near Hormigueros.

U.S. Drought Monitor Caribbean

September 1, 2026

(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.09	82.91	75.21	62.26	40.99	0.00
Last Week 08-25-2026	17.09	82.91	75.21	66.61	44.45	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-02-2026	69.05	30.95	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	78.70	21.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	95.49	4.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-02-2025	81.83	18.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Statistics do not include areas represented by points.

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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

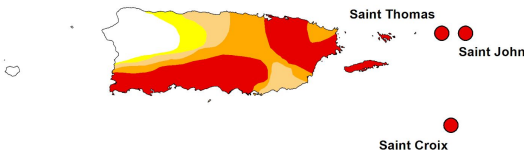


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8 AM EDT September 1st, 2026 .



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **1 to 2 Classes degradation** is observed for a big portion of Puerto Rico.
- **1 Class improvement** is observed along a small sliver in the west and southeast.

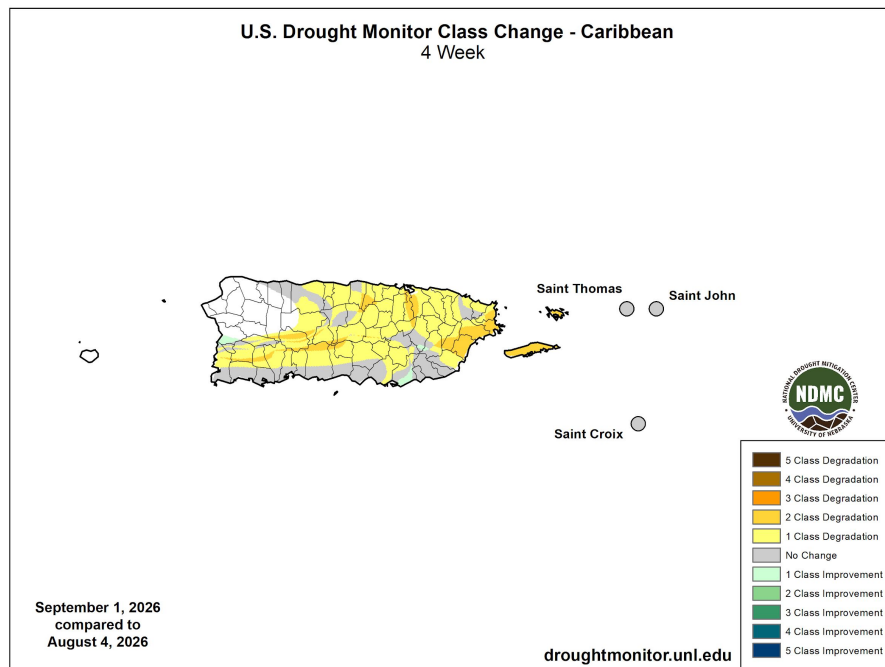


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8 AM AST September 1st, 2026.



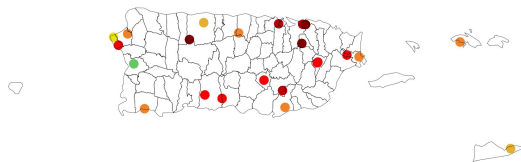


Rainfall

Link to generate the latest [ACIS Climate Maps](#)

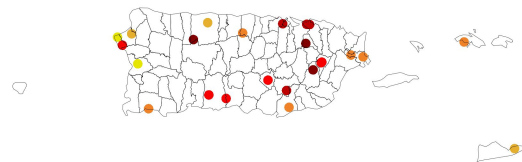
- Based on 60 and 90-days average, all COOP and CoCoRaHS stations (except Mayaguez) are showing below normal precipitation values.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
7/5/2026 – 9/2/2026



Generated 9/3/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
6/5/2026 – 9/2/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 9/3/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Image Captions:

Left - 60-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
Right - 90-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center/NWS COOP Stations.



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Summary of Impacts

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

Water Supply Impact

- Water interruptions were paused for the customers of Lago Carraizo. Lago La Plata and Lago Cidra are in Operational Adjustment levels. Water production is limited in the Virgin Islands, roughly consuming the same amount that it's being produced.

Agricultural Impact

- Water restrictions were imposed along the irrigation channels in the south. The lack of rain affected crops such as avocados, breadfruit, coffee, sweet pepper, and coconut. Hay and water are restricted. Unofficial reports inform that livestock and poultry deaths are increasing in both territories. The Virgin Island Department of Agriculture ordered hay and water for livestock.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Numerous brush fire reports arrive each day. The focus of the fires is along the southern plains of Puerto Rico. These fires are affecting agricultural terrains as well. No burn order is in effect for the Virgin Islands

Mitigation Actions

- Water rationing was implemented in the south, but only for agricultural purposes. Drought disasters declarations (agriculture) are in effect for both territories. The users are advised to use water with caution.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

The latest 28-day average historical streamflow from USGS can be found in [WaterWatch](#)

- The 28-day average streamflow from the USGS river gauge network indicates most rivers are running below to much below normal.
- However, some rivers in the northwest, are running near normal.
- Groundwater wells are showing decreasing water levels along southern [Puerto Rico](#), and across the [Virgin Islands](#).

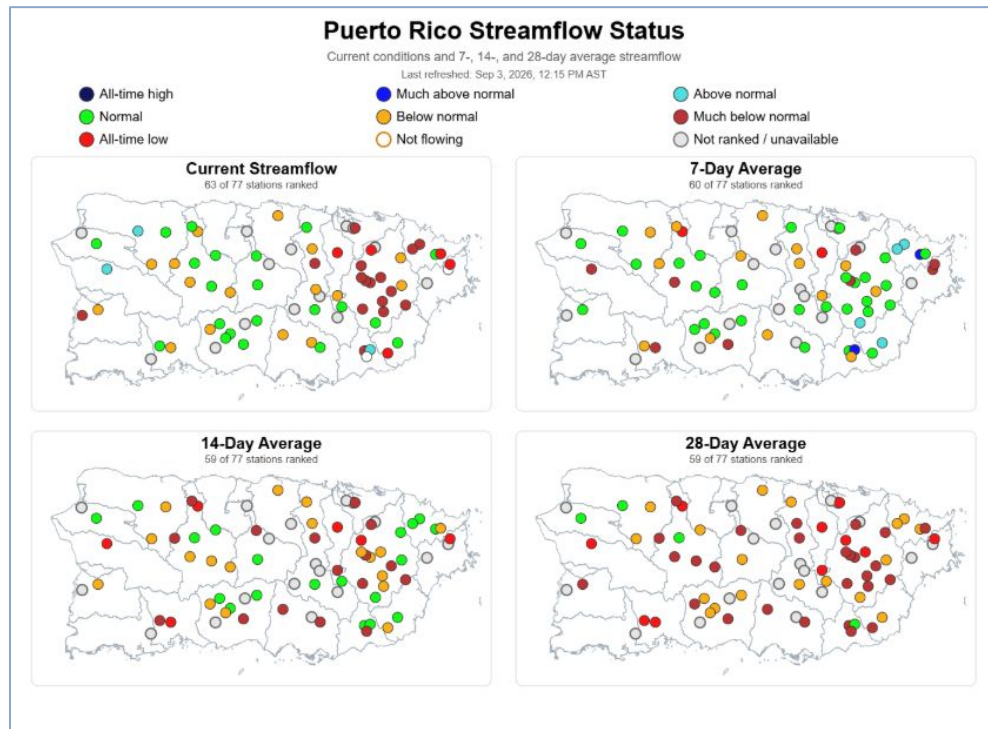


Image Caption: USGS streamflow plot valid Thursday, September 3rd, 2026





Long-Range Outlooks

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

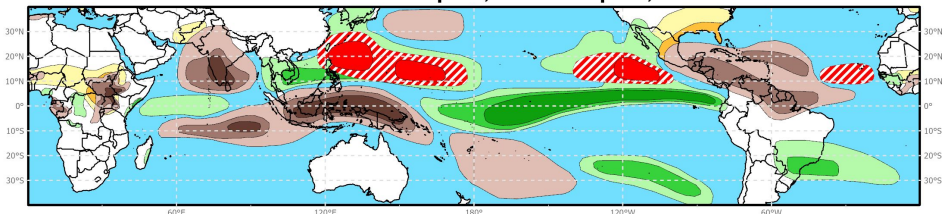


Global Tropics Hazards Outlook

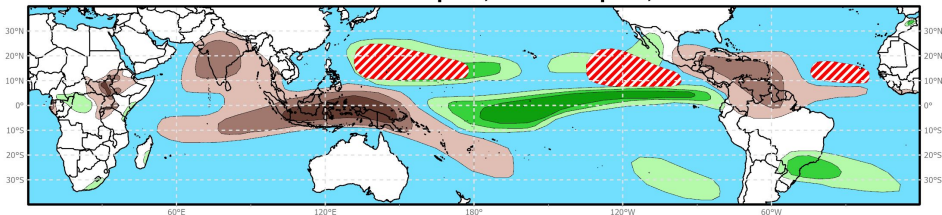
Climate Prediction Center



Week 2 - Valid: Sep 09, 2026 - Sep 15, 2026



Week 3 - Valid: Sep 16, 2026 - Sep 22, 2026



Tropical Cyclone (TC)
Formation Probability

>20% >40% >60%

Tropical Depression (TD)
or greater strength

Above-Average
Rainfall Probability

>50% >65% >80%

Weekly total rainfall in the
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average
Rainfall Probability

>50% >65% >80%

Weekly total rainfall in the
Lower third of the historical range

Above-Average
Temperatures Probability

>50% >65% >80%

7-day mean temperatures in the
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average
Temperatures Probability

>50% >65% >80%

7-day mean temperatures in the
Lower third of the historical range

Issued: 09/01/2026

Forecaster: Novella

This product is updated once per week and targets broad scale conditions integrated over a 7-day period for US interests only.
Consult your local responsible forecast agency.

Image Caption: Global Tropics Hazards Outlook for September 09-22, 2026.

- The **Global Tropics Hazards Outlook** indicates below normal precipitation chances for the northeastern Caribbean through mid and late September.



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Long-Range Outlooks

The latest three-months precipitation outlook can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- In the **North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME)**, favors much **BELOW** normal precipitation for the period of September-November 2026 (> 70% chance).

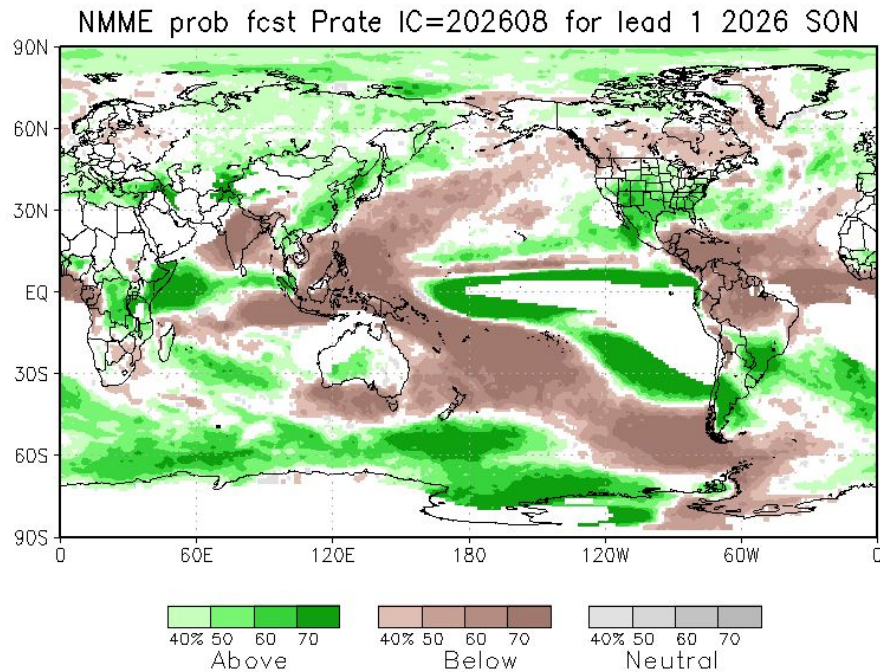


Image Caption: NMME precipitation forecast issued for September-November 2026.





Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

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

Valid for August 2026
Released July 31, 2026

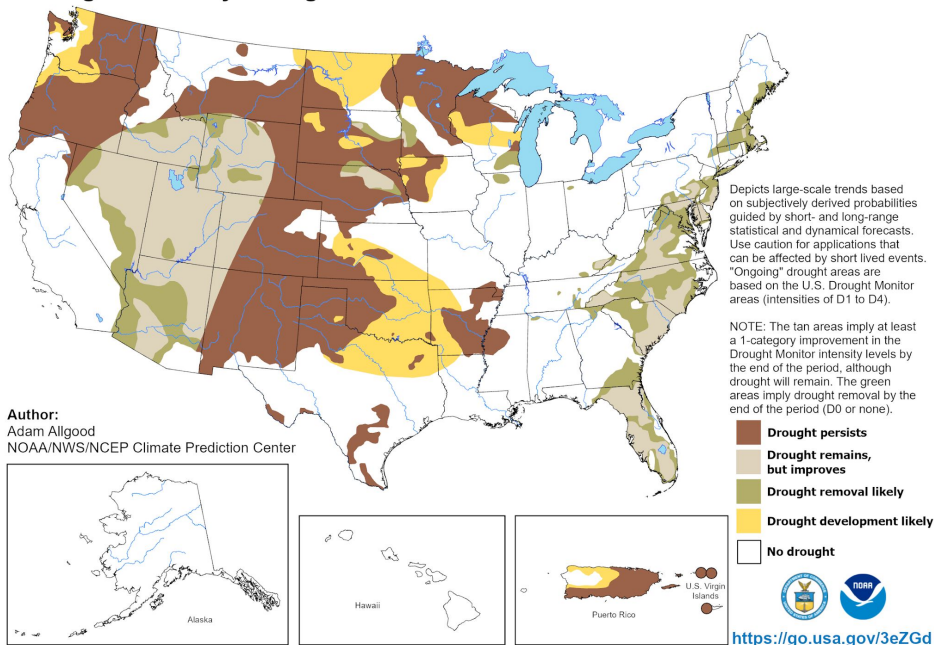


Image Caption: U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook valid for August 2026.

- Based on the latest forecast, drought conditions are expected to persist along the Virgin Islands, eastern and southern Puerto Rico.
- Drought may also develop in other portions of the interior and northwest.



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