



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid January 22, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

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- The next update will be around Thursday, January 29th, if conditions persist or worsen.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

Key Messages:

- Cold and somewhat dry conditions with light amounts of snow over the past week kept drought from worsening.
- Although significant snow is forecast in the upcoming few days, drought improvement will likely not be significant with low moisture content of the snow.

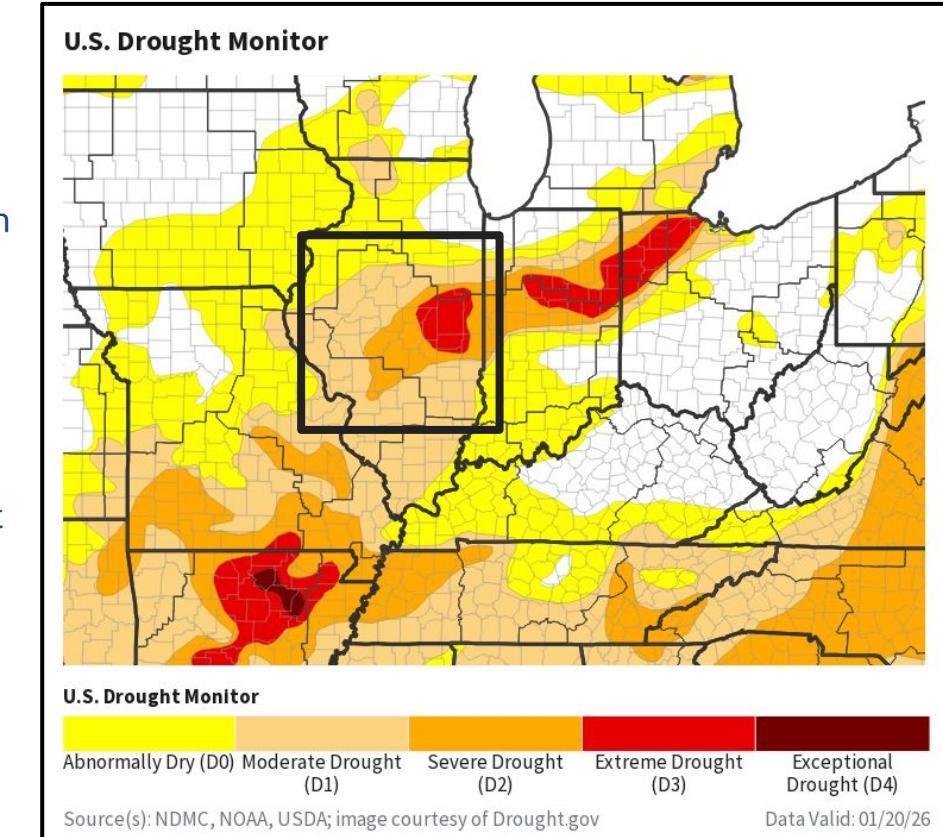




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): N/A
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of east-central Illinois including Piatt, Douglas, and Champaign Counties, and parts of Moultrie, De Witt, McLean, Coles, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Most remaining portions of east-central Illinois.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): The vast majority of counties across western, central, and southeast Illinois.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small area northwest of the Illinois River and in southeast Illinois near the Wabash River in Lawrence and southeast Crawford counties.



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened:
 - Small portion of Lawrence County.
 - Drought Improved:
 - None.
 - No Change:
 - The majority of the area remains unchanged.

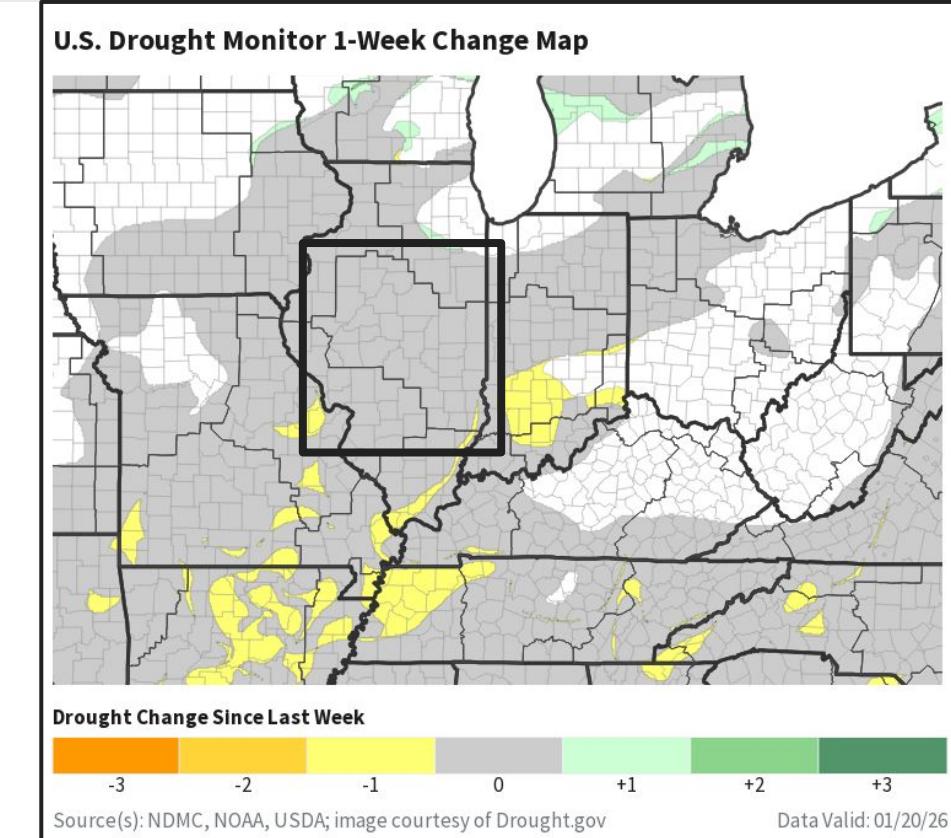


Image Caption: One week change in drought monitor categories. Image from [Drought.gov](#).



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Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Precipitation was minimal over the past 7 days, mostly in the form of light amounts of snow (right).
- The past 30 days (left) had a mix of above and below normal precipitation. The driest areas were from west-central to east-central IL southward, and areas with above normal precipitation were toward northwest IL.

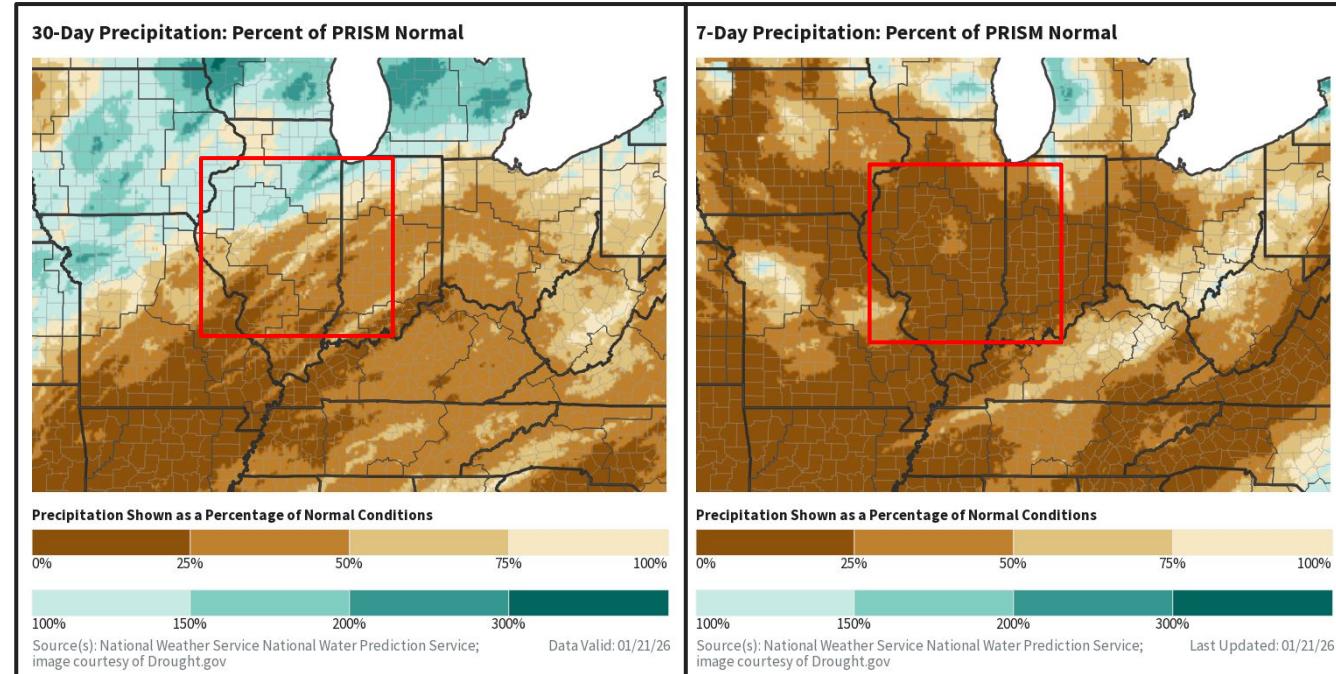


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of January 14. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov).



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow on most rivers is below normal, with most basins below the 25th percentile and several below the 10th percentile.
- Near record low flow on the east end of the Sangamon River basin is impacting water supplies of Lake Decatur downstream.
- Lake Decatur is reported to be around 3.5 feet below normal. Lake Springfield is around 1.5 feet below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts reported in the past week.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- None reported.

Other Impacts

- Extremely poor to record low water table and deep soil moisture conditions.

Mitigation Actions

- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington and Sullivan.

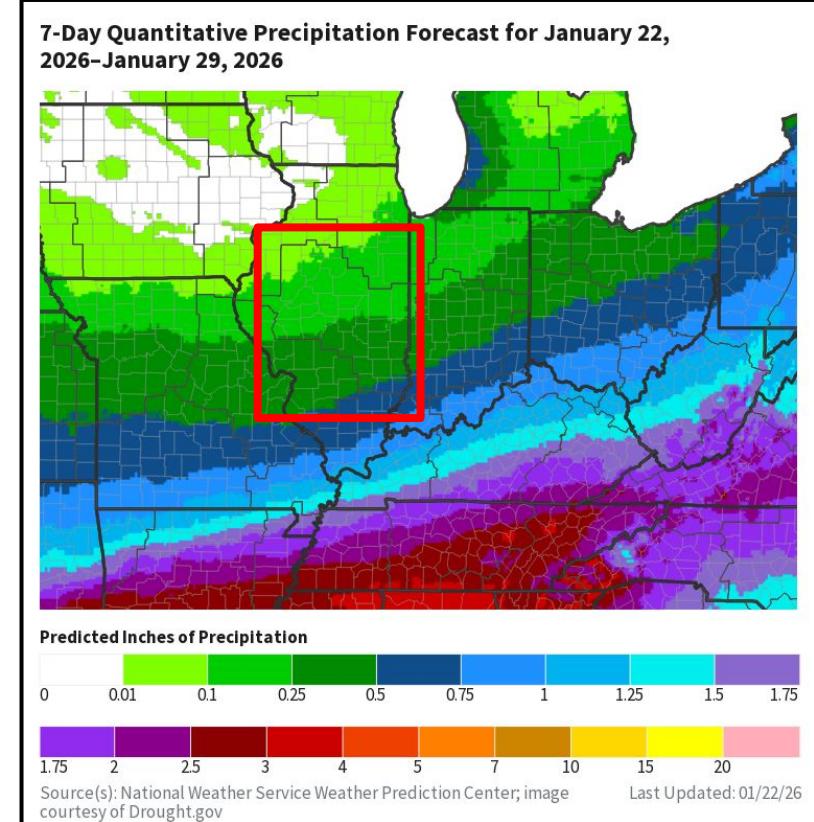




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A winter storm will spread snow into much of central and especially southeast IL this weekend, providing up to a half inch of liquid equivalent (southeast IL), however much of the area with the worst drought should have under a quarter inch of liquid equivalent. This should have minor or no impact on drought reduction, but may be enough to keep conditions from worsening.
- Otherwise, little or no precipitation is expected in the upcoming week.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Thursday, January 29. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.





Long Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal precipitation is favored for January (33% to 50% chance) across central IL for February.
- There are approximately equal chances for above or below normal temperatures for the month of February.

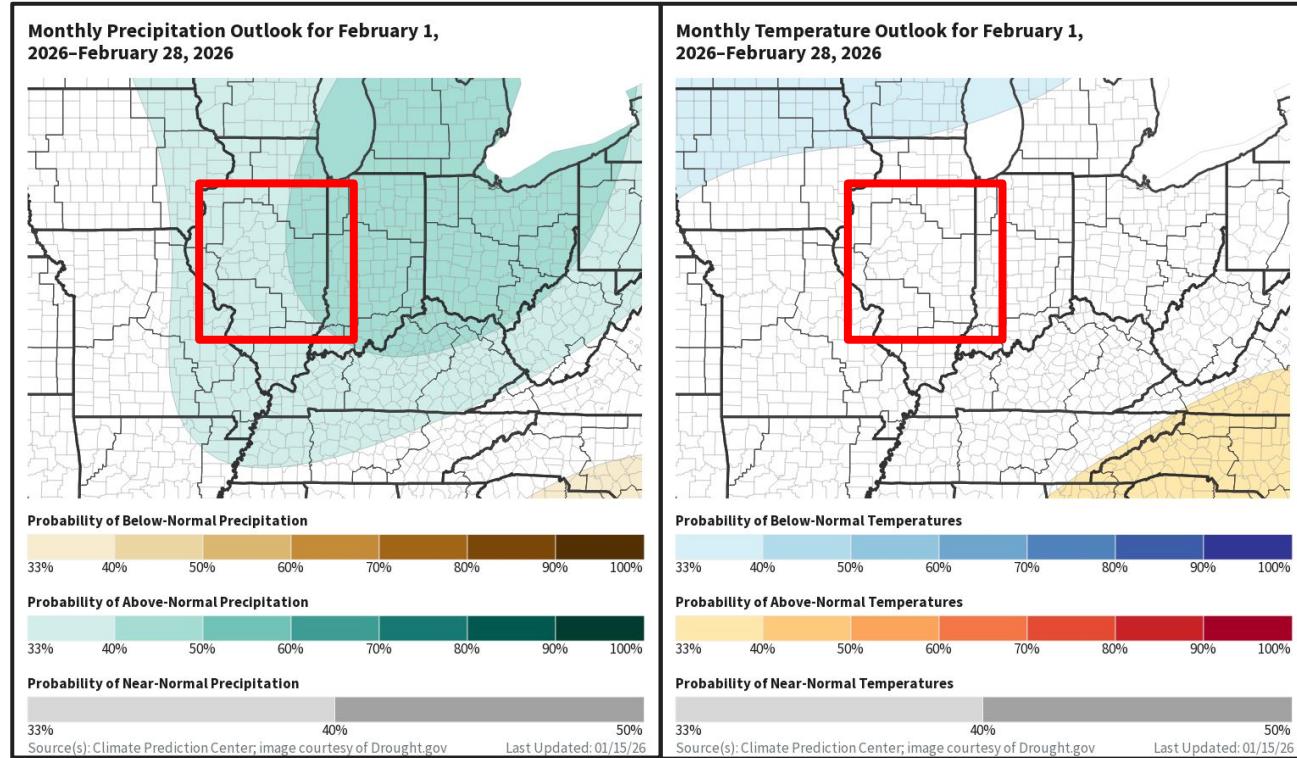


Image Caption: Precipitation (left) and temperature (right) outlooks for February. Check [weather.gov/ilx](#) for updated forecasts.



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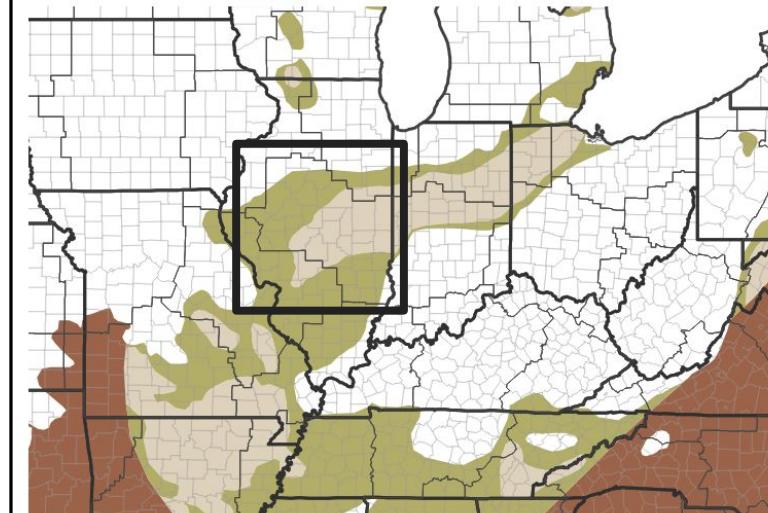


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is forecast to improve or end across the area through the end of April.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Jan. 15, valid through April 30, 2026. Images from [Drought.gov](#).

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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