



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid February 12, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be around Thursday, February 19, 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:

- Another dry week and an influx of reports of drying rural wells has led to the expansion of Severe Drought (D2) conditions across central Illinois.
- A developing storm system will bring beneficial rainfall to portions of southern and central Illinois on Saturday (2/14). There is currently a high (50-70%) chance for a 0.5" or more rainfall event in areas south of I-72, and a very high (70-90%) chance for a 0.5" or more rainfall event in areas south of US HWY 50.



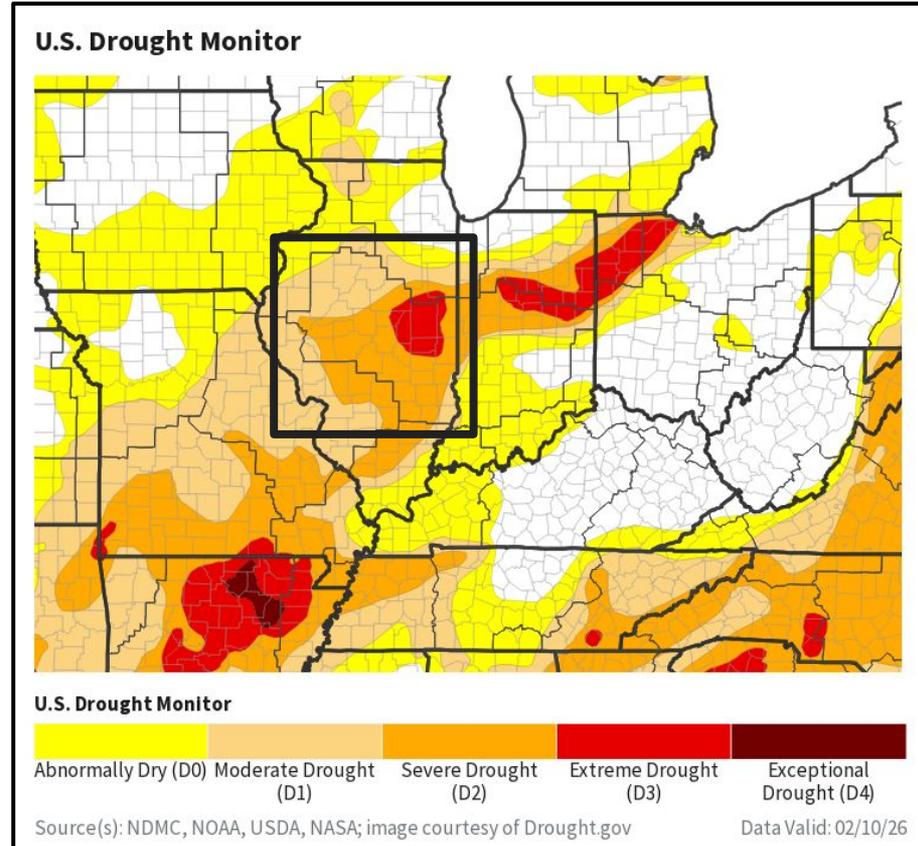


U.S. Drought Monitor

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):** An expanding area that encompasses much of central, east-central and south-central Illinois.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The vast majority of counties across western, central, and southeast Illinois.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Small areas in northwest Knox County and far eastern Crawford County.





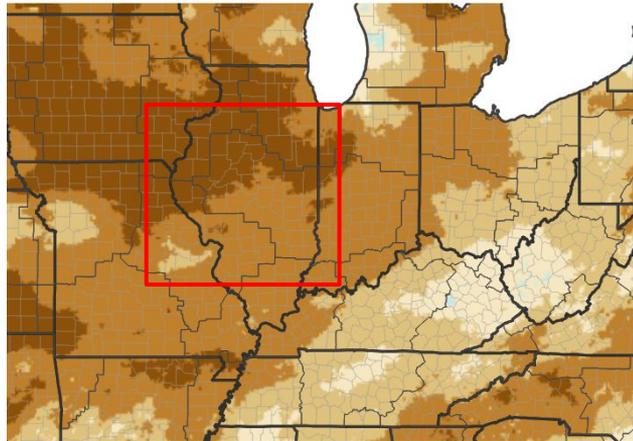
Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

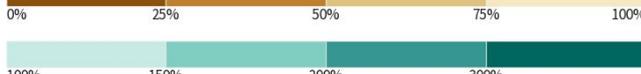
Over the past seven days (right), precipitation was minimal to non-existent due to a lingering high pressure pattern.

Looking at the last 30 days (left), the region was significantly drier than normal.

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal

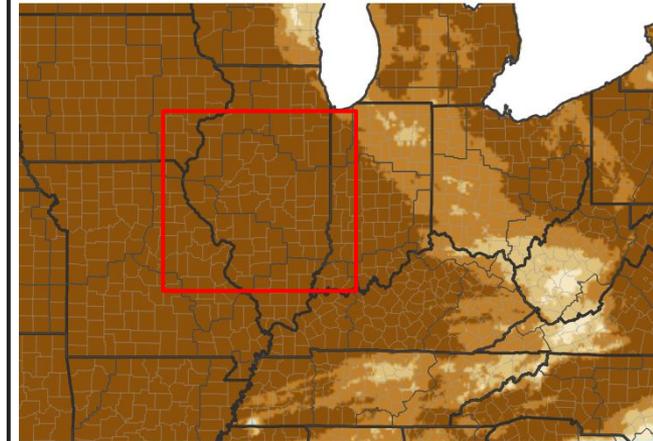


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

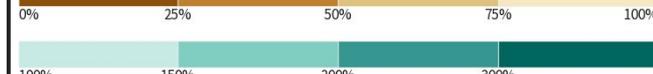


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; Data Valid: 02/11/26
image courtesy of Drought.gov

7-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; Last Updated: 02/11/26
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of February 11. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is much below normal for most rivers in central parts of the state (less than 15 percent of normal).
- 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 between 4 to 4.5 feet below normal. Lake Springfield is about 3.5 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.
- Dozens of reports of folks hauling water due to dry rural private wells, including in Champaign, Piatt, Vermilion, Macon, Sangamon, Morgan, Cass, Moultrie, Edgar, Coles, and Montgomery Counties.

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 developing storm system will bring beneficial rainfall to portions of southern and central Illinois on Saturday (2/14). There is currently a high (50-70%) chance for a 0.5" or more rainfall event in areas south of I-72, and a very high (70-90%) chance for a 0.5" or more rainfall event in areas south of US HWY 50.
- In addition, there is a low (25%) chance for an additional 0.25" or more rainfall event between 2/17 and 2/19.

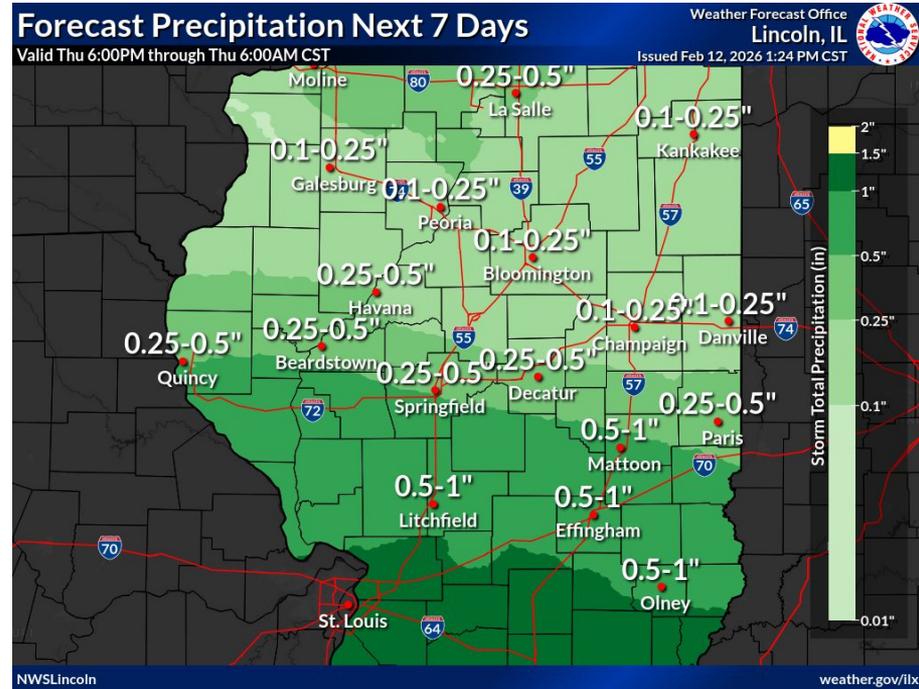


Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 AM Thursday, February 20. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.





Long Range Outlooks

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

- There are approximately equal chances for above or below normal precipitation for the month of February.
- Below normal temperatures are favored (40% to 50% chance) across central IL for February.

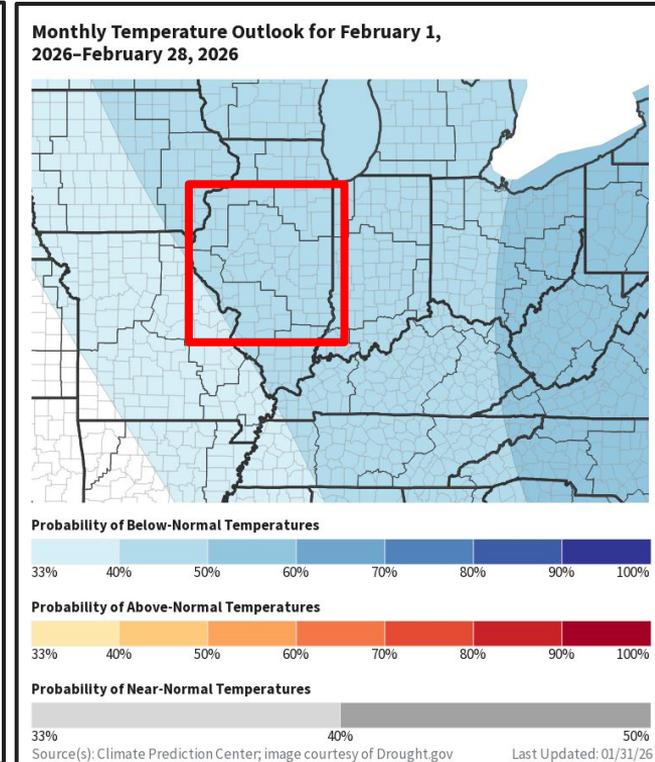
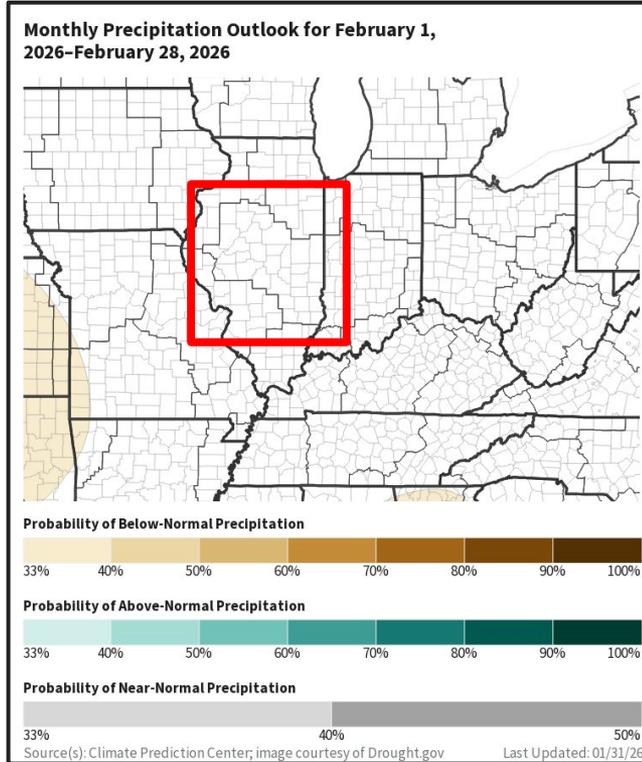


Image Caption: Precipitation (left) and temperature (right) outlooks for February. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.





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.

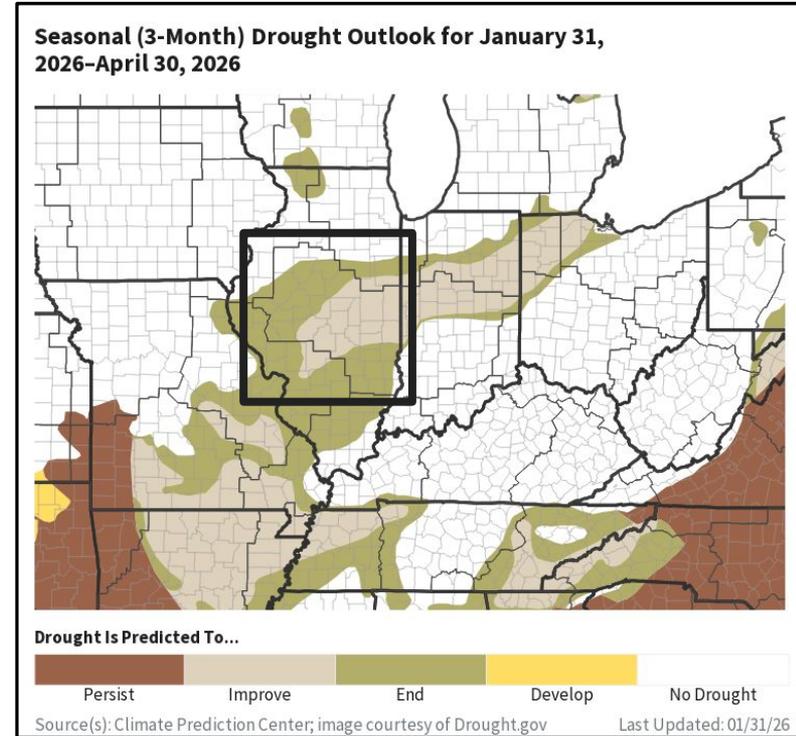


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Jan. 31, 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](#)

