



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid March 12, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around March 19, 2026 unless drought conditions improve significantly.
- 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:

- **Recent Precipitation:** Portions of central and southeastern IL saw heavy rain in the past week. This rainfall had beneficial impacts on drought this week week.
- **Improvement!** Recent precipitation resulted in improving drought conditions.





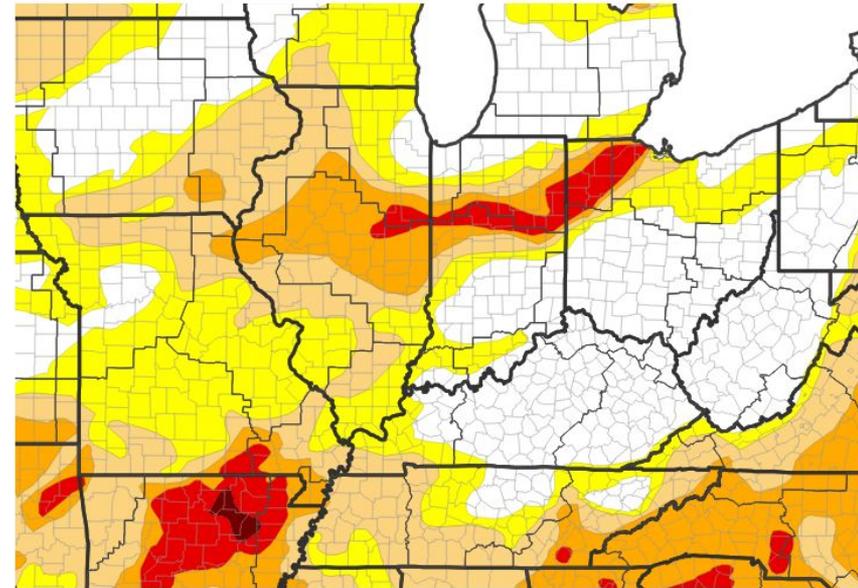
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **Drought intensity and Extent**

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Southeastern McLean County, far northern Piatt, Champaign, and Vermilion Counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Most of central IL
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Northwestern Knox County, Extending from Scott County to Clark County
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the southeast 6 counties (Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, and Lawrence Counties)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/10/26



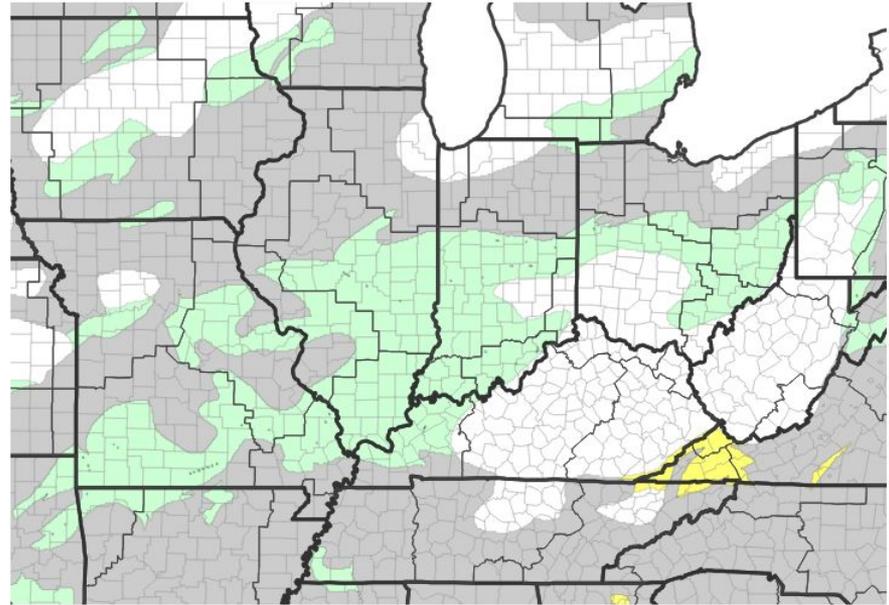


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

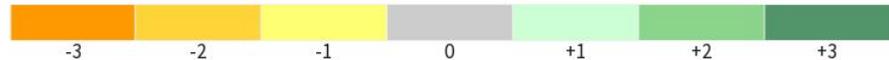
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Central and Southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened: none
 - No Change: Schuyler County to northwest McLean County northward, southeast McLean County and far northern Piatt and Champaign County
 - Drought Improved: Remainder of central and southeast IL

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/10/26

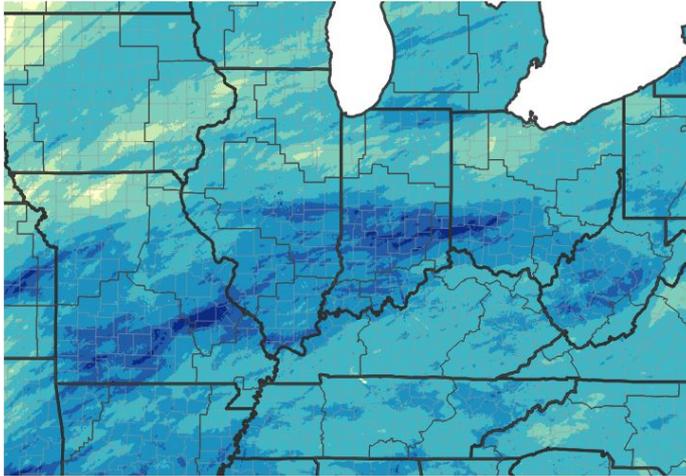




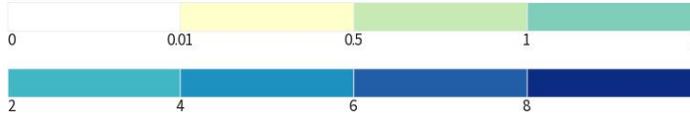
Precipitation

Over the past 30 days, precipitation has been above normal across the entire central and southeastern IL area. As much as 2-3 times normal (200-300%) was noted for much of the area from near I-72 southward.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

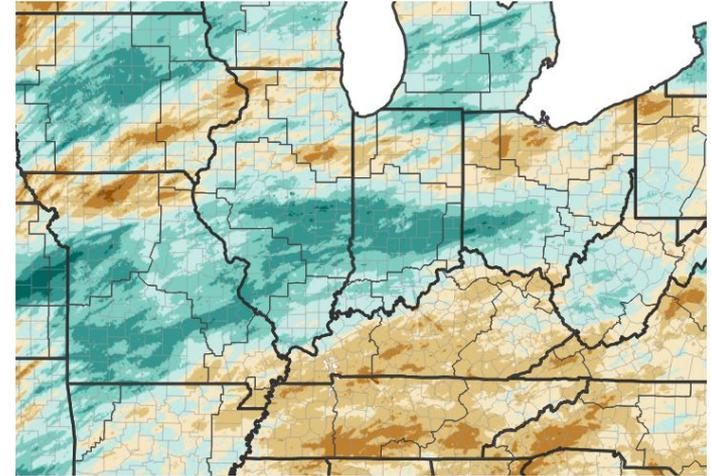


Inches of Precipitation

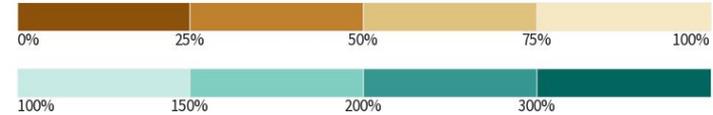


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/12/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/12/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is above normal for many rivers from around I-72 southward where drought conditions have improved, however, below normal streamflows continue in areas to the north where D2 to D3 drought persists.
- Lake Decatur is reported to be about 0.5 feet below normal. Lake Springfield is about 2 feet below normal (as of 3/6).

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- No recent impacts.

Other Impacts

- Ponds remain low in northern parts of central IL.
- Deep soil moisture remains below normal around D3 Drought areas, but has otherwise recovered at most observing sites. Water tables remain near record low levels in D2 and D3 Drought areas.
- The town of Sullivan declared a water emergency on February 11th due to ongoing drought and a reduced water supply. Restrictions on non-essential water use are in effect until June 1st, and residents are urged to conserve water.

Mitigation Actions

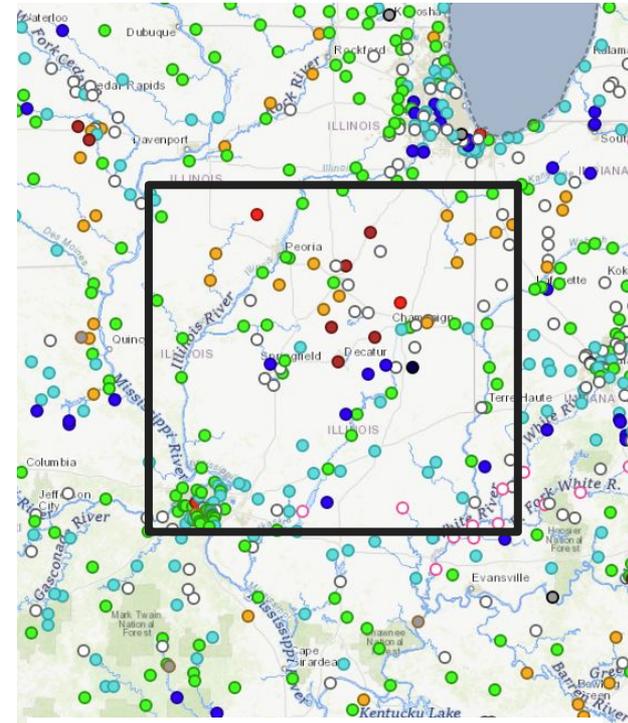
- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows have increased to normal to well above normal for many streams from around I-72 southward where notable improvements in drought conditions have taken place.
- Below normal to record low streamflows continue in areas to the north where D2 to D3 drought persists as rainfall has produced little runoff and has not dramatically increased water tables.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Image Caption: USGS average streamflow valid March 12, 2026

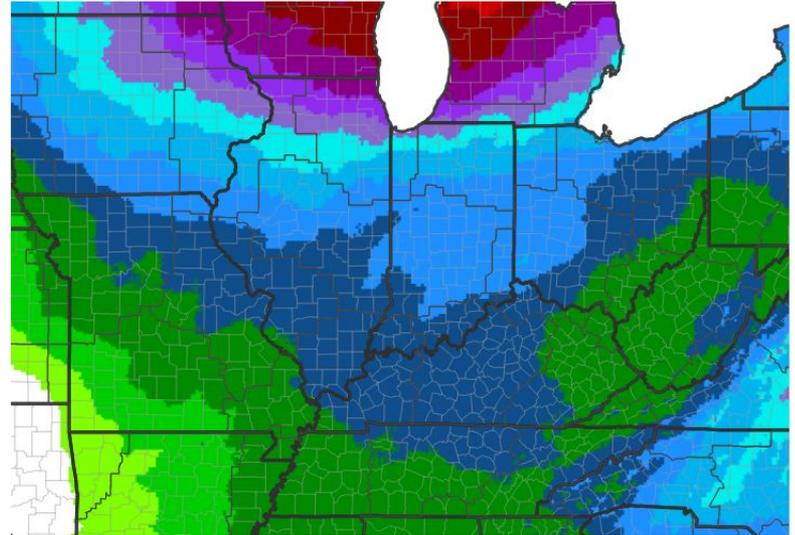




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Another week of beneficial rainfall is expected during the week of March 12-19.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 12, 2026–March 19, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/12/26





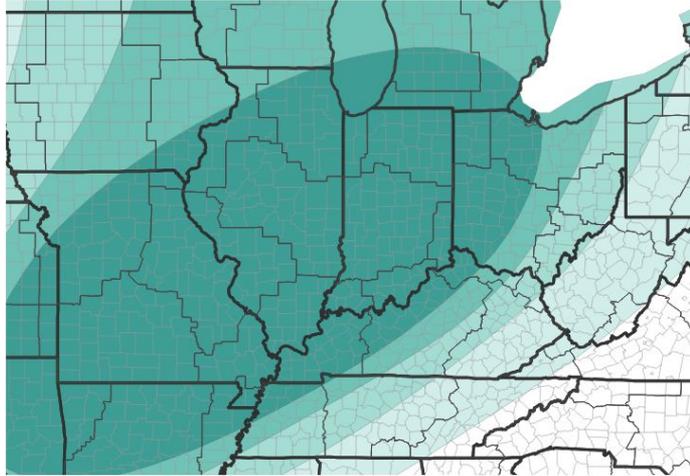
Long-Range Outlooks

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

Above normal precipitation is favored (60-70% chance) for all of central and southeast IL for March.

Above normal temperatures are favored (60-70% chance) across central IL for March.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026



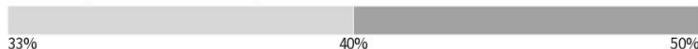
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



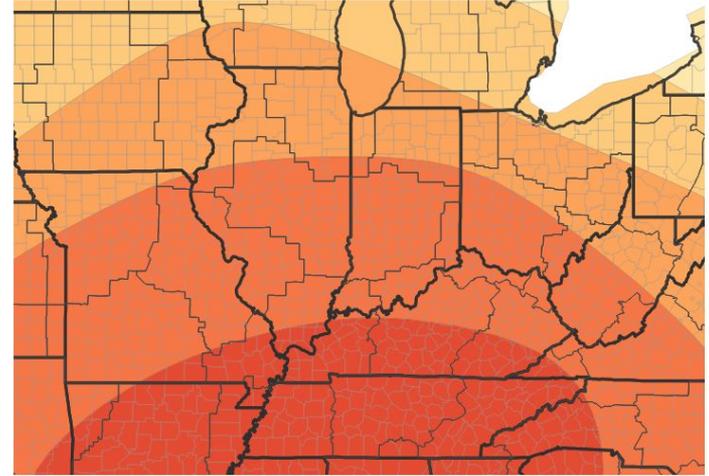
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/28/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026



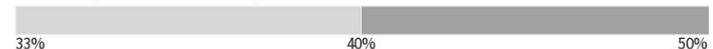
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 02/28/26



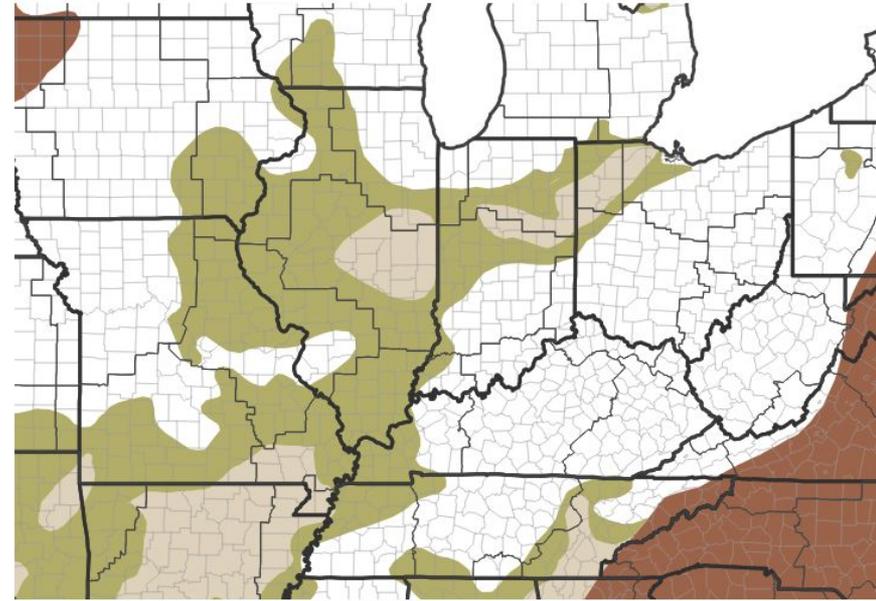


Drought Outlook

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 May.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 28, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 02/28/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

