



Drought Information Statement for Arkansas

Valid May 15, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service-WFO Little Rock, AR

Contact Information: nws.littlerock@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated June 11th, 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/LZK/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Most of Arkansas continues to experience drought conditions.
 - Nearly 86% of the state is in severe drought or greater (D2 or greater).
 - Approximately 18% of the state is in exceptional drought (D4) conditions.



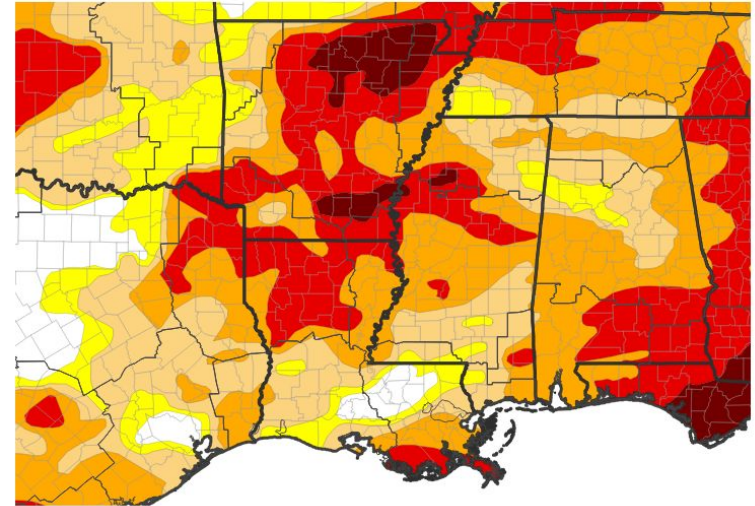


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and extent:
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Portions of central, north central, northeast, southeast and south central Arkansas.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Portions of north, northeast, north central, central, southern and southeast Arkansas.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of western, northwest, eastern and southern Arkansas.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of northwest and southwest Arkansas.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of western and northwest Arkansas.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26



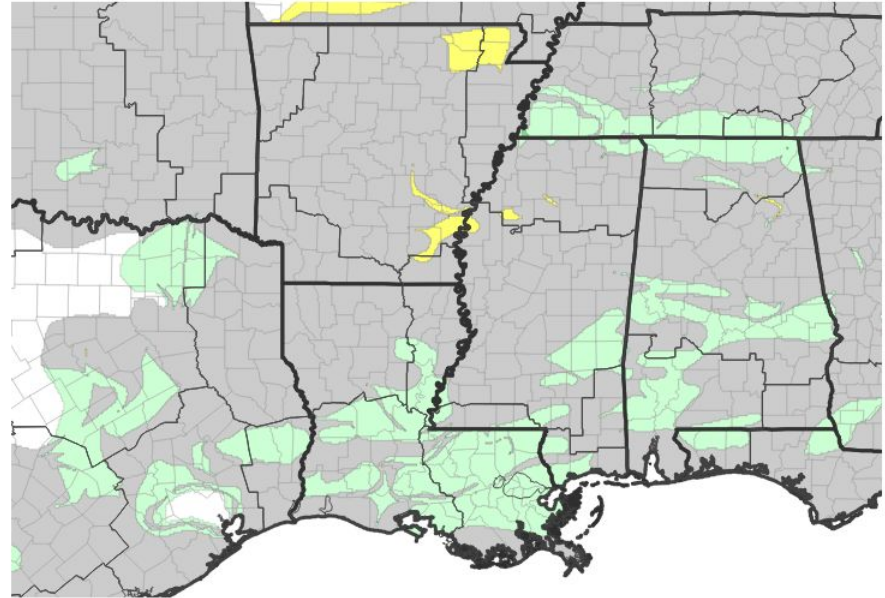


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

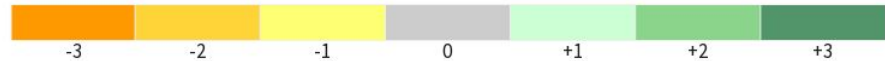
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Arkansas

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Portions of northeast and southeast Arkansas experienced one drought category degradation.

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: 05/12/26

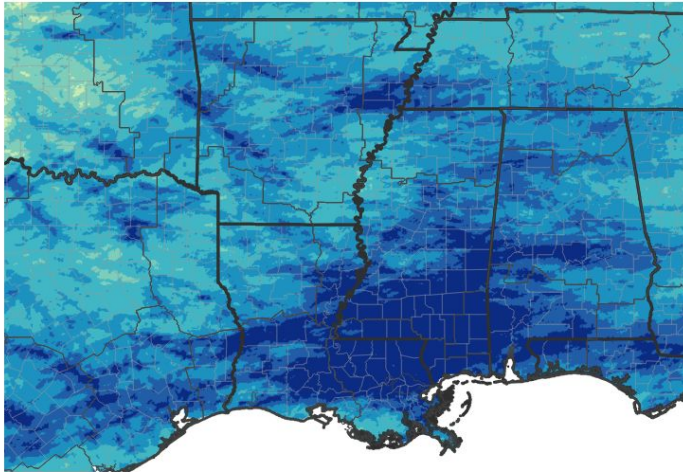




Precipitation

- Below normal precipitation was noted across most of Arkansas during the last 30 days.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

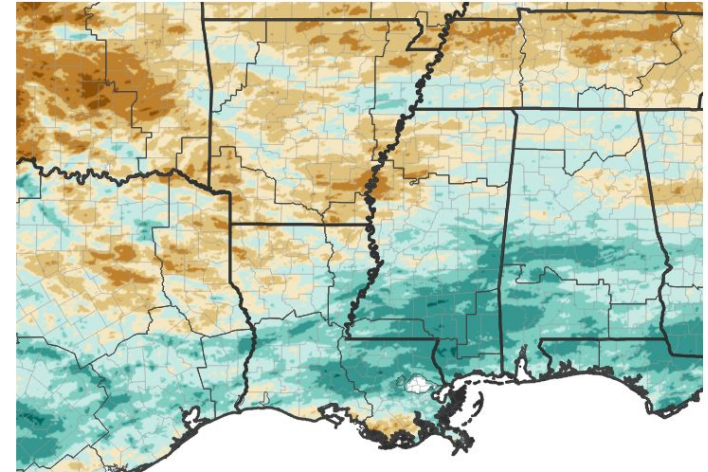


Inches of Precipitation

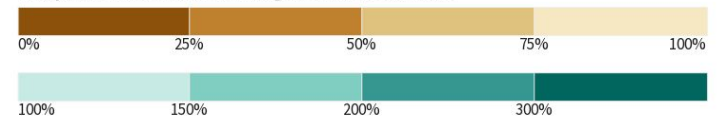


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/17/26

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: 05/17/26

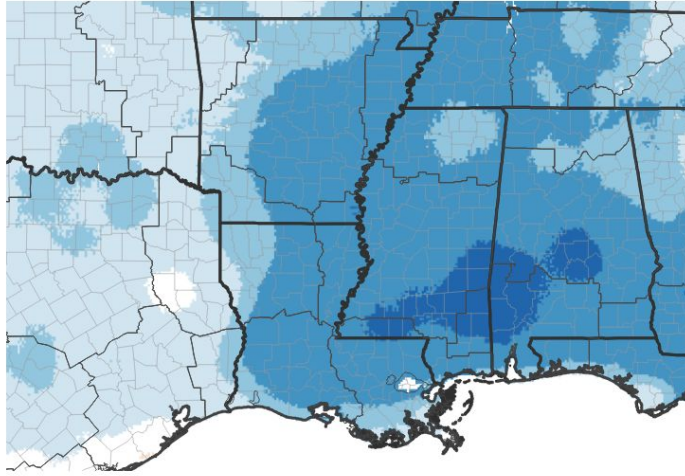




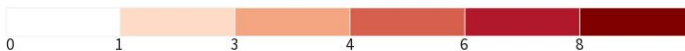
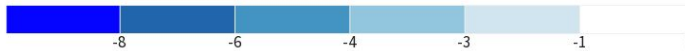
Temperature

- Temperatures were above normal across northern and eastern Arkansas during the past 30 days.
- Temperatures over the most recent 7-day period were much cooler statewide, as much as 4-6 degrees below normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



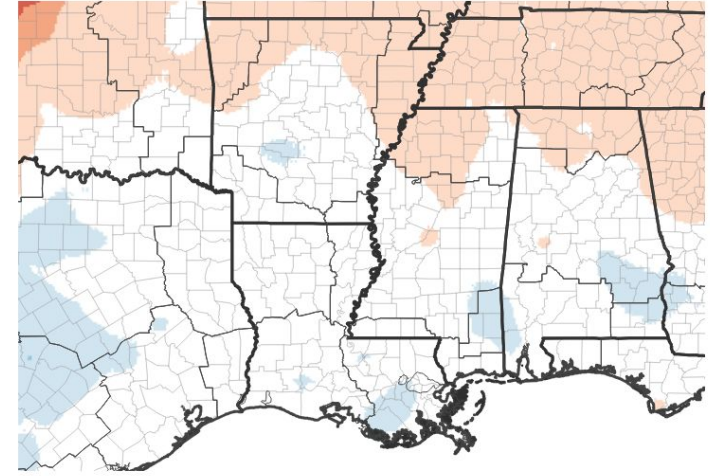
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



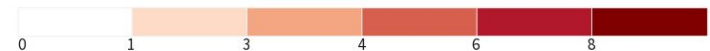
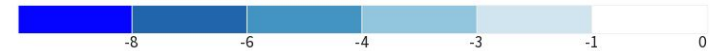
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/13/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/13/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Recent dry conditions have promoted enhanced fire danger conditions across Arkansas.
 - [Arkansas Wildfire Danger and Burn Bans](#)

Agricultural and Wildlife Impacts

- Recent dry conditions have led to significant impacts to livestock and agriculture.
 - [Recent Agriculture and Livestock Impacts](#)

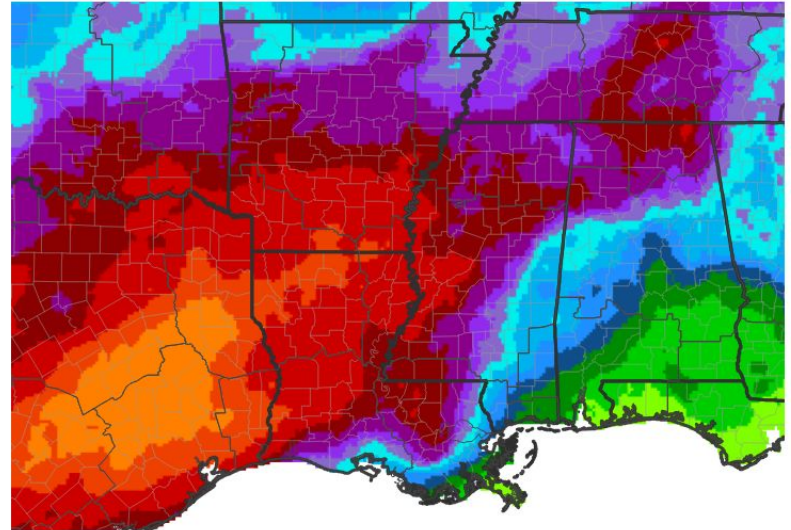




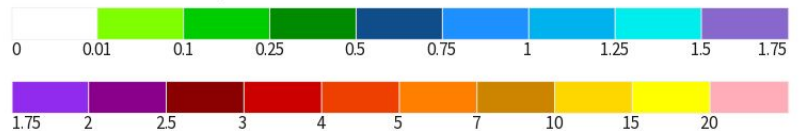
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The 7 day precipitation forecast calls for several inches of rain across the state.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 17, 2026–May 24, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/17/26



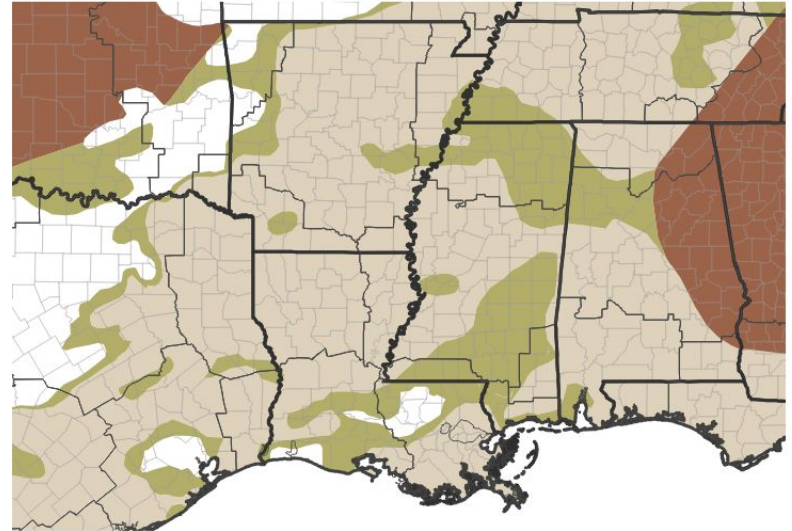


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to improve across most areas during the next 3-month period.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
WFO Little Rock