

Nevada Drought Report and Outlook

November/December 2025

3 December 2025

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Improvement continues, yet drought conditions prevail across southern and eastern Nevada.

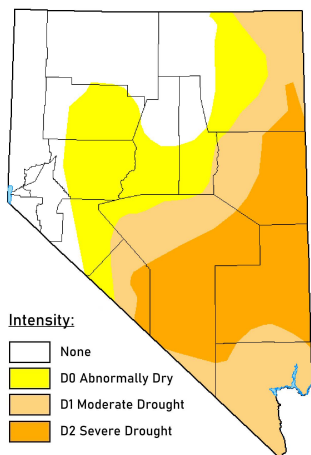


Figure 1. Drought Status for Nevada on 25 November 2025.
Source: Dave Simeral; U.S. Drought Monitor.

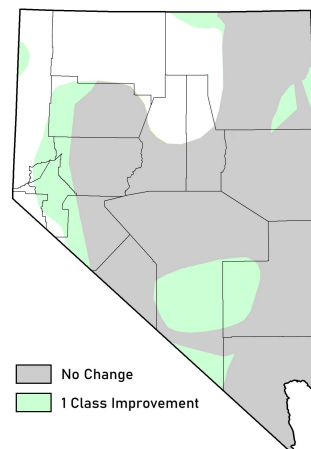


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change for Nevada between 30 September 2025 and 28 October 2025.

Abnormally Dry (D0) and Drought (D1 to D2) conditions prevail across 71% of Nevada as of 25 November (Fig. 1). Severe Drought (D2) spans from eastern Esmeralda and central Nye Counties to the near entirety of Lincoln, the eastern half of White Pine, and extreme southeastern Elko and portions of extreme northern Clark counties. This is flanked by zones of Moderate Drought (D1) covering southern Nye and remaining portions of Clark and Lincoln Counties to the south and central Esmeralda, extreme eastern Mineral, north-central Nye, extreme eastern Eureka, western White Pine, and most of eastern Elko Counties to the north. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions extend from western Esmeralda through central Mineral, most of Churchill and Pershing, extreme northwest White Pine, and southern Lander and Eureka, to central Elko Counties. This updated map reflects scattered improvement in conditions across the state compared to the beginning of November, notably including the elimination of Extreme (D3) Drought in south central Nevada, and the complete (or near) elimination of Abnormally Dry or Drought conditions from Washoe, Storey, Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Humboldt Counties. Looking back one year to 26 November 2024 when 99% of the Silver State was classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or Moderate to Extreme Drought (D1-D3), substantial improvements are noted (Table 1).

Averaged across the month, statewide temperatures were 5.6°F above 1991 to 2020 normal values in November 2025. Day-to-day, above normal temperatures prevailed throughout the month, including two periods of exceptional warmth (+10°F or higher) in the beginning and middle of the month. Only 19 to 21 November had slightly below normal temperatures (Fig. 3). Reno and Elko tied for the warmest November on record, while all other sites were in the top five warmest since records began. Two periods of notable precipitation followed the exceptional periods of warmth from 6 to 7 and 14 to 21 November.

Table 1. Cumulative percentage of Nevada in each drought class from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Date	26 November 2024	25 February 2025	27 May 2025	26 August 2025	25 November 2025
None	1	22	32	2	29
Abnormally Dry- D0	99	78	68	98	71
Moderate Drought- D1	28	60	50	65	50
Severe Drought- D2	21	40	35	47	26
Extreme Drought- D3	2	20	18	11	0
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	2	1	0	0

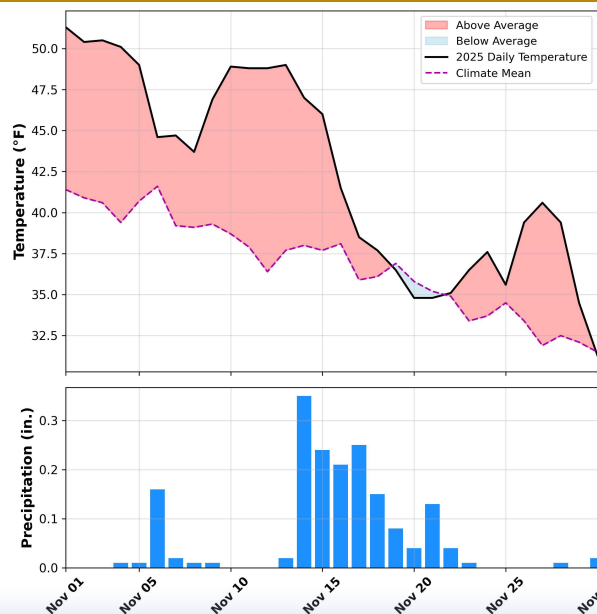


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average daily temperature (top; black line) plotted against the 1991-2020 mean values (dashed magenta line) and precipitation (bottom) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 November 2025 to 30 November 2025.

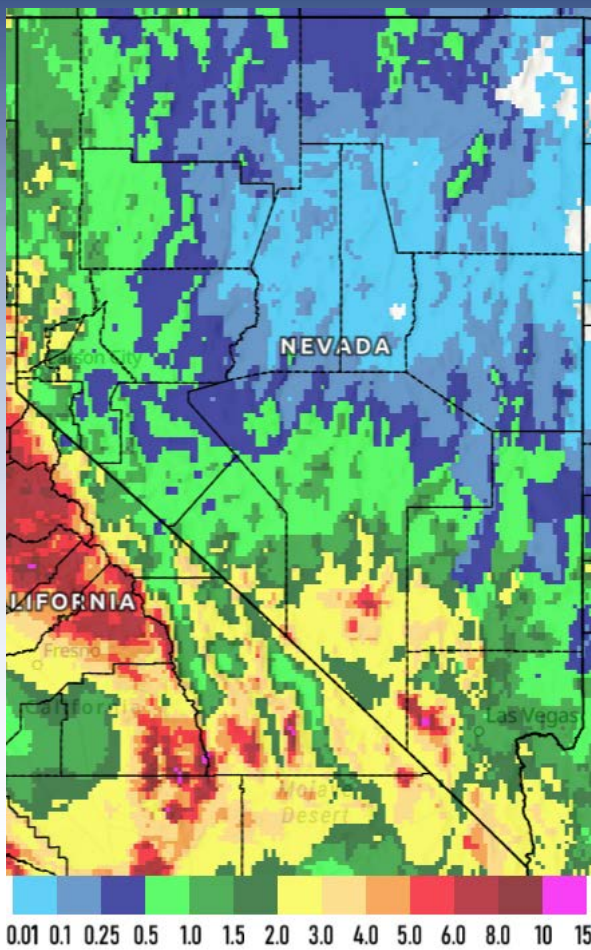


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada for November 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

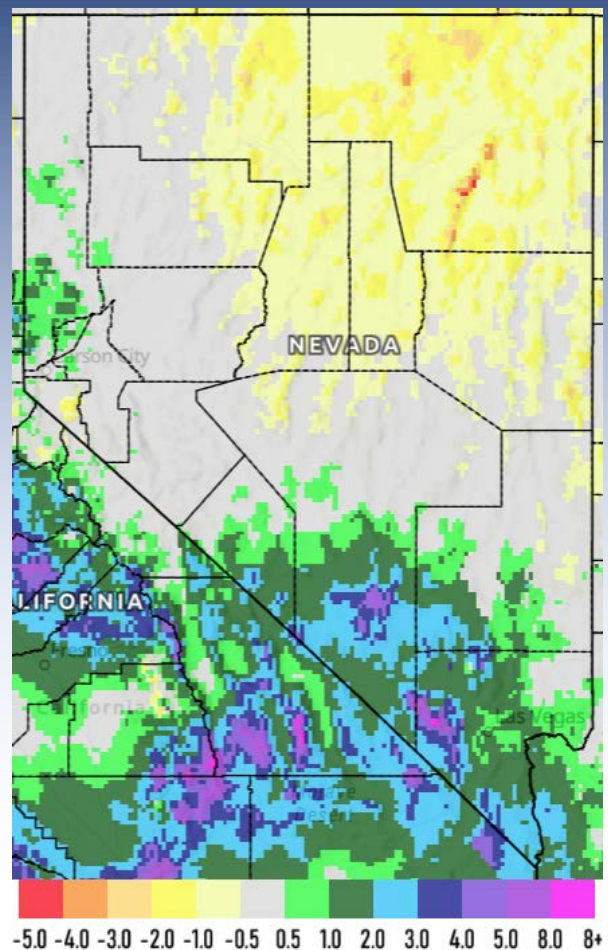


Figure 5. Total precipitation departure from normal for November 2025. Source: NOAA multi-sensor precipitation estimate from WSR-88D radar, gauges, and satellite; <http://water.noaa.gov>

Widespread precipitation fell across western and southern Nevada in November 2025, where gauge-corrected radar estimates indicated amounts $>5''$ in the vicinity of Mount Rose in the Carson Range of southern Washoe County and the Spring Mountains in western Clark County (Fig. 4). The highest gauge-recorded precipitation total was $7.50''$ at the Rainbow Canyon SNOTEL in the Spring Mountains. Mt. Rose Ski Area SNOTEL reported the next-highest total at $6.30''$ and the greatest snow depth ($19''$) and snow water equivalent ($2.9''$). Overall, precipitation was well above normal in southern Washoe, Esmeralda, southern Nye, western Lincoln, and nearly all of Clark County. Las Vegas received $1.65''$ of precipitation, ranking as the 5th wettest November on record. Meanwhile, north central and northeastern Nevada received very little precipitation and were well below normal (Fig. 5). Elko's $0.05''$ ranked as the 12th driest November on record.

Water year precipitation totals for Nevada and the eastern Sierra SNOTEL stations as of 1 December 2025 averaged $6.20''$, which amounts to 125% of the median for the water year to date (Fig. 6). Average soil moisture percent saturation on 1 December 2025 was 49%, which is 132% of the median for the date (Fig. 7). Except for the Carson Range and the Spring Mountains, the early season snowpack across the state has been slow to accumulate, with snow water equivalent (SWE) at only 36% of the median for the date (Fig. 8).

The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) was positive (more evaporative demand than normal) for most of the state in November 2025 due to the much above normal temperatures, especially in central and eastern Nevada (Fig. 9). Evaporative demand was below normal in extreme southern Nye and most of Clark counties.

As of 1 December 2025, Bridgeport Reservoir, Donner Lake, Independence Lake, Lake Mohave, Lake Tahoe, Topaz Lake, and Wild Horse Reservoir were all above the median percent of capacity value for the date (Fig. 10). Meanwhile, Lahontan Reservoir, Prosser Reservoir, and Stampede Reservoir were slightly below the median. Lake Mead remained well below the median and is only 32% of capacity.

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for December 2025 projects drought to persist across most of the southern and eastern Nevada (Fig. 11). The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for December 2025 favors above normal temperatures (33 to 50% probability) for all but extreme western Nevada (Fig. 12) and equal chances for above or below normal precipitation across the entire state (Fig. 13).

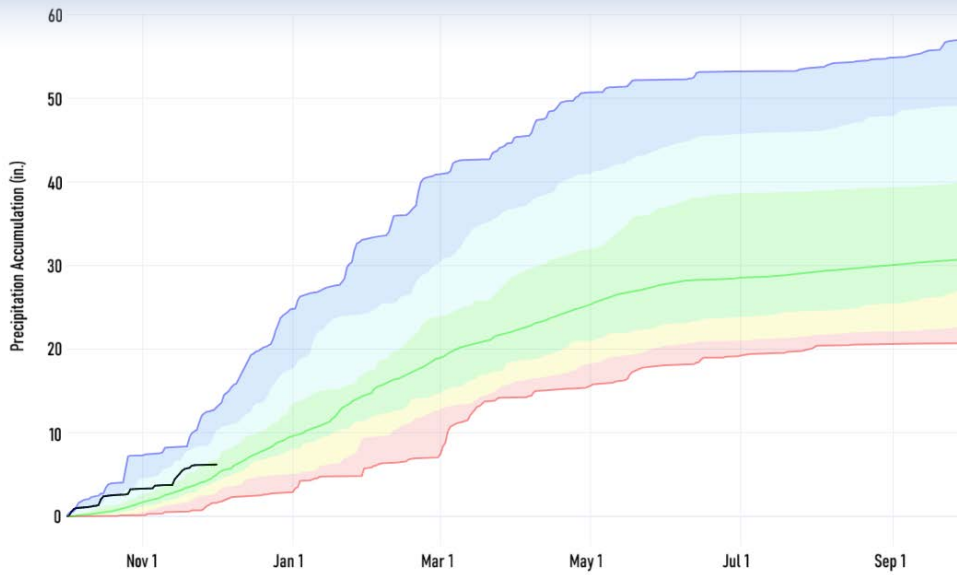


Figure 6. 2026 Water Year precipitation totals for Nevada and the eastern Sierra based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Figure 7. 2026 Water Year soil moisture values for Nevada and the eastern Sierra based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

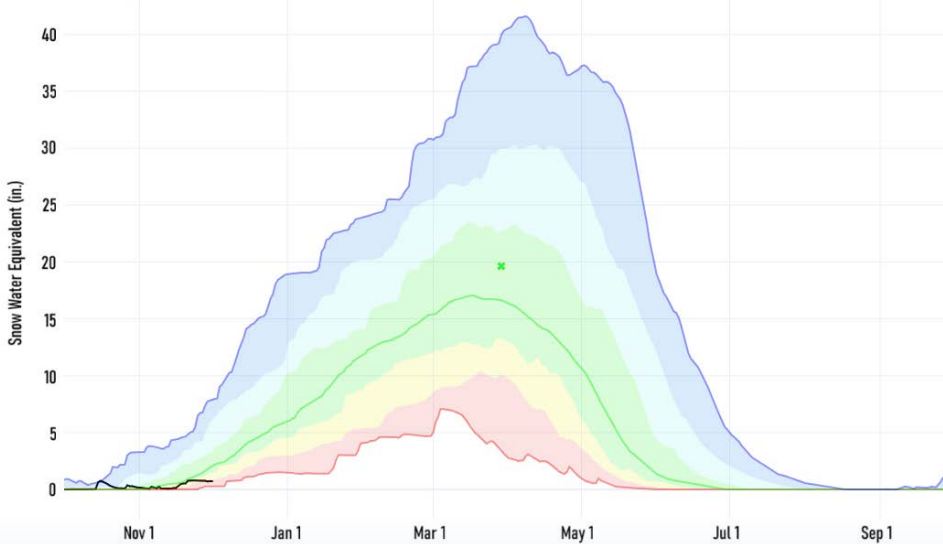
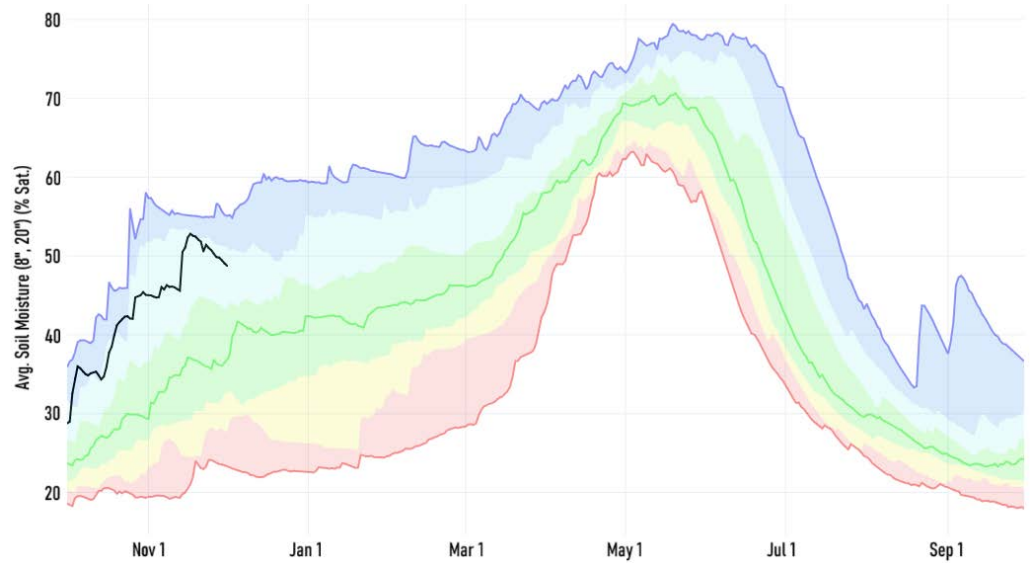


Figure 8. 2026 Water Year snow water equivalent (SWE) values for Nevada and the eastern Sierra based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

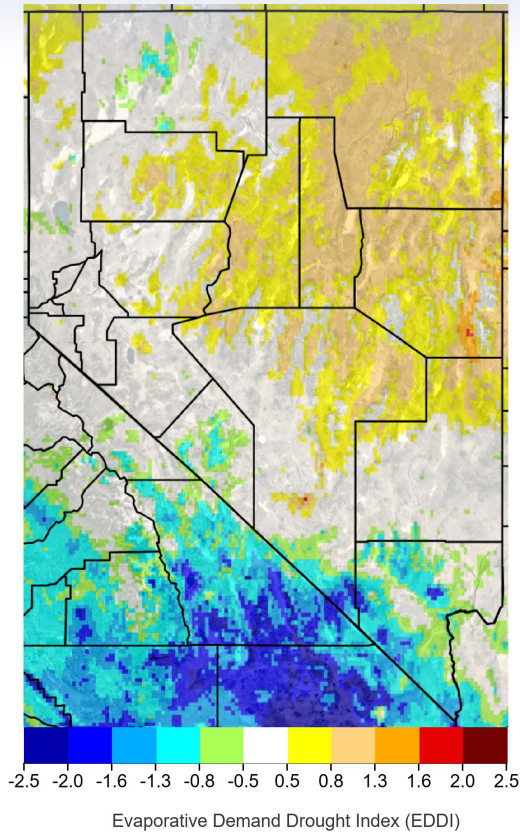


Figure 9. Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for November 2025. Positive values indicate higher evaporative demand than normal which would worsen drought conditions. Source: GridMet via ClimateEngine.org.

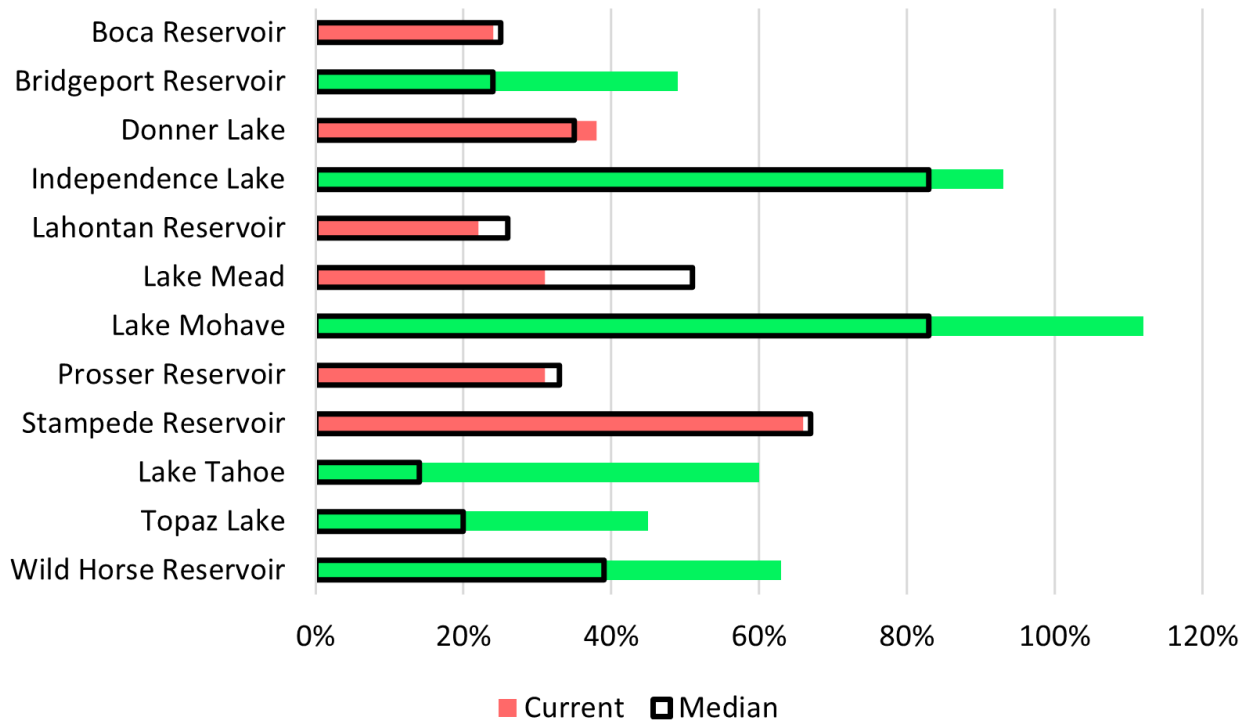


Figure 10. Reservoir water levels on 1 December 2025 relative to median percent of capacity. Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

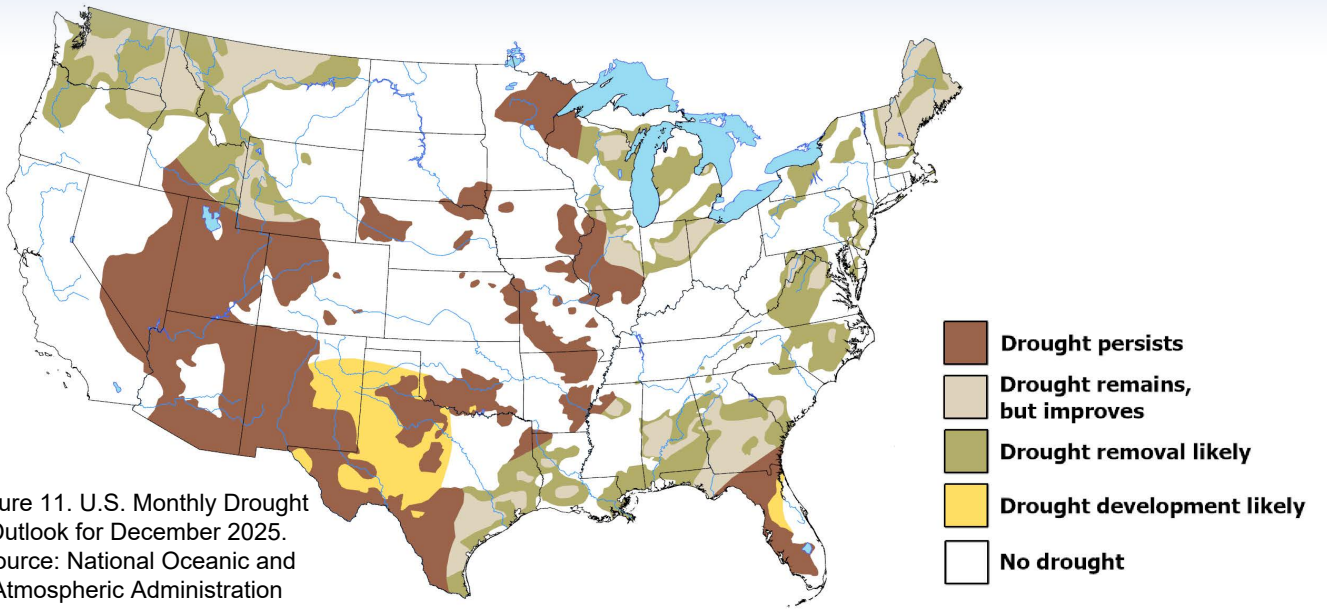


Figure 11. U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for December 2025. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

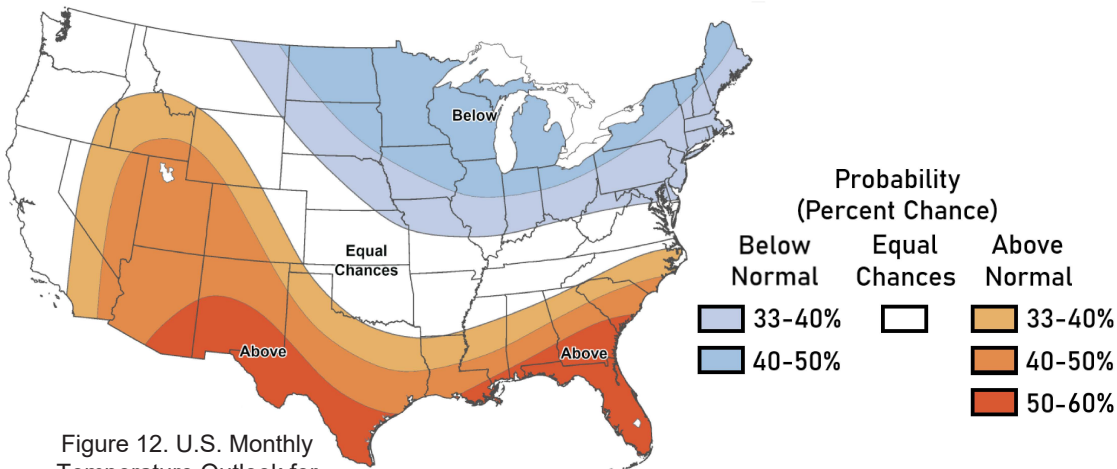


Figure 12. U.S. Monthly Temperature Outlook for December 2025. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

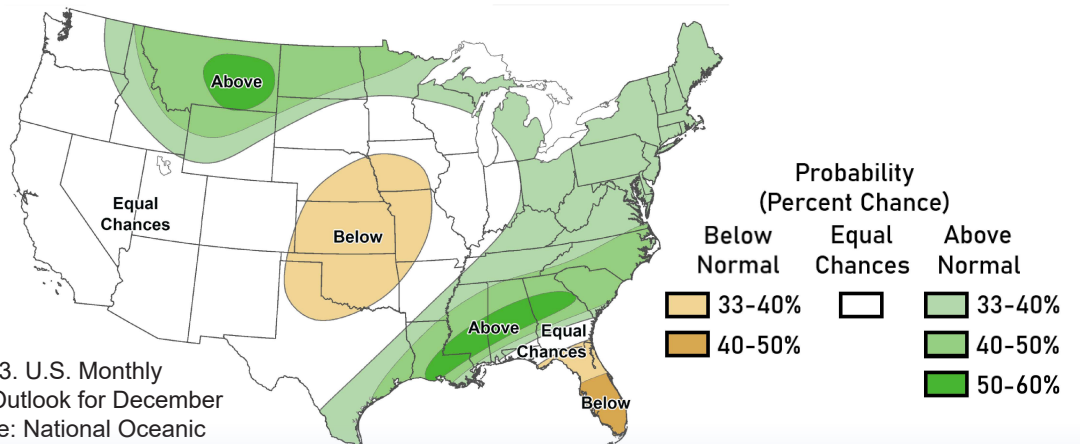


Figure 13. U.S. Monthly Precipitation Outlook for December 2025. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration