

# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania Valid August 22, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pittsburgh, PA

- This product will be updated September 5, 2024 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/pbz/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- Extreme drought has been expanded to portions of eastern Ohio.
- Some expansion of severe drought across eastern Ohio, the northern West Virginia panhandle and western Pennsylvania
- Some slight improvement over Columbiana OH and northwestern PA





# U.S. Drought Monitor

August 22, 2024  
3:02 PM

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania

NEW

## Key Messaging

→ Extreme Drought Conditions were added to eastern Ohio but removed from Tucker county WV.

→ Drought Intensity and Extent

- ◆ **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Added to several counties in eastern Ohio
- ◆ **D2 (Severe Drought)**: added to much of northern WV and Washington and Greene counties in PA
- ◆ **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: No change
- ◆ **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Improvement in Columbiana county, PA. No change elsewhere.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Pittsburgh, PA WFO

August 20, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

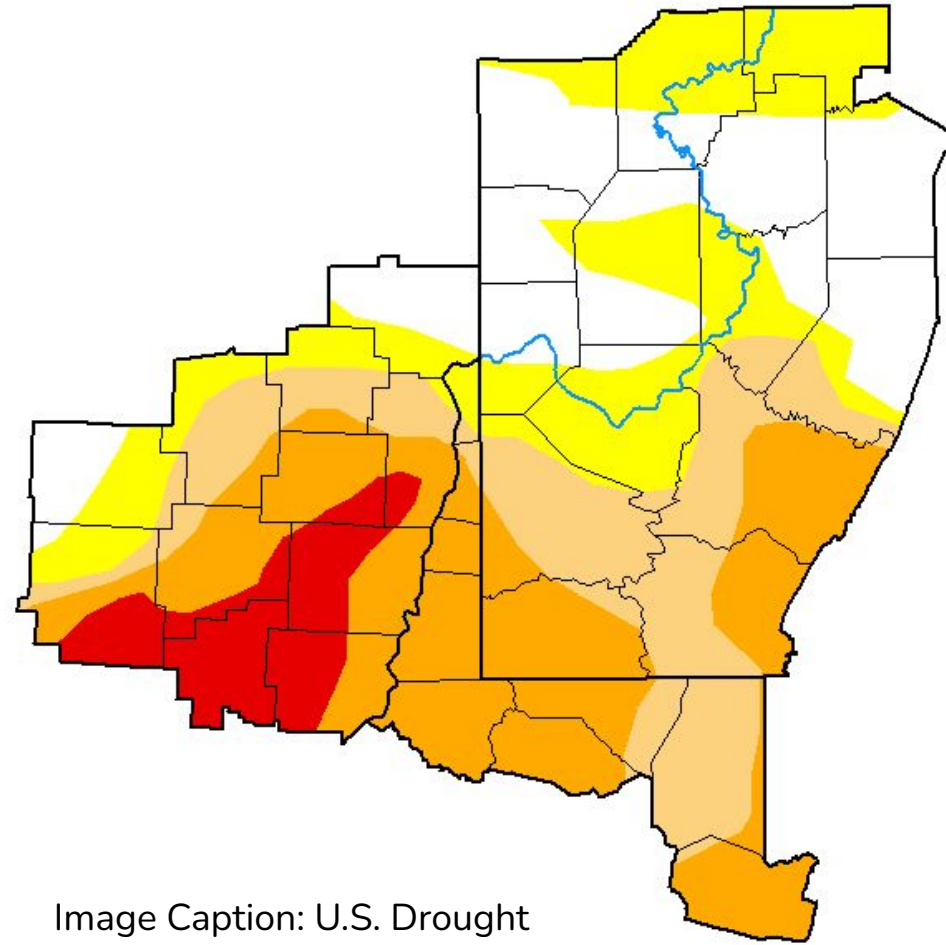


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor map valid Aug 20, 2024

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	23.93	76.07	54.60	35.05	7.78	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 08-13-2024	20.88	79.12	54.60	19.59	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 05-21-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2024	94.97	5.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2023	80.00	20.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 08-22-2023	99.12	0.88	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Pittsburgh, PA



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Conditions continue to worsen due to general lack of precipitation over the last several weeks, especially in Ohio and West Virginia.
  - Drought Improvement: portions of northwestern PA along interstate 80, Columbiana and Coshocton OH, and Tucker county WV.
  - No Change: southwestern PA

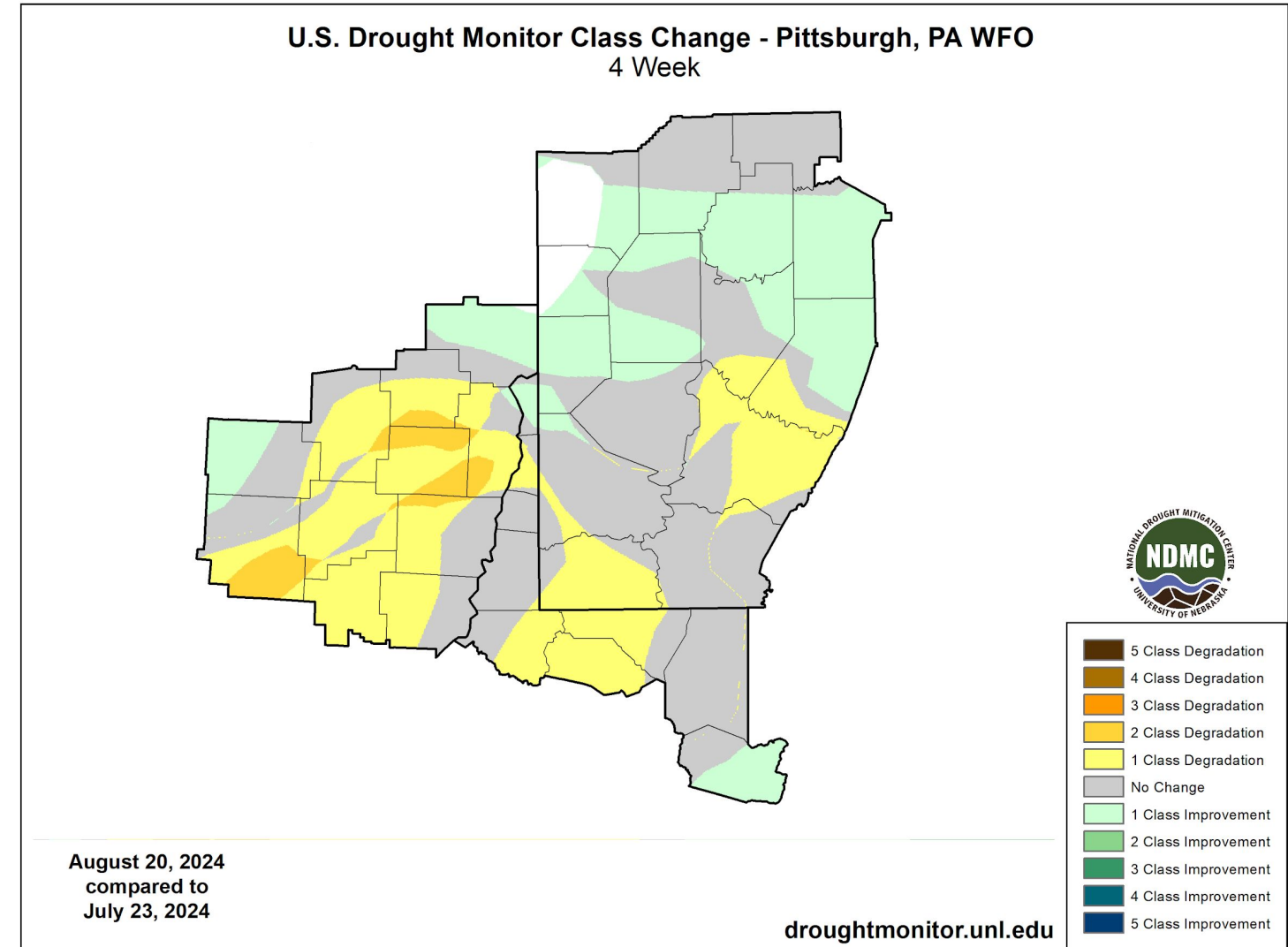


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid August 20, 2024





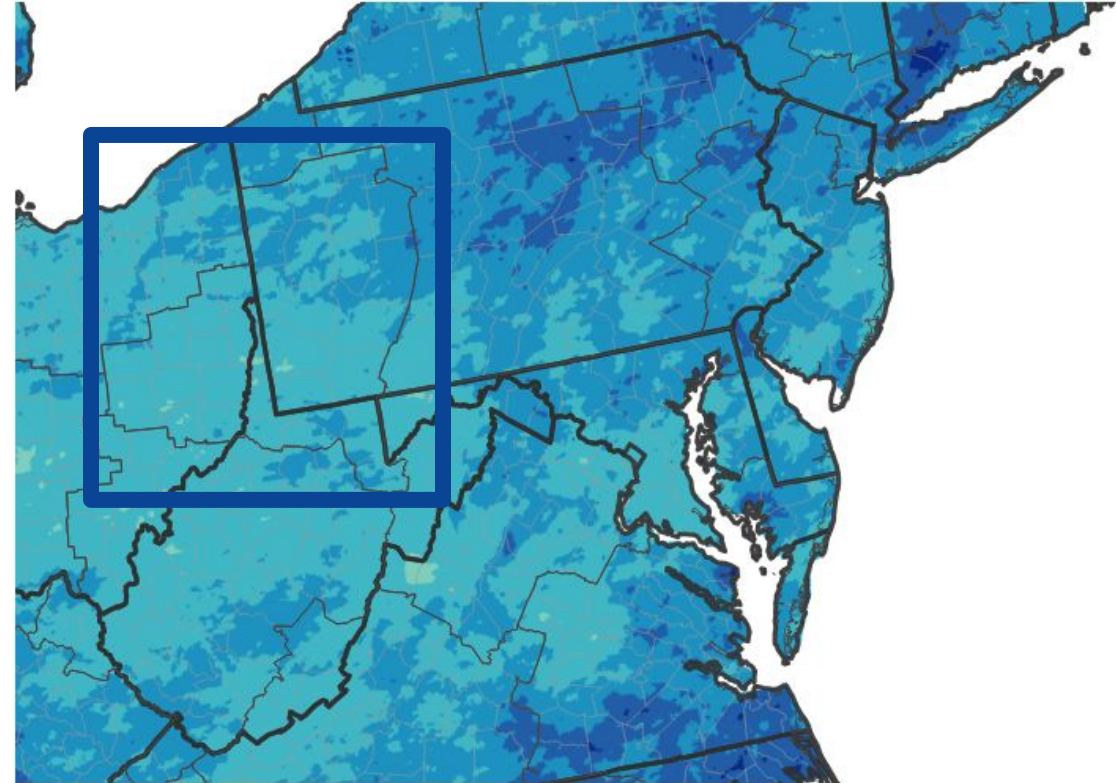
# Observed Precipitation

August 22, 2024  
3:02 PM

Data over the past 30 days

- Despite some relief from recent rainfall, much of the upper Ohio Valley is still seeing a precipitation deficit. Rainfall has averaged around 3-6 inches over the last 90 days.
- These amounts are 50-75% of normal for the past 90 day period with some isolated areas near 25% of normal.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



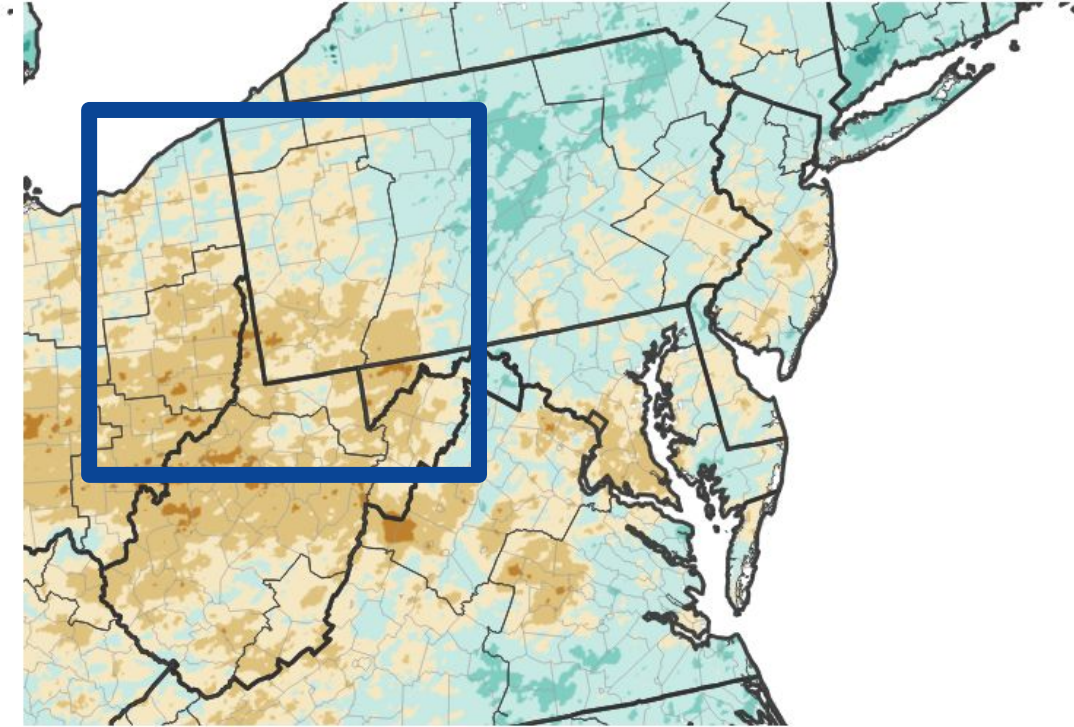
Inches of Precipitation



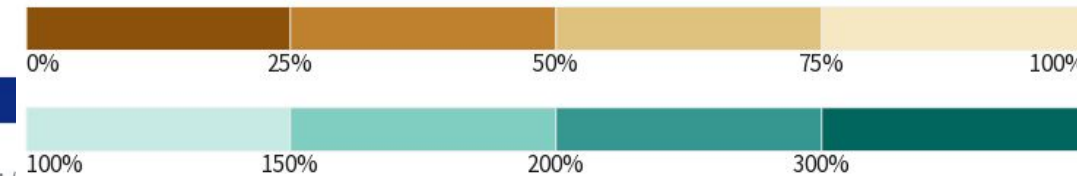
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/21/24

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/21/24

Image Caption:

Left - Precipitation Amount Map for the Mid-Atlantic Region  
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation Map for the Mid-Atlantic Region  
 Data is Courtesy of the [National Centers for Environmental Information](https://www.ncep.noaa.gov/)  
 Data over the past 90 days ending August 21, 2024



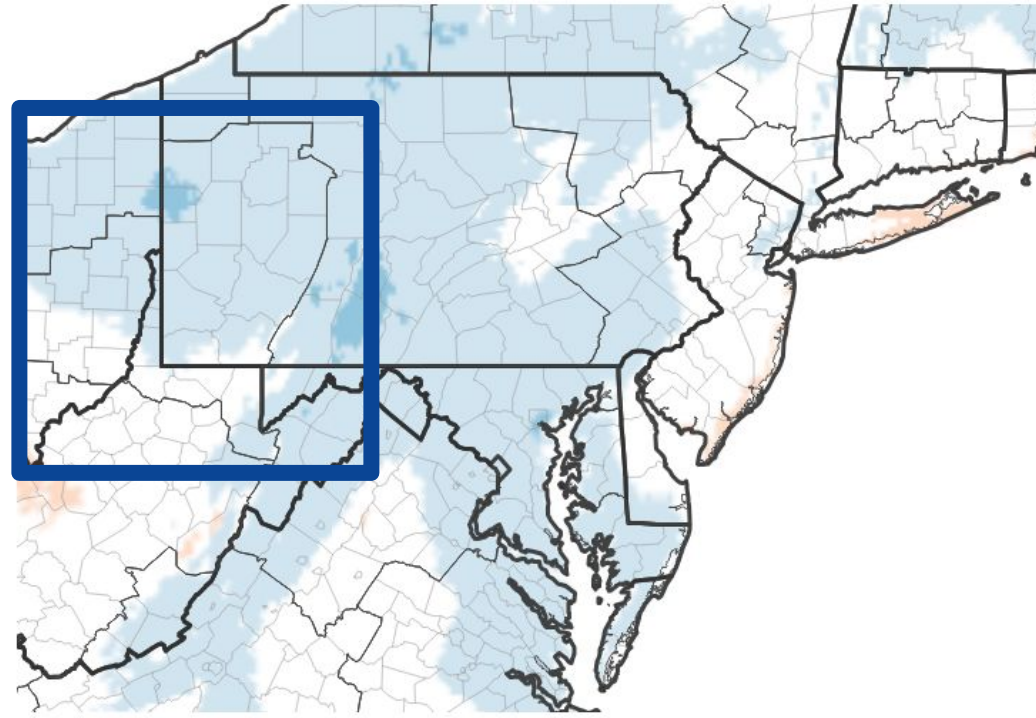


# Observed Temperature

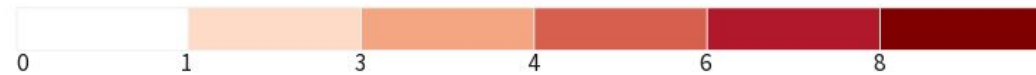
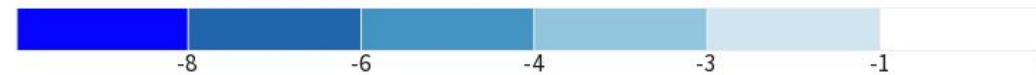
August 22, 2024  
3:02 PM

- While temperatures have been near or slightly cooler than normal across eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania over the past 7 days, the 30 day average is still running slightly above normal.
- The combination of warm temperatures and lack of rainfall in the same area continues to contribute to deterioration in drought conditions.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



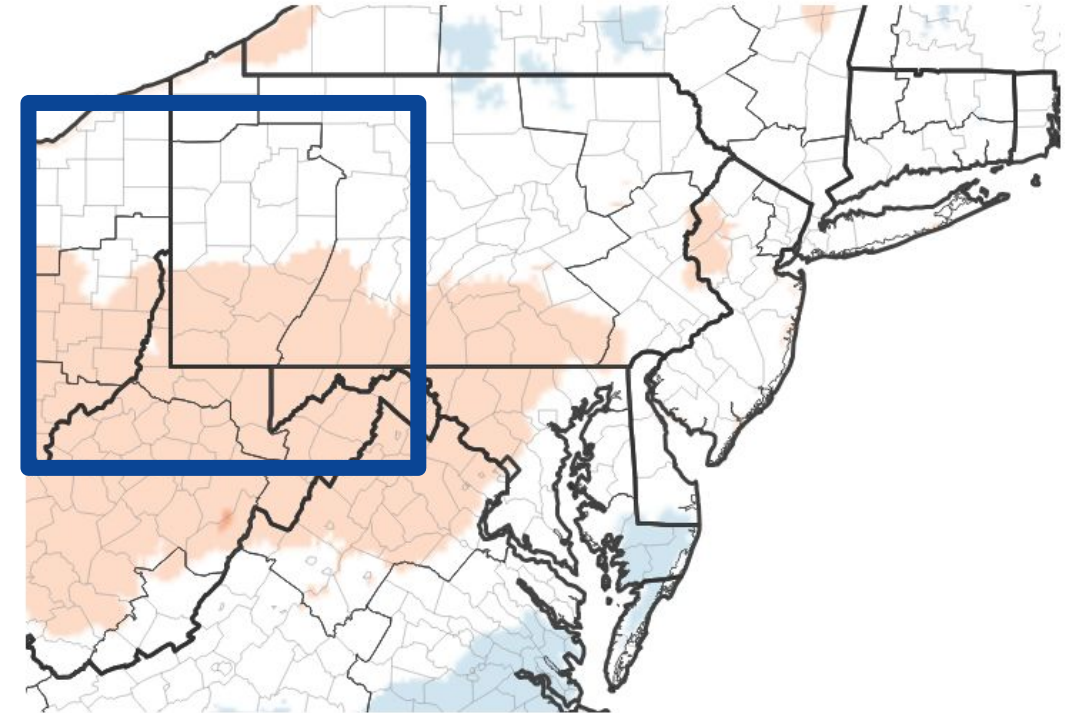
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



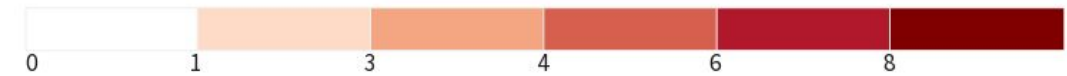
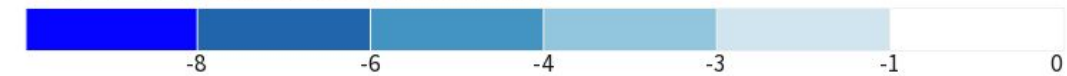
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/17/24

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: 08/17/24

Image Caption:

Left - 7 Day Temperature Anomaly Map for the Mid-Atlantic Region  
 Right - 30 Day Temperature Anomaly Map for the Mid-Atlantic Region  
 Data is Courtesy of the [National Centers for Environmental Information](https://www.ncep.noaa.gov/)  
 Data over the past 30 days ending August 17, 2024



# Summary of Impacts

August 22, 2024

3:02 PM

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain well below normal in both the last 14 and 30 day timeframes. Some recreational activities are being impacted.
- Several reservoirs are well below summer pool or nearing winter pool ahead of schedule.
- Some voluntary water restrictions have been put in place.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is at or below the 10th percentile across the upper Ohio Valley. See the [NWS Climate Prediction Center](#)
- Some deterioration in crop conditions is being noted, especially in Ohio and West Virginia. Some farmers are hauling water for livestock. [USDA](#)

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- The Keetch-Byram Drought Index is around 400-500 in eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia. If drought persists, there is an increased risk for brush fires. [WAFS/NIFC](#)

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



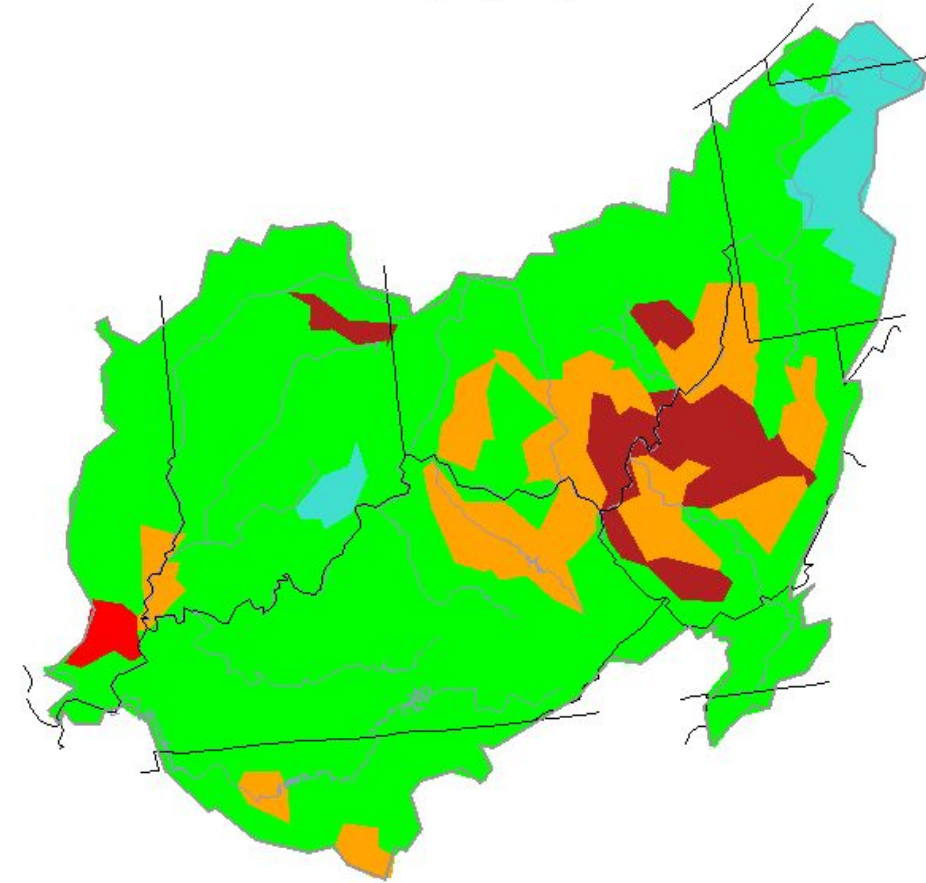
## Main Takeaways

- Streamflows remain much below normal across much of the upper, Monongahela, upper Ohio, and Muskingum river basins.
- Reservoir levels in these areas are closer to levels of early November (near winter pool).

## Impacts

- Recreation on some lakes being impacted by closing of boat launches and marinas.
- Algae blooms observed in several reservoirs due to warm lakes and low levels.
- Some voluntary water restrictions were put in place across western PA due to lack of precipitation.

Wednesday, August 21, 2024



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: [USGS 14 day average streamflow versus Historical Average Streamflows](#) map valid Aug 21, 2024

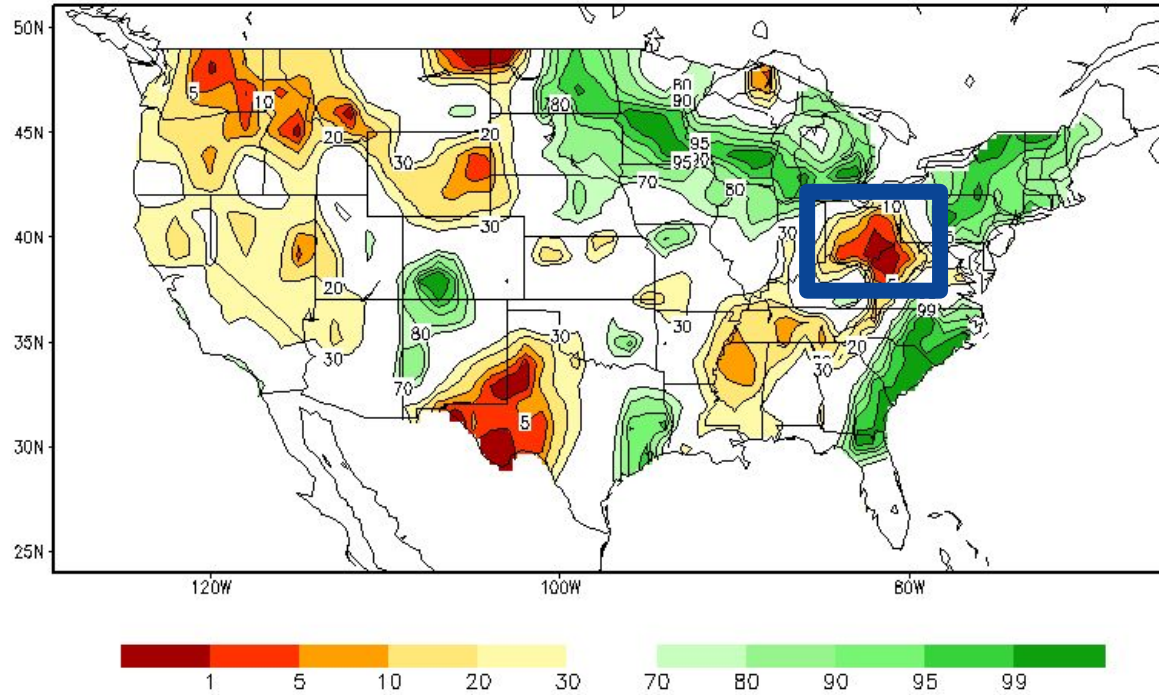




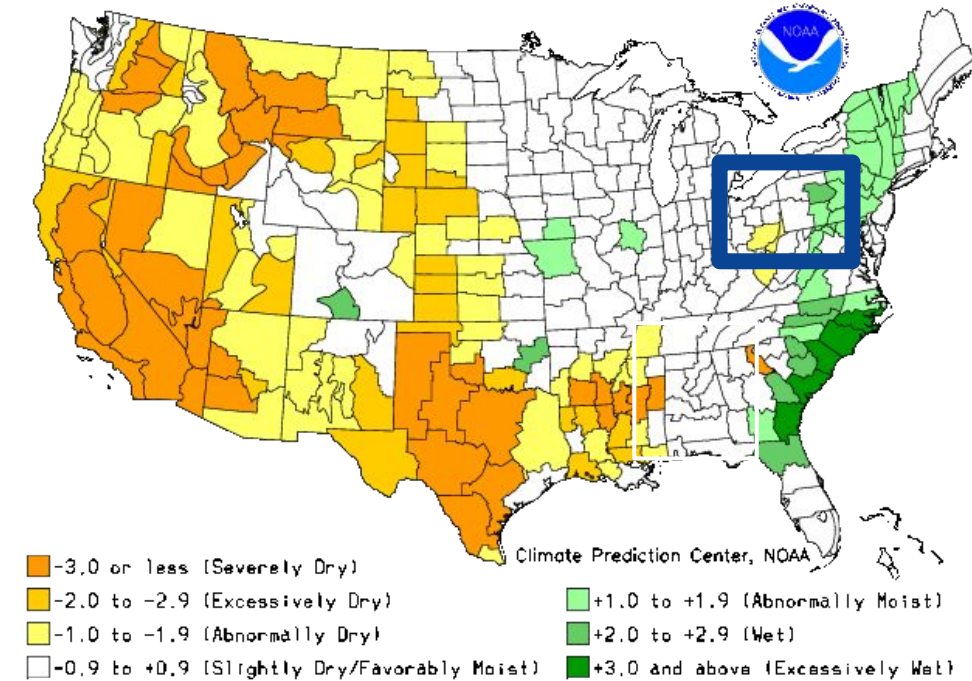
# Agriculture Impacts

August 22, 2024  
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
AUG 21, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending AUG 17, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



- Soil Moisture remains well below normal across much of the upper Ohio Valley.
- Farmers are reporting stunted growth in crops.
- Trees and plants are showing signs of stress.
- Farmers concerned about wells and needing supplemental feed for livestock.





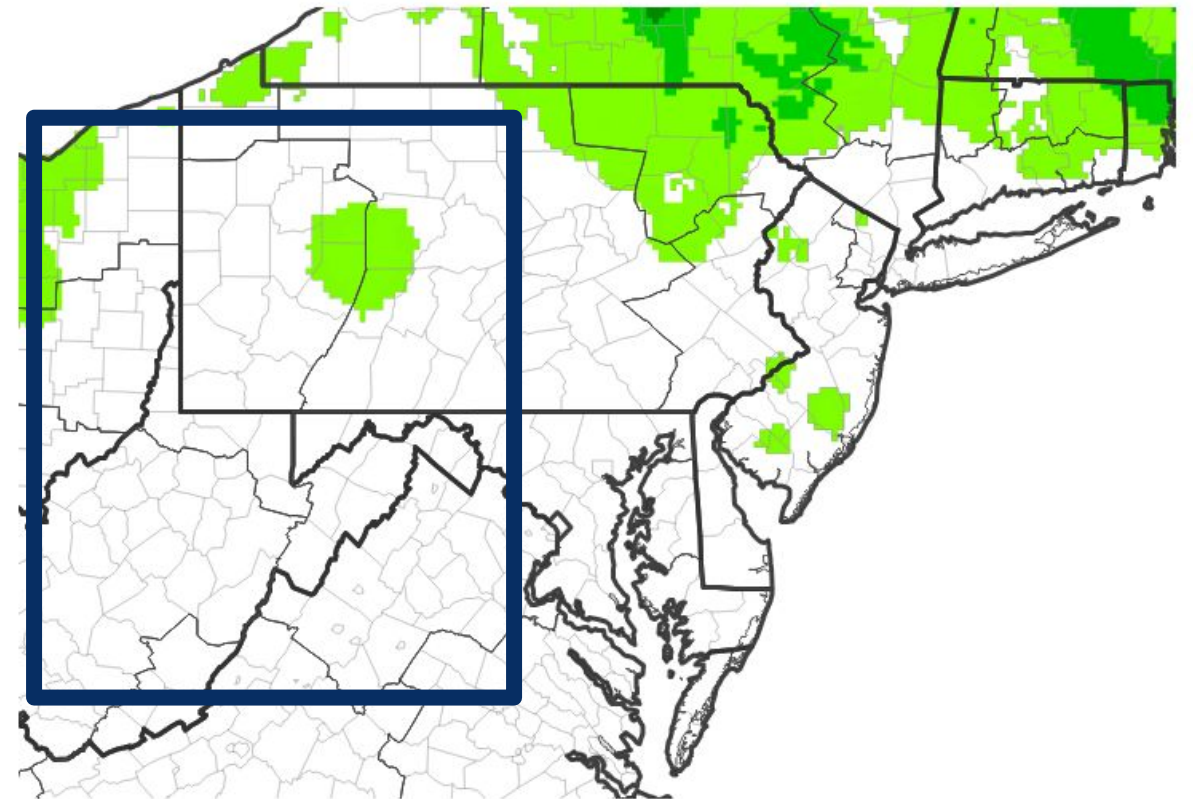


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

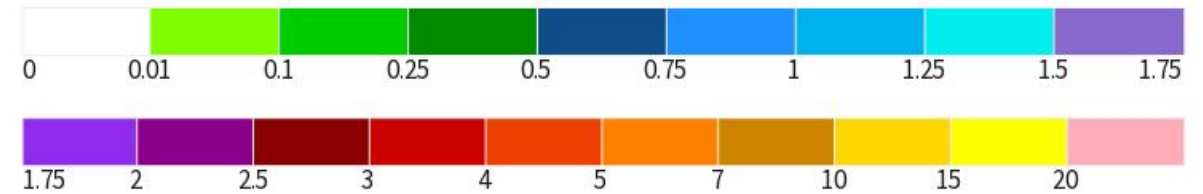
August 22, 2024  
3:02 PM

- Very little precipitation is forecast over the next 7 days with high pressure in place.
- Temperatures are also projected to return to and rise above seasonal normal through the next week.

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



### Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/21/24

Image Caption: NWS WPC [7 Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast](#) map valid August 21, 2024





# Long-Range Outlooks

August 22, 2024  
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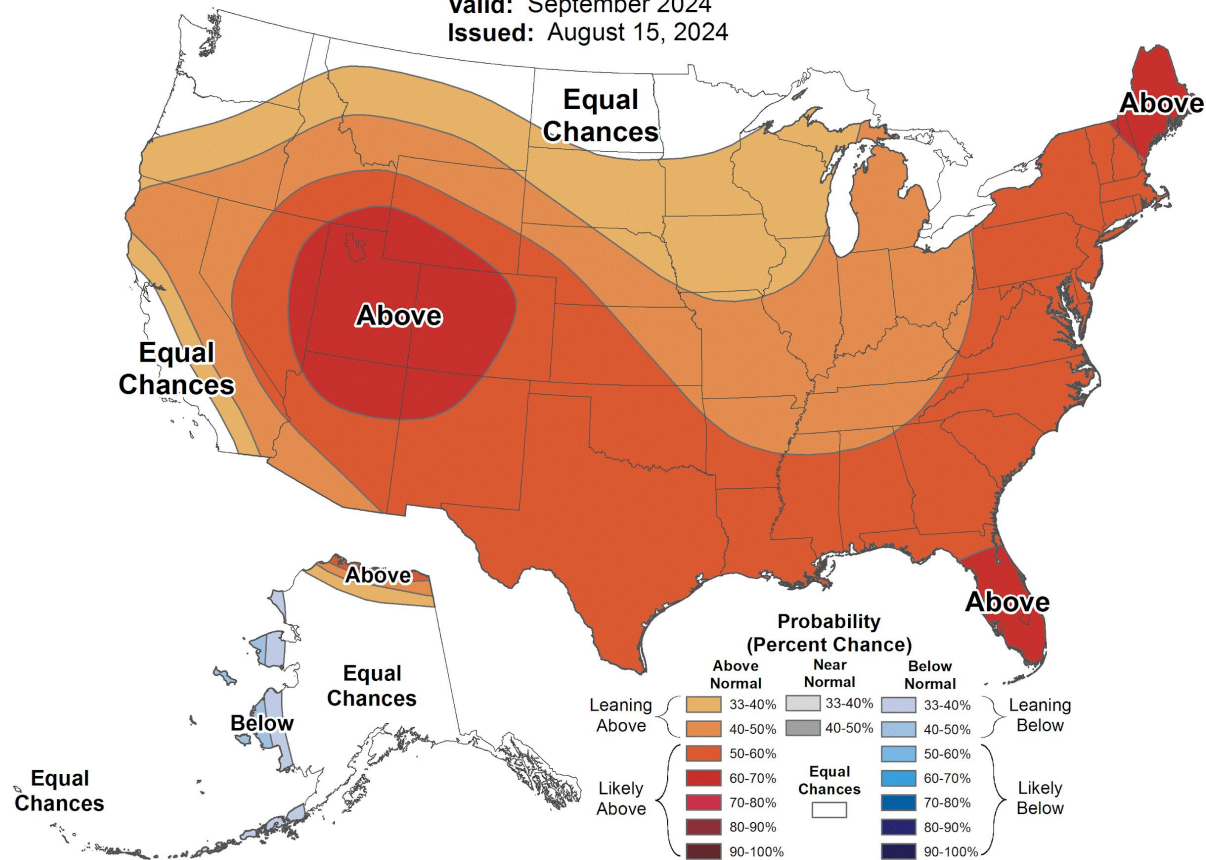
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



## Monthly Temperature Outlook



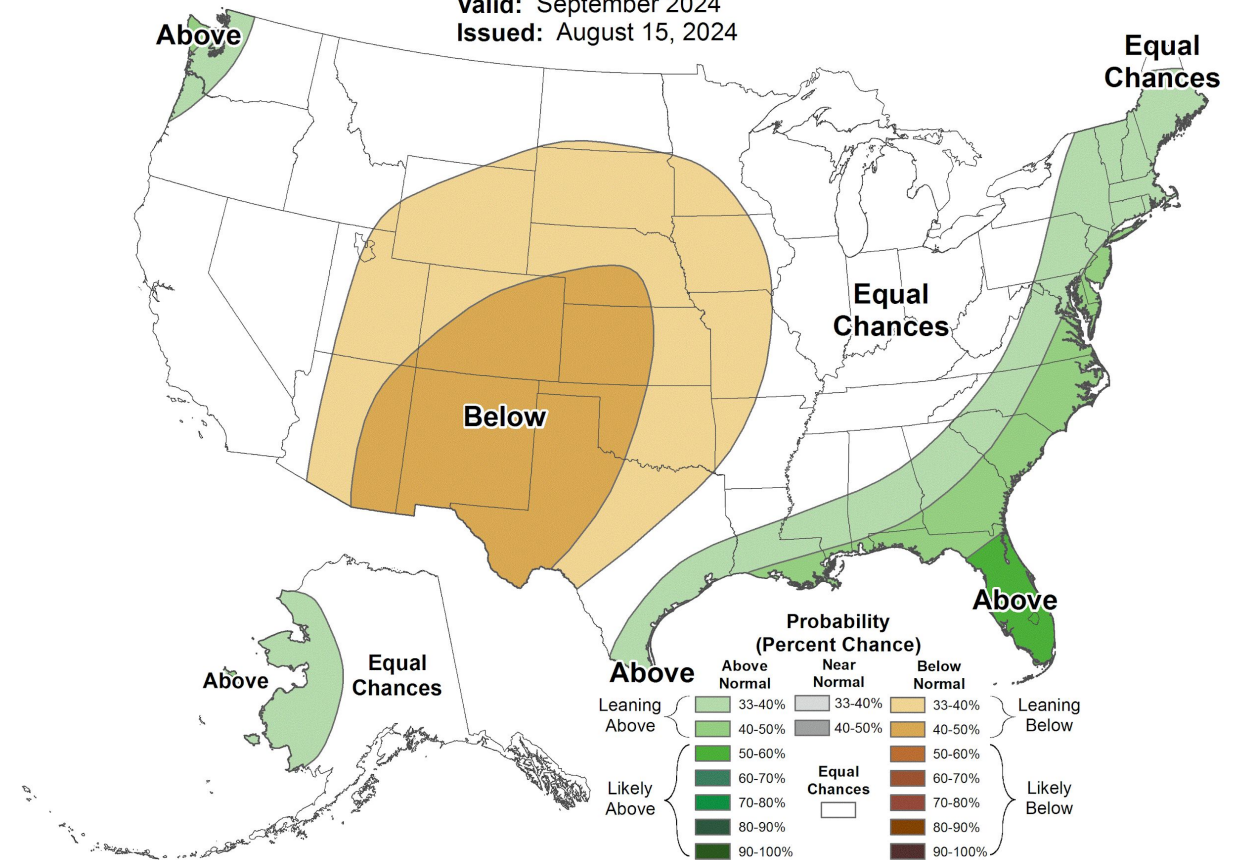
Valid: September 2024  
Issued: August 15, 2024



## Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: September 2024  
Issued: August 15, 2024



- Temperatures are projected to remain above normal for the start of meteorological fall.
- Precipitation is a bit more uncertain, with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.





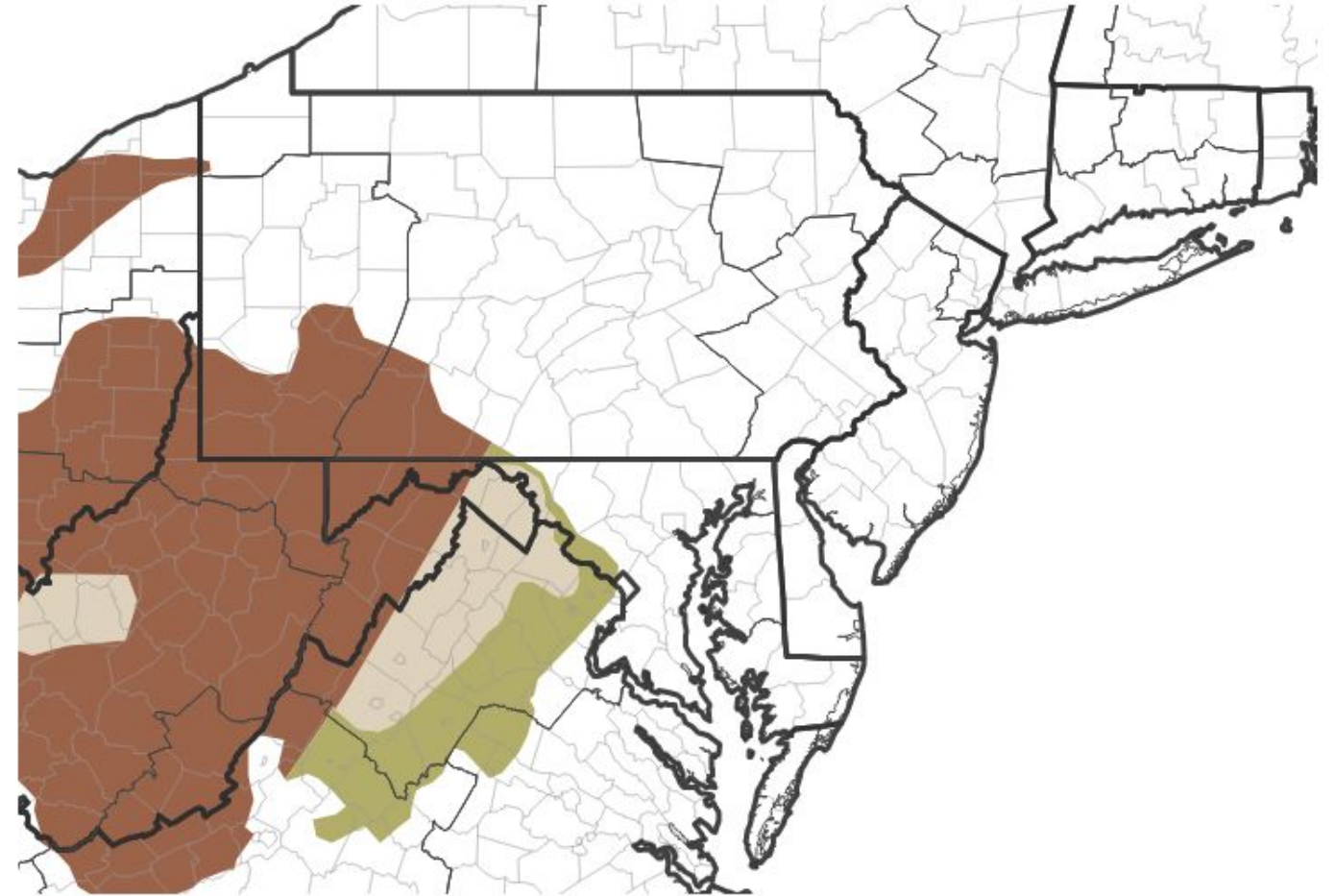
# Drought Outlook

August 22, 2024  
3:02 PM

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

- With long range precipitation forecasts uncertain, drought conditions are projected to persist through the next 3 months.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/15/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)