



Drought Information Statement for South Central Texas

Valid January 4, 2024

Issued By: NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX

Contact Information: sr-ewx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Feb 1, 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/ewx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



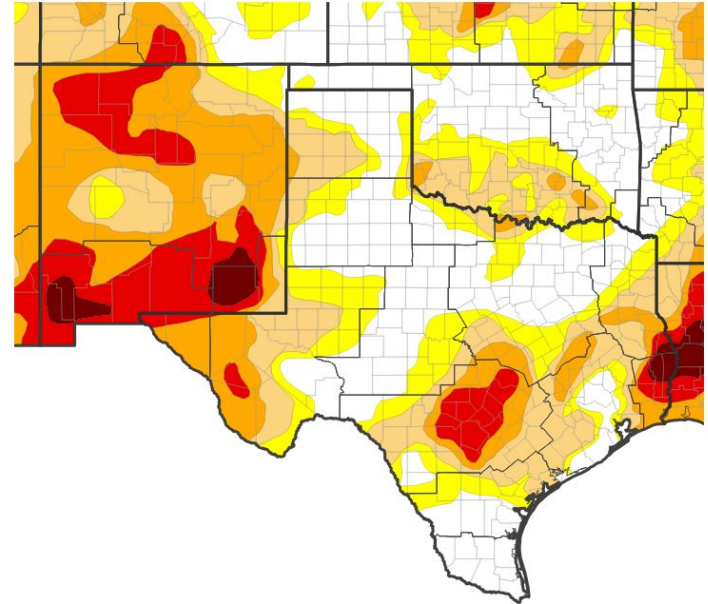


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for south central Texas

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Covers portions of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, and Coastal Plains
 - Percent of Area: 24%
 - D2 Severe Drought: Extends across the majority of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, and Coastal Plains.
 - Percent of Area: 20%

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 01/02/24

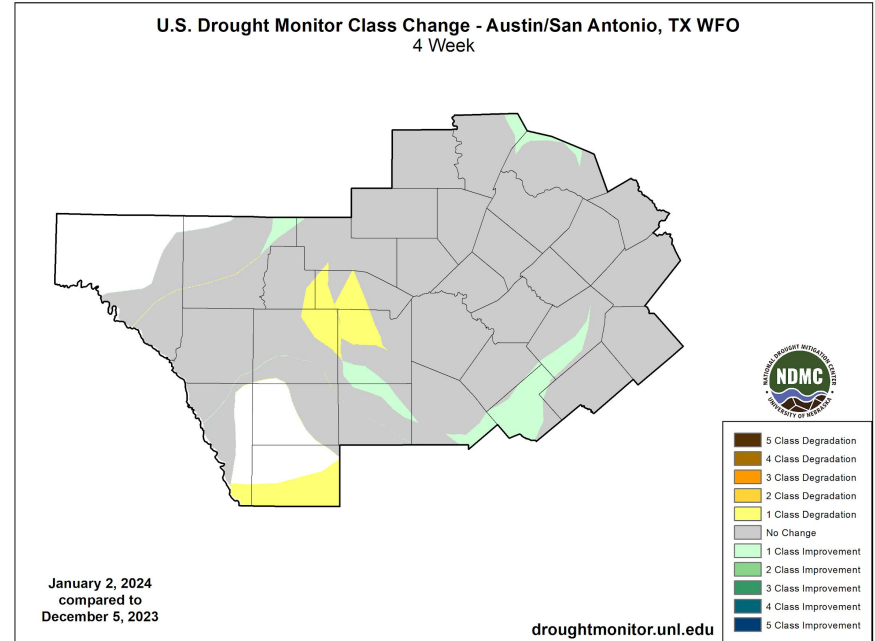




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for south central Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Portions of the Hill Country, Southern Edwards Plateau, and Rio Grande Plains
 - No Change: Much of the southern Edwards Plateau, Rio Grande Plains, I-35 Corridor, Hill Country, and Coastal Plains.
 - Drought Improved: Small portions of the Hill Country, Coastal Plains, Rio Grande Plains, and southern Edwards Plateau



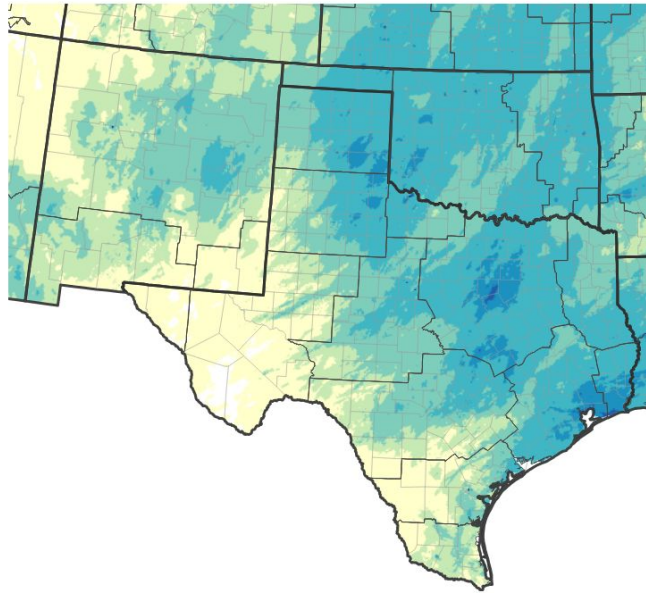


Precipitation

Links to the latest [Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Percent of Normal](#) over the past 30 days

- The vast majority of the service area saw below normal rainfall over the past 30 days.
- Portions of the Rio Grande Plains and Coastal Plains saw the least amount of rainfall with percent of normal at or below 25%.
- There were a few isolated pockets in the Hill Country, southern Edwards Plateau, and Rio Grande Plains that managed to receive greater than 150 percent of normal precipitation over the last 30 days.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



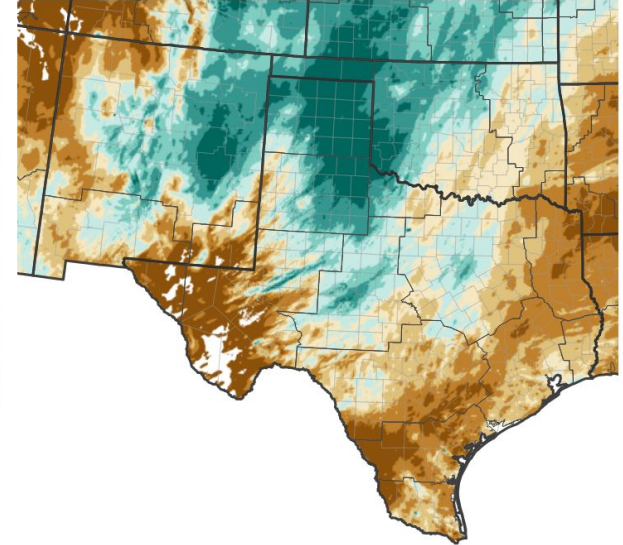
Inches of Precipitation



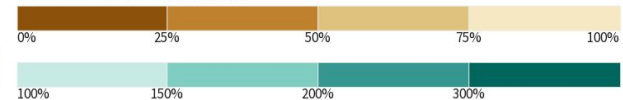
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/04/24

30-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: 01/03/24





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The majority of river basins in the service area remain in the below to much below normal category for this time of year. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop & Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife.
- Near normal crop moistures are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.
- Soil moistures remain below normal across the service area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildland fire activity is forecast through the month of January.
- See Fire Hazard page for more details.

Other Impacts

- Canyon Lake continues to set new record low pool elevations.

Drought Mitigation Actions

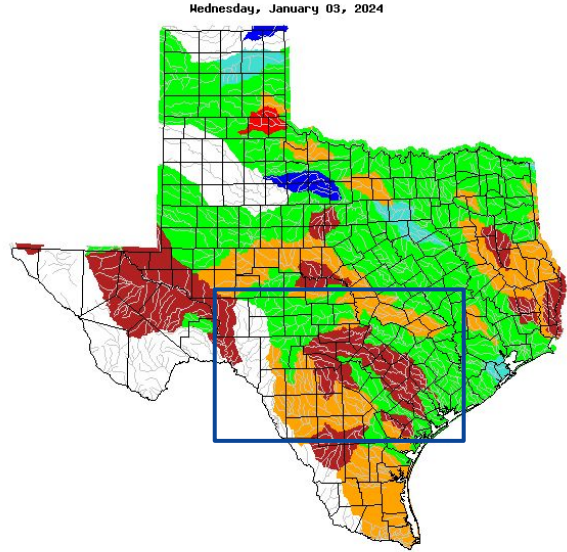
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- Select [Municipality Restrictions](#) (as of 1/4/2024)
 - City of Fredericksburg: Stage 4
 - City of Kerrville: Stage 2
 - City of Georgetown: Stage 2
 - City of Uvalde: Stage 3
 - City of San Antonio: Stage 2
 - City of Universal City: Stage 2
 - City of New Braunfels: Stage 2
 - City of Austin: Stage 2
 - City of Del Rio: Stage 2





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The majority of river basins in the service area remain in the below to much below normal category for this time of year.
- The exception is the lower Colorado River basin which is in the normal category due to runoff from rainfall that occurred on Dec 23rd and 24th.
- Canyon Lake remains at its lowest level on record.



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		

Figure Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas](#), valid January 3, 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	Percent Full
Amistad	1117.00 feet	1061.79 feet	26.5%
Medina Lake	1064.2 feet	974.89 feet	3.3%
Canyon Lake	909.00 feet	887.64 feet	60.3%
Granger Lake	504.00 feet	503.18 feet	93.6%
Georgetown Lake	791.00 feet	774.87 feet	53.4%
Lake Buchanan	1020.00 feet	994.24 feet	45.1%
Lake LBJ	825.00 feet	824.53 feet	97.3%
Lake Marble Falls	738.00 feet	736.49 feet	95.9%
Lake Travis	681.00 feet	631.06 feet	37.7%
Lake Austin	492.9 feet	492.34 feet	97.0%

Table caption: [TWDB Reservoir](#) conditions as of January 3, 2024

Additional data:
[Edwards Aquifer, Bexar Index Well J-17](#) as of January 3, 2024:
 10 day average: 639.4
 Historical Monthly Average: 668.7
 Departure from Average: -28.9

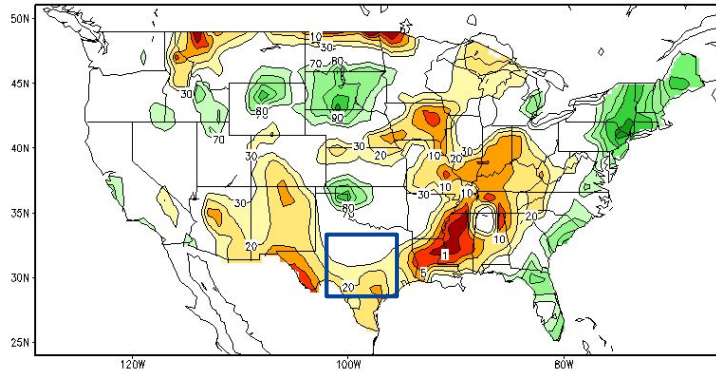


Agricultural Impacts

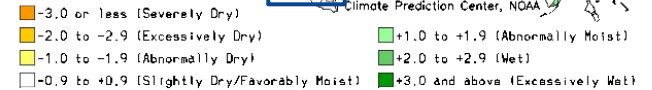
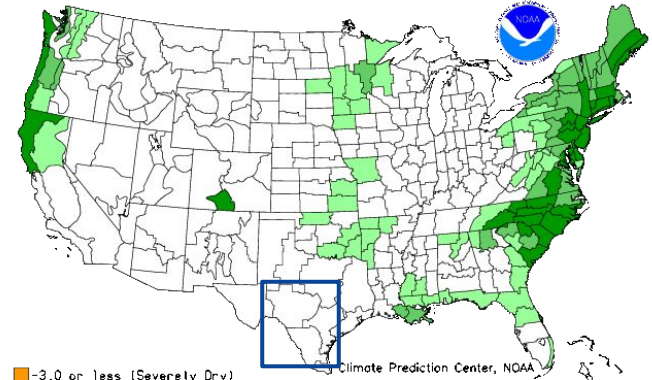
Links to the latest [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) and [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#).

- Soil moistures have declined across much of the service area with values between 5th and 20th percentile.
- Near normal crop moistures are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JAN 03, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 30, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

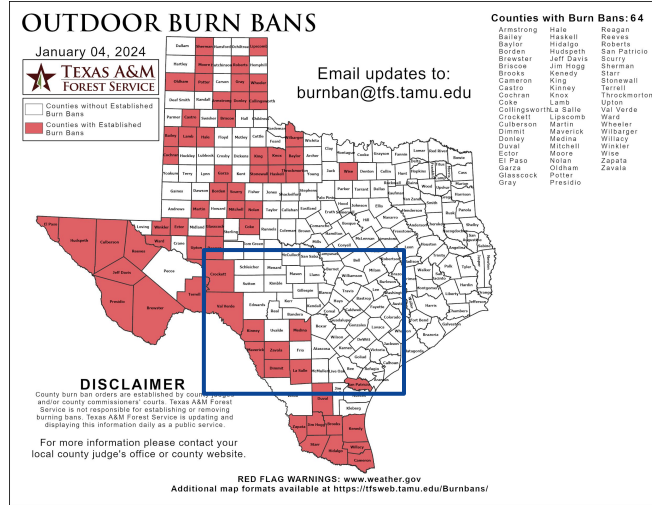




Fire Hazard Impacts

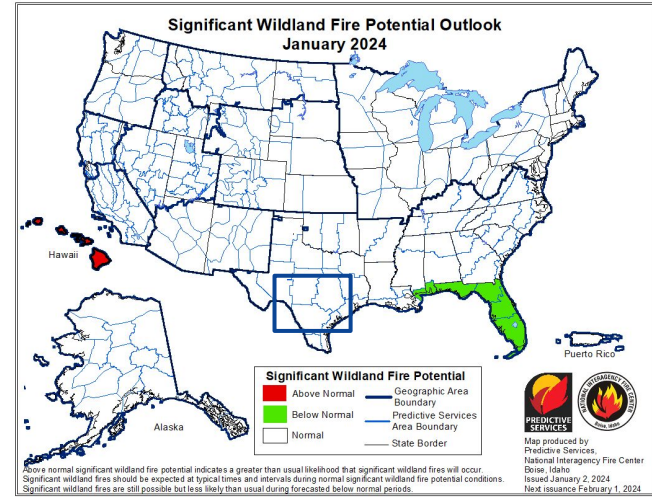
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) have dropped below 200 across much of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, Coastal Plains, and southern Edwards Plateau. Between 300 and 500 remain for portions of the Rio Grande Plains, and Coastal Plains.



- Normal wildland fire activity is forecast through the month of January.

Burn bans remain for 6 of our 33 counties as of January 4, 2024. Latest County Burn Ban map available [here](#).

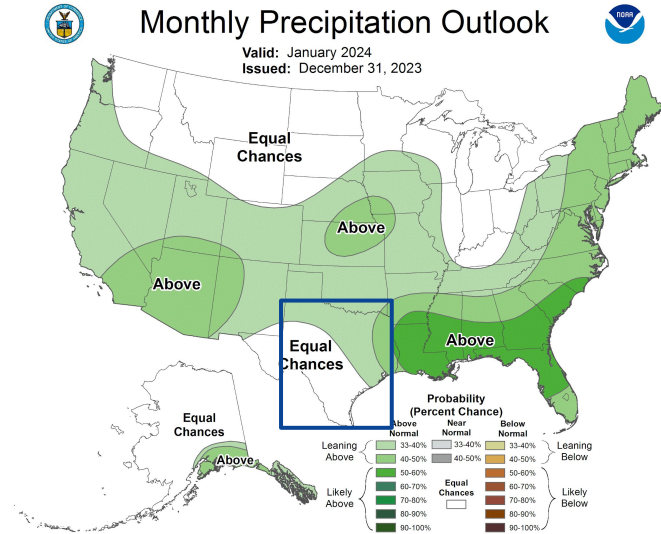
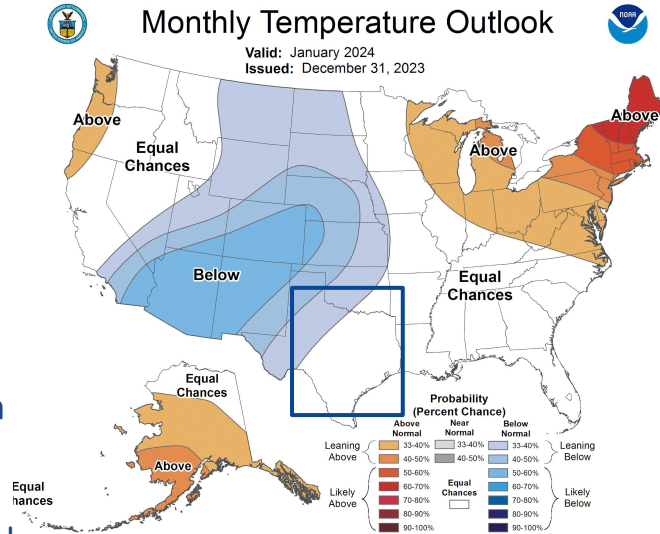




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Chances are equal for above, below, or near normal temperatures for the month of January.
- Chances are equal for above, below, or near normal precipitation for January.
 - A slight leaning towards above normal precipitation is forecast for eastern portions of the I-35 corridor and Coastal Plains.



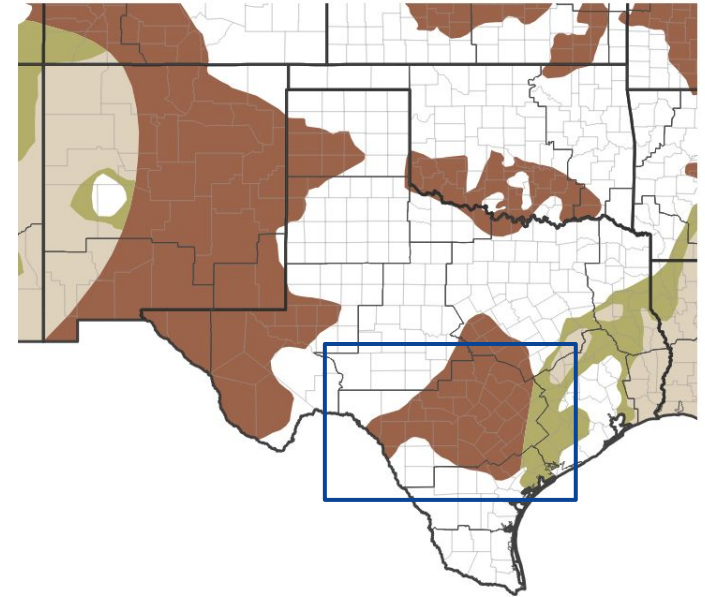


Drought Outlook

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

- The Drought Outlook shows potential for drought conditions to end across eastern portions of the I-35 corridor, and Coastal Plains over the course of the month of January.
- Drought conditions are expected to persist across a sizable portion of the I-35 corridor, Hill Country, southern Edwards Plateau and parts of the Coastal Plains through January.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 12/31/23

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
Austin/San Antonio, TX