

# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania Valid August 1, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pittsburgh, PA

- This product will be updated August, 15, 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 continues across Tucker county, WV.
- Some expansion of moderate and severe drought across eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania
- Some improvement across the northern WV Panhandle and eastern OH





# U.S. Drought Monitor

August 1, 2024  
5:09 PM

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

NEW

## Key Messaging

→ Extreme Drought Conditions continue in the eastern WV Panhandle including Tucker County.

→ Drought Intensity and Extent

- ◆ **D3 (Extreme Drought):** No Change
- ◆ **D2 (Severe Drought):** northern Tucker county WV, portions eastern Ohio and Fayette and Westmoreland counties in PA
- ◆ **D1 (Moderate Drought):** expanded north in both OH and PA.
- ◆ **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** encompasses the remaining area except a portion of Lawrence and Mercer counties in PA

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

July 30, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

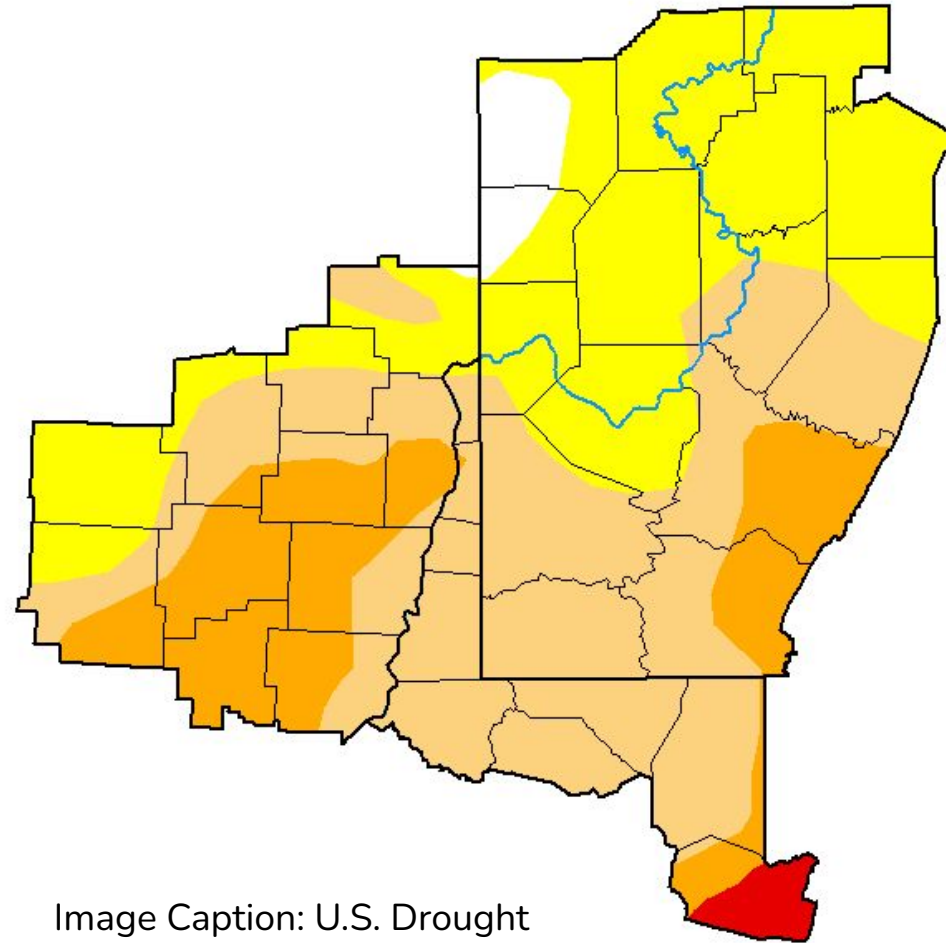


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor map valid July 30, 2024

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.96	97.04	60.57	19.59	1.43	0.00
Last Week 07-23-2024	2.92	97.08	47.93	16.79	1.43	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-30-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	94.97	5.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	80.00	20.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-01-2023	82.92	17.08	0.00	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>

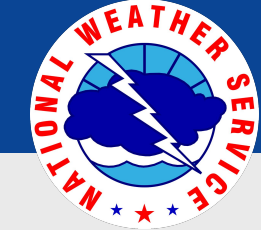
Author:

Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



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





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

August 1, 2024  
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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. Some rain in the last 7 days did lead to some minor improvements over the northern WV panhandle.
  - No Change: Northwestern PA and some areas in the northern fringes of the Pittsburgh forecast area in Ohio.

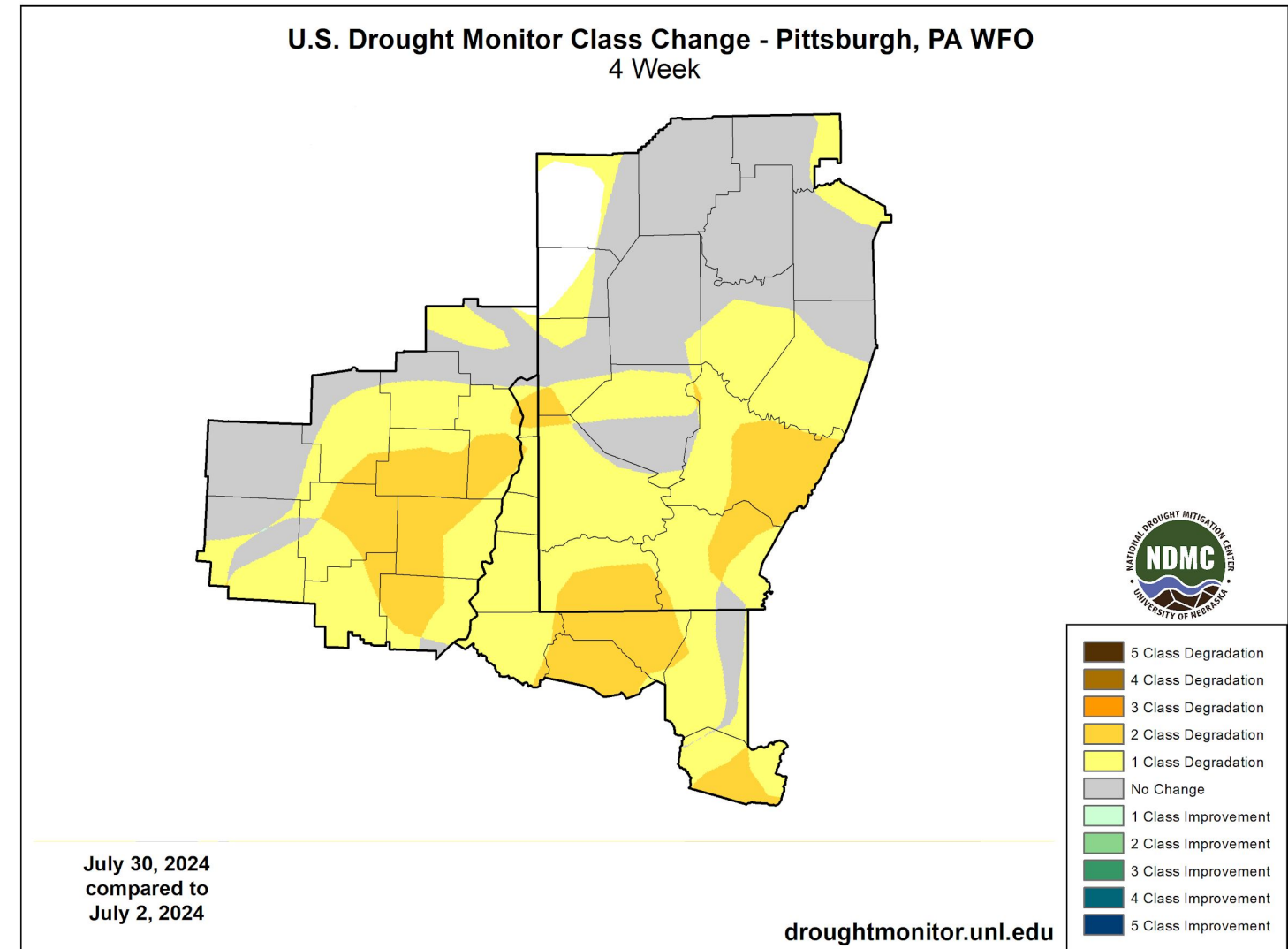


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid July 30, 2024





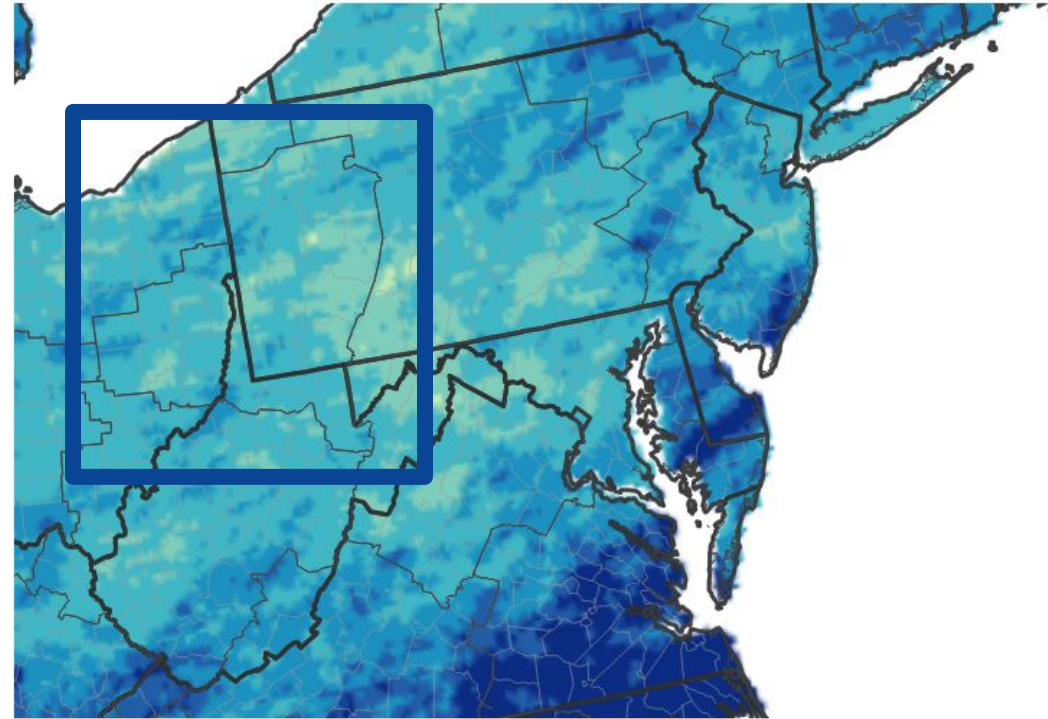
# Observed Precipitation

August 1, 2024  
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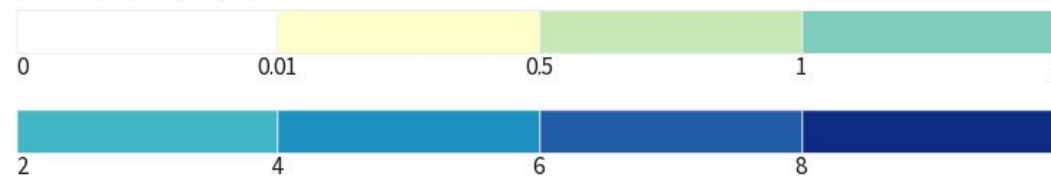
Data over the past 30 days

- Rainfall has averaged around 1-3 inches over the upper Ohio Valley during the last 30 days.
- These amounts are generally around 25-50% of normal for the past 30 day period.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



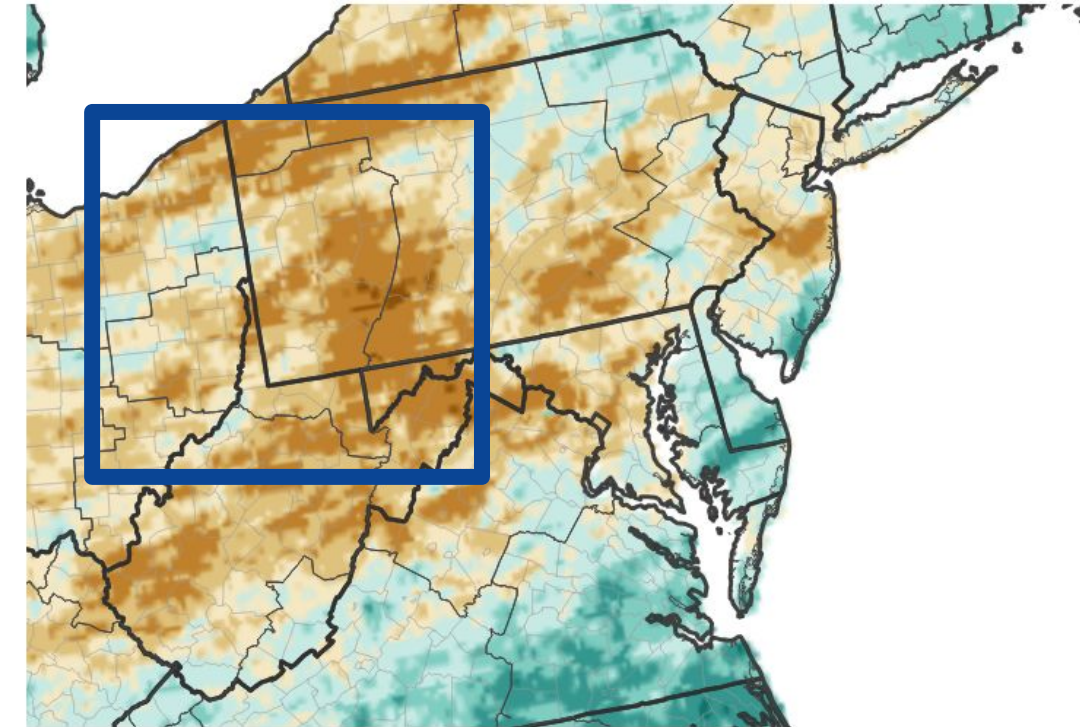
Inches of Precipitation



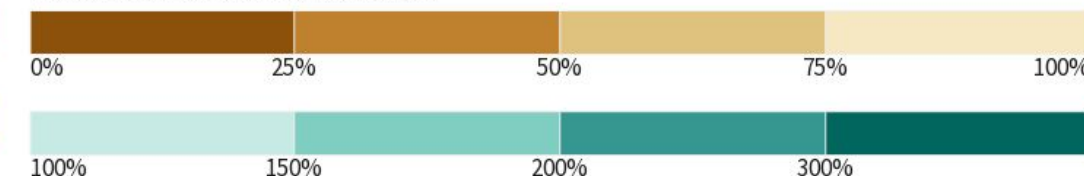
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/31/24

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 07/31/24

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 30 days ending July 31, 2024



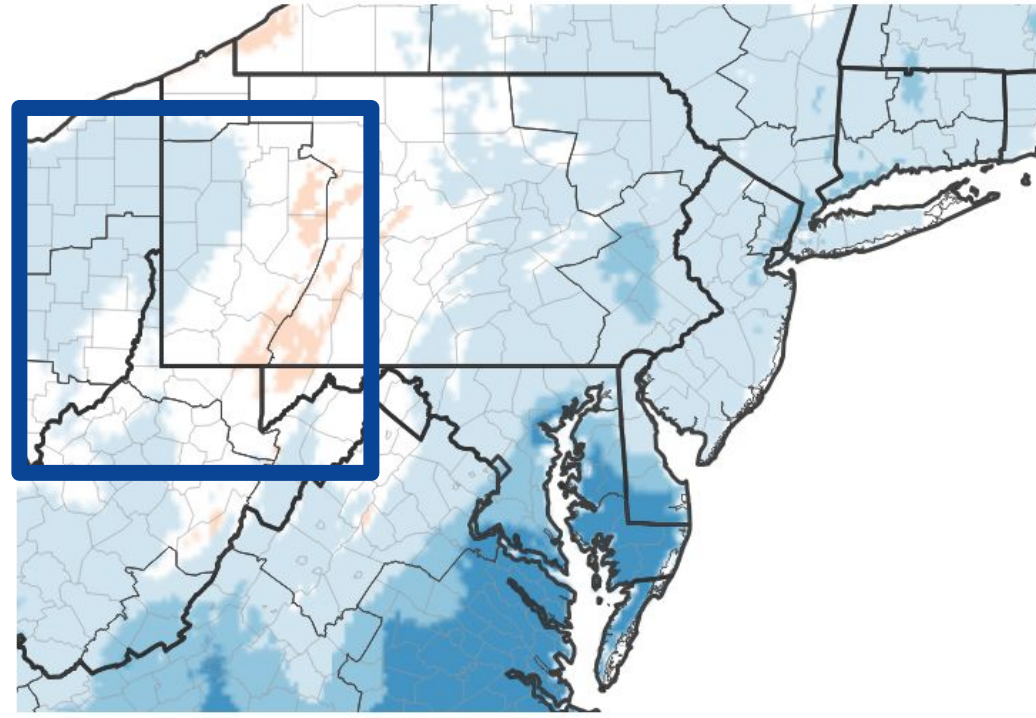


# Observed Temperature

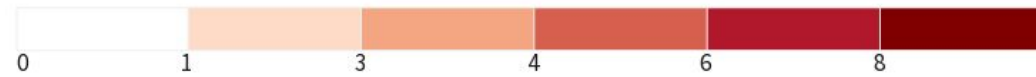
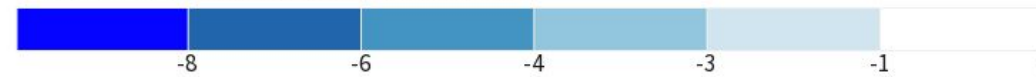
August 1, 2024  
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- Temperatures have been near normal across eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania over the past 7 days and slightly above normal during the last 30 days.
- The combination of warm temperatures and lack of rainfall continues to contribute to deterioration in drought conditions.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



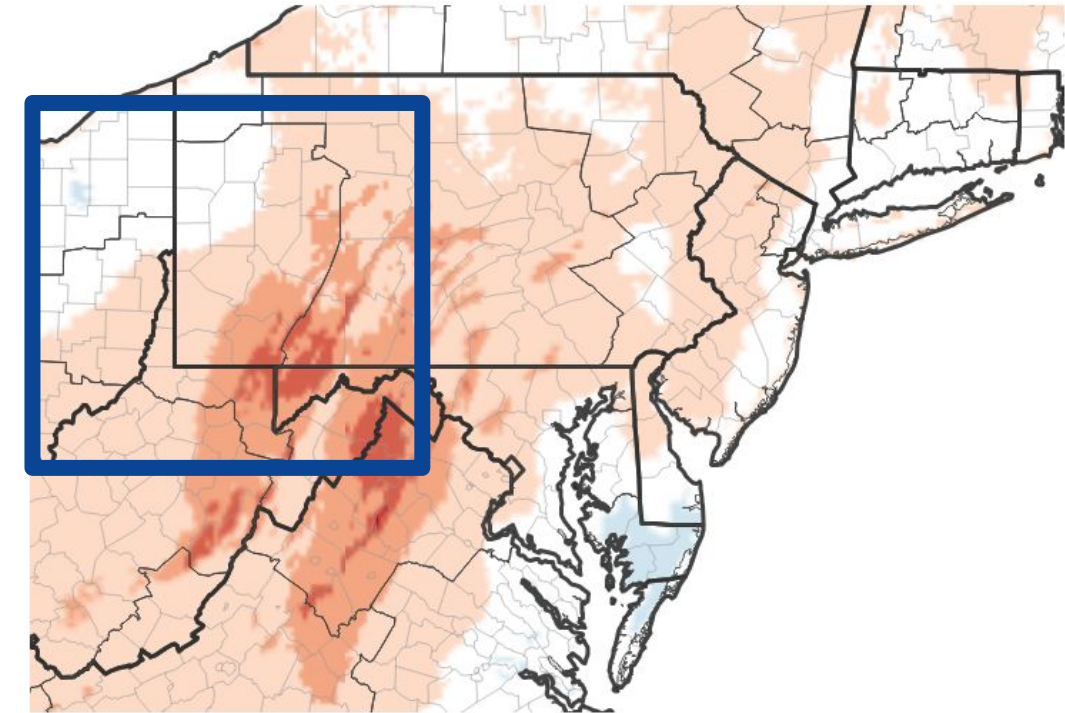
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



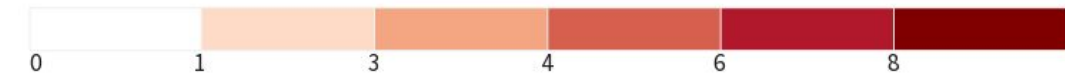
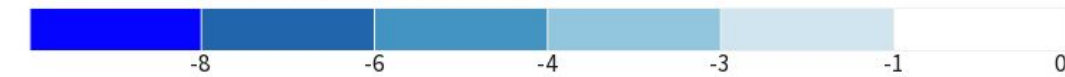
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/27/24

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: 07/27/24

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.noaa.gov/)  
 Data over the past 30 days ending July 27, 2024



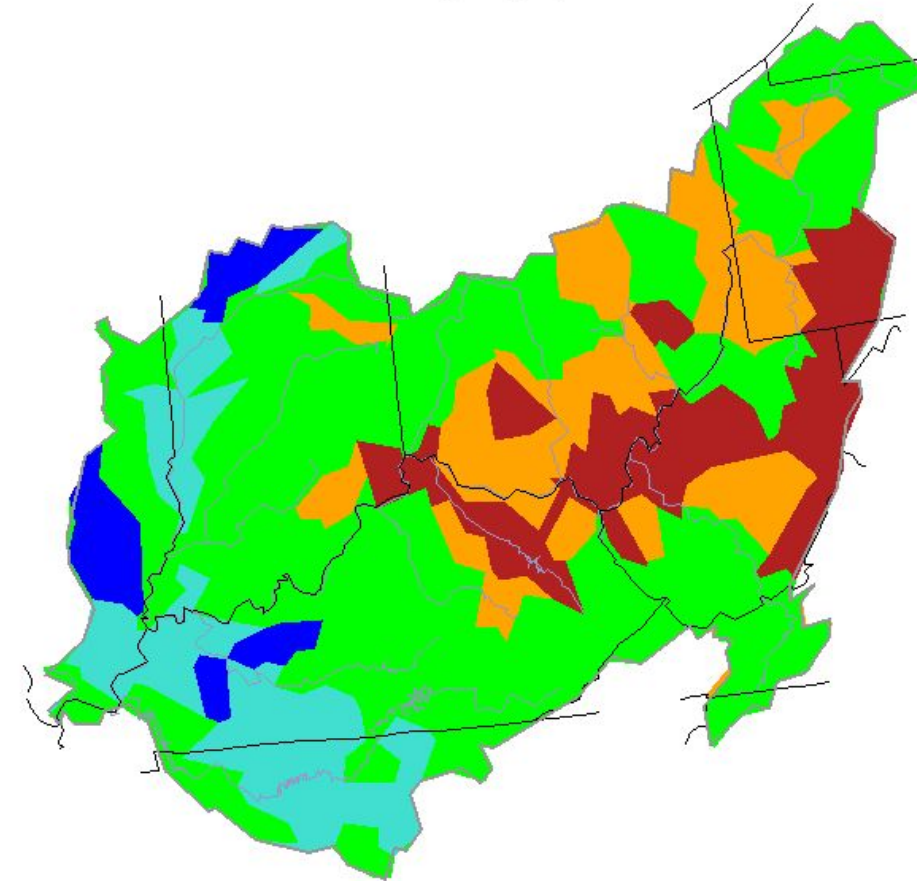
## Main Takeaways

- Streamflows remain much below normal across much of the Cheat, Youghiogeny, Monongahela, upper Ohio, and Muskingum river basins.
- Reservoir levels are closer to levels of late October (near winter pool).

## Impacts

- Some navigational impacts and concerns.
- Recreation on some lakes being impacted by closing of boat launches and marinas.
- Algae bloom observed in Youghiogeny reservoir.

Wednesday, July 31, 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 July 31, 2024





# Summary of Impacts

August 1, 2024

5:09 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.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is at or below the 10th percentile across the upper Ohio Valley. See the [NWS Climate Prediction Center](#)
- Despite this, crop conditions remain in fair-good condition across the area. Some farmers are hauling water for livestock. [USDA](#)

## Fire Hazard Impacts

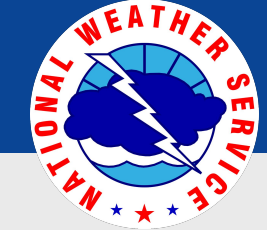
- The Keetch-Byram Drought Index is around 400-600, which is more indicative of late summer conditions. If drought persists, there is an increased risk for brush fires. At this time, a burn ban is in place in two townships in Westmoreland County. [WAFS/NIFC](#)

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- None reported.



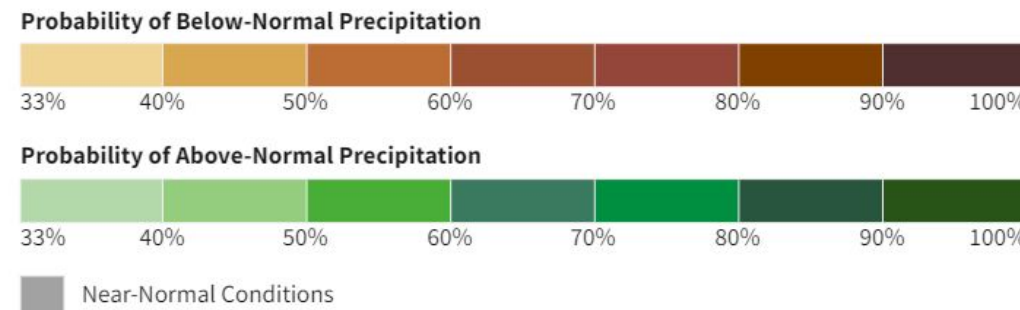
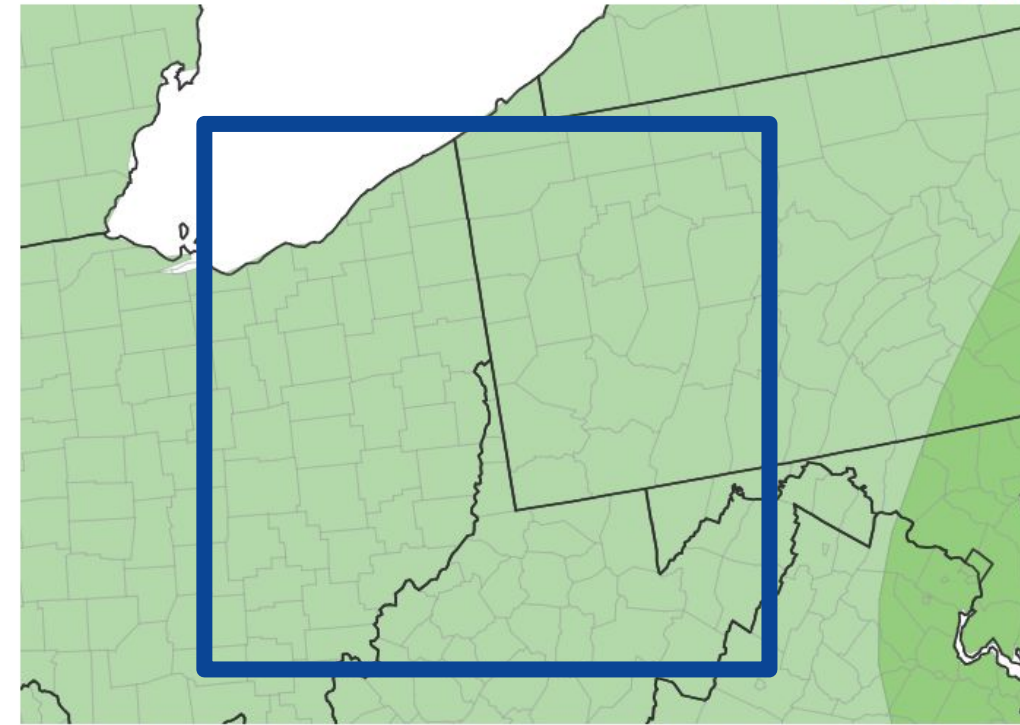
# Long-Range Outlooks

August 1, 2024  
5:09 PM

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

- While the precipitation signal isn't extremely wet, there does appear to be a better chance for above normal precipitation (33%) during the next two weeks.
- In addition, temperatures are projected to be near or slightly below normal with the pattern in place. This should help slow drought deterioration or begin to improve conditions.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for August 8-14, 2024

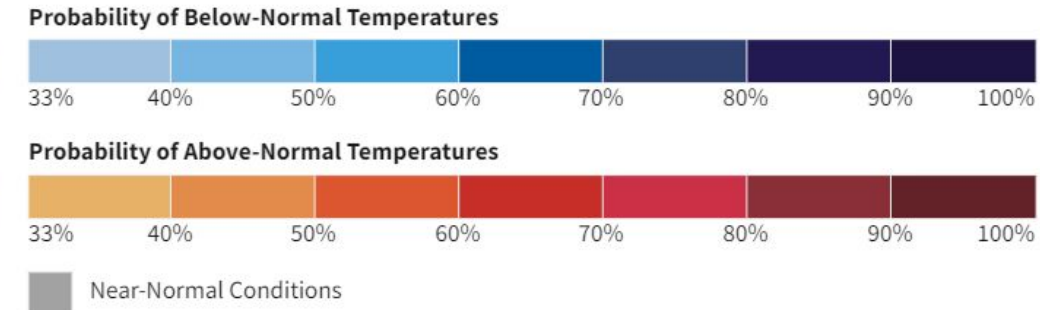
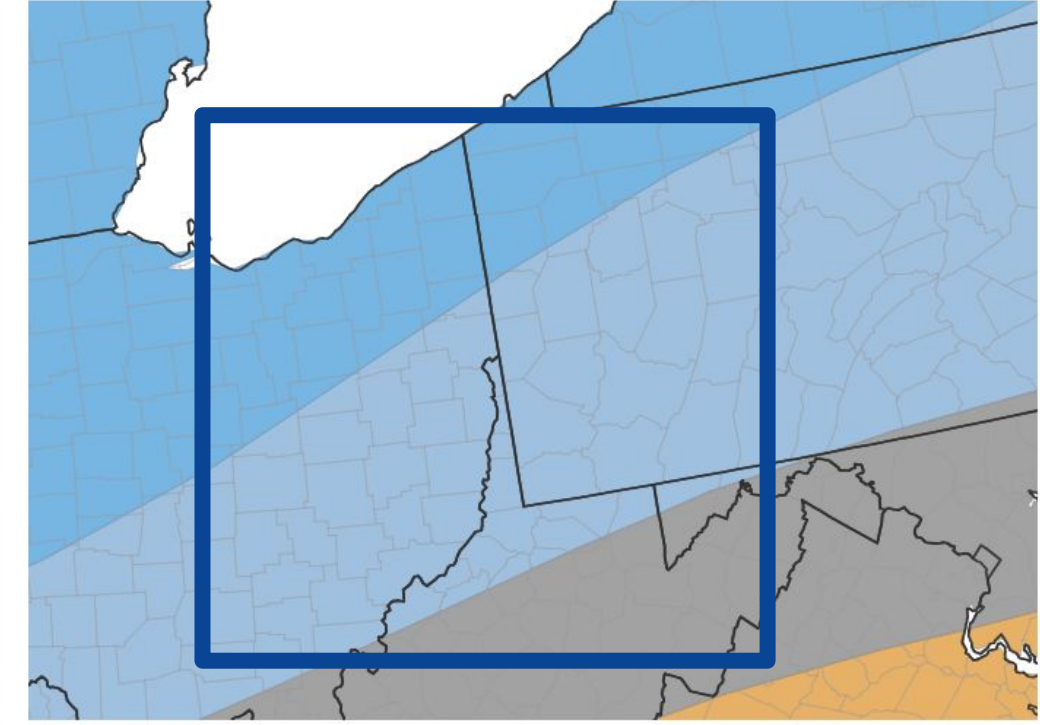


This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal precipitation 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 07/31/24

**Drought.gov**

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for August 8-14, 2024



This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperature 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 07/31/24

**Drought.gov**







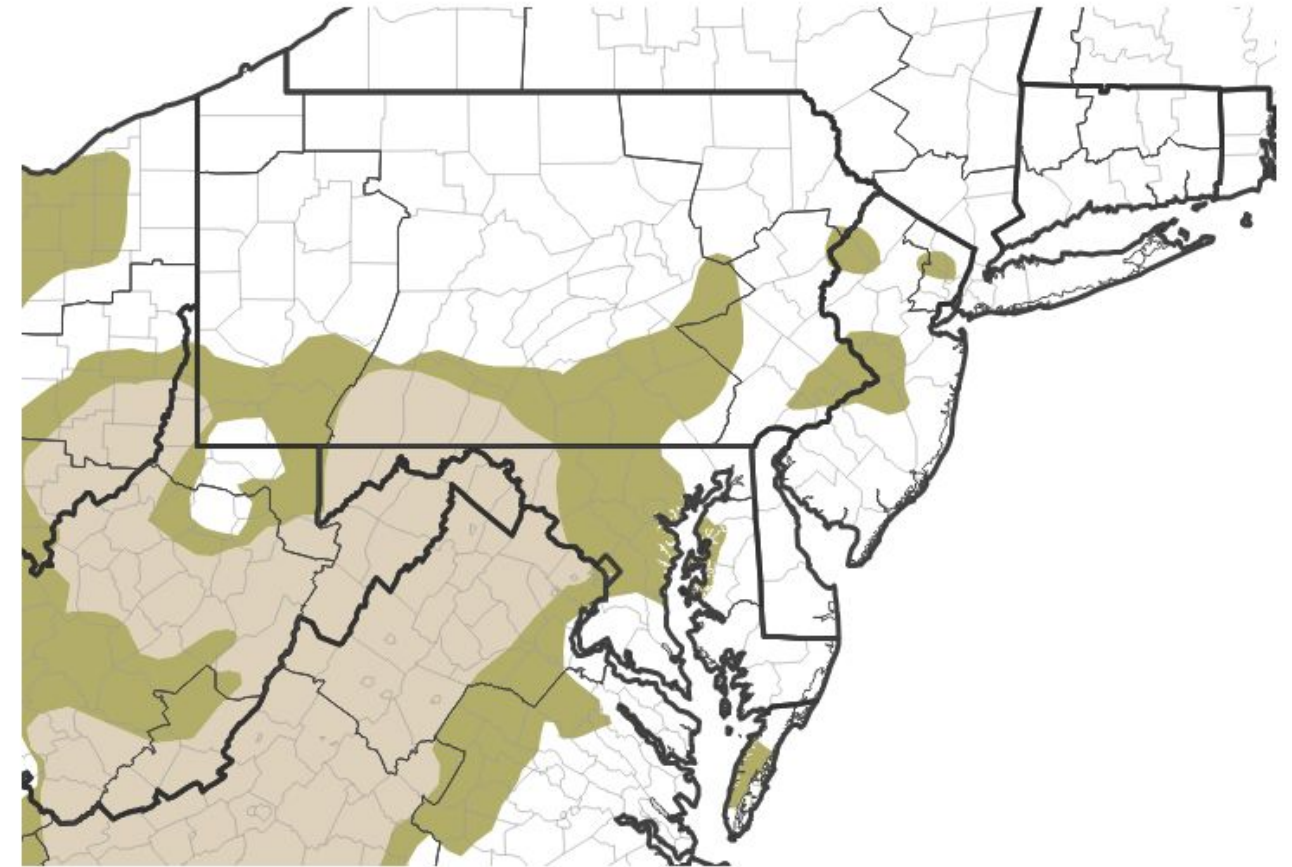
# Drought Outlook

August 1, 2024  
5:09 PM

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

- There should be some improvement in drought conditions given the 8-14 day and 3-4 week outlooks but it will be contingent on the actual amount of rain that we receive during the month.
- Drought conditions are more likely to improve within 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: 07/18/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)