

Connecticut Drought Conditions Report

Monthly Update for January 2025



Interagency Drought Workgroup
February 6, 2025
Regular Meeting

Stage 2 Drought Trigger Summary by Region – February 5, 2025

	Stage 2 Trigger	Fairfield	Hartford	Litchfield	Middlesex	New Haven	New London	Tolland	Windham	Date of Record
Precipitation (1)*	Two-month total below 65% of normal (average)	50-100% of normal	50-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	75-100% of normal	1/31/2025 *note: precipitation is approximate based on mapping
Groundwater (2)	Two out of three months below the 25th percentile	60% of stations meet trigger	70% of stations meet trigger	100% of stations meet trigger	100% of stations meet trigger	53.8% of stations meet trigger	100% of stations meet trigger	83.3% of stations meet trigger	33.3% of stations meet trigger	1/31/2025
Streamflow (3)	Two out of three months below the 25th percentile	45.5% of stations meet trigger	45.5% of stations meet trigger	40% of stations meet trigger	25% of stations meet trigger	40% of stations meet trigger	20% of stations meet trigger	100% of stations meet trigger	44.4% of stations meet trigger	1/31/2025
Reservoirs (4)	Average levels less than 80% of normal	86% of normal	91.5% of normal	104.2% of normal	96.67% of normal	93.5% of normal	87.2% of normal	100% of normal	100% of normal	1/31/2025
Palmer Drought Severity Index (5)	(-2.0 to -2.99)	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	1/25/2025
Crop Moisture Index (6)	(-1.0 to -1.99)	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	1/25/2025
VegDRI (seasonal) (7)	Pre-Drought Conditions	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	out of season	2/2/2025
Fire Danger (8)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	2/5/2025
U.S. Drought Monitor (9)	Intensity Level D1-D2	D1-D2	D1-D2	D0-D2	D1	D1	D0-D1	D1-D2	D1-D2	1/28/2025

Key:	Drought trigger met across majority of region	Drought trigger partially met	Drought trigger not met
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State Drought Trigger Summary – February 5, 2025

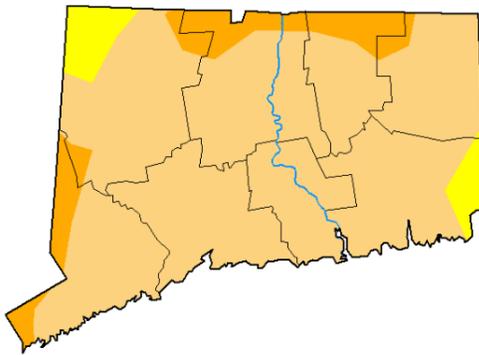
	Stage 2 Trigger	Stage 3 Trigger	Stage 4 Trigger	Stage 5 Trigger	Current Conditions
Precipitation (1)*	Two-month total below 65% of normal (average)	Three-month total below 65% of normal (average)	Five-month total below 65% of normal (average)	Seven-month total below 65% of normal (average)	*NOTE: percentages are approximate from mapping. Stage 3 trigger is partially met with 40-100% of normal precipitation across the entire state.
Groundwater (2)	Two out of three months below the 25th percentile	Four consecutive months below the 25th percentile	Six consecutive months below the 25th percentile	Eight consecutive months below the 25th percentile	Stage 2 Trigger met in Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London and Tolland Counties. Stage 2 Trigger partially met in Fairfield, New Haven, and Windham Counties
Streamflow (3)	Two out of three months below the 25th percentile	Four out of five months below the 25th percentile	Six out of seven months below the 25th percentile	Seven consecutive months below the 25th percentile	Stage 2 Trigger met in Tolland county. Stage 2 Trigger partially met in all other counties
Reservoirs (4)	Average levels less than 80% of normal	Average levels less than 70% of normal	Average levels less than 60% of normal	Average levels less than 50% of normal or less than 50 days of supply	Reservoir levels are averaging between 86-104.2% of normal throughout the state. The statewide average is 94.88%.
Palmer Drought Severity Index (5)	(-2.0 to -2.99)	(-3.0 to -3.99)	(-4 or less)	(-4 or less)	out of season
Crop Moisture Index (6)	(-1.0 to -1.99)	(-2.0 to -2.99)	(-3 or less)	(-3 or less)	out of season
VegDRI (seasonal) (7)	Pre-Drought Conditions	Moderate Drought Conditions	Severe Drought Conditions	Extreme Drought Conditions	out of season
Fire Danger (8)	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Moderate as of 2/5/25. Fire Danger went back and forth between Low and High throughout January.
U.S. Drought Monitor (9)	Intensity Level D1-D2	Intensity Level D2-D3	Intensity Level D3-D4	Intensity Level D4	Currently, 10.14 % of the state is classified as D2 (Severe Drought), 84.69% of the state is classified as D1 (Moderate Drought), and 5.17% of the state is classified as D0 (Abnormally Dry)

Key:	Majority of the state meets drought trigger	Portion of the state meets drought trigger and/or regions partially meet drought trigger	Drought trigger not met
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Methodology:
(1) Based on monthly precipitation averaged by region, calculated by National Weather Service (NWS).
(2) Based on monthly assessment of groundwater stations by region, calculated by United States Geological Survey (USGS). Region is identified as meeting trigger when $\geq 65\%$ of stations in the region meet the threshold. Region is identified as partially meeting trigger when $\geq 20\%$ of stations in the region meet the threshold.
(3) Based on monthly assessment of stream gauge stations by region, calculated by USGS. Region is identified as meeting trigger when $\geq 65\%$ of stations in the region meet the threshold. Region is identified as partially meeting trigger when $\geq 20\%$ of stations in the region meet the threshold.
(4) Based on latest available reservoir status reports obtained from public water suppliers and compiled by CT Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section.
5) Calculated by Climate Prediction Center (CPC) for each State Climate Division and extrapolated to county. Northwestern Climate Division reflective of Litchfield county, Central Climate Division reflective of Hartford, Tolland, Windham counties. Average of Central Climate Division and Coastal Climate Division for Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, New London counties.
6) Calculated by CPC for each State Climate Division and extrapolated to county. Northwestern Climate Division reflective of Litchfield county, Central Climate Division reflective of Hartford, Tolland, Windham counties. Average of Central Climate Division and Coastal Climate Division for Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, New London counties.
(7) Based on visual assessment of geographic extent of each VegDri drought designation in each region, calculated by the National Drought Mitigation Center in collaboration with USGS.
(8) Based on daily forest fire danger report from CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.
(9) Based on analysis of most recent edition of the U.S. Drought Monitor, produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center

U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM): The state of Connecticut has had some drought classification via the USDM since September 24, 2024. The maps included are from the weeks of January 28th and January 7th. The entire state has remained the same or “status quo” for the month of January. Currently, 10.14 % of the state is classified as D2 (Severe Drought), 84.69% of the state is classified as D1 (Moderate Drought), and 5.17% of the state is classified as D0 (Abnormally Dry)

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Connecticut**



January 28, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	94.83	10.14	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-21-2025	0.00	100.00	94.83	10.13	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-29-2024	0.00	100.00	13.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	0.00	100.00	94.83	10.14	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	36.34	63.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-30-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 None (white) D2 Severe Drought (orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (light orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

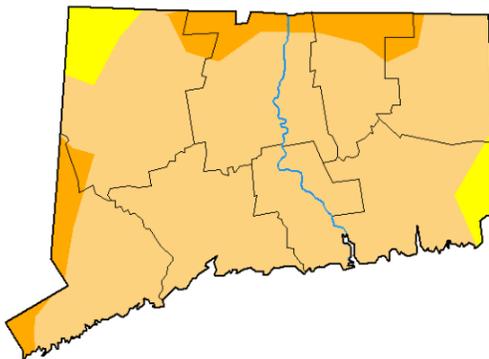
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Connecticut**



January 7, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	94.83	10.14	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-31-2024	0.00	100.00	99.24	46.17	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-08-2024	36.80	63.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	0.00	100.00	94.83	10.14	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	36.34	63.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-08-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 None (white) D2 Severe Drought (orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (light orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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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CPC/NOAA



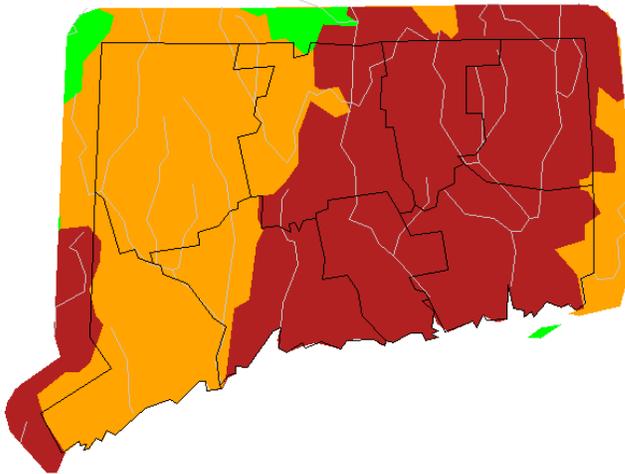
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Streamflow Levels (via USGS): The map below conveys the 28-day average streamflow as of January 30th. Streamflow across the state have worsened over the last month. The map below illustrates streamflow levels mostly at Below normal and Much below normal levels for this time of year.

Map of 28-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Connecticut)

Connecticut or Water-Resources Regions

Thursday, January 30, 2025

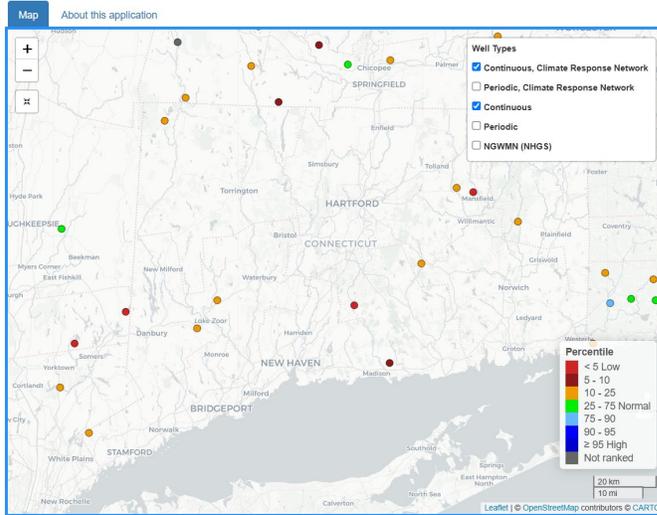


Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Groundwater Levels (via USGS): The following maps are from January 31st – the first map displays continuously monitored wells, while the second map displays periodic measured wells. The first map shows wells at below normal (10-25%) and much below normal (5-10%) levels. The second map shows a similar mix, with the addition of a few wells at normal (25-75%) levels. Generally across the state, groundwater levels saw some improvements at the end of December and in early January but have since been declining.

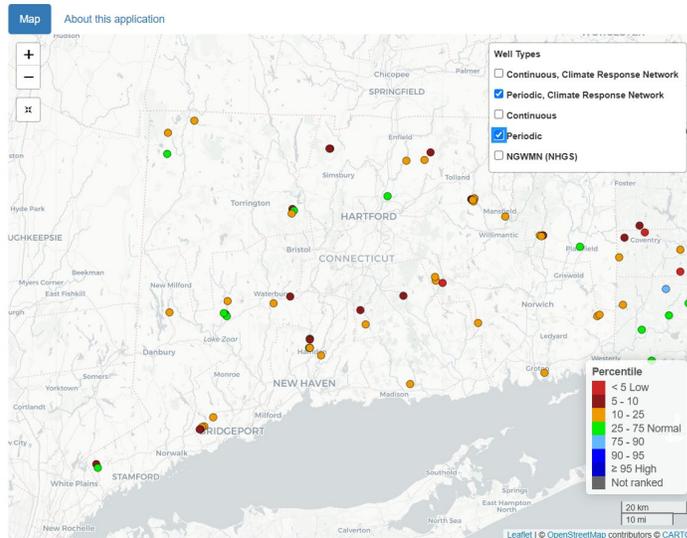
Groundwater Levels in New England

Recent conditions relative to historical monthly statistics



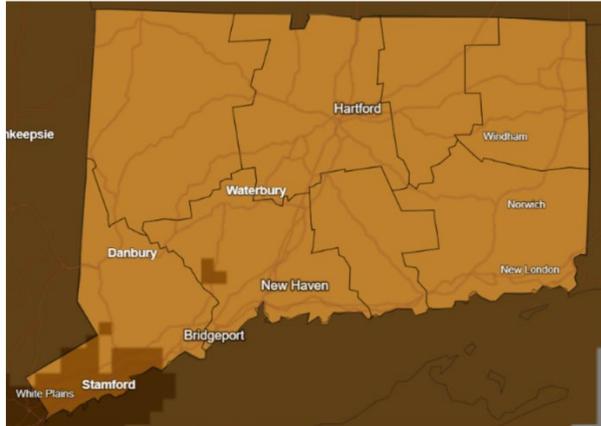
Groundwater Levels in New England

Recent conditions relative to historical monthly statistics

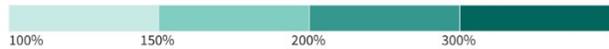
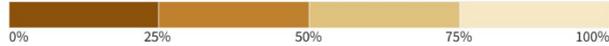


January Precipitation: Below are 60-Day and 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation maps dated February 2nd illustrating drier than normal conditions within the last month, and near normal conditions over the last two months.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



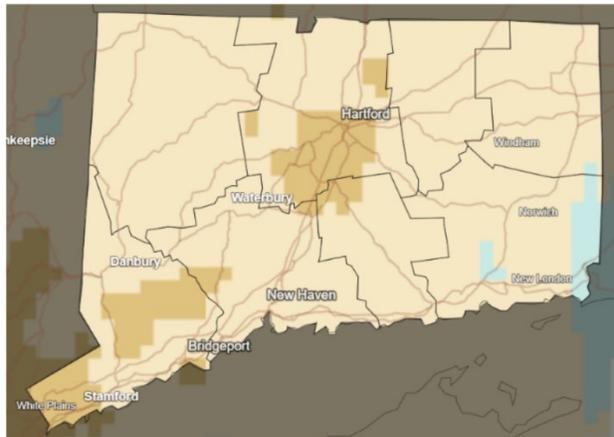
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



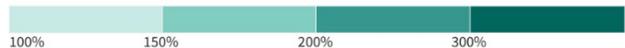
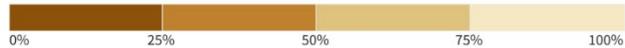
Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 02/02/25

Drought.gov

60-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 02/02/25

Drought.gov

Fire Danger Levels from CT DEEP:

CT DEEP Forestry monitors wildfire conditions regularly and moves to a daily measurement when conditions are drier and the risk of wildfires is greater. In order, their fire danger ranking scheme is: **LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH, AND EXTREME**. According to CT DEEP Forestry, wildfire danger levels in the state were as follows for the month of January and the first week of February:

- Week of 12/31/24: **LOW**
- 1/4/25 – 1/5/24: **HIGH**
- 1/6/25: **LOW**
- 1/7/25-1/10/25: **HIGH**
- 1/11/25: **LOW**
- 1/14/25 - 1/15/25: **HIGH**
- 1/16/26 – 1/18/25: **MODERATE**
- 1/19/25: **LOW**
- Week of 1/22/25: **LOW**
- Week of 2/5/25: **MODERATE**

Surface Reservoir Capacity Measurements and Trends

1/31/2025 Update

Despite a Dry January Reservoirs Continue to be in Good Shape!

Thirty-four surface water systems measure their reservoir capacities weekly and report the readings to the Drinking Water Section (DWS). The attached table summarizes the most recent measurements in percent full and shows the week-to-week trend of their capacities.

Key takeaways:

>= 100% of Normal n=34

12

-1

 from last week

State Average Percent Full

85.2%

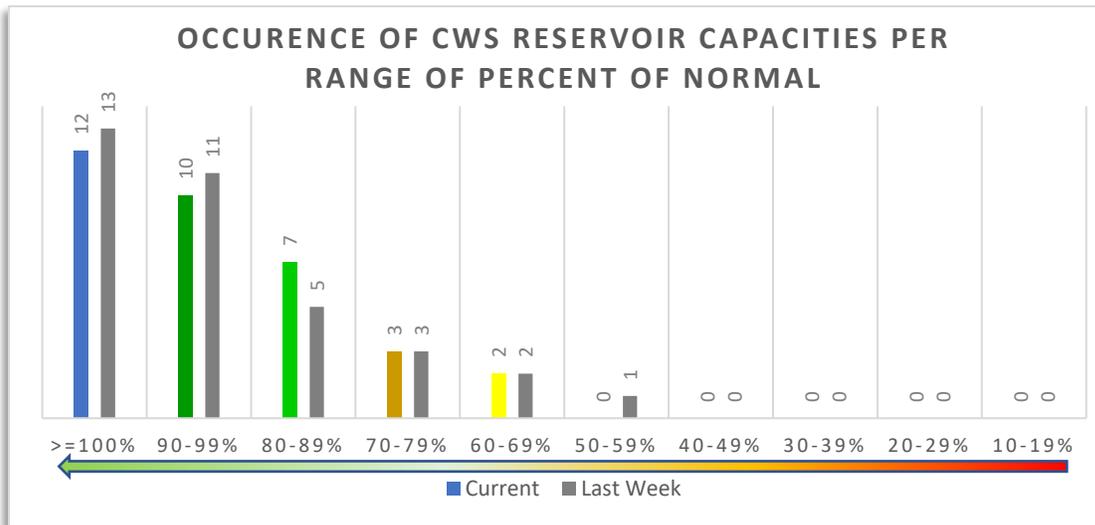
85.2% last week

Average Percent of Normal

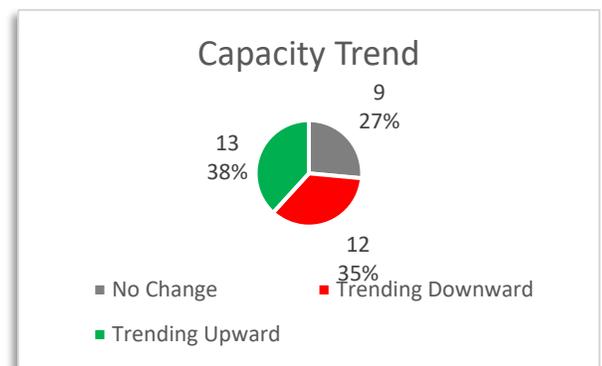
93.1%

91.5% last week

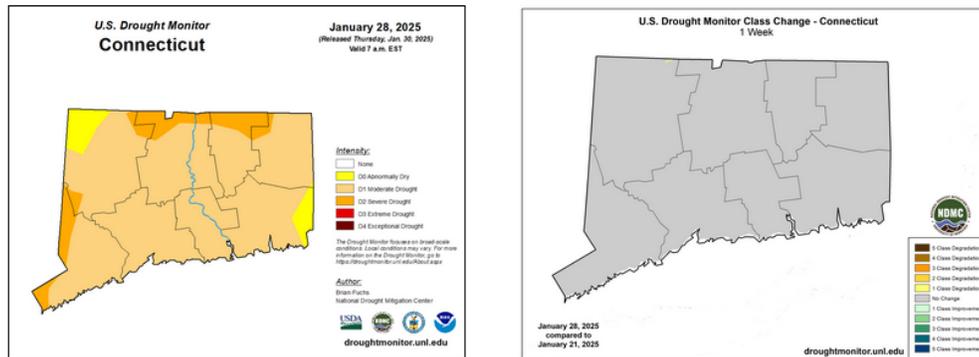
- 8 reservoir systems have reported that they are currently 100% full. (No change since last week)



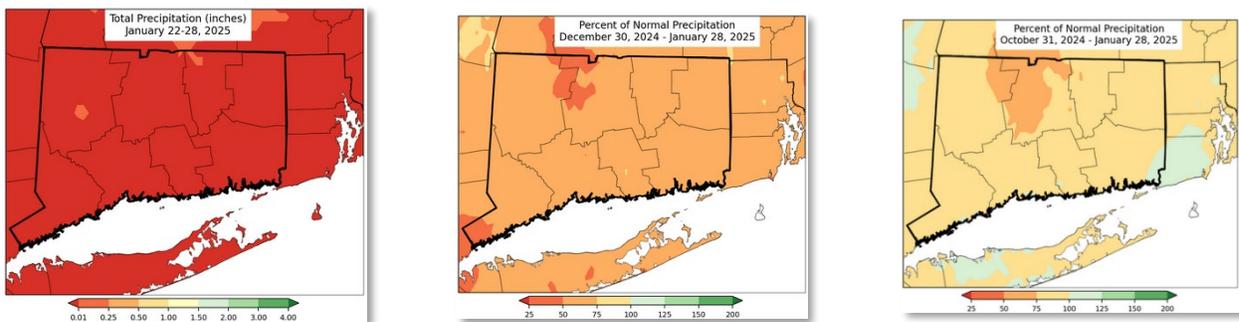
- The gray bars indicate last week’s measurements, and the colored bar is the current measurement. In non-drought conditions, the graph above would have all of the systems in the >=100% of normal column (n=34).
- 13 systems’ short-term week to week trend is upward (-4 since last week). 12 systems are trending downward in capacity from their previous measurements (+3 since last week). 9 systems have had no change in capacity (+1 since last week).



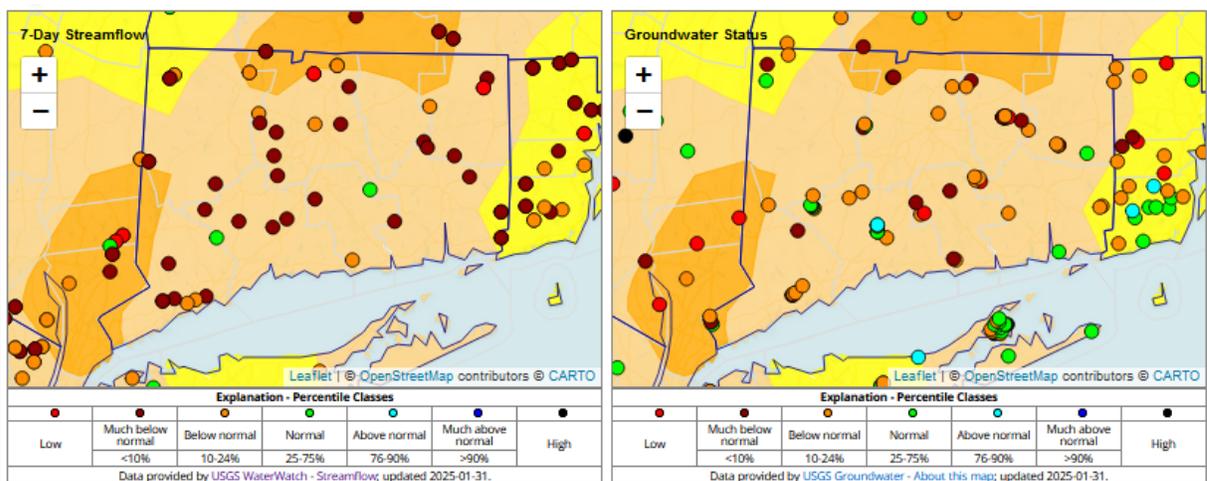
- Putnam Water, East Lyme, Danbury Water, and Bristol Water have entered into their 1st drought stage. New Britain Water is approaching their 1st drought stage trigger.
- **US Drought Monitor:** – US Drought Monitor made no changes in drought classification this week.
- <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CT>



- Last USDM week (between January 22nd and January 28th), CT received trace amounts of precipitation across the state (Map 1). The 30-day Percent of Normal Precipitation map shows below normal for the entire state (Map 2). The long-term trend over the last 90 days still shows below normal rainfall for the majority of CT (Map 3). The 7-Day Streamflow map shows below or much below normal for most streams/ivers in CT. Real time monitoring groundwater wells shows many wells below or much below normal across the state.



Map 1- 7 Day Total Precipitation Map 2- 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation Map 3 – 90 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



PWSID	PWS Name	Most Recent Reading Date	Percent Full	Current Status	Trend	Historical Average	Percent of Normal	Previous Date	Previous Percent Full	County_Served
CT0570011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Greenwich Syster	1/12/2025	61.00	No Drought Stage	↑	84.20	72	1/5/2025	60.70	FAIRFIELD
CT1030021	South Norwalk Electric & Water	1/27/2025	65.80	No Drought Stage	--	87.80	75	1/21/2025	65.80	FAIRFIELD
CT0150011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Main System	1/12/2025	75.50	No Drought Stage	↓	91.30	83	1/5/2025	75.70	FAIRFIELD
CT1350011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Stamford	1/12/2025	68.20	No Drought Stage	↑	80.60	85	1/5/2025	67.90	FAIRFIELD
CT0340011	Danbury Water Department	1/26/2025	80.00	Drought Watch	↓	89.50	89	1/19/2025	80.40	FAIRFIELD
CT1030011	Norwalk First Taxing District	1/26/2025	91.40	No Drought Stage	↓	95.10	96	1/19/2025	91.60	FAIRFIELD
CT0090011	Bethel Water Dept	1/12/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	98.10	102	1/5/2025	100.00	FAIRFIELD
CT0473011	CTWC - Northern Reg-Western System	1/23/2025	60.70	No Drought Stage	↓	90.80	67	1/9/2025	62.10	HARTFORD
CT0890011	New Britain Water Department	1/23/2025	65.50	No Drought Stage	↓	74.60	88	1/9/2025	67.50	HARTFORD
CT0170011	Bristol Water Department	1/5/2025	81.20	Emergency Phase -1	↑	91.60	89	12/29/2024	75.40	HARTFORD
CT0770021	Manchester Water Department	1/26/2025	90.90	No Drought Stage	↑	97.20	94	1/19/2025	90.40	HARTFORD
CT0640011	Metropolitan District Commission	1/26/2025	89.60	No Drought Stage	↓	88.60	101	1/19/2025	90.00	HARTFORD
CT1310011	Southington Water Department	1/25/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	90.80	110	1/18/2025	100.00	HARTFORD
CT0980011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Norfolk System	1/12/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	99.60	100	1/5/2025	100.00	LITCHFIELD
CT1620011	Winsted Water Works	1/26/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	99.40	101	1/19/2025	100.00	LITCHFIELD
CT1220011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Salisbury Sys	1/12/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	98.00	102	1/5/2025	100.00	LITCHFIELD
CT1250011	Sharon Water & Sewer Commission	1/4/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	94.80	106	12/28/2024	100.00	LITCHFIELD
CT1430011	Torrington Water Company	1/12/2025	94.20	No Drought Stage	↑	83.80	112	1/5/2025	93.20	LITCHFIELD
CT0830011	Middletown Water Department	12/29/2024	71.00	Drought Alert	↑	82.00	87	12/22/2024	68.40	MIDDLESEX
CT0261031	CTWC - Shoreline Region-Chester System	1/23/2025	98.40	No Drought Stage	↓	99.10	99	1/9/2025	99.40	MIDDLESEX
CT0830021	Connecticut Valley Hospital	1/20/2025	98.80	No Drought Stage	↑	94.60	104	1/6/2025	97.70	MIDDLESEX
CT1510011	Waterbury Water Department	1/19/2025	82.70	No Drought Stage	↓	94.40	88	1/12/2025	83.20	NEW HAVEN
CT0930011	Regional Water Authority	1/26/2025	76.40	No Drought Stage	↓	84.10	91	1/19/2025	76.70	NEW HAVEN
CT0800011	Meriden Water Division	12/29/2024	83.80	No Drought Stage	↑	90.10	93	12/22/2024	78.60	NEW HAVEN
CT0880011	CTWC - Naugatuck Region-Central System	1/23/2025	90.10	No Drought Stage	↑	95.90	94	1/9/2025	90.00	NEW HAVEN
CT1480011	Wallingford Water Department	1/24/2025	82.30	No Drought Stage	↓	84.70	97	1/17/2025	83.20	NEW HAVEN
CT0608011	CTWC - Shoreline Region-Guilford System	1/23/2025	91.60	No Drought Stage	↑	93.50	98	1/9/2025	90.70	NEW HAVEN
CT0580011	Jewett City Water Company	1/13/2025	61.80	No Drought Stage	↑	96.60	64	1/6/2025	60.70	NEW LONDON
CT1370011	Aquarion Water Co of CT-Mystic	1/12/2025	77.40	No Drought Stage	↓↓	98.30	79	1/5/2025	91.20	NEW LONDON
CT0950011	New London Dept. of Public Utilities	1/19/2025	70.20	No Drought Stage	↑	74.60	94	1/12/2025	69.20	NEW LONDON
CT1040011	Norwich Public Utilities	1/25/2025	91.70	No Drought Stage	↑	95.10	96	1/18/2025	91.40	NEW LONDON
CT0590011	Groton Utilities	1/20/2025	97.90	No Drought Stage	↓	94.70	103	1/13/2025	98.10	NEW LONDON
CT1340011	CTWC - Northern Reg-Stafford System	1/23/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	100.00	100	1/9/2025	100.00	TOLLAND
CT1630011	Windham Water Works	1/26/2025	100.00	No Drought Stage	--	100.00	100	1/19/2025	100.00	WINDHAM

85.24

91.57

93.08

Ave Percent of Normal by County

↑	-Increase since last measurement (less than 10% increase)
↑↑	-Increase since last measurement (10% or greater increase)
↓	-Decrease since last measurement (less than 10% decrease)
↓↓	-Decrease since last measurement (10% or greater decrease)
--	- Same measurement as the previous measurement

Number of systems:	
Greater than or equal to 100% of Normal	12
Between 90% and 99% of Normal	10
Less than 90% of Normal	12
At 100% Full	8

86.00	FAIRFIELD
91.50	HARTFORD
104.20	LITCHFIELD
96.67	MIDDLESEX
93.50	NEW HAVEN
87.20	NEW LONDON
100.00	TOLLAND



U.S. Geological Survey

**Status of streamflow and
groundwater levels, as of
end of January 2025**



Data are provisional and subject to review and revision. Streamflow data affected by ice and are incomplete for some stations

Name	Total	Number of wells below normal	Number of wells below normal for 2 out of last 3 months*	Number of wells below normal for 4 or more consecutive months	Percent below normal	Percent stage 2	Percent stage 3
Fairfield	10	10	6	2	100	60	20
Hartford	10	9	7	1	90	70	10
Litchfield	4	3	4	1	75	100	25
Middlesex	6	6	6	3	100	100	50
New Haven	13	10	7	0	76.9	53.8	0
New London	5	5	5	2	100	100	40
Tolland	12	12	10	1	100	83.3	8.3
Windham	6	4	2	0	66.7	33.3	0

END OF JANUARY 2025 GROUNDWATER SUMMARY BY COUNTY *BEGINNING NOV. 2024



Data are provisional and subject to review and revision. Streamflow data affected by ice and are incomplete for some stations

Caution: stats based on incomplete data due to ice in rivers in Jan. – see Excel table for details

Name	Total	Number of streamgages below normal	Number of streamgages below normal for 2 out of last 3 months	Number of streamgages below normal for 4 out of last 5 months	Percent below normal	Percent stage 2	Percent stage 3
Fairfield	11	6	5	0	54.5	45.5	0
Hartford	11	6	5	1	54.5	45.5	9.1
Litchfield	10	4	4	1	40	40	10
Middlesex	4	1	1	0	25	25	0
New Haven	5	2	2	0	40	40	0
New London	5	1	1	0	20	20	0
Tolland	1	1	1	0	100	100	0
Windham	9	4	4	1	44.4	44.4	11.1

DECEMBER 2025 STREAMFLOW SUMMARY BY COUNTY





CT Interagency Drought Workgroup NWS Update

Thursday, February 6th 2025

Prepared by: NWS WFO Boston, MA

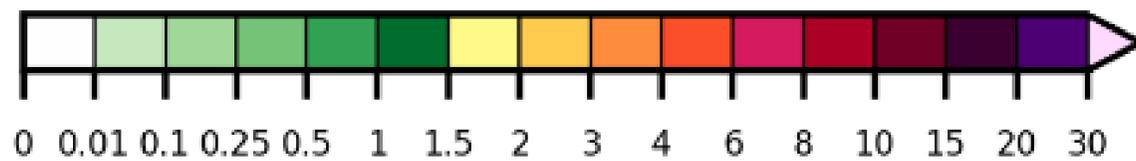
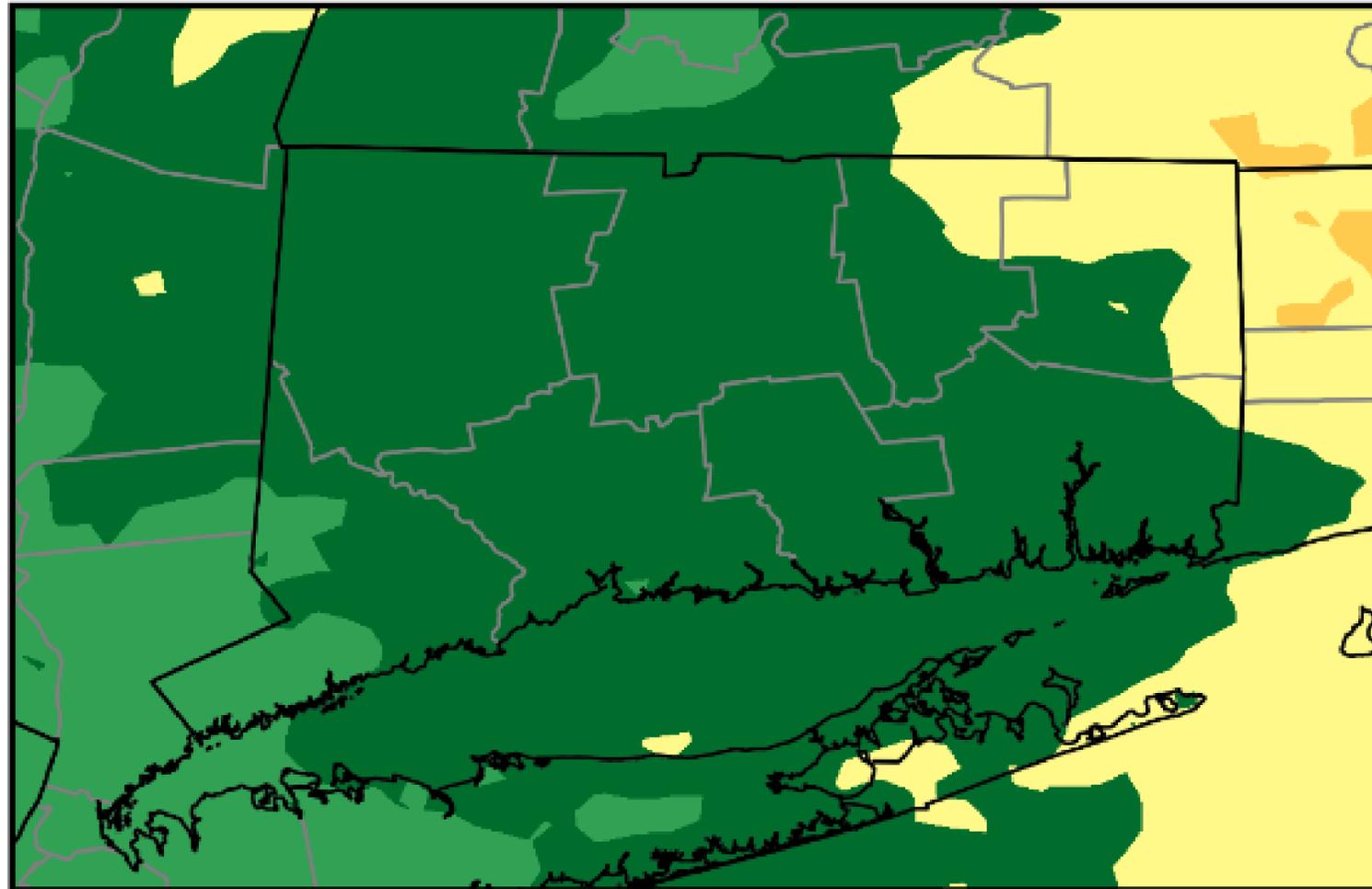
January Precipitation

1-2" of liquid equivalent precipitation in January. 1.5 to 3" below normal



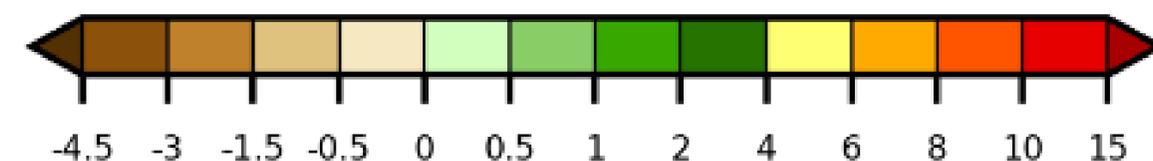
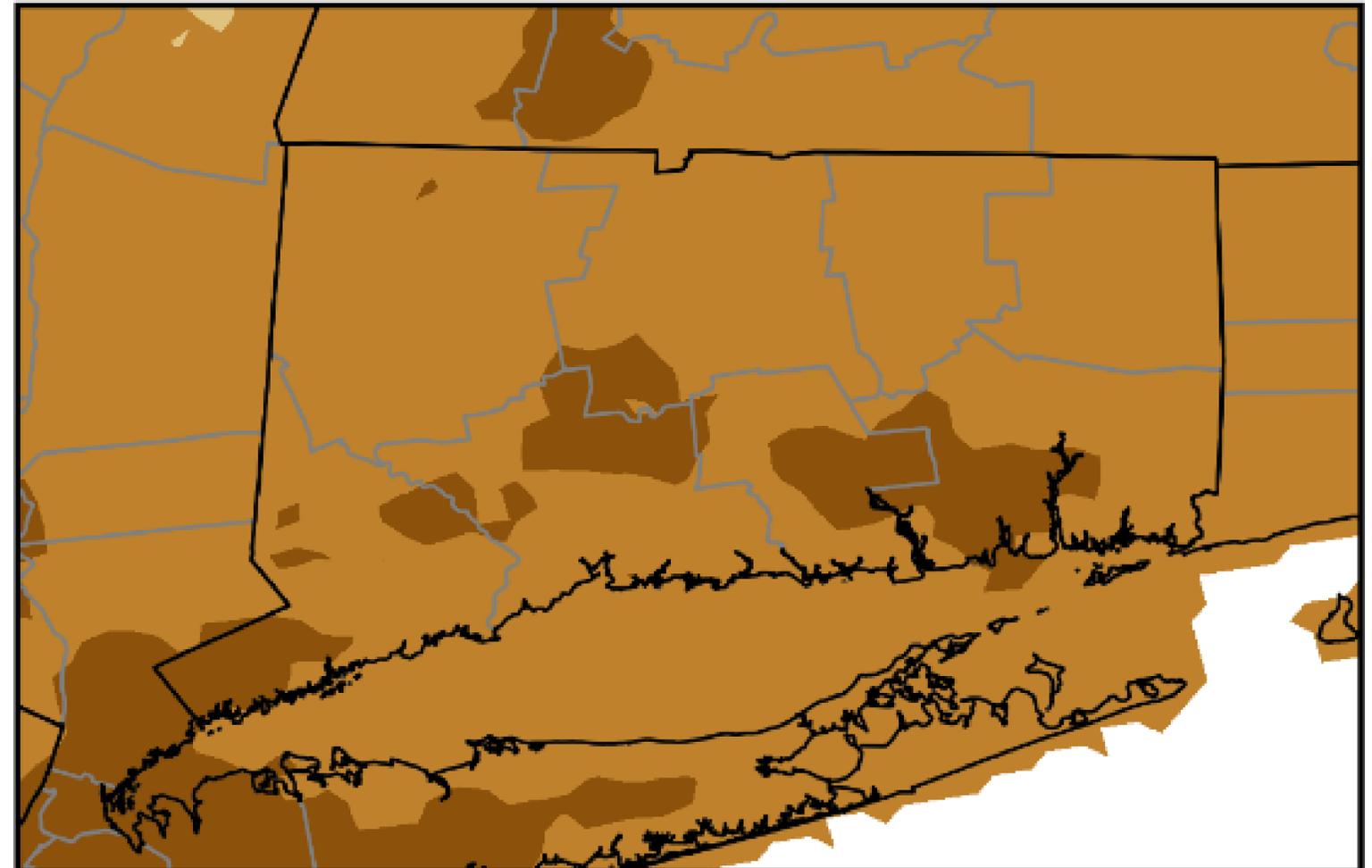
Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
January 01, 2025 to February 01, 2025



Precipitation (inches)

Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
January 01, 2025 to February 01, 2025



Departure from Normal (inches)

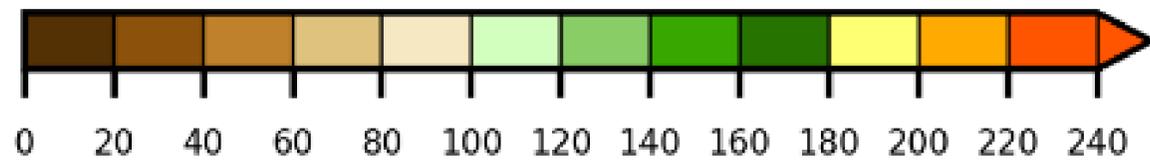
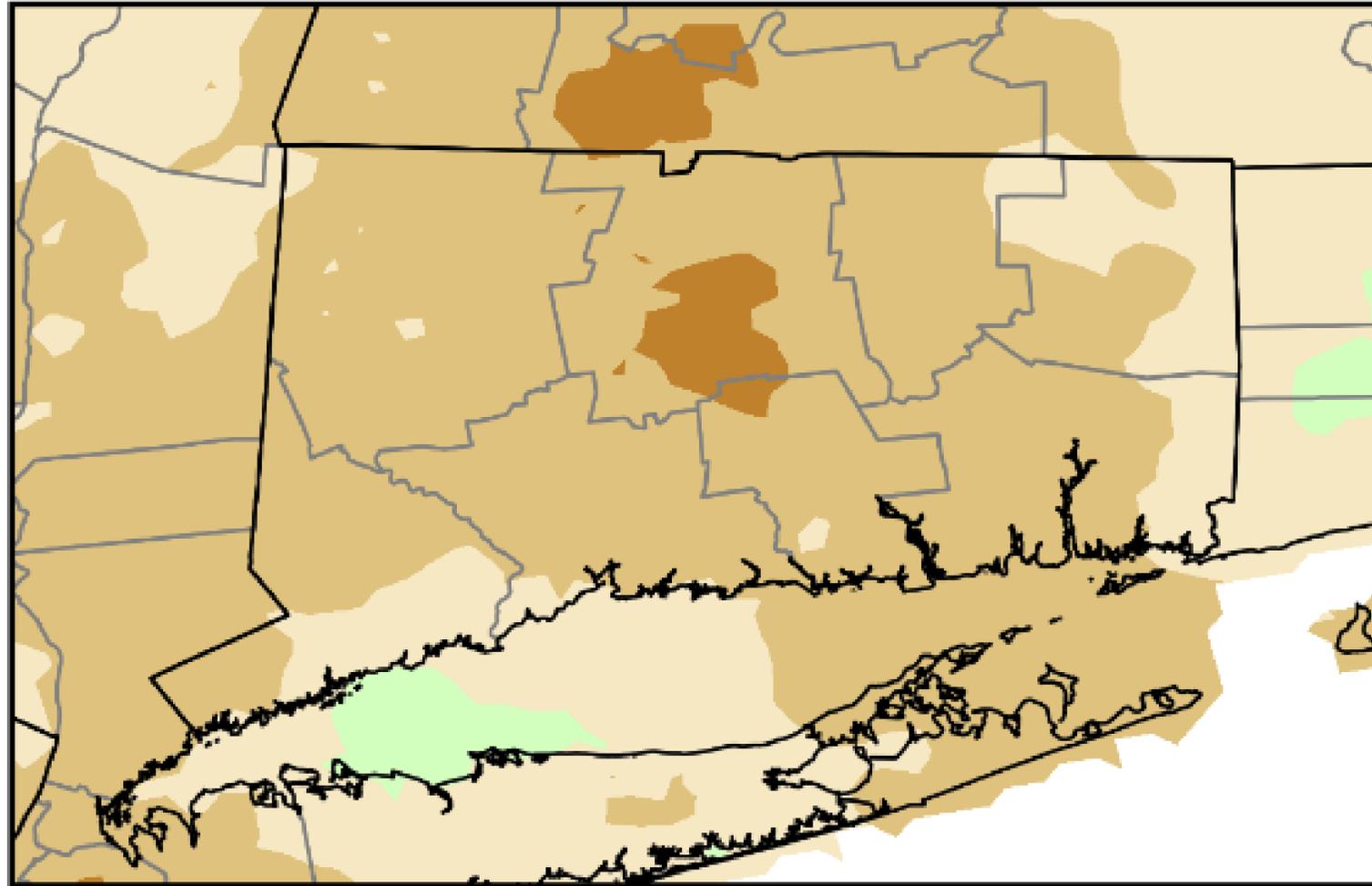
3 and 6 Month Percent of Normal Precip



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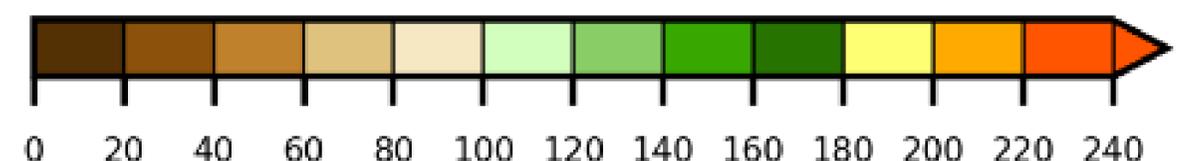
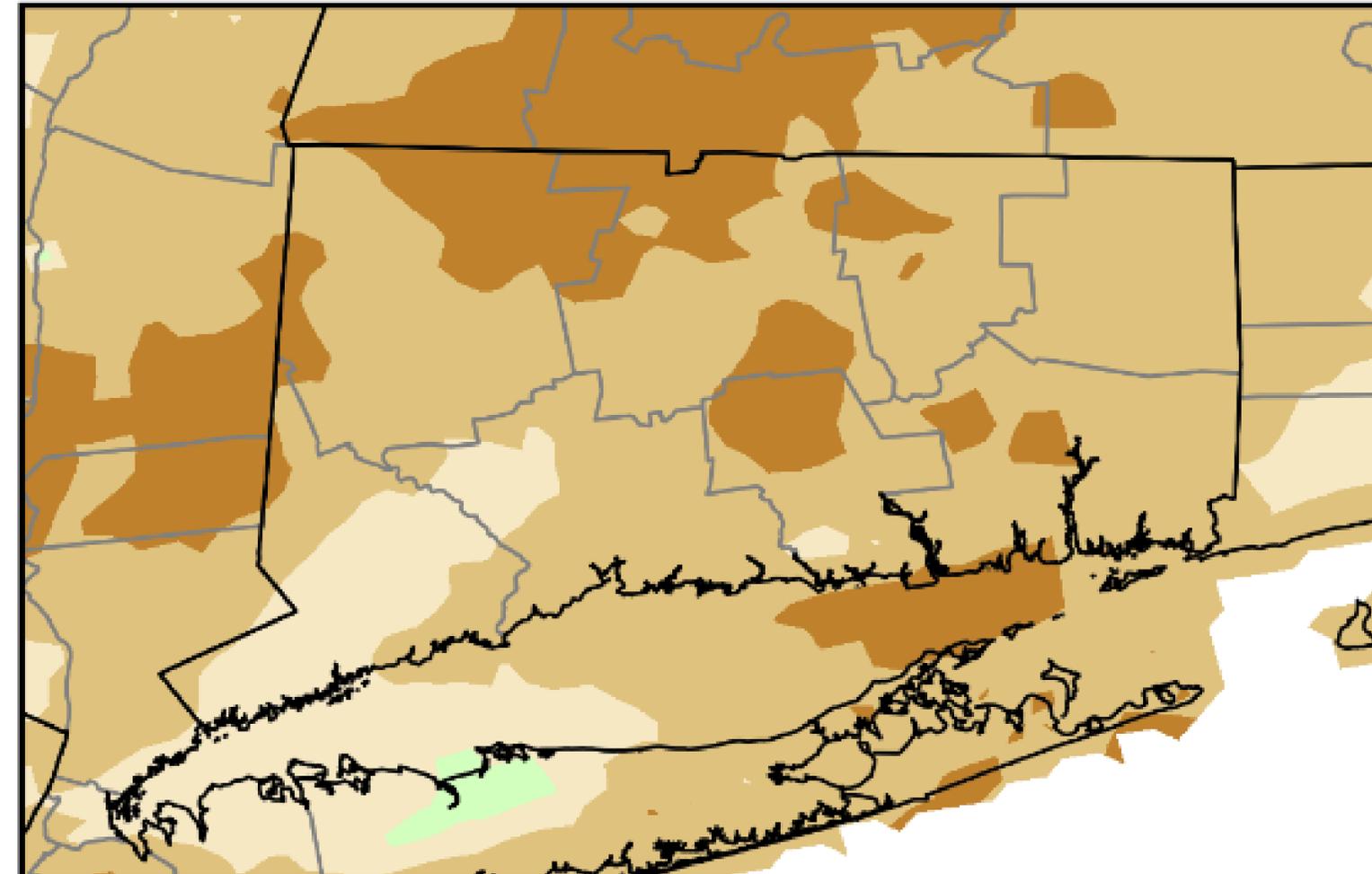
1-2" of liquid equivalent precipitation in January. 1.5 to 3" below normal

Precipitation Percent of Normal November 01, 2024 to February 01, 2025



Percent of Normal

Precipitation Percent of Normal August 01, 2024 to February 01, 2025



Percent of Normal

CPC 8-14 Day Outlook

Leaning below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation

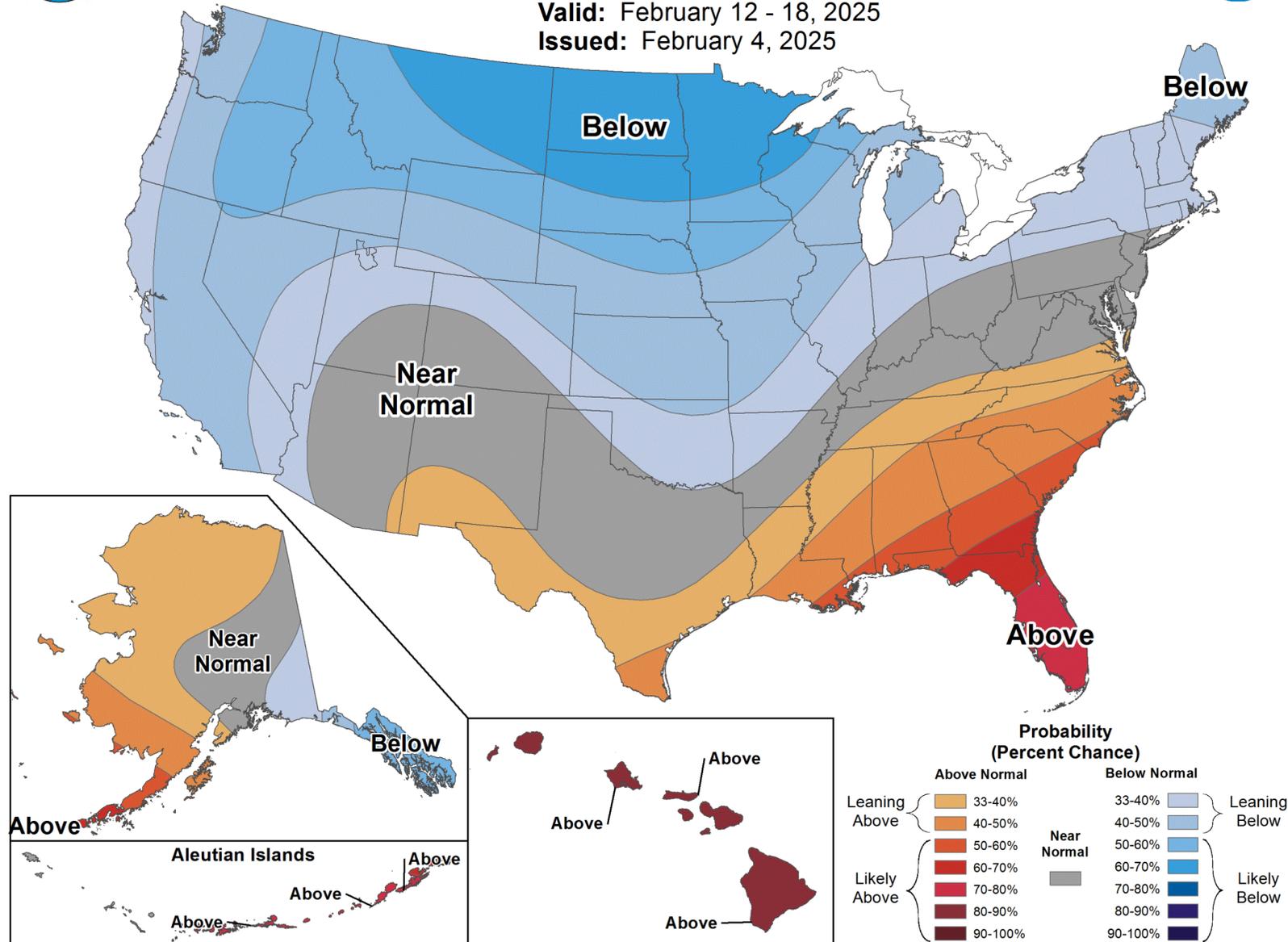


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WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE



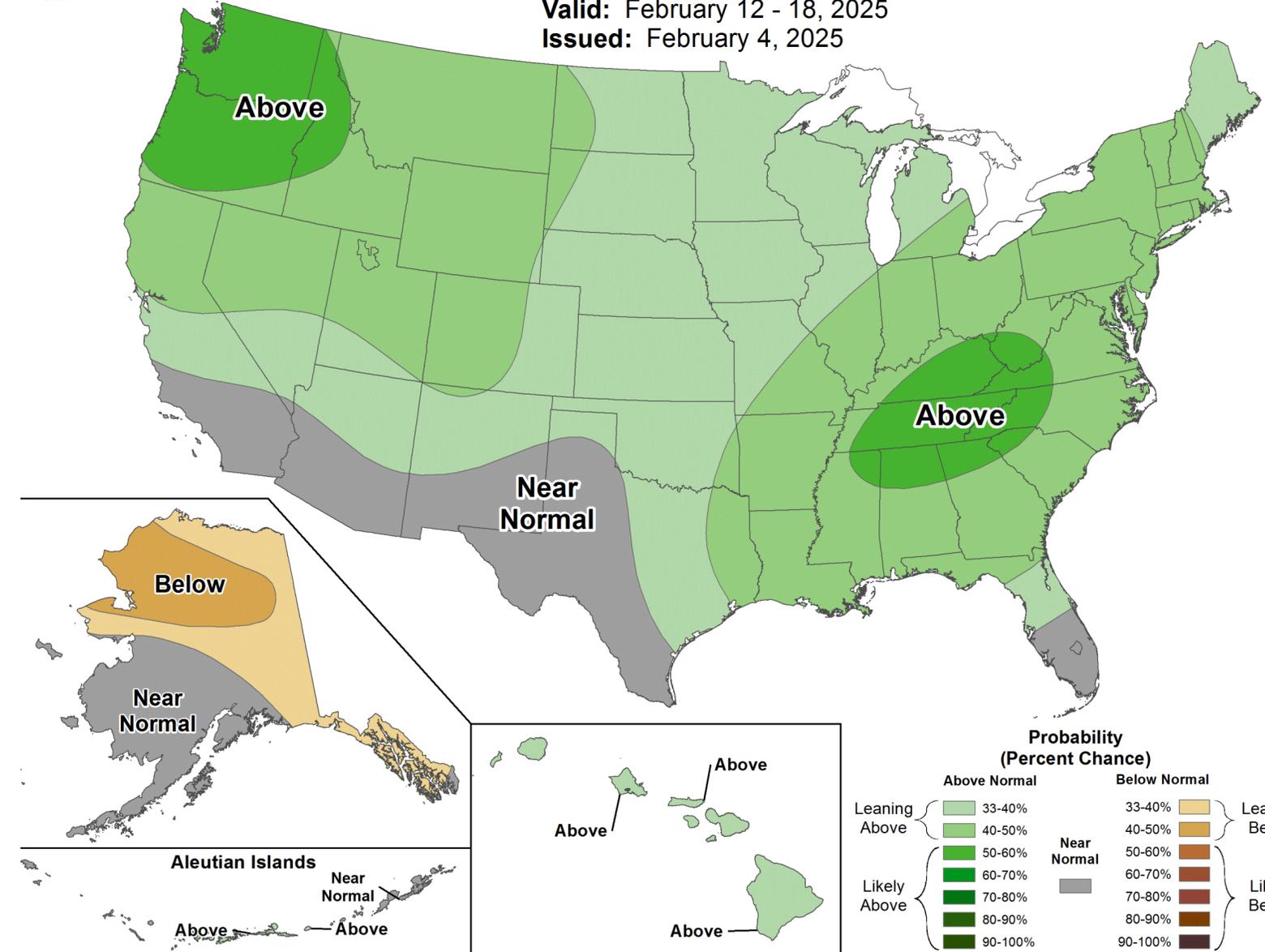
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: February 12 - 18, 2025
Issued: February 4, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: February 12 - 18, 2025
Issued: February 4, 2025



CPC 3-4 Week Outlook

Leaning above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation



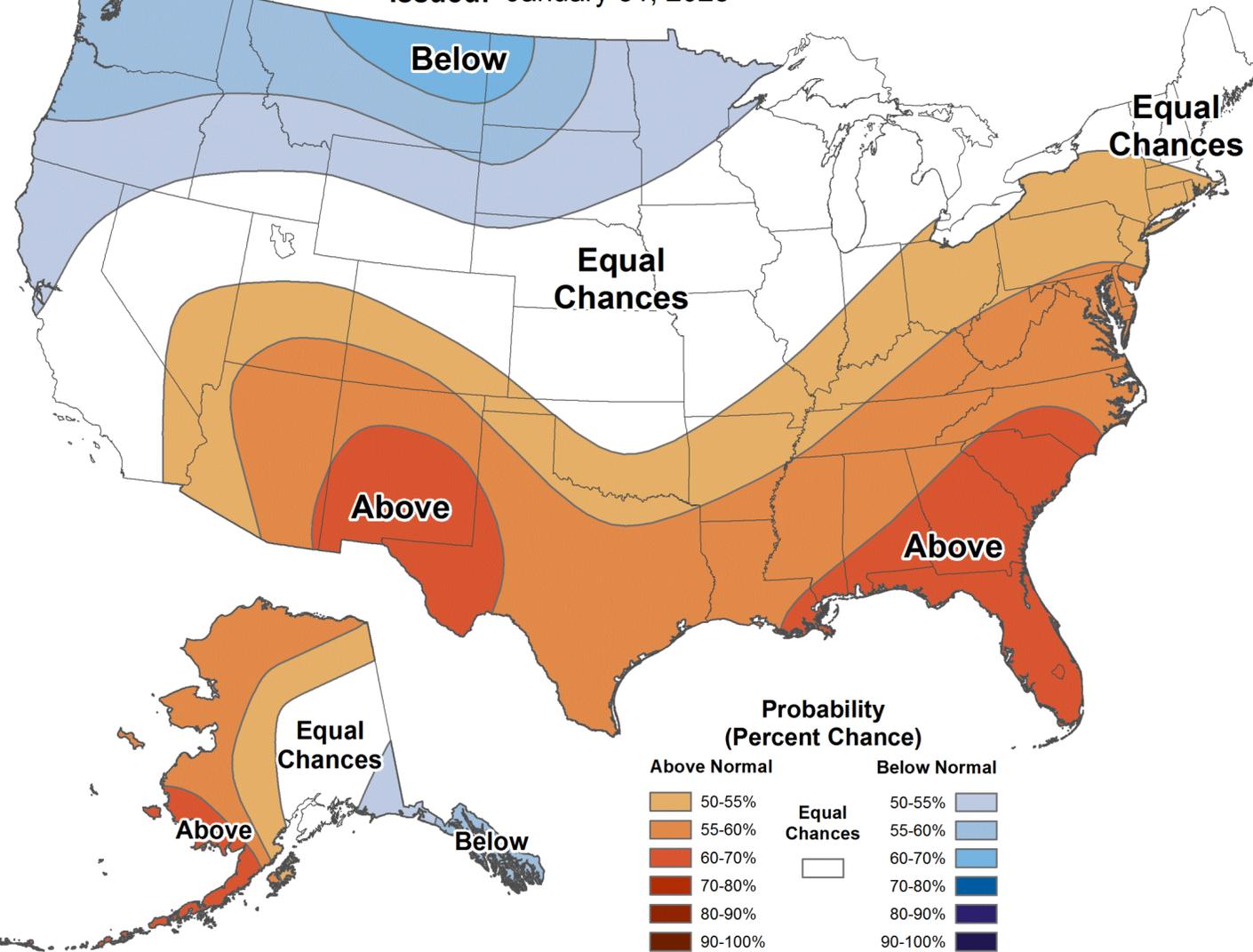
Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE



Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



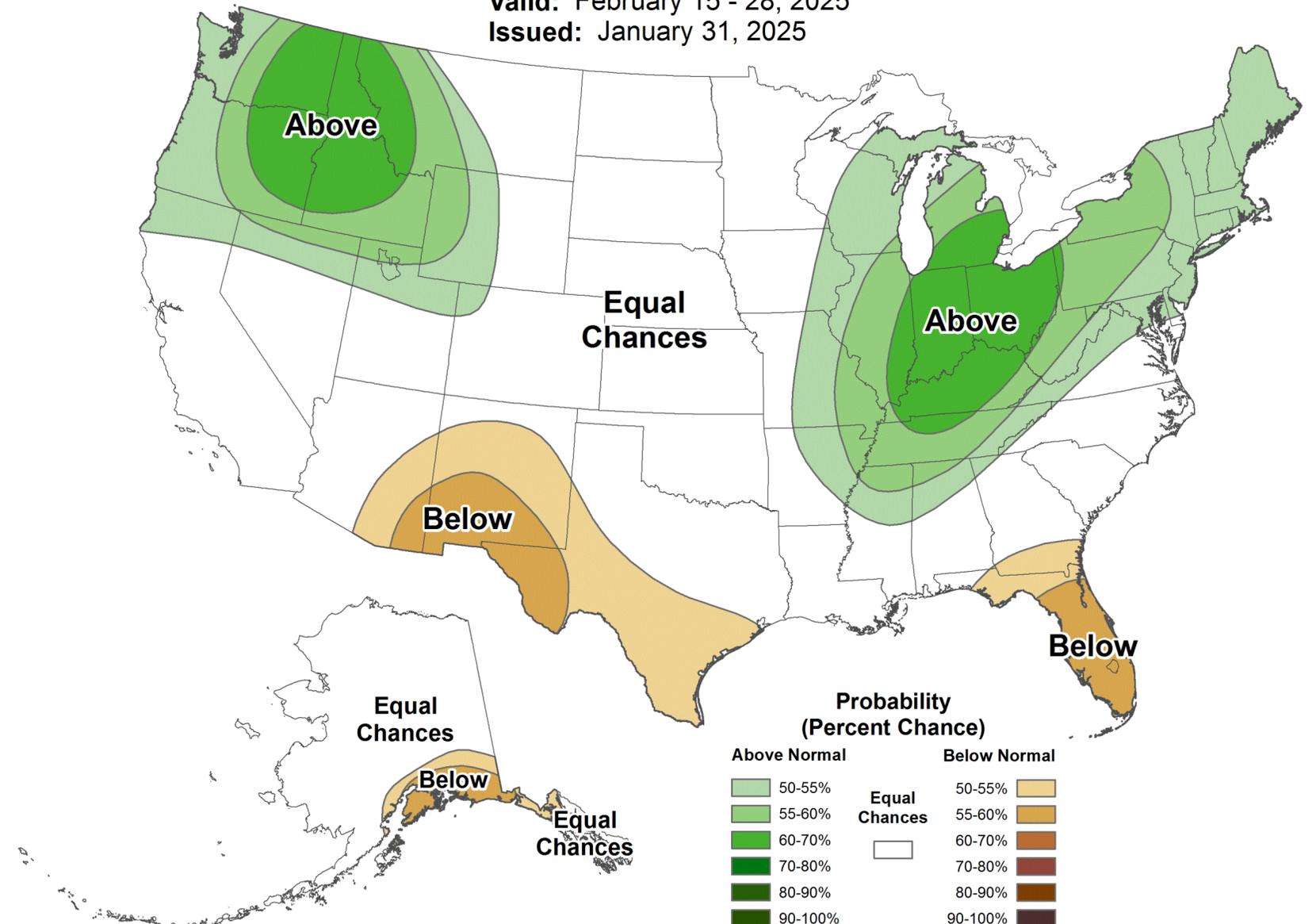
Valid: February 15 - 28, 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025



Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 15 - 28, 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025



CPC 3 Month Outlook (Feb-Apr)

Leaning above normal temperatures



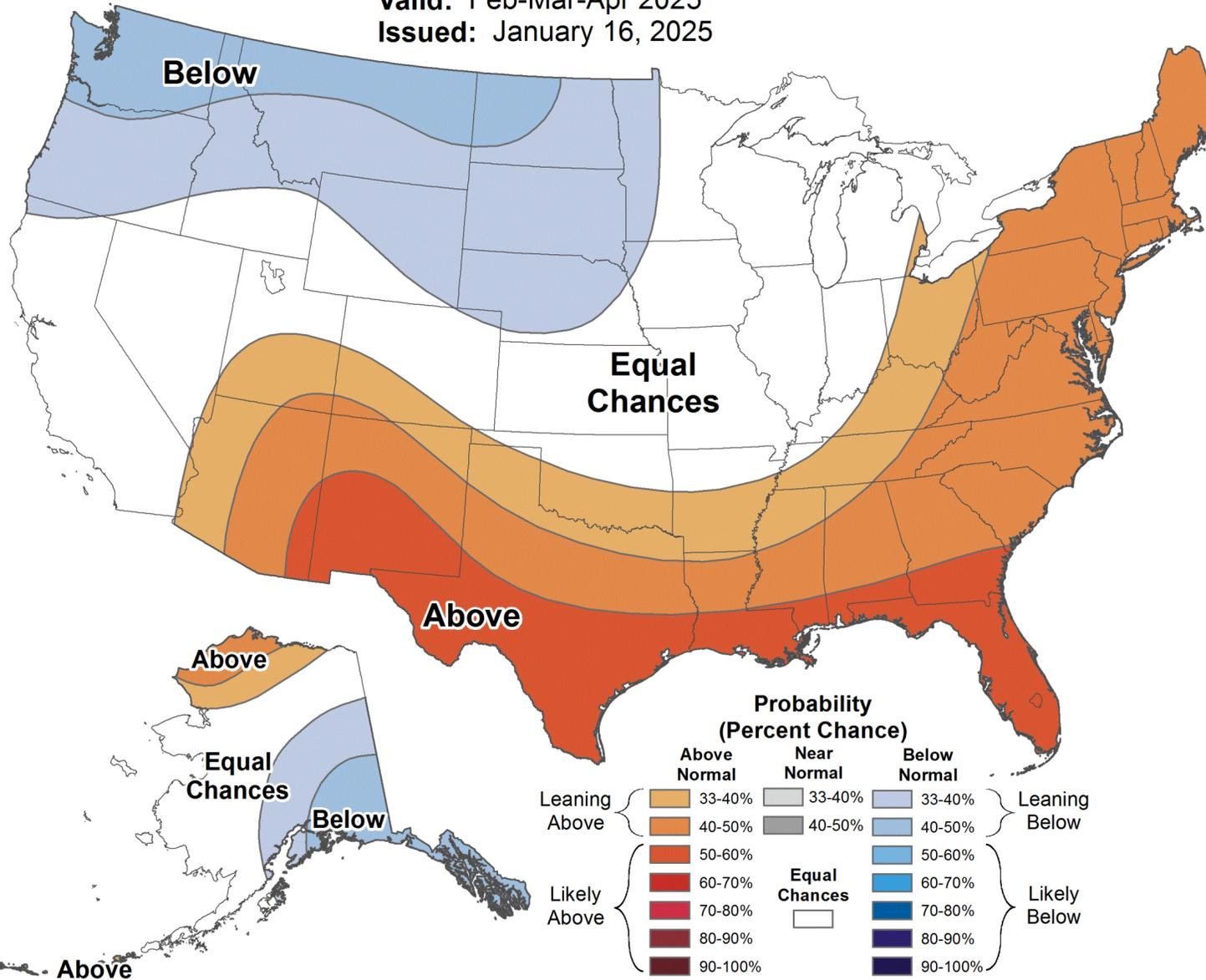
Albany, NY
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2025
Issued: January 16, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2025
Issued: January 16, 2025

