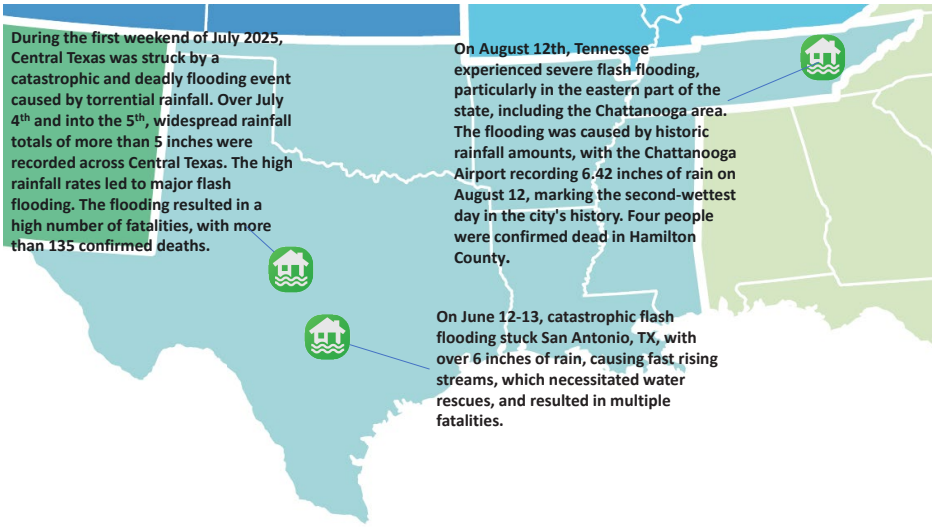
Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

Southern Region

September 2025

Southern Region Significant Events — *September 2025*



Above normal temperatures and instances of torrential rainfall, with flooding deaths, were the story for much of the Region during Summer 2025. Drought conditions eased in South and Far West Texas, while late summer degradations were evident in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Overview

Summer began with above normal temperatures across the Region and well above normal precipitation for much of the Region. Heavy rains struck San Antonio, Texas on June 12th resulting in widespread flooding, which required water rescues, and multiple fatalities.

July temperatures were well above normal in the east of the Region and near to below normal in the west. During the first weekend of July 2025, Central Texas was struck by a catastrophic and deadly flooding event caused by torrential rainfall.

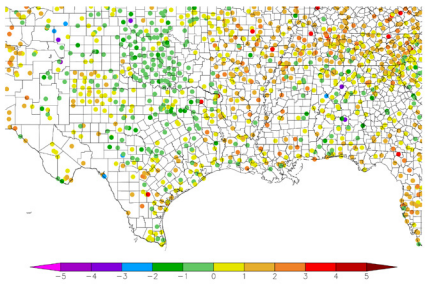
August temperatures were near normal for much of the Region. Precipitation was below normal in the east and south of the Region and above normal in the north and west, as well as Eastern Tennessee where fatal flash flooding occurred on August 12th near Chattanooga.

Regional Climate Overview — *Summer 2025*

Temperature and Precipitation

Departure from Normal Temperature °F

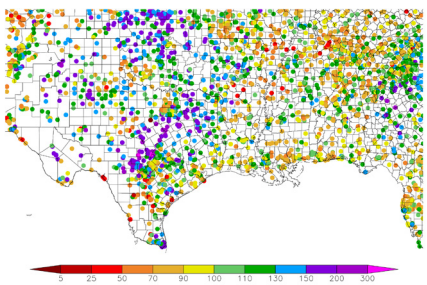
6/1/2025 – 8/31/2025



Summer 2025 temperatures were near normal for the western portions of the Southern Region, while temperatures in the eastern half of the Region were above normal. The area of the Region with the largest departures was northern Arkansas and Tennessee where most stations were 1F to 4F above normal. Temperatures of one to two degrees below normal were noted in Central Texas and Oklahoma.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

6/1/2025 – 8/31/2025

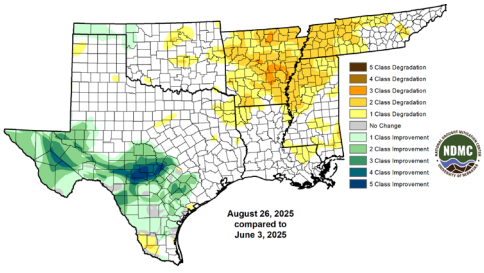


Summer 2025 saw below average rainfall in the eastern portions of the Region and along the upper Texas coast with most stations recording 25 to 90 percent of normal precipitation. Precipitation was well above normal for Central Texas, much of North Texas, northern Oklahoma, Western Arkansas, and Far West Texas, with many stations exceeding 150 percent of normal.

Drought

Overall Change

5/27/2025-8/26/2025



Far West Texas, south-central Texas, and isolated portions of the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw improvement in drought status over Summer 2025. The greatest improvements, of 5 classes, occurred in Blanco, Gillespie, and Kerr Counties in Texas. Degradations in drought status were evident in much of Arkansas, Northwest Mississippi, and Western Tennessee. Degradations of up to three classes were observed in isolated portions of Arkansas.

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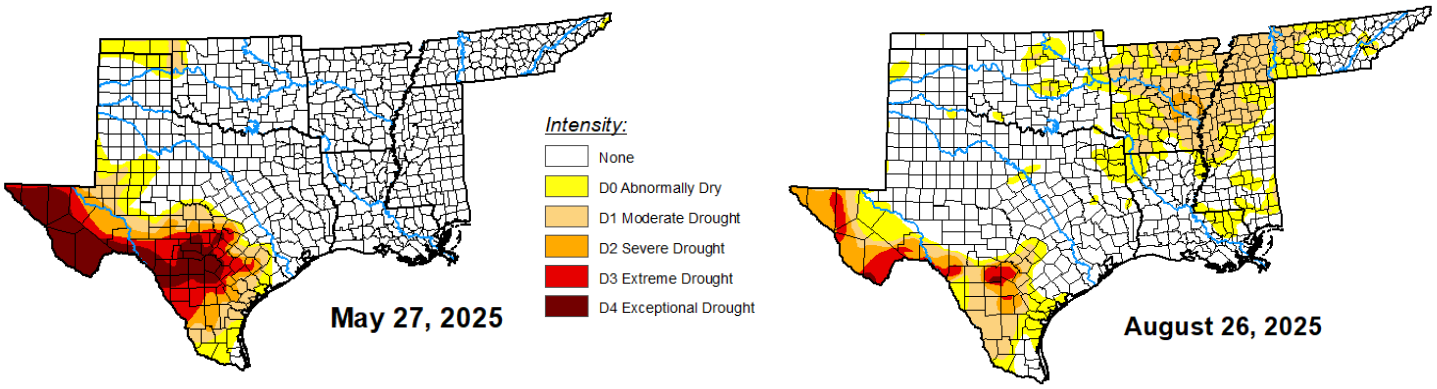
Southern Regional Impacts

Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply

Summer 2025 saw the total amount of drought free area in the Southern Region decrease from 82 percent to 79 percent. By August 26th, the large areas of Exceptional Drought in Central and Far West Texas that were evident in June had largely improved and the severity of drought over that area has decreased. Drought is still present though. Degradation of drought conditions were evident over much of Arkansas, Western Tennessee, and Northwest Mississippi, with much of this area being in Moderate Drought with isolated areas of Severe Drought.

In contrast to drought, there were several instances of heavy rainfall and flooding. In the early morning hours of July 4th, with significant rainfall continuing into July 5th, rainfall of more than 5 inches, more than 10 inches in isolated areas, were recorded across Central Texas. At least 135 people were killed during this event. On August 12th, Tennessee experienced severe flash flooding, particularly in the eastern part of the state. Four people were confirmed dead in Hamilton County, three from a falling tree and one after being swept away by floodwaters.



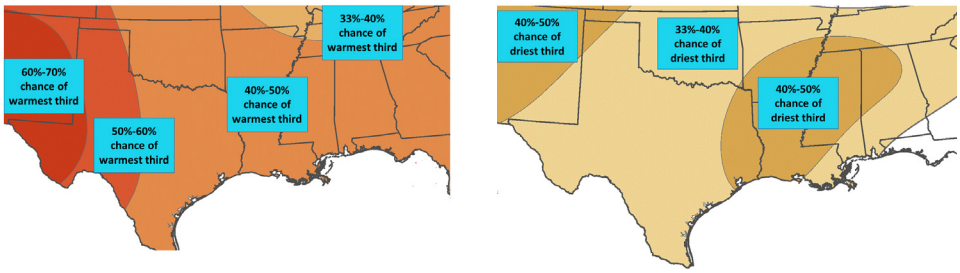
US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

Seasonal Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

Outlook for October-December 2025



The seasonal temperature outlook from NOAA's Climate Predication Center calls for enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures for the entire Southern Region. The highest probabilities, 60 to 70 percent chance of well above normal, are in Far West Texas which decreases as one moves eastward, the probabilities decrease gradually for 40 to 50 percent for much of the Region and 33 to 40 percent for northwest Tennessee.

The precipitation outlook for October through December calls for enhanced probabilities of below normal precipitation for the entire Southern Region. East Texas, much of Louisiana and Mississippi, Southern Arkansas, southwestern Tennessee, and extreme northwest Texas have a 40 to 50 percent probability of well below normal precipitation, while the rest of the Region has a 33 to 40 percent probability.

ENSO Outlook

Currently, conditions in the Tropical Pacific indicate neutral conditions. Forecasts for the coming months increase the probability of La Niña conditions to more than 50 percent by the winter months. La Niña winters across the Southern Region tend to be drier and warmer than normal.

Southern Partners

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (coastalscience.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of America Collaboration Team (noaa.gov/regional-collaboration-network/regions-gulf-of-america)

NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)

NOAA/NWS Southern Region (weather.gov/srh)

Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (southernclimate.org)

Southern Regional Climate Center (srcc.tamu.edu)