

November 2025

Precipitation

Precipitation in Kentucky was varied with below normal precipitation across western and central Kentucky and above normal precipitation in parts of northern and eastern Kentucky. Precipitation events, while numerous, were typically light in nature.

Most of the significant precipitation occurred during the first week of the month and again during the last 10 days leading up to December. In between featured a number of overcast days with damp conditions. Despite precipitation amounts being generally below normal, the month had a wet feel to it with between 25% to 50% of days having measurable precipitation.

As of the December 2nd U.S. Drought Monitor, Kentucky is free of any drought or abnormally dry designations.

Preliminary data indicated the state averaged 2.91 inches of precipitation for the month, 0.63 inches below the climatological norm, and ranked the 49th driest November on record since 1895. Year-to-date, Kentucky has received an average of 57.78 inches of precipitation, 11.84 inches above normal, making it the 5th wettest year-to-date on record.

According to the Kentucky Mesonet, Owsley County recorded the highest monthly rainfall total at 3.95 inches, while Simpson County had the lowest at 1.81 inches.

Table 1. Regional precipitation patterns.

Climate Region	Departure From Normal (inches)					Palmer Drought Severity Index*
	This Month	Past 2 Mos.	Past 3 Mos	Past 6 Mos	Past 12 Mos	
Western	-1.45	0.39	0.39	0.03	15.42	3.34
Central	-0.83	0.67	1.43	0.25	15.75	3.29
Bluegrass	-0.32	1.52	2.19	0.58	11.43	2.63
Eastern	-0.06	0.50	1.41	0.02	8.69	1.75

*4.0 and above (Extremely Moist)
3.0 to 3.9 (Very Moist Spell)
2.0 to 2.9 (Unusual Moist Spell)
-1.9 to 1.9 (Near Normal)

-2.0 to -2.9 (Moderate Drought)
-3.0 to -3.9 (Severe Drought)
-4.0 or less (Extreme Drought)

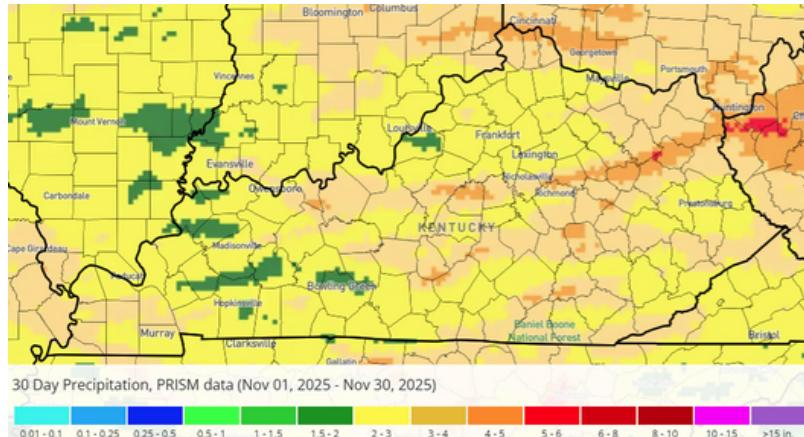


Figure 1. Monthly precipitation map.

Departure From Average

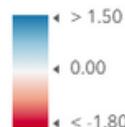


Figure 2. Departure from normal precipitation by county and climate division.

U.S. Drought Monitor Kentucky

December 2, 2025

(Released Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



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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Figure 3. Current US Drought Monitor Map.

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Streamflow

Streamflow in November started the month at or above normal across the Commonwealth. Streamflows stayed near normal during the first half of the month due to the limited runoff from the lighter precipitation events. Streamflows spiked during the second half of the month, especially in central and eastern Kentucky where precipitation amounts were higher.

Overall, streamflows in Kentucky are in good condition. The 28-day average flow shows all the major watersheds with average flows except for the Ohio River. Northern and eastern portions of the Ohio River Valley remain in Moderate to Extreme drought, impacting flows on the Ohio River. However, flows in the Ohio River during the last 7 days of the month were normal, signaling that flows have improved, in part thanks to the increased precipitation at the end of the month.

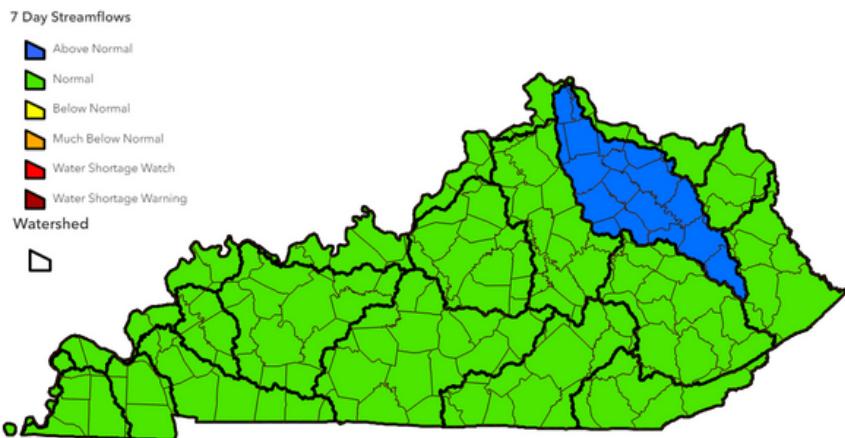


Figure 5. Average streamflow by watershed over the past 7-days (November 24-30).

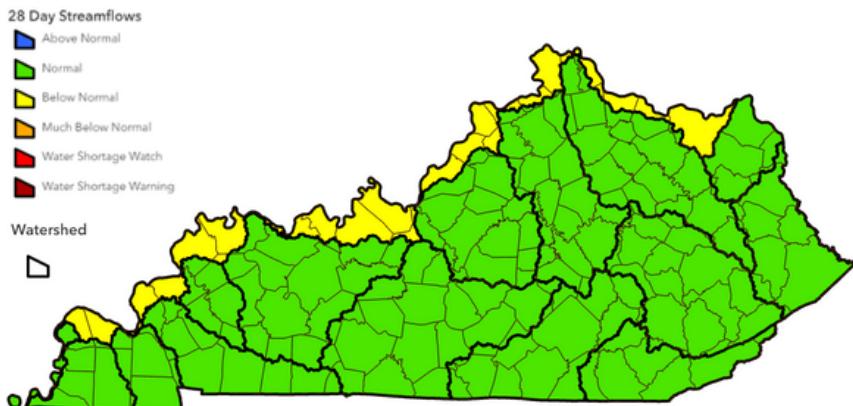


Figure 6. Average streamflow by watershed over the past 28-days (November 3-30).

Table 2. Mean Stream Discharge select stream gages.

River and Location	Drainage Area (mi ²)	7 Day		28 Day	
		Average Flow (cfs)	% of Normal*	Average Flow (cfs)	% of Normal*
Levisa Fork at Pikeville	2,144	514	40	1,738	148
Little Sandy River near Grayson	400	682	135	606	130
North Fork Licking River near Mt. Olive	226	204	59	380	132.0
North Fork Kentucky River at Jackson	1,101	204	59	380	132
Kentucky River at Lock 10	2,950	2,085	37	7,120	150
Cumberland River at Cumberland Falls	1,977	1,785	40	3,408	93
Beaver Creek near Monticello	43	6.8	10	52.0	97
Beech Fork at Bardstown	669	355	28	1,845	176
Barren River at Bowling Green	1,849	2,308	65	3,697	111
Green River at Calhoun	7,566	9,448	66	19,116	151
Tradewater River at Olney	255	40	7.9	774	196
Clarks River at Almo	134	41	13	370	147
Bayou De Chien near Clinton	69	34	21	199	149
Ohio River at Greenup Dam	62,000	52,883	54	74,149	85
Ohio River at Cannelton Dam	97,000	80,160	55	96,381	76
Mississippi River @ Thebes, IL	713,200	95,483	50	191,312	101

* Base Period 1980-2023

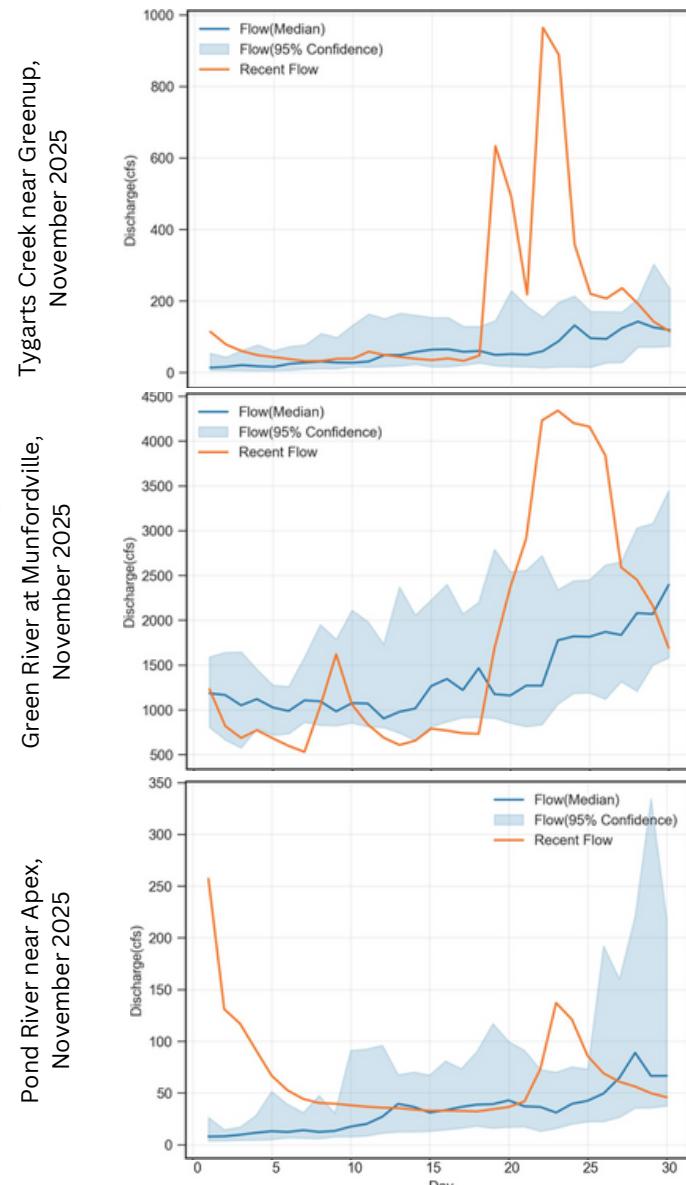


Figure 7. Streamflows compared to median flows for the month.

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Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage for water supply lakes remain normal for the entire state.

We are reaching the time of year when reservoirs begin to switch from draw-down stage to recharge stage, as inflow increases and outpaces withdrawals and evaporation. The recharge stage should continue until late spring and into summer.

There are no concerns with reservoir water supplies and none are expected to develop at this time.

Groundwater

General Statement: Kentucky is a geologically, and hydrogeologically, diverse state. Groundwater data is limited in availability and where available may only be applicable to the immediate area given regional geologic variability. Local conditions may not be accurately reflected by the reference locations selected and local rainfall and surface water conditions may provide additional or more representative information. Current data is compared to a 30-year reference period (1980 – 2010) or the longest available period of continuous data.

Inner Bluegrass: Flow at Royal Springs (Scott Co.) was above the reference median for the majority of November. Peak flow occurred on Nov. 23rd in response to rainfall with flow approaching 70 cubic feet per second. As Fall comes to a close, falling groundwater levels are expected to halt or have stabilized. For the year, flow at Royal Springs has been above normal.

Jackson Purchase: Water levels in the Viola Well (Graves Co.) remained well above the reference median and rose across November. This follows the historical trend and is likely in response to the end of the growing season, and decreased evapotranspiration as vegetation dies off, leaf fall, and lower peak temperatures. Groundwater levels are expected to remain stable or begin to increase as Fall ends.

Middlesboro: Water levels within the Middlesboro well (Bell Co.) rose above the reference period median by the end of the month. This may signal the stabilization of local groundwater levels as Fall comes to an end. For the year, water levels have generally been higher than the reference period.

Additional data can be found at:
<https://www.uky.edu/KGS/water/water-groundwater-monitoring.php>

Figure 8. Locations of reference reservoirs across the state. Status of reservoir levels indicated by color.

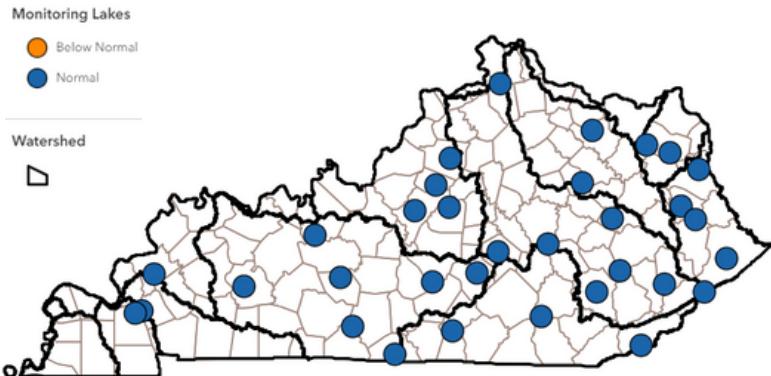
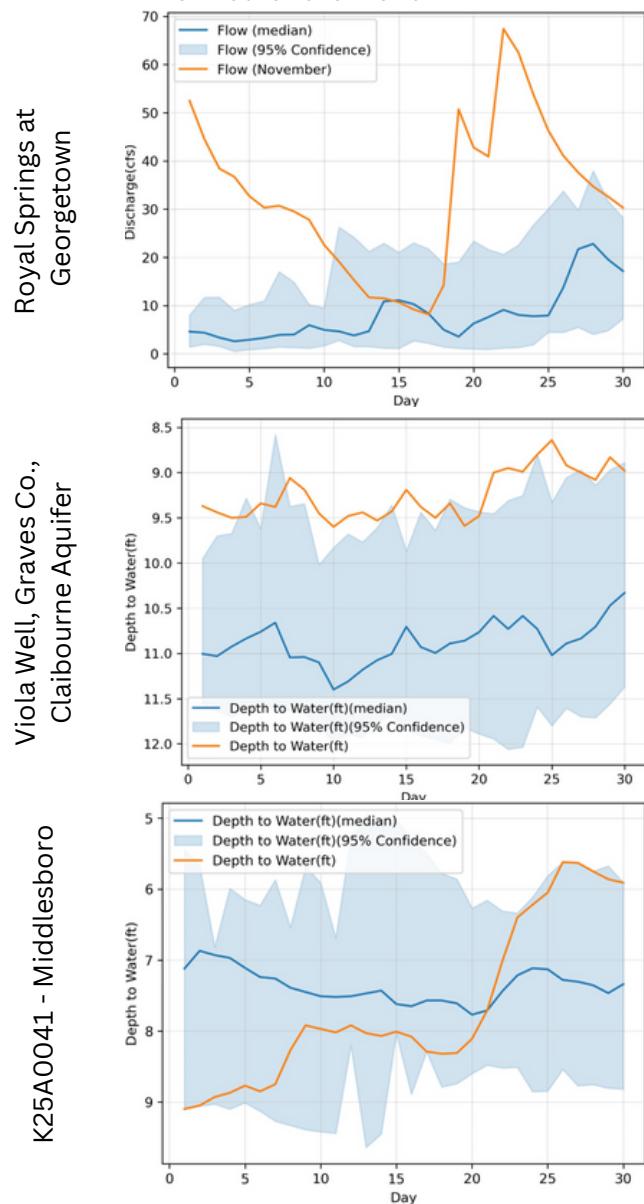


Figure 9. Groundwater observations compared to normal for the month.



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Forecast

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is currently predicting slight above normal chances for above normal precipitation for much of Kentucky during December and for the winter months (December through February). The short-term forecast looks cold for Kentucky with multiple chances for light snow.

La Niña continues in the Pacific Ocean and is expected to continue into early next year. La Niña typically brings increased chances for above normal precipitation to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Valley, including Kentucky.

The current U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook shows drought conditions are not expected to develop in Kentucky during December.

Note: these forecasts do not provide the quantity above or below normal, just the probability it will occur.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 2025
Released November 30, 2025

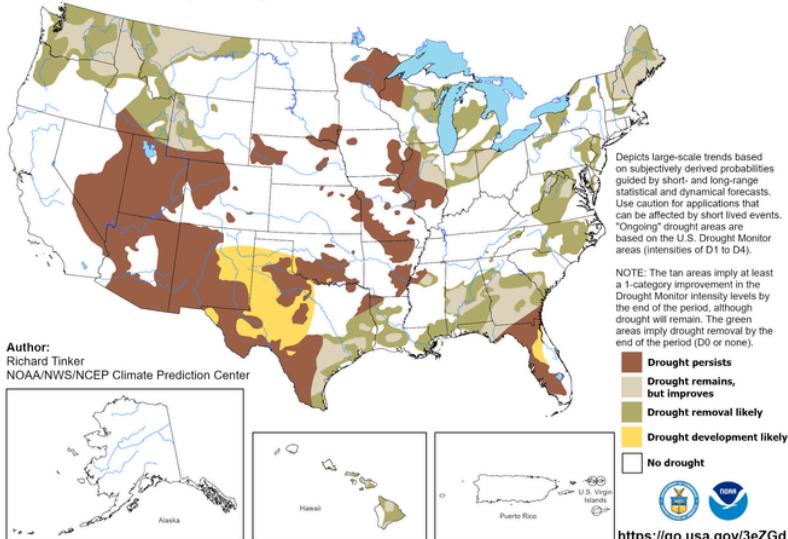
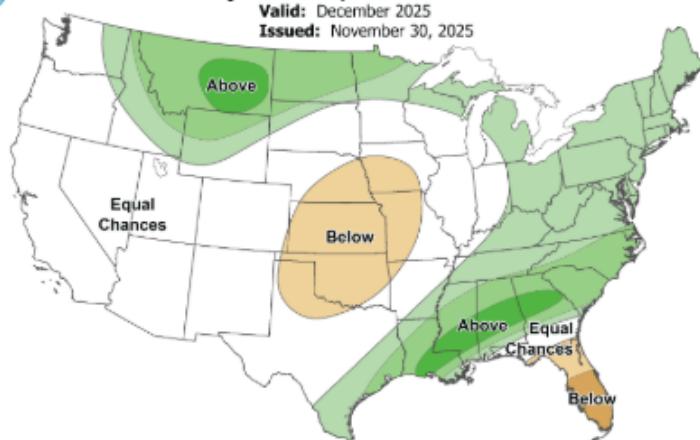


Figure 10. Monthly drought outlook.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: December 2025
Issued: November 30, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26
Issued: November 20, 2025

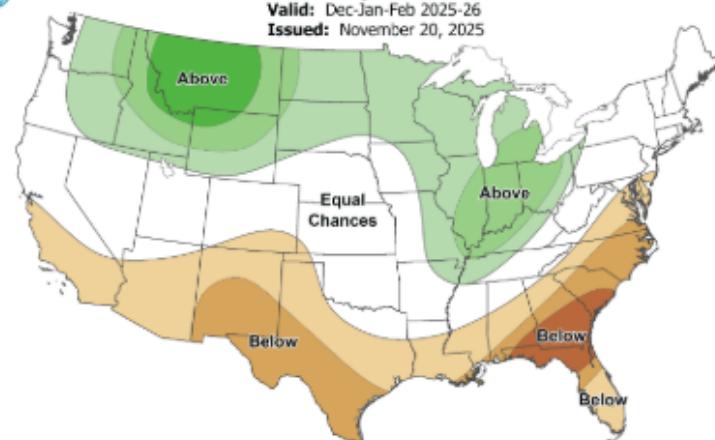


Figure 11. Monthly and seasonal precipitation outlooks.

Contact Us

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[Report Drought Conditions](#)



Acknowledgments

Precipitation Data:

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Centers for Environmental Information; Kentucky Mesonet; Midwest Regional Climate Center; Southern Regional Climate Center.

Streamflow Data:

U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division.

Reservoir Data:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington, Louisville, and Nashville Districts; Kentucky Division of Water, Water Supply Section.

Forecast Data:

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Climate Prediction Center.