Indiana Water and Soil Moisture Conditions

March 5, 2026

Over the week of February 26-March 4, 2026, Indiana received near to below normal rainfall in the northern and southern parts of the state and above normal in the central part of the state. Up to 4 inches of snowfall were reported in the central and southeastern part of the state. Indiana generally received 0.00”-4.0” of precipitation with the highest amounts in the central part of the state.

Mean temperatures for the week were near to much above normal and ranged from 29.7°F in northeastern Indiana to 49.0°F in southwest Indiana. Departure from normal temperature ranged from -0.1°F to 8.2°F. The highest maximum temperature was 74°F recorded in Evansville on March 3, 2026, and the lowest minimum was 13°F in South Bend on February 26, 2026.

Soil moisture data from the NASA SPORT Real-time 3km Land Information System ranges from 20% to 75% for the 0-100cm Relative Soil Moisture with the highest percentages in central and southern Indiana. The lowest relative soil moistures are across northern half of the state.

4” soil water content from the Indiana Mesonet Data Hub on February 19, 2026, indicates a range of 5.6% (very sandy soil) to 43.4% available water with a statewide average of 36.6%.

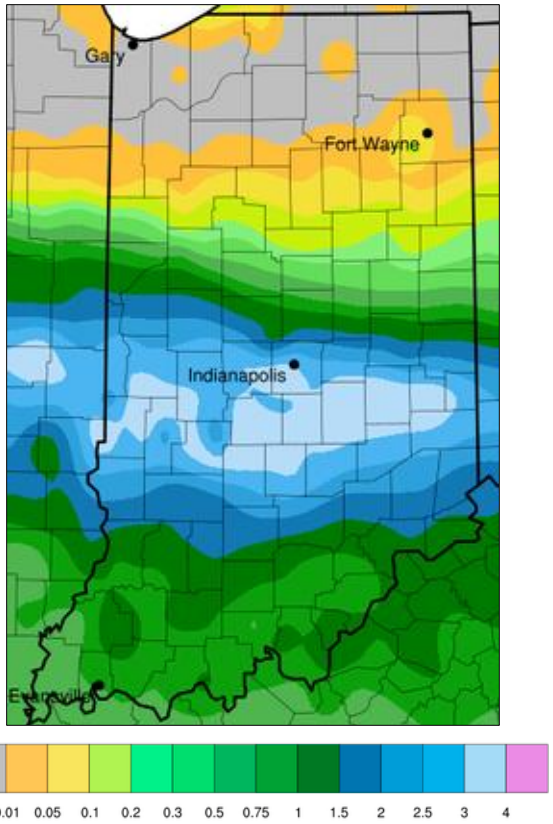


Figure 1. Accumulated precipitation (in.) for February 26-March 4, 2026, from MRCC.

USDM for the State of Indiana

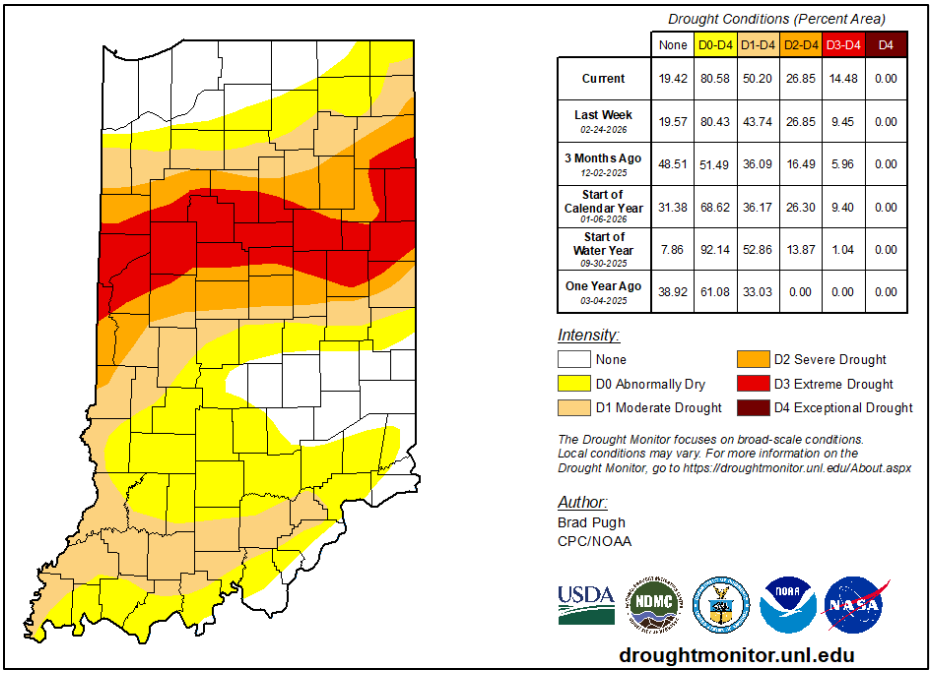


Figure 2. US Drought Monitor for the State of Indiana March 3, 2026.

The US Drought Monitor for the State of Indiana indicates drought conditions declining. Extreme drought conditions are identified in a swath across north-central Indiana. Severe drought conditions boarder the extreme drought area to the north and south. Moderate drought conditions border the severe drought conditions to the north and the south and extend south along the western boarder with a finger extending eastward two-thirds of the length of the state near the southern border. Abnormally dry conditions are indicated along the perimeter of northern drought areas and extending through the southwestern quarter of the state. Small areas in northwestern and southeastern Indiana indicate no drought.

Reservoir Levels as of March 5, 2026

Table 1. Reservoirs managed by United States Army Corp of Engineers.

Reservoir	Brookville	Cecil Harden	Cagles Mill	Monroe	Patoka	JE Roush	Salamonie	Mississinewa
Winter Pool[1]	740.0	640.0	636.0	538.0	532.0	737.0	730.0	712.0
Summer Pool[1]	748.0	662.0	639.5	538.0	536.0	749.0	755.0	737.0
Current Pool[1]	745.1	647.0	645.3	540.5	532.6	738.07	730.27	712.56
% Utilization[2]	11.18	5.59	6.94	10.95	3.10	0.4	0.1	0.2

Table 2. Reservoirs managed by Citizens Energy Group and NIPSCO**. Citizens Energy Group data is from January 27, 2026.*

Reservoir	Eagle Creek[3*]	Geist[3*]	Morse[3*]	Lake Freeman[4**]	Lake Schafer[4**]
Normal Pool	790	784.26	809.44	610.35	645.15
Current Pool	788.87	784.82	809.84	610.40	645.19
% Utilization[2]	-5.3%	--	--	--	--

[1]All units in feet and datum NGVD29

[2]Percent of designed flood storage utilized. The other named reservoirs are not designed for flood storage.

[3]All units in feet and datum NAVD88.

[4]All units in feet Local Datum.

Groundwater Monitoring Network as of March 5, 2026

Groundwater wells across the state range from low to above normal. Data is reported from the U.S. Geological Survey Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center.

*Table 2. Groundwater level rankings relative to normal. No statistics were available for **Hamilton 7, Marion 35, Marion 39,** and **Posey 3**.*

Low <5%		
Benton 4 Boone 17 Cass 3 Clark 20 Elkhart 4 Fulton 7 Grant 8	Jasper 13 Jefferson 5 Knox 7 La Porte 9 LaGrange 2 Noble 8 Parke 6	Pulaski 7 Randolph 3 Tippecanoe 18 Vigo 7 Wells 4 Whitley 3
Much Below 5-10%	**Below 10-25%**	**Near Normal 25-75%**
None	Bartholomew 4 Harrison 8 Knox 8 Lake 13 Morgan 4 Newton 8 Wayne 6	Delaware 4 Grant 10 Martin 5 Shelby 2 Vanderburgh 7
Above 75-90%	**Much Above 90-95%**	**High >95%**
None	None	Decatur 2

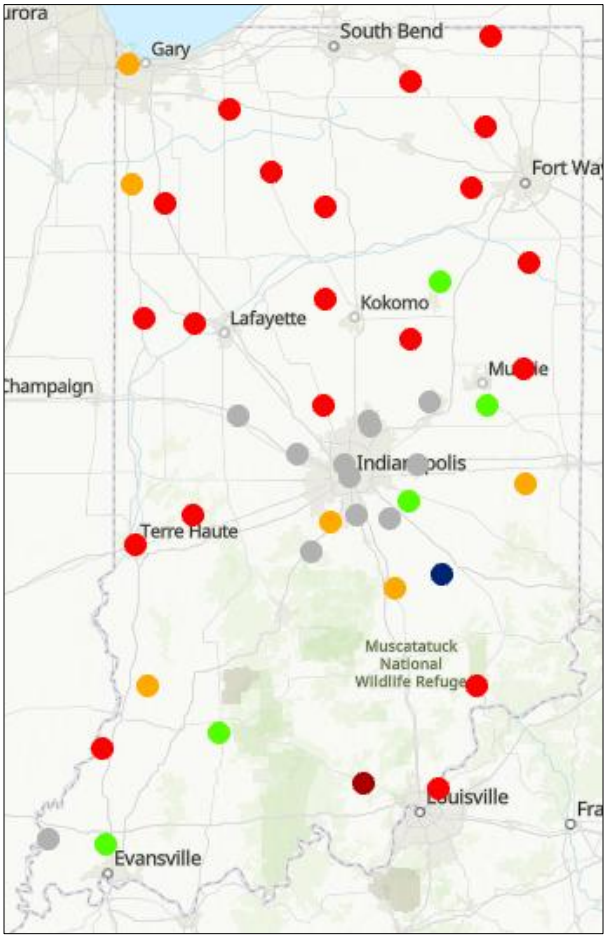


Figure 3. Map of USGS real-time groundwater monitoring wells.

Streamflow Conditions as of March 5, 2026

Streamflow conditions range from much below normal to much above normal across the state with high values in the south and low values in the north. There are 16 gauges reporting normal conditions for the date. There are 10 reporting above normal, 34 reporting much above normal, 11 reporting an all-time high for the date, 18 reporting below normal, 30 reporting much below normal, and 9 reporting an all-time low for the date. 63 gauges were not ranked due to no or insufficient measurements.

Currently, 16% of stream gauges indicate steady flow conditions; 63% are increasing, and 20% are decreasing.

USGS reports 13 streams in “action” stage, 15 streams in “minor” flood stage, 3 streams in “moderate” flood stage, and no streams in “major” flood stage.

The NWS reports 12 stream gauges in “action” stage, 17 stream gauges in “minor” flood stage, 4 streams in “moderate” flood stage, and no streams in “major” flood stage. The NWS Long Range Flood Outlooks indicates a 50% or greater chance that 1 gauge will exceed moderate flood levels and 32 gauges will exceed minor flood levels in southern, western, and northeast Indiana through May.

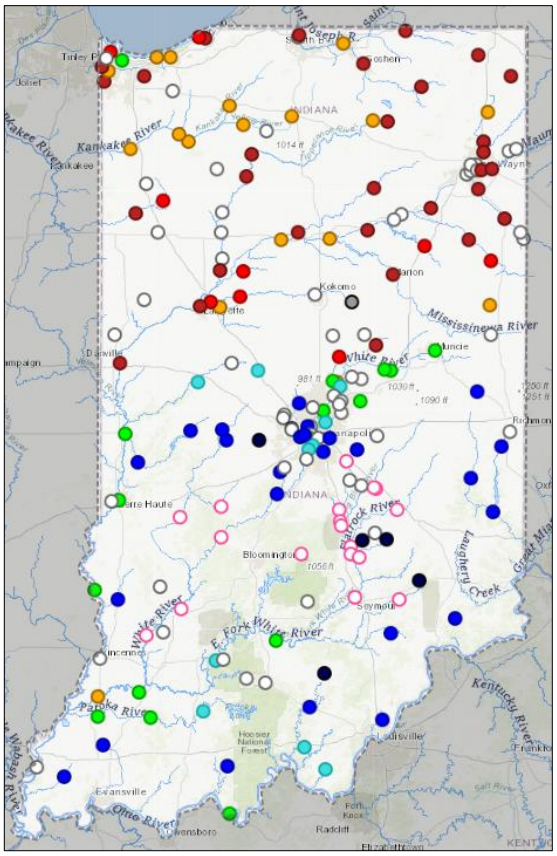


Figure 4. Map of USGS streamflow gauges for Indiana.

NOAA 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast

For March 5, 2026, the 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast valid for March 5-12, 2026, predicts 2.0”-5.0” across the state with the highest amounts predicted in southwest Indiana. Precipitation is predicted throughout the week.

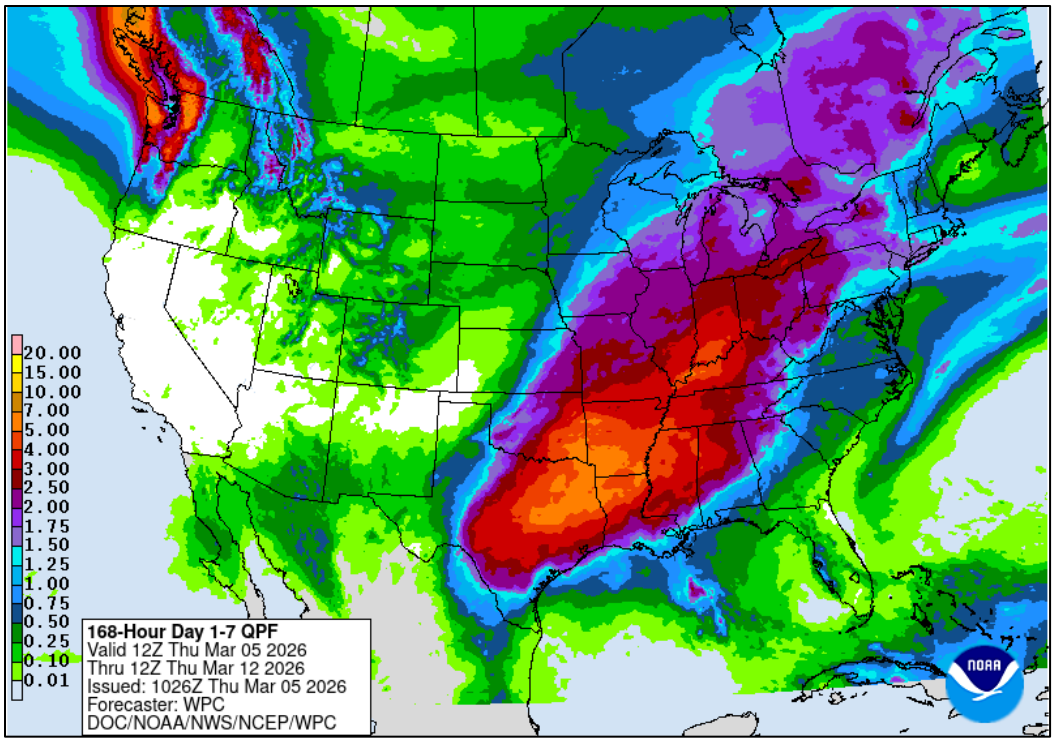
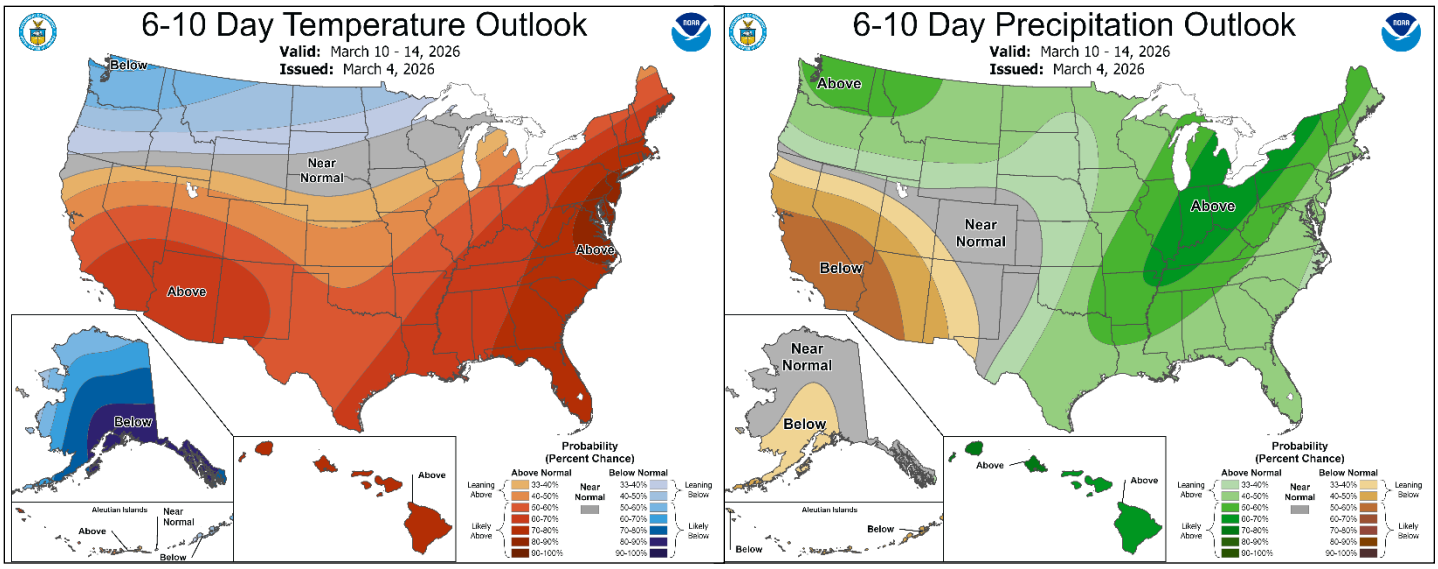


Figure 5. NOAA 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, March 5, 2026.

NOAA National Weather Service 6-10 Day Outlook

The 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook for March 10-14, 2026, projects 40-70% chance of above normal conditions across the state with the highest chances in the southeast. The 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook projects a 60-70% chance of above normal precipitation across the state.



Figures 6-7. 6-10 Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the US

Acknowledgments:

Prepared by DNR-Division of Water, Resource Assessment with data from the following organizations:

Temperature and precipitation data:
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
CoCoRaHS Mapping System

Soil data:
NASA, Short-term Prediction Research and Transition Center
Indiana Mesonet Data Hub

Reservoir data:
US Army Corp of Engineers, Louisville District
US Army Corp of Engineers, Chicago District
Citizens Reservoirs at NWS River Observations
NIPSCO Hydro Plant Lakes

Groundwater data:
U.S. Geological Survey Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center

Streamflow data:
USGS National Water Dashboard
NWS River Forecasts
USGS Water Watch

Drought data:
US Drought Monitor

Forecast:
National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center
National Weather Service, Weather Prediction Center