

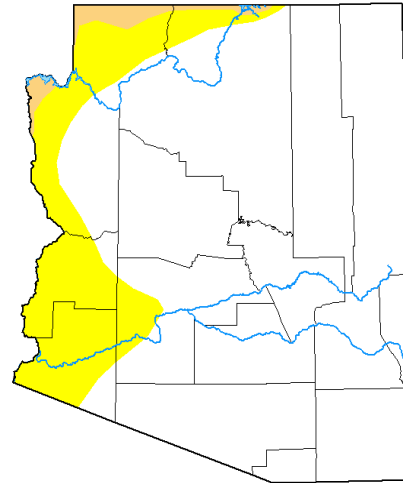
# DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

## March 2023 Short-Term Drought Status

March was an active month with above-average precipitation in central and northern counties and near-normal precipitation in southern counties. Flagstaff had its wettest March on record, and the state overall had below-average temperatures. Snow water equivalent (SWE) in the Lower Colorado River Basin was 420% above median at the end of the month, and releases from the Verde and Salt River basins started early March and continued through the month.

Short-term drought improved with only Moderate (D1) drought remaining in western Yuma, southwestern La Paz, northwestern Mohave, and very northern Coconino County (total 2% of state). The rest of the state had no drought (82%) or Abnormally Dry (D0 with 16%) conditions.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**April 11, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 13, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	82.05	17.95	1.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week (04-04-2023)	81.37	18.63	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (01-10-2023)	27.66	72.34	31.69	1.16	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01-01-2023)	12.40	87.60	38.94	7.85	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (08-15-2022)	0.00	100.00	56.72	18.47	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04-13-2022)	0.00	100.00	86.42	59.77	6.28	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Red)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Dark Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Black)

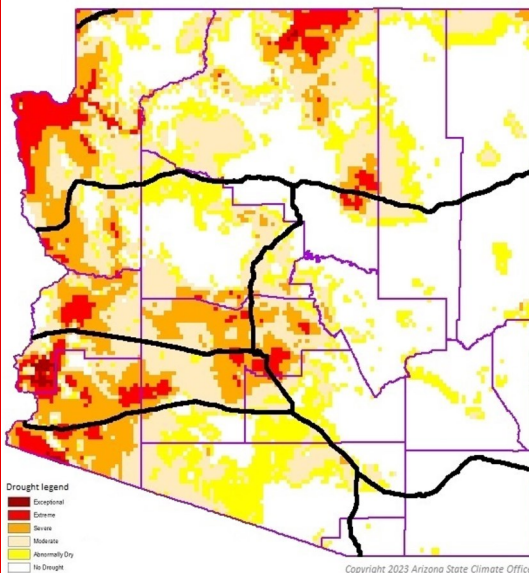
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

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## January-March 2023 Long-Term Drought Status

### January-March 2023 Long-term Drought Average SPEI



From a very wet monsoon season in 2022, followed by a very wet winter into March 2023, long-term drought significantly improved across the state. Only a very small portion of northwest Yuma and southwest La Paz counties remained in Exceptional (D4) long-term drought. Extreme (D3) and Severe (D2) long-term drought continued largely in Yuma, La Paz, Mohave, Coconino, and Maricopa counties. Southern and eastern counties mostly removed long-term drought conditions, but small areas of central Navajo, northern Apache, eastern Yavapai, and western and northern Pima county continued Moderate (D1) long-term drought.

La Niña has ended in the tropical Pacific Ocean with a neutral state expected through the summer. No climate signals exist suggesting either a wetter or drier monsoon season this year. There is a 60% chance of El Niño developing in the fall/winter 2023-2024.