

Shifting Seasons - Fall 2025 and Beyond

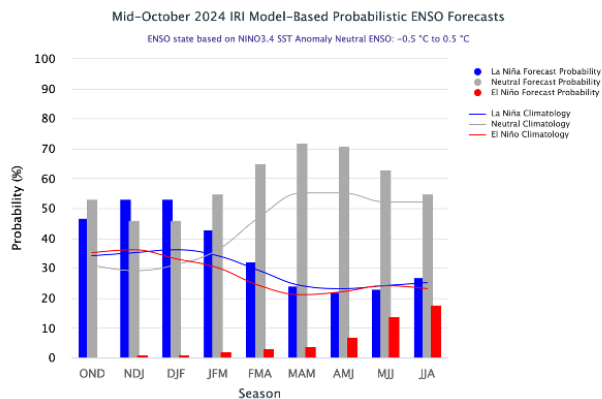
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El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

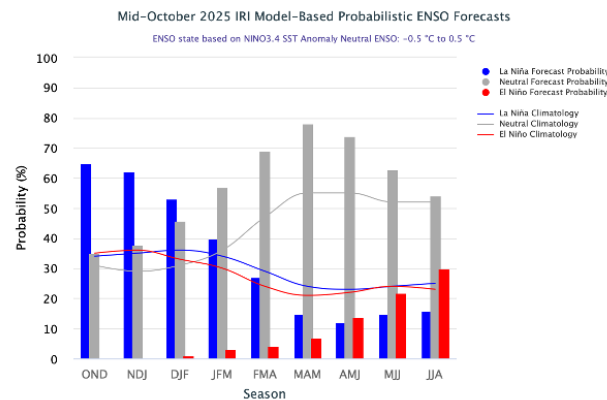
La Niña conditions are anticipated to continue through February 2026, with a probable shift to ENSO-neutral conditions occurring between January and March 2026 ([NOAA](#) & [IRI](#)).

Relative to last year's projection, there is now a stronger indication that ENSO-neutral conditions will prevail in Spring 2026, with an increased chance that this pattern will extend into the summer months.

ENSO Forecast as of Oct 2024



ENSO Forecast as of Oct 2025



2025-26 Winter Outlook

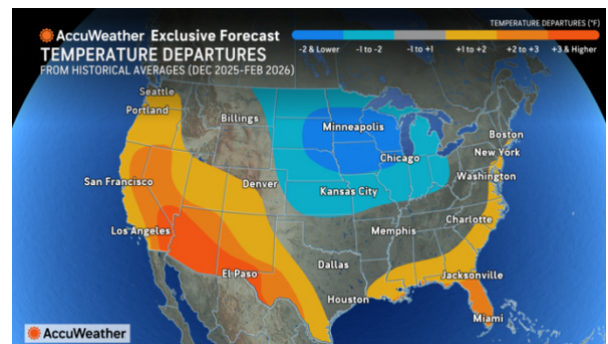
The forecast for Winter 2025/2026 indicates a colder and possibly snowier conditions across parts of the U.S., Canada, and Europe. This outlook is influenced by a weak La Niña, a weaker Polar Vortex, and a negative phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO). While these factors suggest cooler temperatures, a variety of other complex variables also impact global climate patterns.

Using “analog” forecasting, the map (provided by Andrej Flis from [Severe Weather Europe](#)) highlights:

- Above-normal snowfall is expected across northern, eastern, and south-central regions of the United States, along with parts of western and central Canada.
- In Europe, the greatest snowfall is anticipated at higher altitudes and in northern regions, with the UK and Ireland likely to experience an above-average winter.

U.S. Wildfire Risk

- This winter, the La Niña pattern is predicted to bring warmer temperatures across the southern United States.
- There is also a marine heatwave, characterized by sea surface temperatures well above average occurring in the northern Pacific Ocean.
- Consequently, California and the Southwest may experience intensified drought conditions and a **higher chance of wildfires occurring outside the usual season**.
- January storms in Southern California and the Southwest are unlikely to relieve drought conditions. February is predicted to stay warm and dry, **possibly worsening drought across the West Coast and Rocky Mountains through 2026**.



Heavy winter snowfall in high-latitude regions increases the risk of spring flooding as melting snowpack releases stored water. Rapid thawing or rainfall can lead to overflowing rivers and streams, particularly following wet winters with large snowpacks.

