

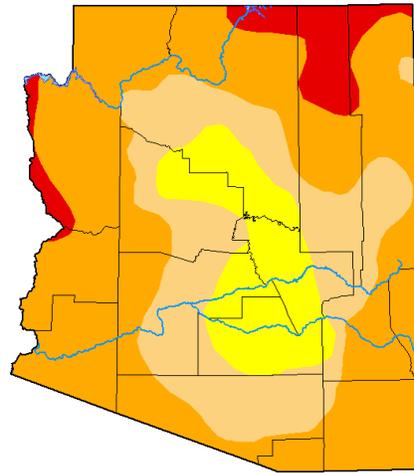
# DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

## March 2022 Short-Term Drought Status

In March, the atmosphere began transitioning from winter patterns. Counties in the northeastern portion of the state, as well as Santa Cruz County, received near-normal precipitation from several passing storm systems. Central and southern counties were largely breezy and dry from these systems, with below-average precipitation for the month. Most counties were warmer than normal, except for Apache, Navajo, Cochise, and Santa Cruz, which were near normal.

Severe (D2) drought more than doubled in March, now comprising 53% of the state and in every county except Gila and Pinal. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were reduced to 14% of the state and only remained in areas along the Mogollon Rim, eastern Maricopa County, and most of Gila and Pinal counties. Moderate (D1) drought encircled those areas, now 27% of the state. Extreme (D3) drought did not change through the month, remaining at 6% of western and northeastern segments of Arizona. There is no Exceptional (D4) drought in the state.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**April 5, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 7, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	86.42	59.77	6.28	0.00
Last Week 03-29-2022	0.00	100.00	75.35	29.49	6.28	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	55.74	26.15	5.08	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2022	0.00	100.00	55.74	26.15	5.08	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2021	0.00	100.00	80.38	40.02	13.69	0.00
One Year Ago 04-06-2021	0.00	100.00	98.90	94.66	86.56	54.80

**Intensity:**  
 None  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Moderate Drought  
 D2 Severe Drought  
 D3 Extreme Drought  
 D4 Exceptional Drought

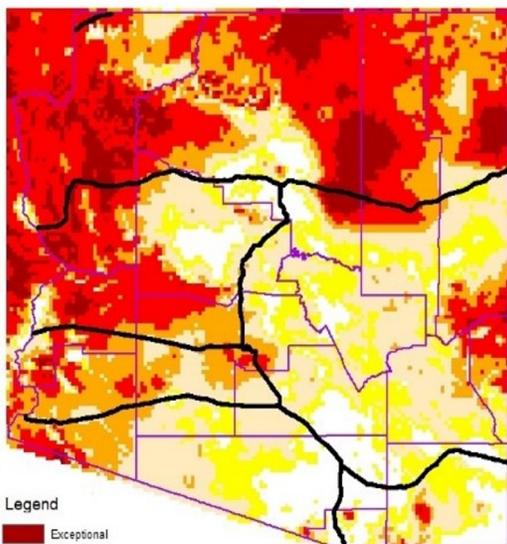
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.asp>.

**Author:**  
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## January-March 2022 Long-term Drought - Average SPEI



**Legend**  
 Exceptional  
 Extreme  
 Severe  
 Moderate  
 Abnormally Dry  
 No Drought

(C)2022 Arizona State Climate Office  
 0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles

## January-March 2022 Long-Term Drought Status

The long-term drought map is calculated from the average of 24-, 36-, and 48-month Standard Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) data. For the January to March long-term drought map, the time frames used in this calculation were noticeably less dry than longer-term time frames. Consequently, long-term drought appeared to improve in central and southern counties. Exceptional (D4) long-term drought persisted in small portions of Navajo and Coconino counties and in pockets of Mohave County. Most Severe (D2) long-term drought remained in Yuma County and central Maricopa County. Extreme (D3) long-term drought continued in La Paz, Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, and Greenlee counties.

La Niña conditions continue to linger but should slowly wane during the summer. There is a very slight shift in odds that the 2022 monsoon season could be wetter than average in the southeast part of the state.