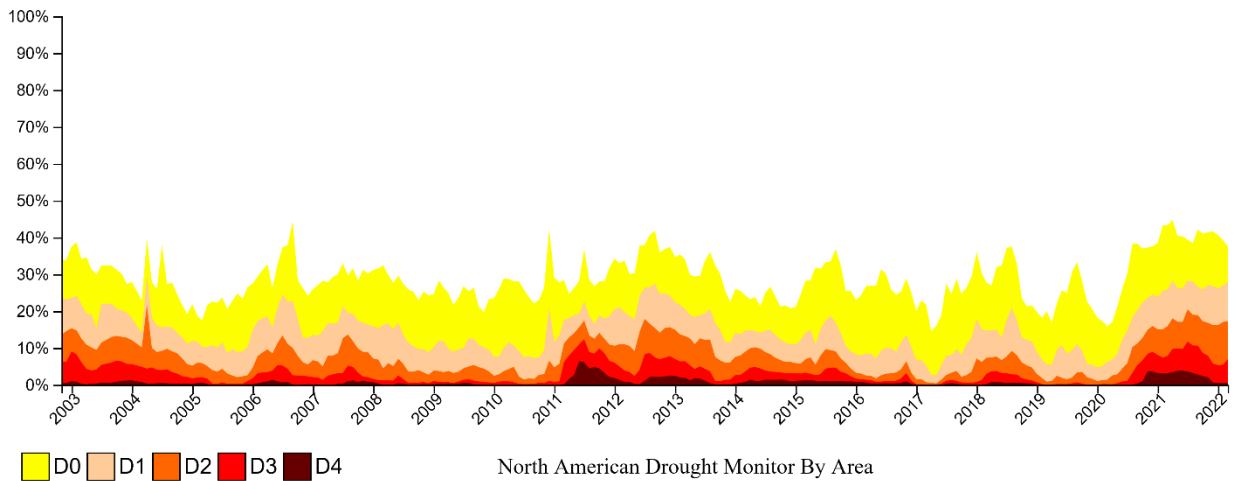
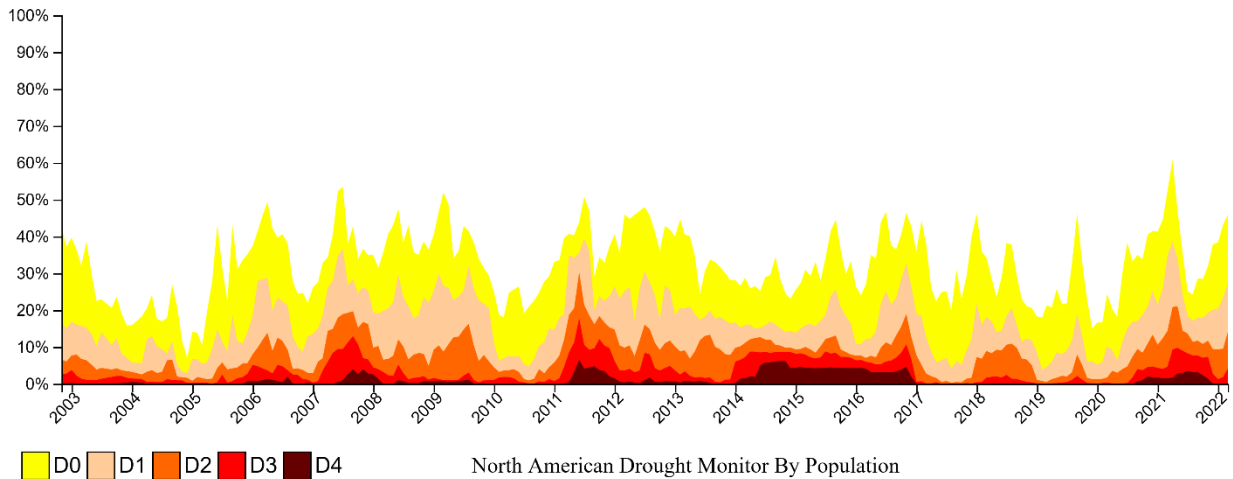


## North American Drought Monitor – March 2022

At the end of March 2022, moderate to exceptional drought (D1-D4) affected 27.9% of the area and 26.8% of the population of North America. The percent area value was 0.9% more than the value for the end of February 2022. The percent population value was 3.3% more than the value for the end of February. At the end of March, 64.2% of the Columbia River Basin, 84.6% of the Rio Grande/Bravo River Basin, and 76.8% of the Great Plains were in moderate to exceptional drought, and 3.5% of the Great Lakes Basin was in moderate to severe (D1-D2) drought. The North American Great Plains extends across the United States and into adjacent parts of northeast Mexico and the southern Prairies of Canada. The percent area values for the Rio Grande/Bravo River basin and Great Plains increased compared to the end of February. The percent area values for the Great Lakes and Columbia River basins decreased compared to the end of February.



*Percent area of North America in drought, November 2002-March 2022.*



*Percent of the population of North America in drought, November 2002-March 2022.*

## **CANADA:**

### **National Overview**

Spring melt is well underway throughout Canada with near-normal or above-normal temperatures in March for the majority of Canada. British Columbia, the Atlantic region, and the central Prairies received above-normal winter precipitation. The southern Prairies received below-normal winter precipitation, resulting in continuing widespread and significant drought conditions. Minimal changes to drought were seen across Central Canada as long-term trends indicated continued dryness. Atlantic Canada remained drought free due to significant moisture in the last 3 to 6 months. Conditions degraded slightly in parts of Northern Canada this month. Overall, drought continued to dominate much of the Prairie region, but the extent and severity has been reduced in many areas.

While there have been substantial improvements to drought conditions across Western Canada since last summer (particularly in British Columbia, southern Manitoba and the northern agricultural regions of Saskatchewan and Alberta), many of these areas remain extremely vulnerable to drought going forward as a result of low soil moisture reserves and depleted water supplies. An extended dry period this spring or summer would impact crops and pastures faster and more severely as a result.

At the end of the month, 14% of the country was classified as abnormally dry (D0) or in moderate to extreme drought (D1 to D3), including 60% of the country's agricultural landscape. No exceptional drought (D4) was reported this month.

### **Pacific Region (BC)**

During March, near-normal temperatures were reported across the region, with warmer conditions in the southeastern corner. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions remained in the southern half of the province as long-term blends continued to indicate below-normal moisture. Low snowpack and below-normal to moderately low precipitation in the last 3 months led to moderate drought (D1) persisting in the Okanagan near Penticton and Salmon Arm. A small pocket of D0 was also placed on Vancouver Island given a similar scenario, with both low snowpack and limited short-term moisture. In addition, both short- and long-term blends indicated below-normal precipitation northwest of Prince George, which led to a small expansion of D0. Despite these deteriorations, improvements were made to D0 conditions across the Peace region as 110 to 150% of normal precipitation fell in the past 90 days. Abnormally dry (D0) conditions were also alleviated along the southern border of the province as near- to above-normal precipitation occurred over the past 6 months.

At the end of the month, 6% of the Pacific region was considered abnormally dry (D0) or in moderate drought (D1), including 28% of the region's agricultural landscape.

## **Prairie Region (AB, SK, MB)**

A large swath of the Prairies continued to experience long-term precipitation deficits, with a smaller portion also seeing short-term impacts. Although significant amounts of snow fell across northern agricultural areas causing drought conditions to improve, a lack of rainfall across the southern Prairies led to either continued or deteriorating drought conditions. During March, temperatures were near normal for most of the region except for southwestern Alberta, which reported temperatures 2 to 4 degrees above normal, and southeastern Manitoba, which was 2 to 4 degrees below normal.

The main story across the Prairies for March was one of drought improvement, although degradation still took place in a few areas. Much of the expansion of drought occurred in southern Alberta, where precipitation was reported to be moderately to extremely low in the last 365 days. An area stretching north and south of Calgary was also moderately to very low in precipitation in the last 90 days. Long-term precipitation deficits driven by last summer's high heat were also reported in the last year. These factors led to the expansion of extreme drought (D3) in the area, including a new pocket of D3 around Airdrie. An additional pocket of D3 was also brought back to Estevan, Saskatchewan as precipitation deficits have re-emerged in the last 9 months. Any remaining areas of extreme drought (D3) remained in place from Saskatoon to Swift Current and toward Alberta due to this area only receiving 40 to 60% of normal precipitation since March of last year.

Since October 1, 2021, the northern agricultural areas from the Peace Region in B.C. toward the southeastern corner of Manitoba have received 115 to 150% of normal precipitation, with a few local areas receiving more than 200% of normal. As a result of this significant moisture, further improvements to drought took place this month. Abnormally dry (D0), moderate drought (D1) and severe drought (D2) were all improved and pulled south away from the northern agricultural areas of this region. Some of this moisture also reached into south-central Saskatchewan, where severe drought (D2) was significantly improved from Melfort toward Saskatoon. The final remaining exceptional drought (D4) pocket around Rosetown, Saskatchewan was also removed as conditions were no longer extreme enough to support this designation. Finally, much of southern Manitoba continued to see improved moisture conditions, especially in the last 6 months. Due to above-normal precipitation values across southern parts of the province, a significant portion of severe drought (D2) was reduced. Conditions were especially improved around Winnipeg, where areas bordering the city remain abnormally dry (D0) or with no drought at all. Although moisture deficits have not been fully rectified, seedbed moisture is sufficient, and, with the addition of intermittent spring rainfall, will continue to improve.

Although there was concern for low spring runoff and water supplies in southeastern parts of Saskatchewan, the area received enough runoff to alleviate those concerns. However, this region will still be monitored as we enter the growing season as it remains vulnerable to drought development.

At the end of the month, 38% of the Prairie Region was classified as abnormally dry (D0) or in moderate to extreme drought (D1 to D3), including 85% of the region's agricultural landscape.

### **Central Canada (ON, QC)**

The drought situation in Central Canada remained fairly quiet in March, with only minimal improvements made and limited deterioration of conditions. Much of the region received near-to above-normal moisture this month, except for select areas in northern Quebec. Parts of south-central Ontario and southern Quebec saw the greatest amount of precipitation, reporting very high to exceptionally high values in March. Although moisture in the short term was adequate for southern Quebec, this area remains dry in the long term, reporting moderately low precipitation in the last 365 days. As a result of long-term deficits and short-term improvements, moderate drought (D1) remained but was reduced in size. Parts of northern Ontario and Quebec also lacked sufficient moisture, including in the last 3 and 12 months. The area around Dryden, Ontario only received 60 to 85% of normal moisture in the last 90 days, while areas in northern Quebec received only 40 to 60% of normal moisture. As such, the moderate drought (D1) pocket remained around Dryden and abnormally dry (D0) conditions were extended into northern Quebec. A small portion of central Ontario and Quebec was improved from abnormally dry (D0) conditions due to sufficient moisture in the last 3 months, roughly equating to 115 to 200% of normal precipitation.

At the end of the month, 7% of the Central Region was classified as abnormally dry (D0) or in moderate drought (D1), including 18% of the region's agricultural landscape.

### **Atlantic Canada (NS, NL, NB, PEI)**

Minimal changes were seen in the Atlantic Region in March as significant precipitation continued to fall. Nearly the entire region received moderately high to exceptionally high precipitation in the past 30 days; this equates to 115 to more than 200% of normal moisture for this month. This, coupled with the significant moisture in the last year, prevented any abnormally dry (D0) or drought conditions from forming. However, Labrador continued to experience abnormally dry (D0) conditions in the northwestern corner as below-normal precipitation was reported in the last 3 months.

At the end of the month, 17% of the Atlantic Region was classified as abnormally dry (D0); none of the region's agricultural landscape reported any drought.

### **Northern Canada (YK, NWT)**

Much of Northern Canada remained drought-free this month, excluding parts of the Northwest Territories. Significant moisture continued to fall across southern Yukon and the western Northwest Territories, where above-normal to exceptionally high March precipitation fell. This extends further into the long term as nearly double the average moisture has fallen in parts of southwestern Yukon since September 1, 2021, from Dawson to Watson Lake. However, because

eastern portions of the Northwest Territories received moderately low precipitation in the last 3 months, abnormally dry (D0) conditions were expanded toward Yellowknife.

Only 3% of the Northern Region was classified as abnormally dry (D0).

## **UNITED STATES:**

### **National Overview**

During March, drought conditions continued across a large portion of the contiguous U.S. Drought conditions generally stayed the same or worsened in central and southern Texas and adjacent parts of southeast and southern New Mexico. Drought conditions also stayed the same or worsened in California and southern Oregon, southern Idaho, and northwest Wyoming. Conditions stayed constant or worsened in the northern Great Plains. Finally, conditions worsened in southern Louisiana, central Georgia, south Florida, eastern North Carolina, and the mid-Atlantic. At the end of March, moderate and severe drought covered much of the western half of the contiguous U.S., with patches of extreme and exceptional drought also occurring. A mix of improvements and degradations occurred in the central Great Plains. Several areas saw mostly improvements during March. Among these were northern Oregon, western Montana, eastern Colorado, eastern Kansas and Oklahoma, northwest Missouri, the ArkLaTex region, northern Florida, and the Upper Midwest/western Great Lakes. During March, a mix of improvements and degradations occurred in Puerto Rico. A mix of improvements and degradations also occurred in Hawaii. Finally, Alaska remained free of drought or abnormal dryness during March. For more local details, please refer to the region-specific paragraphs below.

Above-normal temperatures were common in the far western U.S., stretching from western Montana and western Idaho to Washington, Oregon, and California. Generally, temperatures in these areas were 2 to 4 degrees above normal, with some variation from that range in either direction. Warmer than normal temperatures also occurred in much of the eastern U.S. Cooler than normal temperatures prevailed in the central and southern Rocky Mountains, with most areas having readings between 2 and 4 degrees below normal. Cooler than normal temperatures also occurred in northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the western Michigan Upper Peninsula. These areas were also generally between 2 and 4 degrees below normal. Finally, below-normal temperatures were common along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coasts, where monthly readings came in 2 to 4 degrees cooler than normal in spots.

Drier than normal weather enveloped large swaths of the contiguous U.S. in March. Compared to normal for March, the driest areas included the central Appalachian Mountains, parts of eastern North Carolina, much of central, southern, and western Texas, the northern Great Plains, and California, Washington, Oregon, central Idaho, and northwest Wyoming. Wetter than normal weather occurred in northern Florida, parts of northern Louisiana and eastern Texas, northeast Iowa, much of Wisconsin and Michigan, and from central and northern Missouri through central

Illinois. In Puerto Rico, there was a mix of above- and below-normal precipitation across the island. Much of Hawaii saw drier than normal weather in March, particularly on Oahu and Maui. Alaska also saw a mix of above- and below-normal precipitation, but generally, northern Alaska was drier than normal, while south-central and southeast Alaska were wetter than normal.

### **Northeast**

Temperatures in the Northeast region during March were generally a couple degrees warmer than normal. There were also scattered pockets of temperatures 3 degrees warmer than normal in the March data. Drier than normal weather set in from New York City and New Jersey westward across southern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. Drier than normal weather also occurred near Buffalo, and in coastal areas of southern New England. At the end of March, a small area of moderate and severe long-term drought continued in west-central Maine, along the Canadian border. A few areas of short-term moderate drought also were occurring in southern New Jersey, southeast Pennsylvania, and small areas of Maryland and northern Delaware. Moderate drought covered 3.13% of the region at the end of March, while severe drought covered 0.67%.

### **Southeast**

March weather varied across the Southeast region during March. Three notable areas of drier than normal weather occurred during the month. Drier than normal weather occurred in northern and western Virginia, particularly along the Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky borders. Dry weather also occurred from southwest Georgia through central and southern South Carolina and in portions of eastern North Carolina. Dry conditions also occurred in south Florida. Temperatures in March were mostly 2 to 4 degrees warmer than normal, with the exception of Alabama, which saw temperatures closer to normal in most areas. Isolated readings from 4 to 6 degrees above normal could be found in the Florida Peninsula, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Moderate short-term drought was scattered about the region at the end of March, mostly reflecting areas that had the driest March weather. Short-term moderate drought had developed in southern portions of the Florida Peninsula, and from southwest Georgia to eastern North Carolina. An area of severe drought could be found in eastern North Carolina. At the end of March, moderate drought covered 19.51% of the region, while severe drought covered 0.6%.

### **South**

Much drier than normal weather enveloped two areas of the South region during March. First, a large portion of the west half of Texas saw well below normal precipitation for March, particularly from the southern Texas Panhandle southeast to the Hill Country, Edwards Plateau, and south Texas. Drier than normal weather also occurred in northern portions of Tennessee. Above-normal rainfall fell from central Mississippi to northern Louisiana to parts of east-central Texas. Temperature departures from normal in the South region varied from east to west. In eastern and central Tennessee, temperatures from 2 to 4 degrees warmer than normal were common. Farther west in the region, temperatures were mostly either near or below normal, with a few

local exceptions. In western Texas, and in areas along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana, some spots had temperatures 2 to 4 degrees cooler than normal. Short-term moderate, severe, extreme, and locally exceptional drought covered parts of western and central Texas, as well as the central third of Oklahoma, at the end of the month. Moderate, severe, and extreme drought also covered parts of western Mississippi, southern Arkansas, and Louisiana. Short- and long-term drought, mostly severe, extreme, or exceptional, covered western Oklahoma, the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, and much of Texas along the Rio Grande, excepting the El Paso area. Moderate drought covered 68.47% of the region, while severe, extreme, and exceptional drought coverage came in at 51.65, 28.54, and 4.66%, respectively.

## **Midwest**

During March, wetter than normal conditions enveloped much of the Midwest region, though in the far northwest and southeast reaches of the region, drier weather occurred. Much of Wisconsin and Michigan, eastern Iowa, and central Missouri and Illinois had above-normal precipitation for the month. Southern Ohio, southeast Indiana, and most of central and eastern Kentucky had near normal or drier than normal weather for the month. Parts of northwest Iowa and most of western Minnesota were also drier than normal. A north-to-south gradient in temperature anomalies also occurred during March in the Midwest. Generally, central and northern portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the western Michigan Upper Peninsula, saw temperatures range from 2 to 4 degrees below normal. Farther south and east, temperatures ranging from 1 to 4 degrees above normal were common in eastern Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. At the end of March, mostly long-term moderate drought covered parts of northern Illinois, eastern Iowa, southern and northwest Wisconsin, northern Minnesota, and a couple parts of northern Michigan. A small area of severe drought covered the southeast corner of Wisconsin. Short- and long-term moderate drought covered a portion of northwest and north-central Iowa, while severe drought extended slightly into northwest Iowa from Nebraska near and south of Sioux City. At the end of March, moderate drought covered 10.21% of the Midwest region, while severe drought covered 0.34%.

## **High Plains**

During March, dry weather enveloped a region stretching from central and north-central Nebraska through most of the Dakotas and northeast Wyoming. Drier than normal weather also occurred in northwest and west-central Wyoming. Wetter than normal weather occurred in parts of central and eastern Colorado, and in parts of east-central and northeast Kansas. Temperatures in the High Plains region were mostly within a couple degrees of normal, with some local variation. An exception to this was in Colorado, western Nebraska and Kansas, and central south-central Wyoming, where temperatures from 2 to 4 degrees below normal were common. Short- and long-term drought covered much of the western half to two-thirds of the High Plains region at the end of March, with numerous areas experiencing severe drought or worse. Moderate drought covered 77.88% of the region, and severe drought covered 45.24%. Extreme drought covered 8.01% of the region, while a small part of an exceptional drought area in the southern

plains extended into southwest Kansas and extreme southeast Colorado, resulting in a regional exceptional drought coverage of 0.33%.

## **West**

Drought continued to cover most of the West region in March. Several locations stood out with well below normal precipitation during the month. Much of southern Idaho was far drier than normal during March, as were large portions of southern Oregon. California was also drier than normal, particularly in the northern half of the state and in the Sierra Nevada, where snowpack continues to decline, a problem across many high elevation spots in the West. On the wet side, some higher elevation locations in northeast Utah had above-normal precipitation, as well as some other localized spots scattered about the West region. Warmer than normal temperatures occurred across large portions of western Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California, with many areas experiencing temperatures 2 to 4 degrees above normal, with locally higher readings in parts of northern California. Widespread slightly below normal temperatures, mostly from 2 to 4 degrees below normal, occurred in New Mexico, southeast Utah, and southeast Idaho, as well as a few other areas. Moderate drought covered 55.84% of the west region at the end of March, and severe drought covered 46.85% of the region. Extreme drought covered 20.67%, and exceptional drought covered 1.88%.

## **Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico**

Wetter than normal weather occurred in parts of south-central and southeast Alaska during March, while precipitation was below normal over parts of northern Alaska. Most of the state experienced warmer than normal weather, with numerous spots in south-central and western Alaska reaching or exceeding 6 degrees above normal for the month. Alaska remained free of drought or abnormal dryness during March.

Most of Hawaii saw drier than normal weather in March, particularly on Oahu and Maui. Most of the state also had warmer than normal temperatures during March, particularly on Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii, where temperatures locally reached 3 degrees above normal for the month. Some level of drought covered each of the islands at the end of March, with small areas of extreme drought taking place on Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii. Moderate drought covered 78.71% of the state, severe drought covered 34.44%, and extreme drought covered 2.93% of Hawaii. Drought was depicted as short-term across the state.

Precipitation amounts, compared to normal for March, were varied across Puerto Rico. In the southwest coastal area, below-normal rain fell during the month, while drier than normal weather also occurred south of Palomas and along the northwest coast. Temperatures were mostly within a degree and a half of normal across the island. Two small areas of moderate long-term drought were occurring in Puerto Rico, one along the south-central coast, and another along part of the southwest coast. Together, these covered 4.73% of Puerto Rico.



## **MEXICO:**

### **National overview**

Climatologically, March is the driest month of the year; despite being strongly influenced by winter systems, a stable and dry environment usually prevails. Overall, March was cold and dry. Precipitation this month was concentrated along the Yucatan Peninsula, the Gulf of Mexico's slope and, to a lesser extent, in the northwest tip of the country. These precipitation patterns were due to the influence of cold fronts. Although March saw more cold fronts than normal climatology for the month, only six out of the total eight brought a significant amount of precipitation.

Above-average precipitation occurred only in the Yucatan Peninsula, with surpluses greater than 40 mm (1.57 in). In the rest of the country, there was a lack of precipitation, with higher deficits in the northeast. Precipitation was similar between the two fortnights of the month. During the first fortnight, precipitation was above average mainly due to the effects of three cold fronts, and was mainly located in the Yucatan Peninsula. Meanwhile, below-average conditions prevailed along the Gulf of Mexico's slope, the northeast and the northern part of the country, as well as some portions of the central plateau. During the second fortnight, the precipitation pattern was similar to the first one, with the rain focused on the west and along the Yucatan Peninsula due to the other three cold fronts. The lack of precipitation also lingers along the Gulf of Mexico coast. A high-pressure system at 500 hPa promoted stable and clear weather during March. Total March precipitation was 7.1 mm (0.28 inches), 44.9% of the average, and it was ranked as the third driest March on record.

The national mean temperature was 19.8 degrees C (67.64 degrees F), 0.3 degrees C (0.80 degrees F) below the 1991-2020 average. Below-normal temperatures covered the northwest, Pacific coast and Gulf of Mexico's coast where anomalies were approximately 2.0 degrees C (7.0 degrees F) below average. In contrast, above-average temperatures were concentrated along the southern Pacific coast, the central-northern region and the Yucatan Peninsula, with anomalies 2.0 degrees C (7.0 degrees F) above average. The national mean temperature offset the cold and warm regions, making March 2022 the 34<sup>th</sup> warmest out of 70 on record.

According to data of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) for March, 1,430 forest fires were reported, which affected a total of 39,942.49 hectares (98,698 acres). So far this year, 1,991 forest fires have been reported and a total of 50,613.36 hectares (124,067 acres) have been affected, so almost 72% of the year's total forest fires occurred during March, the driest month of the year, as mentioned earlier.

Nationally, by March 31 the total area in moderate to exceptional (D1 – D4) drought was 46.01%, an increase of 22.91% compared to February 2022. The area not affected by drought is 25.78%. During March, exceptional drought (D4) emerged; this category had not been observed in the country since July 2021.

**Northwest or Northern Pacific (Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit):** Precipitation deficits were approximately 10 mm (0.39 inches) or less over the region; in fact, it was the 11<sup>th</sup> driest March on record for Sonora. In the rest of the states, conditions were close to average. Most of the region (mainly Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit) was influenced by cooler than average conditions. By contrast, above-average temperatures were observed in Baja California and Baja California Sur, which had their 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> warmest March on record, respectively. These conditions increased the amount of moderate to severe drought (D1 to D2) to 46.4%, the highest increase compared to all other regions. Moderate drought (D1) increased 45.7% and covered 70.0% of the region. By the end of March, the drought footprint (D1-D2) covered 99.8% of the Northwest.

**Northern (Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Zacatecas and San Luis Potosí):** Every state in the Northern region saw below-average precipitation. The highest deficits were reported in Coahuila and eastern San Luis Potosí, with deficits of at least 20 mm (0.79 inches). For most of the states, March 2022 ranked in the top-ten driest Marches, with Chihuahua recording its ninth driest, Coahuila its third driest, San Luis Potosí its second driest, and Zacatecas its driest March on record.

Abnormally dry conditions (D0) subsided; however, there was a 26.9% increase in moderate to exceptional drought (D1–D4). Exceptional drought (D4) increased in the region and covered 0.2% of the surface. In total, 95.3% of the northern region was covered by drought, the second highest value compared to all regions. Northern Chihuahua and southern Durango had below-average temperatures, with mean temperature anomalies around 2.0 degrees C (3.5 degrees F) below average; in contrast, Coahuila, Zacatecas and Durango recorded above-average temperatures, with anomalies around 1.0 degrees C (1.8 degrees F) warmer than normal.

**Northeast (Nuevo León and Tamaulipas):** In both states, conditions were drier than average. Precipitation deficits were greater than 40 mm (1.57 inches) in most parts of these states. In both states, March 2022 ranked in the top-five driest on record, with Tamaulipas recording its third driest and Nuevo León its second driest March. The influence of cold fronts caused below-average temperatures in both states. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) increased in the region by 4.2%; along with the Northern region, they were the only states that had an increase in the extreme drought (D2) category, which now covers 4.2% of the region. By March 31, moderate to extreme drought (D1–D3) covered 79.6% of the region.

**Midwest (Aguascalientes, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Colima and Michoacán):** This region had drier than normal conditions, with precipitation deficits around 10 mm (0.39 inches) in most of the region. Four out of the five states ranked in the top-ten driest Marches on record; Guanajuato recorded its tenth driest and Jalisco, Aguascalientes and Colima recorded their driest March. Above-average temperatures prevailed, with anomalies around 2.0 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above average in most of the region. In particular, Jalisco recorded its eighth warmest March on record. Overall, 47.0% of the region is in moderate to severe drought (D1-D2), an increase of 23.4% compared to the previous month.

**Central-South (Querétaro, Hidalgo, State of Mexico, Tlaxcala, Puebla, Morelos and Mexico City):** In the Central-South region, drier than average conditions prevailed, mainly in the northern portion, particularly Querétaro, Hidalgo and northern Puebla, where deficits were around 40 mm (1.57 inches). Hidalgo recorded its third driest March. Temperatures were warmer than average, with positive anomalies around 2.0 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) in some spots. Mexico City and Hidalgo recorded their sixth warmest March. While 4.65% of the region has moderate to severe drought (D1-D2) conditions, 73.4% of the total area does not have any drought concern.

**Gulf of Mexico (Veracruz and Tabasco):** Below-average precipitation occurred in northern Veracruz while above-average conditions dominated in southern Veracruz and Tabasco. Overall, Veracruz experienced its fourth driest March on record. Due to cold front influences, temperatures were colder than average in Veracruz, which recorded its eighth coldest March. Moderate drought affected 18.8% of the Gulf of Mexico states, an increase of 4% compared to the previous month. In addition, 60.8% of the region is not affected by drought.

**South Pacific (Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas):** Drier than normal conditions prevailed during March in Oaxaca and Guerrero, where precipitation deficits rose 10 mm (0.39 inches). In Chiapas, above-normal precipitation was received, mainly in the northern portion of the state where the surpluses were around 40 mm (1.57 inches); however, in the southern portion of the state, deficits were around 20 mm (0.79 inches). Oaxaca was the driest state among the three, experiencing its seventh driest March on record. Temperatures were warmer than the average in Guerrero and Oaxaca as well as northern Chiapas; the rest of the region had close to average temperatures. Moderate drought (D1) in the South Pacific region increased 0.4% to 3.1% in March, and 66.3% of the region was not experiencing any drought.

**Yucatan Peninsula (Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan):** Rainfall in the Yucatan Peninsula was above average, especially in Campeche, where surpluses of 40 mm (1.57 inches) helped the state to record its eighth wettest March. In Quintana Roo and Yucatan, the surpluses were slightly above normal. Temperatures in Quintana Roo were above average, and the state experienced their eighth warmest March on record. For Campeche and Yucatan, temperatures were near or slightly above average. Due to wetter than normal conditions, all abnormally dry areas in the region were eliminated, and this region is free from any drought or dryness.