

Fall 2021 Weather Outlook (October – November):

The summer of 2021 will likely go down as the mildest, wettest summer since 2007. Not surprisingly, 2021 has other shared traits with 2007 that make it one of the better historical matches moving forward. After a wet, mild summer season in 2007, the fall turned warmer and drier. However, while it is certainly possible that could be true of this fall, there is enough conflicting information to consider other historically similar years.

1960 scores as the single best match with present conditions in 2021. That fall was much wetter than 2007 but also relatively warm. It is important to note that a wet summer strongly correlates to mild, below-normal summer temperatures. The correlation is not as strong in the other seasons of the year, including fall.

Besides 2007 and 1960, other years considered include 2004, 1999, 1986, 1981, and 1961. There is a lack of good matches from the past decade, which is uncommon. 2021 has been a highly unusual weather year and unlike any recent years.

Fall 2021 Temperature Outlook:

There is not a clear consensus among the historical matches. There is no strong lean toward a warmer-than-normal fall or cooler-than-normal fall for ERCOT as a whole. However, there are specific regions that show stronger trends.

Northeast into North Central Texas is the region most likely to experience above-normal temperatures this fall. Among the large cities, Dallas-Fort Worth has the warmest potential. Below-normal temperatures are more likely over Far West Texas as well as portions of the Gulf Coast and South Texas. The rest of the state could go either direction with a statistically slight lean toward the warmer side.



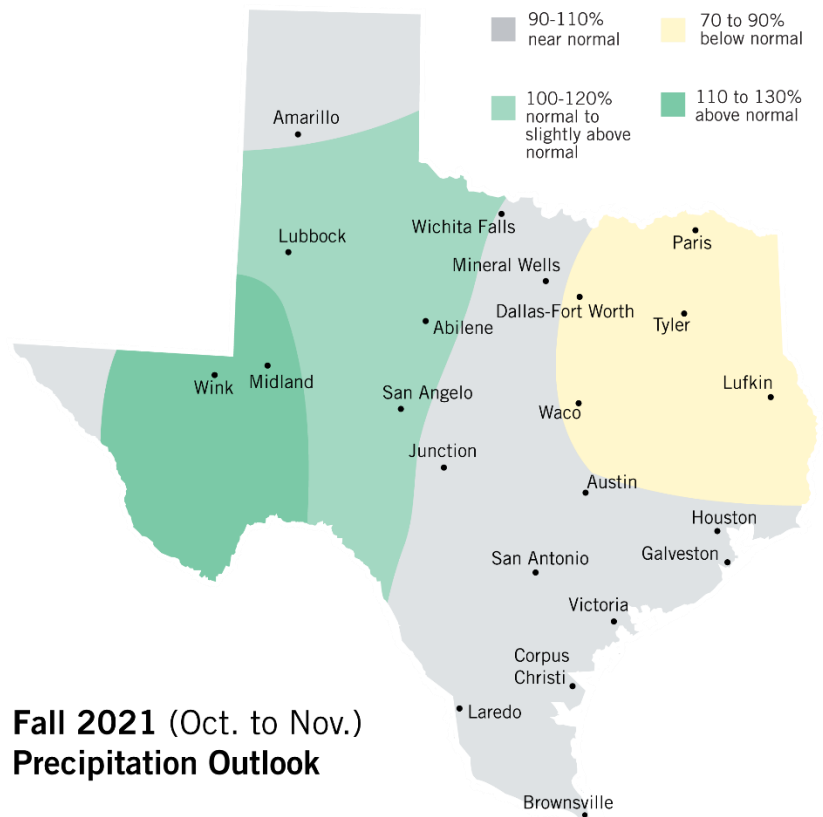
Fall 2021 Precipitation Outlook:

Much like the temperature outlook, the historical matches do not offer a clear consensus toward a fall precipitation outlook. There are, however, some forecast leans regionally.

West Texas is the area most likely to see a wetter-than-normal fall – Far West, in particular. This would generally be a carryover from the wet summer in that part of the state.

North Central and Northeast Texas show a better chance than not for a drier-than-normal fall.

Overall, there's a very slight lean toward more wet than dry across ERCOT this fall, but it's likely to vary regionally.



Preliminary Winter 2021-22 Weather Outlook:

Much like the fall season, the very abnormal weather patterns in 2021 lead to a wide range of potential winter weather scenarios.

Last winter's coldest extremes were focused over the middle third to half of the U.S. (including, of course, Texas in mid-February). The currently selected historical matching years show a potential shift of the coldest extremes to the eastern third of the U.S. for the upcoming winter.

It is important to remember that even in a winter season that is otherwise mild, a period of extreme cold can occur. Among the 10 best historical matches, three of those had a period of extreme cold – two, in particular, had days with single-digit lows in Dallas. While that is neither the consensus nor the majority of historical years being applied in this preliminary outlook, it is enough to not eliminate the possibility of an extreme cold event this coming winter. This will be monitored and refined with the November release of the final winter weather outlook.