

Soil Moisture Conditions in Kansas - Week 18

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Introduction

This article is part of a regular series examining soil moisture and crop conditions in Kansas. As explained in “Soil Moisture Conditions in Kansas - Week 11” (<https://www.agmanager.info/production-economics/production-publications/soil-moisture-conditions-kansas-week-11>), The USDA collects weekly information about both the subsoil and topsoil moisture in the state. This report is the percent of farmland in the state that has surplus moisture, has adequate moisture, is short of moisture, or is very short of moisture. This USDA report is for the week ending 5/08/22.

Observations

There was more widespread rain across many parts of Kansas last week and soil moisture conditions did improve although subsoil moisture is still well below average. Subsoil moisture in the short and very short categories decreased from 68% last week to 59% this week. The percent of land with adequate subsoil moisture increased to 38%. Even with this improvement, there have only been 3 years out of the last 20 with a higher percentage of the subsoil in the short and very short categories.

Topsoil moisture improved the most last week. The percentage of topsoil in the short and very short categories decreased from 68% to 45%. The adequate category increased from 31% to 47%. Very little topsoil is in the surplus category but that category did increase to 8% from 1% last week. Topsoil moisture continues to lag behind historical averages though. Only 5 years out of the last 20 years have had a greater percentage of topsoil in the short and very short categories.

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Kansas Subsoil Moisture as of WEEK #18

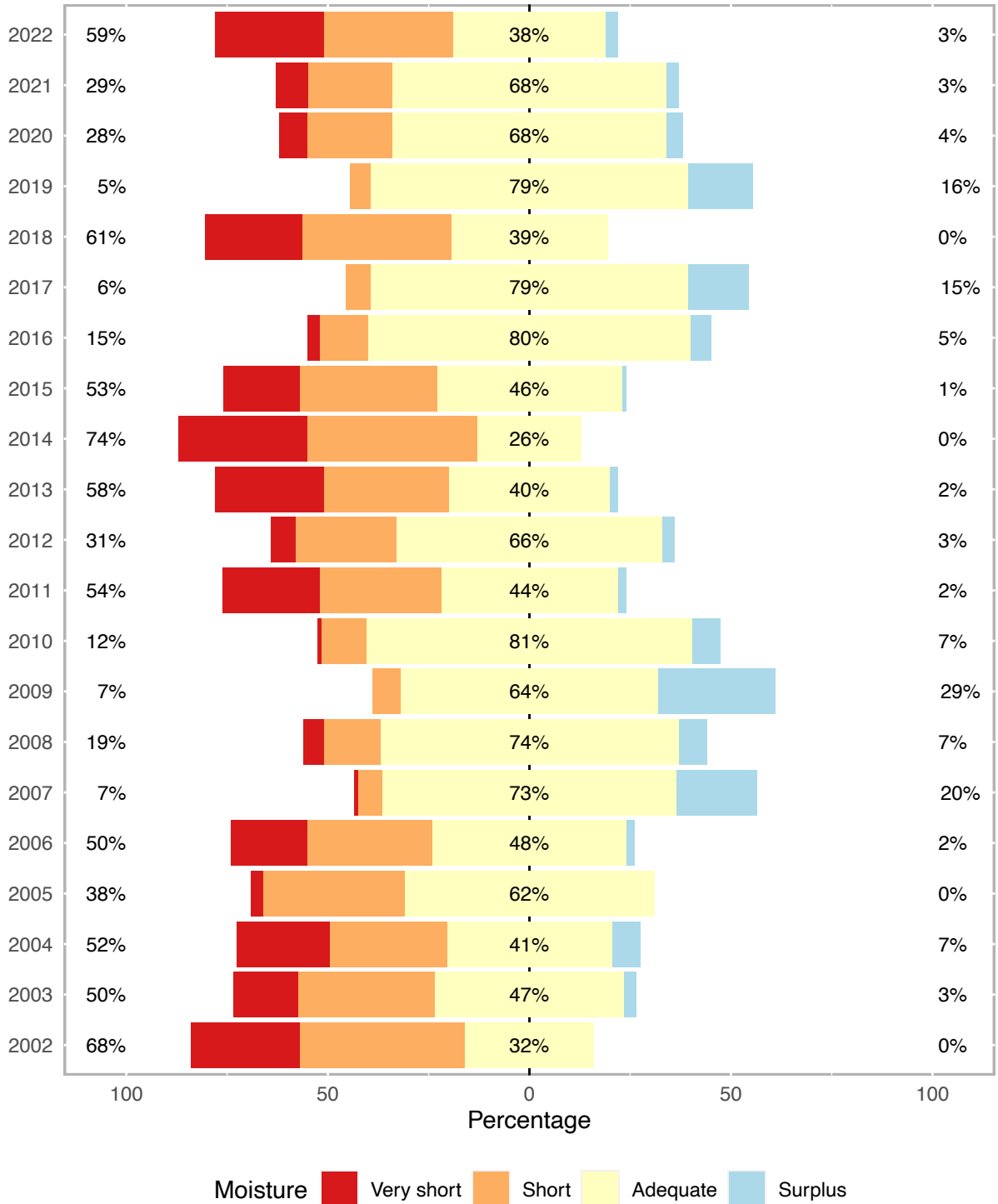


Figure 1. Subsoil Moisture for Kansas - Week Ending 5/08/22

Kansas Topsoil Moisture as of WEEK #18

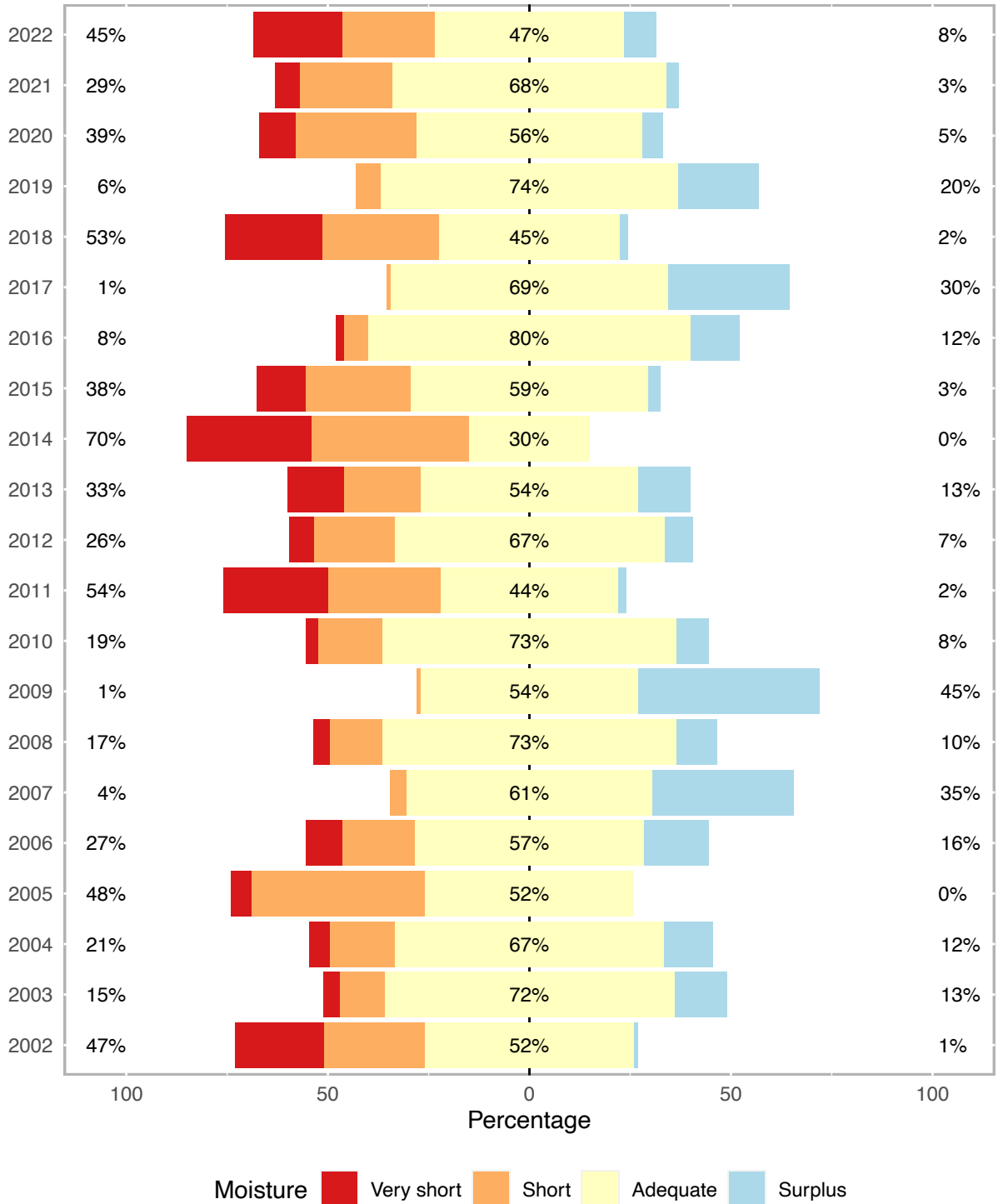


Figure 2. Topsoil Moisture for Kansas - Week Ending 5/08/22