

Hydrologic Conditions – March 2024

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of March 2024 and can be accessed at:

<http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/eom/>

During March, monthly precipitation totals averaged 4.5 inches, and 1.3 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (9.4 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (5.1 inches) were recorded in Nassau County. The lowest precipitation amount (2.0 inches) was recorded in Livingston County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.6 inches) was recorded in Erie County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 13 recorded normal levels, 15 recorded wet levels, 1 recorded dry levels, and 3 recorded very dry levels during March. The dry and very dry levels were all recorded in western New York.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reported that all drought regions in New York State were in normal status at the end of March.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during March were about 0.1 feet above long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 99.4 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.3 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 99.1 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

To address the discontinuation of the nationwide USGS Groundwater Watch application, the New York Water Science Center has developed a New York Groundwater Watch application that can be accessed at <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/content/99cc8726-7baa-45af-a5bd-bced25ff82db/>. Monthly groundwater data from March 2024 indicates that water level observations throughout New York were mostly normal and above normal, with many of the above normal water level observations being high (greater than or equal to the 95th percentile). Below normal observations were largely only made in western New York and parts of Long Island. Some of the below normal observations in these areas were low (less than the 5th percentile). An effort to provide monthly groundwater conditions on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper is still in progress.

Exceedance percentages shown on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper are calculated for individual USGS sites. This information, along with additional information from other Federal, State, and local agencies, assists the NYSDEC and the State Drought Management Task Force with evaluating regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

Alex Graziano, Hydrologist, New York Water Science Center

Phone: 518-527-5843

Email: agraziano@usgs.gov