

Hydrologic Conditions – December 2022

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of December 2022 and can be accessed at:

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

During December, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.8 inches, and 0.2 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (6.2 inches) was recorded in both Rockland County and Greene County, and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (2.4 inches) was recorded in Rockland County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.5 inches) was recorded in Livingston County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.0 inches) was recorded in Chautauqua County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 17 recorded normal levels, 14 recorded wet levels, 1 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during December. The National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage was not exceeded at any of the index streamflow sites during December in New York State.

At the end of December, a Drought Watch designation, as issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), remained in effect for seven counties in two of the nine drought regions (Long Island and Catskills).

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during December were about 0.2 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 88.7 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.9 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 89.6 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

The statistics that are used to evaluate end of month groundwater conditions were not readily available for December 2022 because the USGS Groundwater Watch application was discontinued in September 2022 (<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>). An effort to address the discontinuation of Groundwater Watch is in progress at the New York Water Science Center.

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.

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