

Hydrologic Conditions – April 2023

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of April 2023 and can be accessed at:

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

During April, monthly precipitation totals averaged 4.5 inches, and 0.8 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (8.9 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (4.5 inches) were recorded in New York City. The lowest precipitation amount (2.6 inches) and largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.0 inches) were recorded in Allegany County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 23 recorded normal levels, 2 recorded wet levels, 6 recorded dry levels, and 1 recorded very dry levels during April. As a result of heavy rainfall from April 5-6, National Weather Service (NWS) minor flood stages were exceeded at 2 of the 32 index streamflow sites: Sacandaga River near Hope, NY (01321000) and Oneida Creek at Oneida, NY (04243500).

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 April.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during April were about 0.8 feet above long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 99.2 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 0.6 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 100.0 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 April 2023 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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