

Hydrologic Conditions – January 2024

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

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

During January, monthly precipitation totals averaged 4.8 inches, and 1.7 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (7.8 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (4.4 inches) were recorded in Rockland County. The lowest precipitation amount (3.1 inches) was recorded in Clinton County, and the smallest positive departure from normal quantities (0.2 inches) was recorded in Franklin County. There were no negative departures from normal quantities in January.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 3 recorded normal levels, 29 recorded wet levels, and none recorded dry or very dry levels during January.

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 January.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during January 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 98.4 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 8.9 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 89.5 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 January 2024 indicates that water level observations in western New York were mostly normal and below normal while water level observations throughout the rest of the state (excluding Long Island) were mostly above normal, with many of those water level observations being high (greater than or equal to the 95th percentile). Water level observations on Long Island were mostly normal and above normal but ranged from low (less than the 5th percentile) to high. 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.

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