

Hydrologic Conditions – February 2024

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

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

During February, monthly precipitation totals averaged 1.3 inches, and 1.4 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (2.2 inches) and smallest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.7 inches) were recorded in Putnam County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.6 inches) was recorded in Albany County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.3 inches) was recorded in Warren County. There were no positive departures from normal quantities in February.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 29 recorded normal levels, 1 recorded wet levels, 2 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during February.

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 February.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during February were about 0.3 feet above long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 94.4 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 4.1 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 90.3 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 February 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 conditions were largely only observed in western New York and parts of Long Island. 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