

Hydrologic Conditions – April 2024

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

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

During April, monthly precipitation totals averaged 4.3 inches, and 0.7 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (5.9 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (2.1 inches) were recorded in Cattaraugus County. The lowest precipitation amount (3.2 inches) and largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.1 inches) were recorded in New York City.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 22 recorded normal levels, 4 recorded wet levels, 3 recorded dry levels, and 3 recorded very dry levels during April. The dry and very dry levels were all recorded in or around the Adirondacks.

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 0.1 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 98.9 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 1.1 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 100.0 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 April 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). The area with the most below normal water level observations was western New York. 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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