

Hydrologic Conditions – August 2024

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

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

During August, monthly precipitation totals averaged 5.6 inches, and 1.5 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (7.9 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (4.0 inches) were recorded in Oswego County. The lowest precipitation amount (2.9 inches) was recorded in Niagara County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.5 inches) was recorded in Wyoming County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 5 recorded normal levels, 27 recorded wet levels, and none recorded dry or very dry levels during August.

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 August.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during August 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 86.5 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 3.9 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 82.6 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 August 2024 indicates that water level observations throughout New York were mostly normal and above normal, and many of the above normal water level observations were 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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