

Hydrologic Conditions – October 2024

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

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

During October, monthly precipitation totals averaged 1.6 inches, and 2.7 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (3.0 inches) was recorded in Oswego County, and the smallest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.9 inches) was recorded in Monroe County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.0 inches) was recorded in New York City, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-4.7 inches) was recorded in Putnam County. There were no positive departures from normal quantities in October.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 13 recorded normal levels, none recorded wet levels, 15 recorded dry levels, and 4 recorded very dry levels during October. The very dry levels were all recorded in the southeastern part of the state.

At the beginning of November, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued a Drought Watch designation for two of the nine drought regions (Catskills and New York City/Westchester). All nine drought regions had been in normal status at the end of October.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during October 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 66.2 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 10.2 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 76.4 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 October 2024 indicates that water level observations throughout New York were mostly normal and below normal except in northern New York and on Long Island where water level observations were mostly normal and above normal. 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