

## Hydrologic Conditions – December 2024

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

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

During December, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.6 inches, and 0.1 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (6.3 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (1.8 inches) were recorded in Suffolk County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.6 inches) was recorded in Yates County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.0 inches) was recorded in Allegany County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 25 recorded normal levels, 7 recorded wet levels, and none recorded dry or very dry levels during December.

At the end of December, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reported that all drought regions in New York State were in Drought Watch status. However, on January 3, the NYSDEC lifted the statewide drought watch and returned all nine drought regions to normal status.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during December were about 0.4 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 77.0 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 12.7 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 89.7 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 December 2024 indicates that water levels were mostly normal and below normal across New York State except for on Long Island where water levels 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.

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