

Hydrologic Conditions – January 2025

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of January 2025 and can be accessed at:

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

During January, monthly precipitation totals averaged 1.4 inches, and 1.7 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.4 inches) and smallest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.1 inches) were recorded in Oswego County. The lowest precipitation amount (0.4 inches) was recorded in New York City, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-3.3 inches) was recorded in Nassau County. There were no positive departures from normal quantities in January.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 22 recorded normal levels, 1 recorded wet levels, 9 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during January.

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 January.

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

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 75.7 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 13.9 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 89.6 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 January indicates that most water levels were either normal or below normal across New York State and that some of the below normal water levels were low (less than the 5th percentile). Below normal water levels outnumbered normal water levels across most of the state except in northern New York and on 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.

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