

Hydrologic Conditions – March 2025

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

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

During March, monthly precipitation totals averaged 2.4 inches, and 0.8 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.9 inches) was recorded in New York City, and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (0.8 inches) was recorded in Westchester County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.0 inches) was recorded in Seneca County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.8 inches) was recorded in Onondaga County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 20 recorded normal levels, 10 recorded wet levels, 2 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during March.

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 March.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during March were about 0.5 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 91.3 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 5.2 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 96.5 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 March indicates that water levels varied from below normal to above normal across New York State with no strongly discernible geographical distribution of wells that fell into the above normal, normal, or below normal classifications.

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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