

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for April 2026

During April there was below-normal precipitation throughout most of the state and degradation of streamflow and groundwater levels except for slight improvement on Cape Cod.

Monthly average temperatures were normal to above normal.

April precipitation was below normal except for the Western Region where it was normal. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Boston had its 10th driest April on record, and Worcester had its 11th driest April on record.

Keetch Byram Drought Index values were in the normal range at the end of April.

Streamflow was mostly below normal with only six gages in the normal range. All Regions are at elevated Index Severity Levels.

The April Boston/Norton and Albany National Weather Service E-5 Monthly Reports of Hydrologic Conditions did not indicate river flooding at forecast points in Massachusetts, nor were there any river flood warnings, areal flood warnings, flash flood warnings, or local storm reports related to flooding during April.

Groundwater levels mostly ranged from below normal to normal with two wells in the above-normal range. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels except for the Western and Southeast Regions.

At the end of April, 11 of the 15 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were below their 30th percentile. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels except for the Western and Connecticut River Valley Regions.

There was significant deterioration in drought conditions across the state, except for the Cape, which showed some slight improvements. The latest State Drought Declaration showed some level of elevated drought in all areas previously declared and added the Western Region, Southeast Region, and Dukes County, at Level 1-Mild Drought. The Cape Cod Region improved from Level 2-Significant Drought to Level 1-Mild Drought. The entire state is in some level of drought.

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of April to the end of March indicates that drought conditions have worsened in some areas and improved in others. The western part of the state has moved back to D0 (Abnormally Dry), while D1 (Moderate Drought) was introduced into parts of the Connecticut River Valley. Areas of southeastern Massachusetts have seen some improvements with the removal of D0 in some areas. Nantucket has improved to D1 while Martha's Vineyard has worsened to D1 (Moderate Drought).

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's May outlook indicated equal chances for above-normal, normal, or below-normal temperatures, and precipitation. The seasonal outlook indicated there were chances leaning for above-normal temperatures and precipitation.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's monthly and seasonal drought outlooks indicated drought persisting in parts of the Connecticut River Valley, Central, and Northeast Regions, as well as the Cape Cod and Island Regions.