

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for February 2026

During February there was below-normal precipitation and worsening impacts to streamflow and groundwater.

Monthly average temperatures were below normal.

February precipitation was mostly below normal. Longer-term precipitation data showed deficits at lookback periods including 2 months to 24 months. Although some parts of the state received up to 3 feet of snow, the water equivalent of this amount was only approximately 2.5 inches at the temperatures experienced during the storm.

At the end of February there was approximately 4 to 10 inches of modeled snow water equivalent snow cover across the state. The season-to-date snowfall approximately ranged from a surplus of 30 inches to a deficit of up to 30 inches. A February 7th storm brought 1 to 13 inches of snow. A February 22nd-23rd nor'easter brought approximately 3 to 37 inches of snow along with blizzard conditions. The highest snowfalls occurred in the southeastern part of the state. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, the Boston climate site had its 9th snowiest winter (December- February) on record and the Worcester climate site had its 8th.

Streamflow ranged from below normal to normal with only one gage in the normal range and several gages reaching new record lows. All Regions were

at elevated Index Severity Levels. Many gages were affected by ice with only 38 out of 75 reporting at the end of the month.

The 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 flood-related local storm reports during February.

Groundwater levels were mostly below normal with only 8 wells in the normal range and 1 well in the above-normal range of a total 76 reporting wells. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

At the end of February, 12 of the 14 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were at or below their 30th percentile. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels except the Western Region.

The latest State Drought Declaration continued some level of elevated drought in all areas previously declared and added the Western Region. The entire state is in some level of drought except for Dukes County.

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of February to the end of January indicates that conditions have become drier with the expansion of areas of D0 (Abnormally Dry) in central and western parts of the state, expansion of D1 (Moderate Drought) in southeastern and central parts of the state, and expansion of D2 (Severe Drought) in central Massachusetts.

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

above-normal, normal, or below-normal temperatures and equal chances for above-normal, normal, or below-normal precipitation.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's monthly and seasonal drought outlooks indicated drought persisting.