

# Massachusetts Water Resources Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for January 2026

During January there was normal precipitation and continued impacts to streamflow and groundwater.

Monthly average temperatures were below normal.

January precipitation was mostly normal. Longer-term precipitation data showed deficits at lookback periods including 2 months to 24 months. At the end of January there was approximately 2 to 4 inches of modeled snow water equivalent snow cover across the state with higher amounts in the Berkshires. The season-to-date snowfall approximately ranged from a surplus of 10 inches to a deficit of 20 inches. The January 25th-26th storm brought approximately 9 to 22 inches of snow. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, the Worcester climate site had its 9th snowiest January on record.

Streamflow ranged from below normal to normal with only three gages in the normal range. All Regions are at elevated Index Severity Levels except for the Connecticut River Valley Region, which is at Level 0, and the Western Region, where no gages reported. Many gages were affected by ice with only 31 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 local storm reports related to flooding during January.

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 Region.

At the end of January, 11 of the 14 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were at or below their 30th percentile. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

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

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of January to the end of December indicates that conditions have gotten drier with the expansion of areas of D0 (Abnormally Dry) in southeastern Massachusetts and D1 (Moderate Drought) in southeastern Massachusetts and on Cape Cod.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's February outlook indicated chances were for below-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.