

Massachusetts Water Resources

Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for July 2026

During July there was above-normal precipitation. However, long-term deficits remained. There was improved streamflow and some groundwater recovery.

Monthly average temperatures were mostly normal. A heat wave early in the month brought temperatures above 90°F to most of the state including temperatures of 100 °F and higher for two consecutive days in the Boston area.

July precipitation was above normal. Several storms brought much needed rain across the state with some areas receiving more than others. Cape Cod and the Islands received the most rain during the July 6-7 storm with totals over 5 inches in some places. Cape Cod and the southeast also received the most rain during the July 18th storm with many totals upwards of 3 inches. The July 21-22 storm brought totals ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 across the state with higher amounts over 2 inches in the southeast and Cape. Western through central Massachusetts received the most rain during the July 28-30 event with totals ranging from just over 1 inch to over 6 inches. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Worcester had its wettest July day on record on July 29 when 4.56 inches of rain fell, and Massachusetts had its 12th wettest July on record. Longer-term precipitation data, however, still showed deficits at lookback periods including 6 months to 24 months.

Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for the month of July indicated normal to below-normal percentiles at the Regional scale across the state meaning that evapotranspiration was normal to high. At the 2-month lookback, which is used for drought monitoring, all Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

Keetch Byram Drought Index values were in the above-normal range at the end of July in all Regions except for the Western and Cape Cod Regions, which were in the normal range.

Streamflow ranged from below normal to normal with 3 gages with monthly medians in the above-normal range. The Central and Cape Cod Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels, and the monthly Regional medians of the Connecticut River Valley Region, Northeast, and Southeast were at the low end of normal.

Three slow-moving storm systems brought widespread rain with more localized heavy rainfall on July 6- 7, July 21-22, and July 28-30. A search of the Local Storm Report App database on the Iowa State University Iowa Environmental Mesonet indicated flood warnings issued on July 21 in Bristol County and on July 29 in Berkshire and Franklin Counties, including a River Flood Warning for the Hoosic River near Williamstown. The river reached minor flood stage on July 29th and quickly receded. There were media and Local Storm Reports of urban flash flooding due to these storms in Falmouth on July 7, in New Bedford on July 21, and in Worcester, Agawam, Montague, and Belchertown on July 29.

Groundwater levels mostly ranged from below normal to normal with 5 wells in the above-normal range. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels except the Western Region.

At the end of July, 5 of the 13 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were below their 30th percentile. The Northeast, Southeast, and Cape Cod Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

The latest State Drought Declaration showed improvements to drought levels in the Western, Northeast, and Southeast Regions along with Dukes County: The Western Region and Dukes County are at Level 0 – Normal Conditions, the Northeast Region is at Level 2-Significant Drought, and the Southeast Region is at Level 1- Mild Drought. The Connecticut River Valley, Central, and Cape Cod Regions along with Nantucket County remain at Level 2-Significant Drought.

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of June to the end of July indicated that drought conditions improved or stayed the same. D2 (Severe Drought) contracted through much of the northeastern and southeast part of the state including the Mid to Outer Cape, and the northern part of Berkshire County was cleared of all drought.

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

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's monthly and seasonal drought outlooks indicated drought removal likely in most areas where drought remains. Smaller areas of drought may remain but improve in northeast and southeast parts of the state as well as Cape Cod and the Islands.