

Massachusetts Water Resources

Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for June 2026

During June there was normal to below-normal precipitation, continued impacts to streamflow and groundwater, increased evapotranspiration, and continued drying conditions.

Monthly average temperatures were mostly above normal. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, the Boston climate site had its 5th hottest June on record.

June precipitation was below normal to normal. Longer-term precipitation data showed deficits at lookback periods including 2 months to 24 months.

Evaporative Demand Drought Index for the month of June indicated below-normal percentiles at the Regional scale across the state meaning that evapotranspiration was high. At the two-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 June in all Regions except for the Western Region, which was in the normal range.

Streamflow was mostly much below normal with only 8 gages out of 75 with monthly medians in the normal range and 10 gages with monthly medians at record lows. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

A search of the Local Storm Report App database on the Iowa State University Iowa Environmental Mesonet indicated flood warnings issued on June 23 in Bristol County and storm reports of urban flash flooding in Westport, Fall River, and New Bedford. This was a result of a system that came through

overnight bringing upwards of 3 inches of rain to southeastern parts of the state.

Groundwater levels mostly ranged from below normal to normal with 4 wells in the above-normal range. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

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

During June drought conditions fluctuated but ended up about the same as in May except for the Western Region, which degraded. The latest State Drought Declaration showed Level 2- Significant Drought for all Regions except Level 3- Critical Drought for the Northeast Region.

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of May to the end of June indicated that drought conditions worsened. D1 (Moderate Drought) expanded in the central to western part of the state and D2 (Severe Drought) expanded from the northeast through the southeast to Cape Cod and the Islands.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's July outlook indicated mostly chances leaning for above normal precipitation and chances leaning for above normal temperatures. The seasonal outlook indicated there were chances leaning for above-normal precipitation, chances leaning for above-normal temperatures in the western through central part of the state, and chances likely for above-normal temperatures in the eastern part of the state.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's monthly and seasonal drought outlooks indicated drought persisting on Cape Cod and the Islands and in southern portions of the Southeast Region, drought remaining but improving in the northern part of the Southeast Region and in the Northeast Region, and drought removal likely in the Central to Western Regions of the state.