

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts for March 2026

During March gradual snowmelt and normal to above-normal precipitation led to significant improvements to streamflow and groundwater recharge.

Monthly average temperatures were mostly above normal.

March precipitation was mostly normal to above normal. Longer-term precipitation data showed deficits at lookback periods including 2 months to 24 months.

At the end of March there was no snow cover remaining. The season-to-date snowfall departure ranged approximately from a surplus of 30 inches to a deficit of 10 inches.

Streamflow ranged from below normal to above normal. All regional medians were above normal except in the Northeast Region, which was normal, and the Cape Cod Region, which was at Index Severity Level 1.

During March, the Boston/Norton National Weather Service office issued three flood warnings at flood forecast points in Massachusetts: Taunton River near Bridgewater (March 11th and 17th) and Sudbury River at Saxonville (March 11th). According to the Boston/Norton E-5 Monthly Report of Hydrologic Conditions, several rivers reached action stage during March but only the Taunton River at Bridgewater reached flood stage (March 11th). Impacts were minimal. There were no warnings for areal or flash flooding nor were there any flood-related local storm reports.

Groundwater levels ranged from below normal to above normal. Only the Cape Cod and Islands Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

At the end of March, 8 of the 14 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were below their 30th percentile. The Northeast and Cape Cod Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

Although there were significant improvements in drought conditions, the latest State Drought Declaration continued some level of elevated drought in all areas previously declared except the Western and Southeast Regions, which returned to Normal Conditions. The entire state is in some level of drought except for Dukes County, the Western Region, and the Southeast Region.

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

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