

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

During May there was near-normal precipitation and degradation of streamflow and groundwater levels.

Monthly average temperatures ranged from below normal to above normal.

May precipitation was near normal.

Evaporative Demand Drought Index for the month of May indicated below-normal percentiles at the Regional scale in the Central, Northeast, Southeast, Cape Cod, and Islands Regions meaning that evapotranspiration was high. Normal percentiles showed for the Western and Connecticut River Valley Regions. At the two-month lookback, which is used for drought monitoring, regional percentiles were normal for all Regions.

Keetch Byram Drought Index values were in the normal range at the end of May except for the Northeast Region, which was at Index Severity Level 1.

Streamflow was mostly below normal with only 3 gages out of 75 with monthly medians in the normal range. All Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

The May Albany National Weather Service E-5 Monthly Reports of Hydrologic Condition 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 May.

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.

At the end of May, 10 of the 14 reporting lakes and impoundments sites were below their 30th percentile. The Northeast, Southeast, and Cape Cod Regions were at elevated Index Severity Levels.

Dry conditions continued to worsen in May. The latest State Drought Declaration showed Level 2-Significant Drought for all Regions except for Level 1 -Mild Drought for the Western Region and Level 3 - Critical Drought for the Northeast Region.

United States Drought Monitor status comparison from the end of April to the end of May indicated that drought conditions have mostly worsened. D1 (Moderate Drought) expanded in the southeastern part of the state and D2 (Severe Drought) was introduced in the northeast.

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

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's monthly drought outlook indicated drought persisting in parts of the Connecticut River Valley and Central Regions as well as the Northeast, Southeast, Cape Cod, and Island Regions. The seasonal drought outlook indicated drought removal likely throughout most of those areas.