

# October 2017 Hydrologic Conditions in Massachusetts

## SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

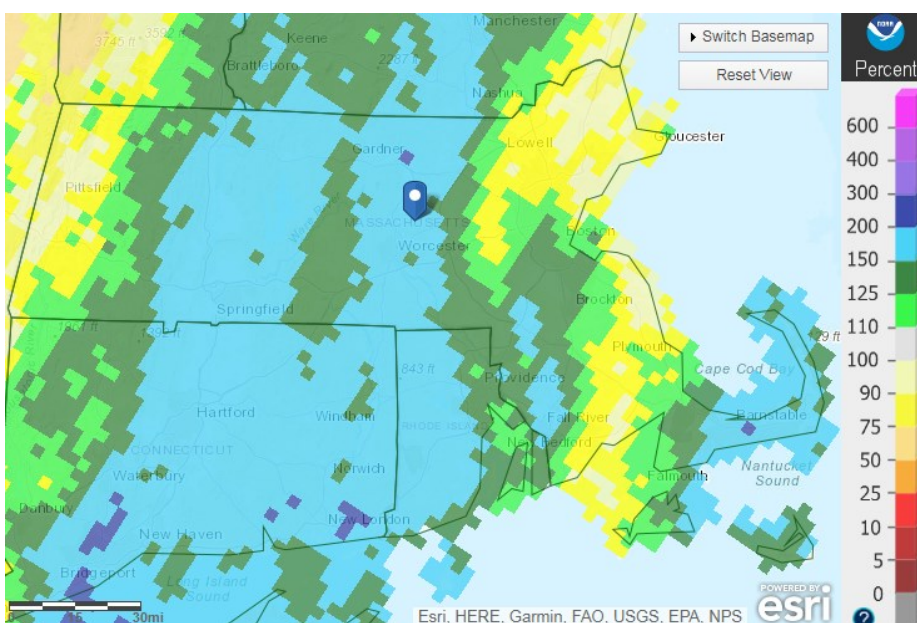
- Both precipitation indices are Normal in all regions.
- Average monthly streamflows are Normal in all regions.
- Groundwater levels indices are Normal in all regions but individual wells across the state range from normal to record lows. More than half the wells were below normal in the Southeast but since this is the first month, it does not trigger the index.
- Reservoirs are Normal in all regions.
- The US Drought Monitor as of November 2nd has decreased the area of abnormally dry conditions to a corner of the Northeast region leaving most of the state in normal conditions.
- NOAA projects above normal temperatures and normal precipitation for the remainder of the year, making for potentially drying conditions.

## PRECIPITATION

Region	Estimated Rainfall (inches)	Departure from Average October (inches)	MA Drought Plan Levels	
			Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)	Percent of Normal Index
Western	5.54	1.96	Normal	Normal
CT River Valley	9.34	5.52	Normal	Normal
Central	9.12	5.21	Normal	Normal
Northeast	4.75	1.13	Normal	Normal
Southeast	5.46	1.66	Normal	Normal
Cape Cod & Islands	7.37	3.52	Normal	Normal

## October 2017 Precipitation, Percent of Normal

Map from National Weather Service's Quantitative Precipitation Estimates. <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>



## STREAMFLOW

Region	Number of Gages				MA Drought Plan Index (# consecutive months majority below 25th percentile)
	Total Reporting for October	<25th to 10th percentile	<10th percentile to above record low	Record low	
Western	7	0	0	0	0/Normal
CT River Valley	14	0	0	0	0/Normal
Central	11	0	0	0	0/Normal
Northeast	17	2	0	0	0/Normal
Southeast	6	0	0	0	0/Normal

Key to Drought Levels
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

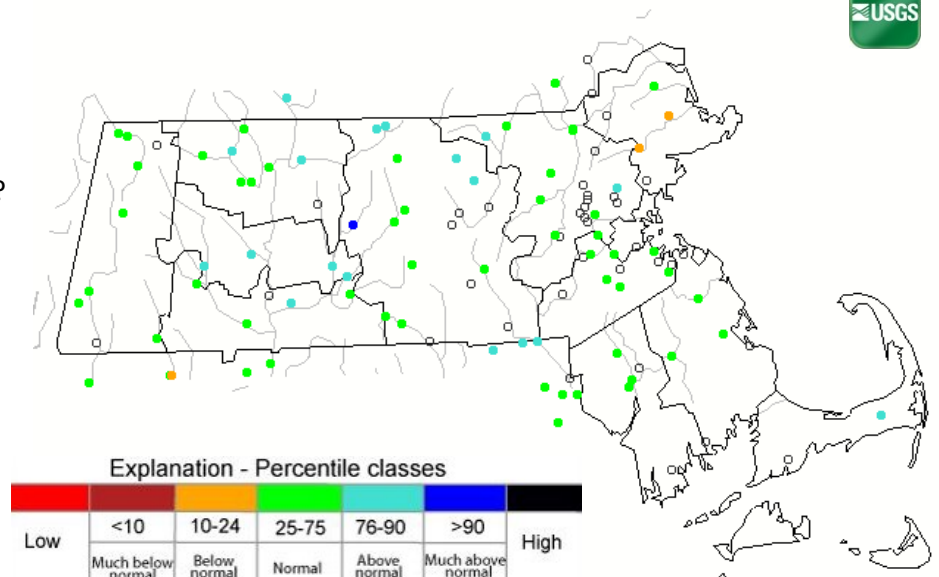
Notes: Gage counts are non-cumulative except for "total reporting". Not all gages report in all months due to ice, beaver dams or other conditions. Streamflow index is not applicable to Cape Cod and the Islands.

### Average Monthly Streamflow Compared to Historical for the Month of the Year

October 2017



Streamflow is monitored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and United States Geological Survey (USGS) cooperative stream gaging program.  
<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=ma&id=mv01d>



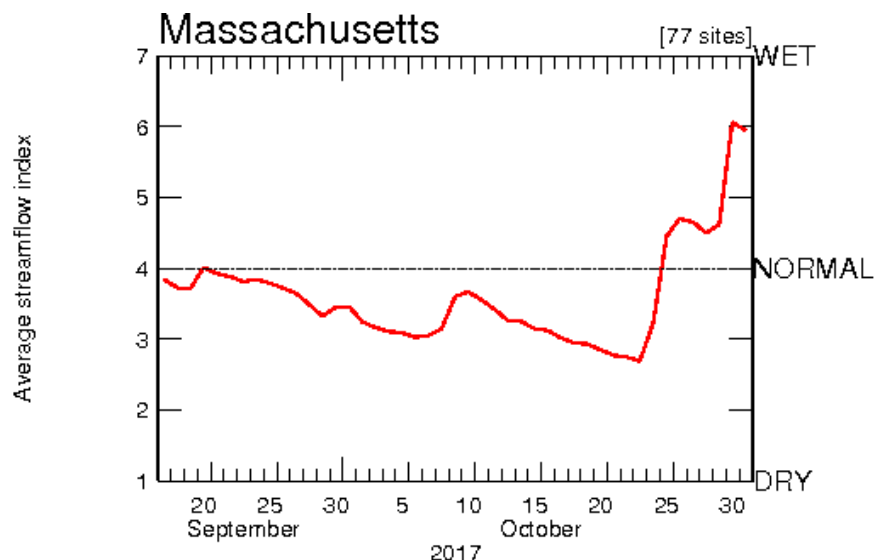
### Average Daily Streamflow Compared to Historical for the Day of the Year

This plot depicts data for the 45-day period ending in early November.

[http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=real&sid=w\\_\\_plot&r=ma](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=real&sid=w__plot&r=ma)

#### KEY:

- 1 = New record low for day
- 2 = < 10<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 3 = 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 4 = 25<sup>th</sup> – 74<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 5 = 75<sup>th</sup> – 89<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 6 = > 90<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 7 = New record high for day



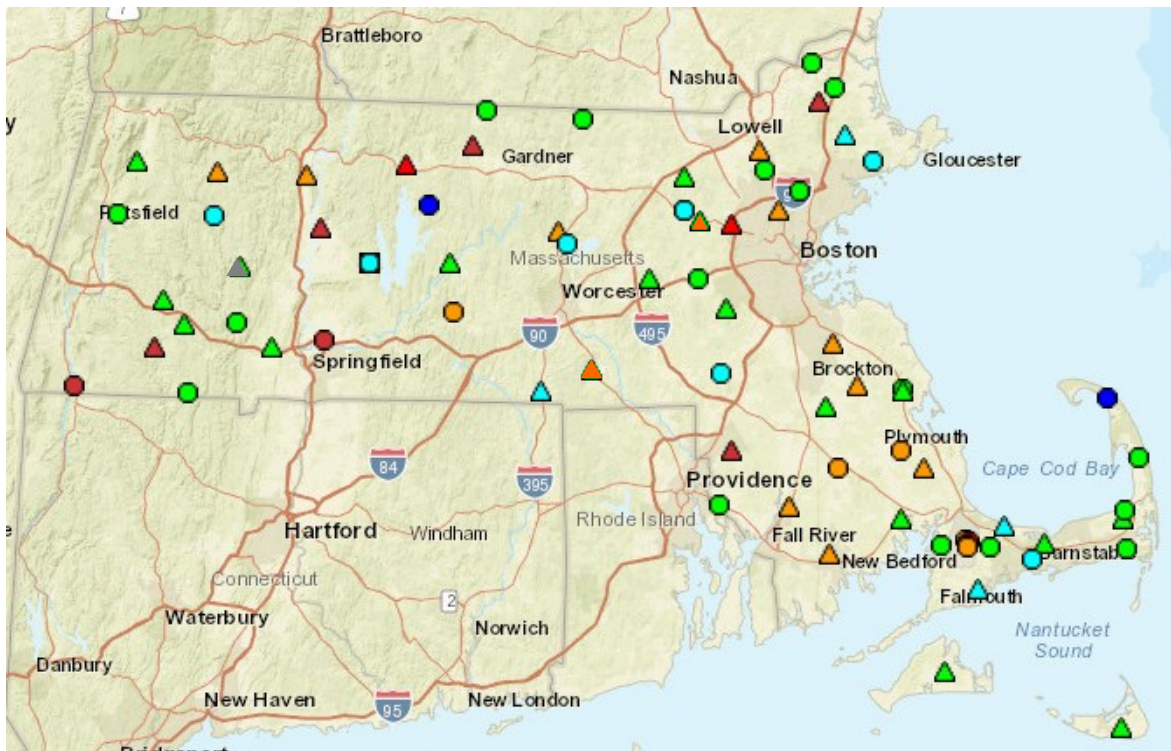
## GROUNDWATER

Region	Number of wells				MA Drought Plan Index (# consecutive months majority below)
	Total Reporting for October	<25th to 10th percentile	<10th percentile to above record low	Record low	
Western	5	0	2	0	0/Normal
CT River Valley	11	2	2	1	0/Normal
Central	10	3	1	0	0/Normal
Northeast	17	4	1	1	0/Normal
Southeast	12	6	1	0	1/Normal
Cape and Islands	12	0	0	0	0/Normal

Notes: Well counts are non-cumulative except for "total reporting". Not all data are available in time for reporting.

### Groundwater Conditions in the Climate Response Network at the End of October

<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/NetMapT1L2.asp?ncd=crn&sc=25>



## RESERVOIRS

Region	Total Reporting for October	Reservoir Levels	MA Drought Management Plan Reservoir Index
Western	1	Normal	Normal
CT River Valley	2	Normal	Normal
Central	2	Normal	Normal
Northeast	7	Normal	Normal
Southeast	1	Normal	Normal
Cape Cod & Islands	1	Normal	Normal

## DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND FORECASTS BY NOAA AND PARTNERS

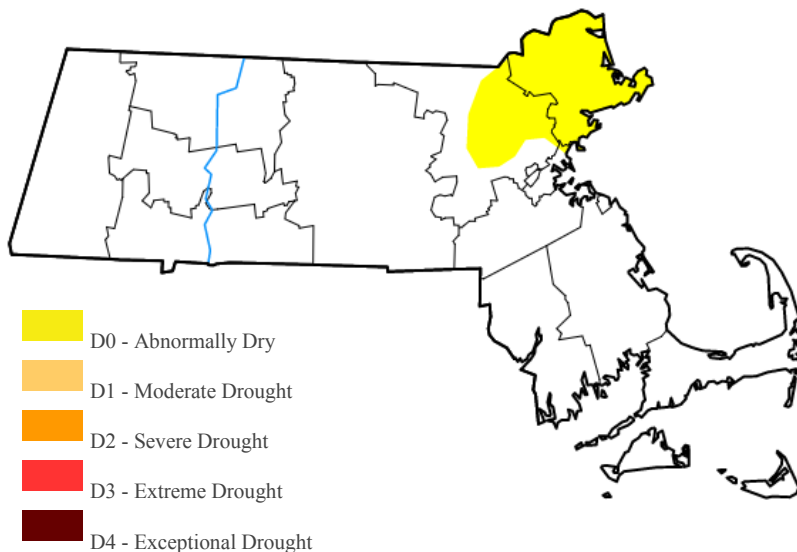
### U.S. Drought Monitor: Drought Conditions as of November 2, 2017

**Summary:** The USDM has decreased the area of abnormally dry conditions to only the Northeast corner of the state.

Produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). Intensity based on NDMC criteria.

For a weekly updated map see:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?MA>



### NOAA: Monthly and Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

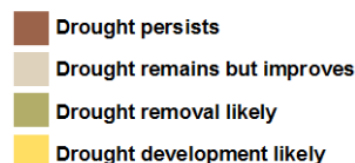
The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for November projects a 33-40 percent probability of above normal temperatures in Massachusetts. Precipitation has equal chances for below normal, normal and above normal occurrence (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>).

The Center's outlook for November through January projects a 40-50 percent probability of above normal temperatures and equal chances for below normal, normal and above normal precipitation ([http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1)).

### NOAA: Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlook

Both the short and long term outlooks project the alleviation of dry conditions in the Northeast and Southeast portions of the state returning the entire state to normal conditions.

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/>



Valid for November 2017



Valid through January 31, 2018



**Key Links:** Massachusetts Drought Management: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/water-data-tracking/drought-status.html>

DCR Precipitation Monitoring Composite Reports and SPI

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/precipitation-composite-estimates-1>

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/standardized-precipitation-index-spi-0>

This report was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Data may be preliminary in nature. Additional information, previous hydrological conditions reports, and drought management information can be found on our web site:

<https://www.mass.gov/water-data-tracking>

## Appendix I: Additional Information

### Keetch-Byram Drought Index

The fire index based on state data was not available as of the time of this report. Based on limited Massachusetts data, national modeling by the United States Forest Service showed KBDI values of less than 300 for all regions of the state as of the first week of November. These values put all regions in Normal range for the index.

<http://www.wfas.net/index.php/keetch-byram-index-moisture--drought-49>

### Crop Moisture Index for the Week Ending September 30, 2017

The Crop Moisture Index shows the short-term need versus available water in a shallow soil profile. This index responds quickly to changing conditions and is subject to frequent change. The drought level for this indicator is determined based on the repeated or extended occurrence at a given level. This indicator is most relevant during growing season. [http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/regional\\_monitoring/cmi.gif](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/cmi.gif)

Region	MA Drought Plan Index
Western	Normal
CT River Valley	Normal
Central	Normal
Northeast	Normal
Southeast	Normal
Cape and Islands	Normal





## Appendix II: Description of Drought Indices

(from Table 3 of Massachusetts Drought Management Plan).

Drought Level	Standardized Precipitation Index	Crop Moisture Index*	Keetch-Byram Drought Index*	Precipitation	Groundwater	Streamflow	Reservoir***
Normal	3-month > -1.5 <u>or</u> 6-month > -1.0 <u>or</u> 12-month > -1.0	0.0 to -1.0 slightly dry	< 200	1 month below normal	2 consecutive months below normal**	1 month below normal**	Reservoir levels at or near normal for the time of year
Advisory	3-month = -1.5 to -2.0 <u>or</u> 6-month = -1.0 to -1.5 <u>or</u> 12-month = -1.0 to -1.5	-1.0 to -1.9 abnormally dry	200-400	2 month cumulative below 65% of normal	3 consecutive months below normal**	At least 2 out of 3 consecutive months below normal**	Small index Reservoirs below normal
Watch	3-month < -2.0 <u>or</u> 6-month = -1.5 to -3.0 <u>or</u> 12-month = -1.5 to -2.0	-2.0 to -2.9 excessively dry	400-600	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. < 65% <u>or</u> 6 month cum. < 70% <u>or</u> 12 month cum. < 70%	4-5 consecutive months below normal**	At least 4 out of 5 consecutive months below normal**	Medium index Reservoirs below normal
Warning	6-month < -3.0 <u>or</u> 12-month = -2.0 to -2.5	< -2.9 severely dry	600-800	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. < 65% and 6 month cum. < 65%, <u>or</u> 6 month cum. < 65% and 12 month cum. < 65%, <u>or</u> 3 month cum. < 65% and 12 month cum. < 65%	6-7 consecutive months below normal**	At least 6 out of 7 consecutive months below normal**	Large index reservoirs below normal
Emergency	12-month < -2.5	< -2.9 severely dry	600-800	Same criteria as Warning and previous month was Warning or Emergency	> 8 months below normal**	> 7 months below normal**	Continuation of previous month's conditions

\* The Crop Moisture Index is subject to frequent change. The drought level for this indicator is determined based on the repeated or extended occurrence at a given level.

\*\* Below normal for groundwater and streamflow are defined as being within the lowest 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of the period of record.

\*\*\* Water suppliers should be consulted to determine if below normal reservoir conditions are due to operational issues.

Source: Massachusetts Drought Management Plan. May 2013 (<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/wrc/droughtplan.pdf>).