



MONTHLY WATER INVENTORY REPORT FOR OHIO

February 2006

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/newsltrs/mwirmain.html>

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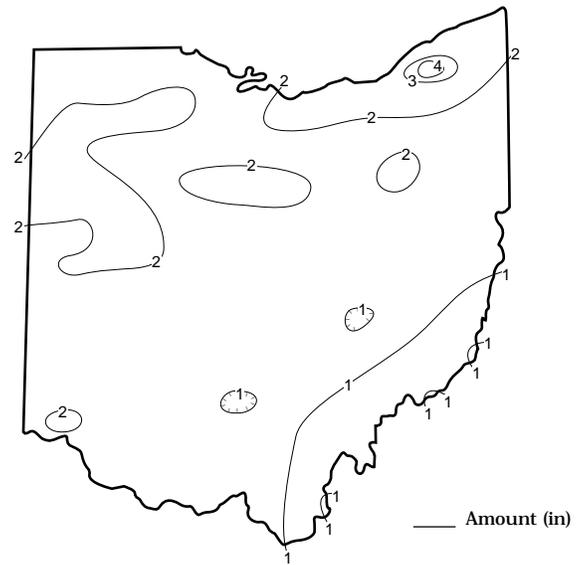
PRECIPITATION during February was generally below normal in the southern two-thirds of the state and near to slightly above normal in the northern one-third. The state average was 1.65 inches, 0.61 inch below normal. Regional averages ranged from 2.40 inches, 0.28 inch above normal, for the Northeast Region to 0.94 inch, 1.90 inches below normal, for the South Central Region. This was the 11th driest February during the past 112 years for the South Central Region and the 15th driest for the Southeast Region. Chardon (Geauga County) reported the greatest amount of February precipitation, 4.05 inches. Belleville Locks and Dam (Meigs County) reported the least amount, 0.24 inch. Several stations across south-central and southeastern Ohio reported less than 1 inch of precipitation for the month.

Precipitation during February fell in the form of both rain and snow. Snow amounts were above normal in northeastern Ohio, but below normal elsewhere. Chardon, located in the northeast Ohio snowbelt, reported 37 inches of snow in February, bringing its winter season total to about 132 inches, 50 inches above normal. Most of February's precipitation fell during two periods. The first was during the first week of the month. Rain fell across the state during February 2-4. The precipitation turned to snow late on February 4 and continued into February 5. Most areas of the state received between 0.5 and 1.0 inch of precipitation (liquid, melted) during this period with some areas in northern Ohio reporting 1.5 to 2.0 inches. The second period was during February 16-18. Most of the precipitation during this time fell as rain, but again turned to a period of snow before ending. Most locations across the state reported between 0.25 and 0.50 inch of precipitation. Except for some lake effect snow falling in northeastern Ohio on various days, the remainder of the month was rather dry.

Precipitation for the 2006 calendar year is above normal in northern Ohio and below normal in southern Ohio. The average for the state as a whole is 4.78 inches, 0.05 inch below normal. Regional averages range from 5.23 inches, 0.59 inch above normal, for the Northeast Region to 4.03 inches, 0.45 inch below normal, for the West Central Region.

Precipitation for the 2006 water year is above normal across northwestern, central and southeastern Ohio and below normal in southwestern and northeastern Ohio. The average for the state as a whole is 12.95 inches, 0.09 inch below normal. Regional averages range from 14.22 inches, 0.59 inch above normal, for the Southeast Region to 12.22 inches for both the Northwest and North Central regions, 0.75 and 0.48 inch above normal respectively.

PRECIPITATION FEBRUARY

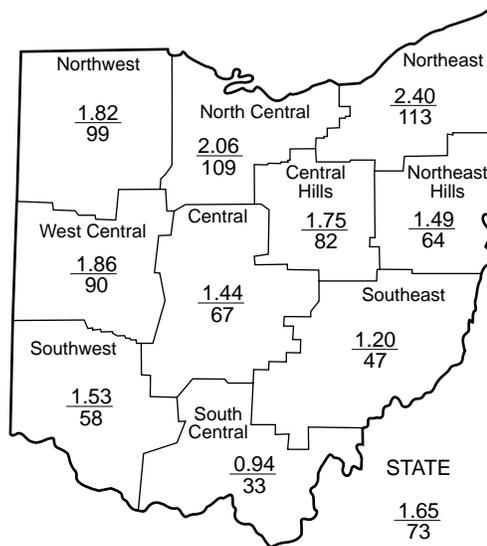


PRECIPITATION

Region	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (IN.) Base period 1951-2000					Palmer Drought Severity Index*
	This Month	Past				
		3 Mos.	6 Mos.	12 Mos.	24 Mos.	
Northwest	-0.02	+1.36	+2.81	-1.89	+5.23	+1.7
North Central	+0.17	0.00	+1.87	+2.53	+13.39	+2.8
Northeast	+0.28	-0.61	-0.16	+1.03	+13.49	+2.2
West Central	-0.20	-1.06	+3.27	+1.54	+10.76	+2.0
Central	-0.71	-1.47	+0.74	-0.49	+12.41	+1.1
Central Hills	-0.38	-0.82	+0.23	-0.52	+14.88	+1.1
Northeast Hills	-0.84	-1.38	+0.49	-0.38	+19.53	+1.1
Southwest	-1.11	-2.33	-1.92	-5.04	+0.08	+0.5
South Central	-1.90	-1.72	-2.48	-5.12	+4.06	-0.9
Southeast	-1.37	-1.34	-0.02	-1.26	+17.64	+0.2
State	-0.61	-0.94	+0.49	-0.95	+11.16	

*Above +4 = Extreme Moist Spell
3.0 To 3.9 = Very Moist Spell
2.0 To 2.9 = Unusual Moist Spell
1.0 To 1.9 = Moist Spell
0.5 To 0.9 = Incipient Moist Spell
0.4 To -0.4 = Near Normal

-0.5 To -0.9 = Incipient Drought
-1.0 To -1.9 = Mild Drought
-2.0 To -2.9 = Moderate Drought
-3.0 To -3.9 = Severe Drought
Below -4.0 = Extreme Drought



Average (in)
Percent of normal

MEAN STREAM DISCHARGE

River and Location	Drainage Area (Sq. Mi.)	Mean Discharge (CFS)	% of Normal	This Month		
				% of Normal Past		
				3 Mos.	6 Mos.	12 Mos.
Grand River near Painesville	685	2,355	139	150	135	127
Great Miami River at Hamilton	3,630	5,396	114	117	134	100
Huron River at Milan	371	622	127	122	127	114
Killbuck Creek at Killbuck	464	708	102	94	97	91
Little Beaver Creek near East Liverpool	496	649	75	83	85	82
Maumee River at Waterville	6,330	9,691	148	156	141	87
Muskingum River at McConnelsville	7,422	9,599	79	141	156	83
Scioto River near Prospect	567	787	121	136	178	111
Scioto River at Higby	5,131	5,380	69	89	97	97
Stillwater River at Pleasant Hill	503	771	123	122	147	98

STREAMFLOW during February was above normal in the northwestern two-thirds of the state and below normal in the southeastern one-third. Flows were high enough to be considered excessive in some basins in northwestern and northeastern Ohio. Flows during February were less than the January flows across most of the state.

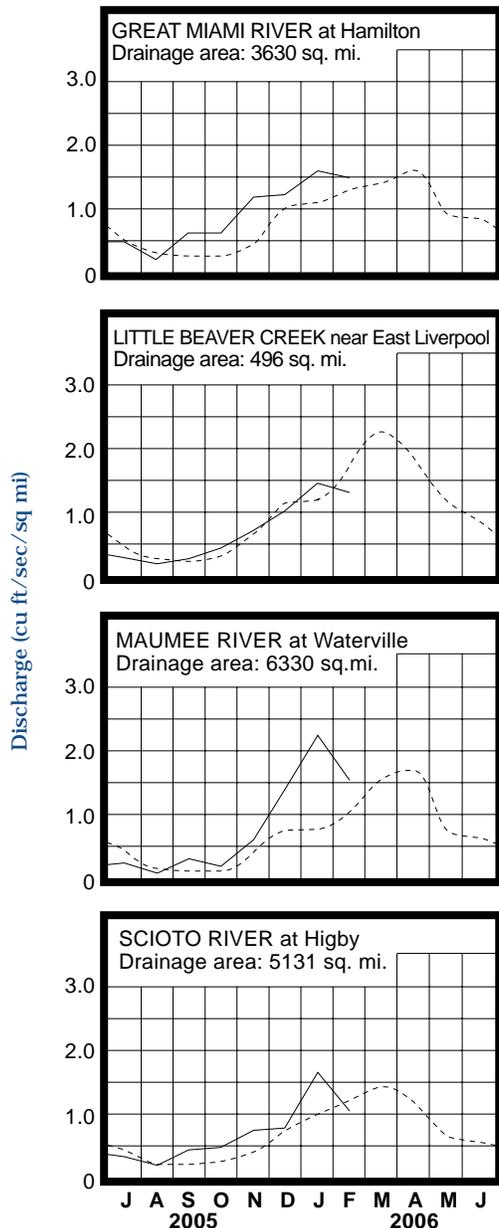
Streamflow at the beginning of the month was below normal across most of the state, but generally above normal in northwestern and northeastern Ohio. Flows increased during the first week of February in response to the month's most significant precipitation, with nearly all locations recording their greatest monthly flows during February 5-6. Flows declined from these peaks, then increased again during February 17-18 following local precipitation. As a result of this precipitation and runoff from melting snow, basins in extreme northeastern Ohio reported their greatest monthly flows on February 17. Flows declined steadily throughout the remainder of the month. The lowest flows for February occurred at, or just before, the end of the month and were below normal statewide.

RESERVOIR STORAGE during February increased in both the Mahoning and Scioto river basins. Storage remained above normal in both basins.

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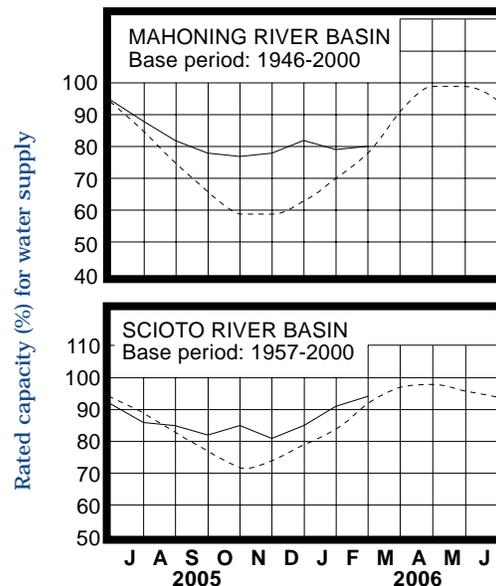
Reservoir storage at the end of February in the Mahoning basin index reservoirs was 80 percent of rated capacity for water supply, compared with 79 percent for last month and 81 percent for February 2005. Month-end storage in the Scioto basin index reservoirs was 94 percent of rated capacity for water supply, compared with 91 percent for last month and 95 percent for February 2005. Surface water supplies remain in good shape throughout the state.

MEAN STREAM DISCHARGE



Base period for all streams: 1971-2000

RESERVOIR STORAGE FOR WATER SUPPLY



Normal - - - - Current ———

GROUND-WATER LEVELS

Based on daily lowest level in feet below land-surface datum

GROUND WATER levels during February rose seasonally throughout the state. Net changes during February from last month's levels were greater than usually observed in most consolidated aquifers, but less in unconsolidated aquifers.

The current recharge season has been beneficial to the state's ground water supplies. However, below normal precipitation during February across much of the state limited the amount of recharge that many aquifers received, especially in unconsolidated aquifers. Ground water levels are generally below normal in unconsolidated aquifers and above normal in most consolidated aquifers. Also, current levels are lower than they were a year ago in most aquifers across Ohio. Although the ground water storage situation across the state is favorable at this time, near-normal precipitation during the remainder of the recharge season will be needed to help maintain this position.

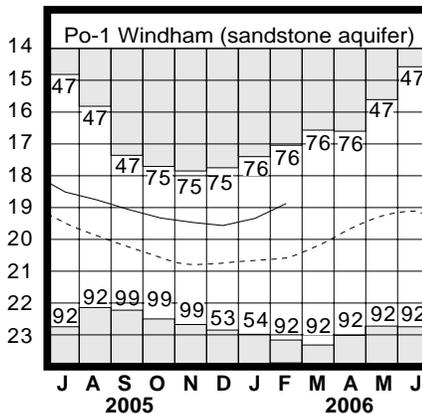
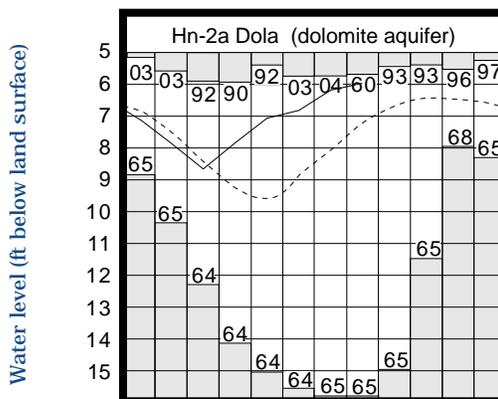
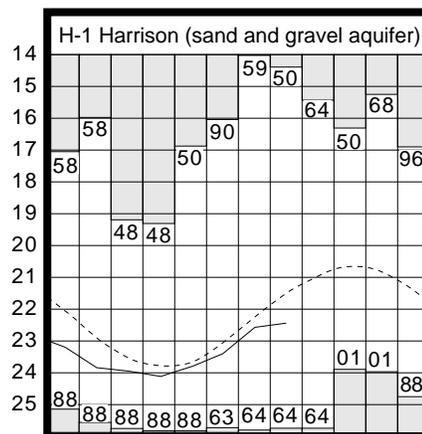
LAKE ERIE level rose during February. The mean level was 571.10 feet (IGLD-1985), 0.30 foot higher than last month's mean level and 0.27 foot above normal. This month's mean level is 0.65 foot lower than the February 2005 level and 1.90 feet above Low Water Datum.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reports that precipitation in the Lake Erie basin during February was 2.50 inches, 0.43 inch above normal. For the entire Great Lakes basin, February precipitation averaged 1.98 inches, 0.22 inch above normal. For calendar year 2006 through February, the Lake Erie basin has averaged 5.40 inches of precipitation, 0.86 inch above normal, while the entire Great Lakes basin has averaged 4.61 inches, 0.64 inch above normal.

In addition, the USACE reports that based on the current condition of the Great Lakes basin and anticipated weather conditions, the level of Lake Erie should range from slightly above normal to about 4 inches below normal for the foreseeable future. Deviations from the anticipated weather patterns could result in the level of Lake Erie ranging from about 6 inches above to as much as 14 inches below the normal seasonal average.

Index Well	Location	Aquifer	Mean This Month	Departure From Normal	Change in feet from:	
					Last Month	Year Ago
F-1	W. Rushville, Fairfield Co.	Sandstone	11.19	+3.38	+1.41	-0.55
Fa-1	Jasper Mill, Fayette Co.	Limestone	8.24	-1.07	+0.46	-0.60
Fr-10	Columbus, Franklin Co.	Gravel	43.79	-0.91	+0.42	-1.15
H-1	Harrison, Hamilton Co.	Gravel	22.44	-0.94	+0.15	-1.58
Hn-2a	Dola, Hardin Co.	Dolomite	5.99	+1.24	+0.20	+0.08
Po-1	Windham, Portage Co.	Sandstone	18.88	+1.70	+0.46	-0.86
Tu-1	Strasburg, Tuscarawas Co.	Gravel	12.79	-0.35	+0.28	-3.29

GROUND-WATER LEVELS



SUMMARY

Precipitation during February was below normal in the southern two-thirds of the state and near to slightly above normal in the northern one-third. Streamflow was above normal in the northwestern two-thirds of Ohio and below normal in the southeastern one-third. Reservoir storage increased and remained above normal in both the Mahoning and Scioto river basins. Ground water levels rose throughout the state. Lake Erie mean level rose 0.30 foot and was 0.27 foot above the long-term February average.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Ohio Supreme Court Opinion On Ground Water Rights

In December 2005, the Ohio Supreme Court issued an opinion concerning ground water and property rights. The opinion was issued in response to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking whether Ohio recognizes a property right in that amount of ground water beneath a landowner's property that is necessary to the use and enjoyment of the owner's home.

To view or obtain a copy of this opinion, visit the Ohio Supreme Court website at: www.sconet.state.oh.us/ and click on Opinions and Announcements.

Annual Water Withdrawal Report Forms Due

Large water users with the capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons of water or more per day from ground water, surface water, or a combination of the two are reminded that the 2005 annual water withdrawal report forms are due March 1, 2006. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Water mailed annual reporting forms to all registered water withdrawal facilities in early January. Owners of all facilities with the capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons of water or more per day are required, pursuant to Section 1521.16 of the Ohio Revised Code, to register their facilities with the ODNR, Division of Water and to submit annual reports listing actual withdrawals. If you have registered your facility with ODNR and have not received your 2005 annual report form, or if you think your facility should be registered and is not, please call Mike Hallfrisch at (614) 265-6745. Information on the requirements for registering a facility can be found at: www.ohiodnr.com/water/wwfr/.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report has been compiled from Division of Water data and from information supplied by the following:

Precipitation data:

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service; The Miami Conservancy District; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Muskingum Area.

Streamflow and reservoir storage data:

U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division.

Lake Erie level data:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

Palmer Drought Severity Index:

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service.



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