



News Release

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U.S. Geological Survey

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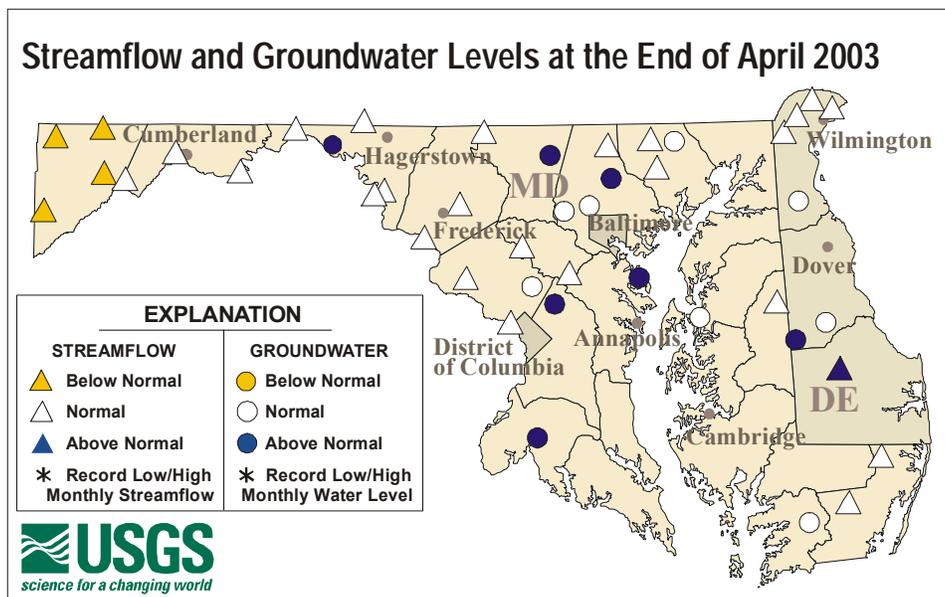
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April Water Levels Normal

Average streamflow and groundwater levels ranged from below normal to above normal across Maryland and Delaware in April, according to hydrologists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Baltimore. Groundwater levels rose in April and all the wells used by the USGS to monitor climatic conditions are at normal to above normal levels. At this time last year, all but one well were below normal levels and many set monthly record lows. Groundwater levels are near their annual high and are expected to drop during the growing season. For 5-year hydrographs of groundwater levels, visit: <http://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/>. Streamflow conditions have also improved significantly since a year ago. For example, streamflow at Deer Creek in Harford County, Maryland was nearly 4 times higher in April 2003 (166 cubic feet per second or ft³/s) than during April 2002 (46 ft³/s), the lowest April flow for the period of record.



For news release and images, go to http://md.water.usgs.gov/publications/press_release/current/.

Streamflow at the end of April ranged from above normal to normal at most USGS streamflow-gaging stations across Delaware and most of Maryland. In western Maryland, however, several stations showed below normal streamflow levels at the end of April, but streams in this region can quickly respond to runoff and recover to normal levels. Streamflow data can be monitored on the web at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>. Five-year monthly streamflow hydrographs can be viewed on the USGS website at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/surfacewater/streamflow/>.

Average monthly streamflow at the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. was 18.6 bgd (billion gallons per day), or 76 percent above normal (see graphs at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/monthly/poto.html>). Total flow into the Chesapeake Bay during March averaged 104 bgd (billion gallons per day), which is 11 percent above average. More information about water and the Chesapeake Bay can be found at <http://md.water.usgs.gov/monthly/bay.html>.

Reservoir storage levels increased in April. Storage in the Baltimore Reservoir System increased to 99 percent of capacity at the end of April. At this time last year, the reservoirs were only at 62 percent of capacity. The storage levels of the Triadelphia and Duckett Reservoirs on the Patuxent River also increased and remain full. Reservoir data graphs can be viewed at: <http://md.water.usgs.gov/>.

Streamflow and groundwater levels are used to gauge water conditions and can be used to predict the potential for flooding and drought conditions. These USGS data have been provided to State and local water resource managers and are critical for making appropriate decisions on water restrictions. For more information on streamflow and groundwater levels in Maryland and Delaware, see Water Watch at: <http://md.water.usgs.gov/waterwatch>.

The real-time streamflow stations used in this analysis are operated in cooperation with the Maryland and Delaware Geological Surveys, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore County, and other agencies. The observation wells used in this analysis are operated in cooperation with the Maryland and Delaware Geological Surveys. The USGS publishes data for 128 streamflow stations and 379 wells across Maryland and Delaware.

The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

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