

**NWS FORM E-5 U.S. Department of Commerce**  
NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**HSA OFFICE:**  
**Grand Rapids, MI**

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**

REPORT FOR (MONTH & YEAR):  
**January 2023**

TO: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (W/OS31)  
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL INFO CENTER  
1325 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, RM 13468  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910

DATE:  
February 15, 2023

SIGNATURE:  
Bruce Smith, MIC  
Andrew Dixon, Service Hydrologist

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

An **X** inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

**Summary**

Overall January 2023 was incredible warm - and actually placed in the top 5 warmest January's on record at all 3 main climate sites (Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Muskegon). This meltdown began at the end of December when virtually the entire snowpack in the Lower Peninsula melted, and this pattern continued through the first 3 weeks of January. A handful of weather systems moved through, but fell primarily as rain. The final week or so of the month saw a cold snap and snow return to the area. By the end of the month there was snow on the ground in most parts of the Lower Peninsula, but was still significant less than normal for late January.

From a river ice standpoint, we had barely begun to freeze over the rivers in late December before the meltdown around New Years melted away all of that ice. The rivers remained ice-free for most of January before freezing up again (barely) during the cold snap to end the month.

Drought conditions remained largely unchanged throughout the month, with D2 "Severe Drought" continuing over southeast Lower Michigan, with near-normal conditions over Western Lower Michigan (see figure 5).

**Flood Conditions**

Water levels on our main river systems remained quite close to normal for most of the month. However, this is deceiving because the only thing maintaining these water levels was rainfall and snowmelt runoff - which of course is very uncharacteristic for this time of year. So, in essence, we maintained water levels by stealing from the typical spring

snowmelt ahead of time. As we progress into spring, and the “normal” numbers start climbing significantly, we may have a hard time budging a whole lot from our current levels simply because we have no snow left to melt. This, combined with the lack of ice on the rivers, is causing our spring flood risks to be notably lower than normal in the Lower Peninsula.

### **Flood Stage Report**

No forecast points exceeded flood stage during the month. Thus, the NWS Form E-3 “Flood Stage Report” was not issued.

### **River Conditions**

The end of January percentage of normal flow for selected rivers is listed below:

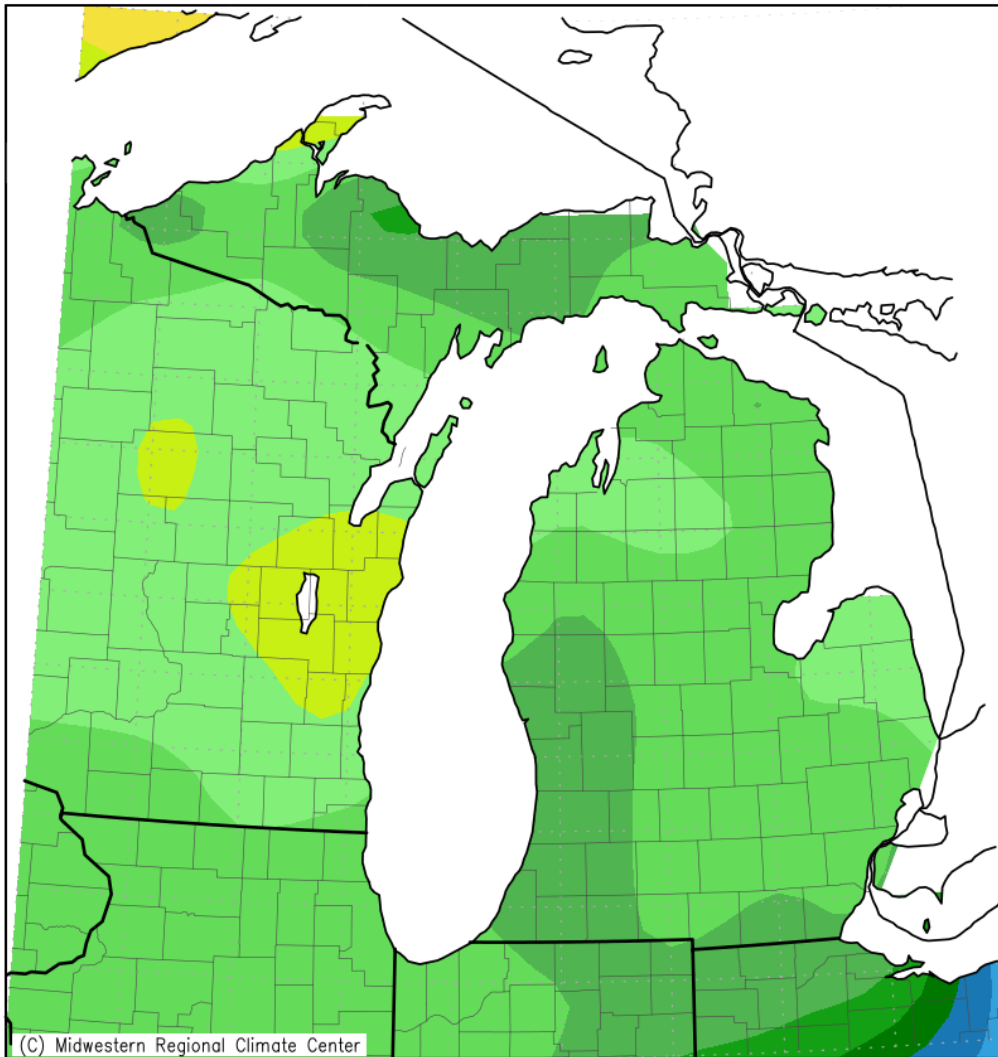
<u>Location</u>	<u>River</u>	<u>% of Normal</u>
Scottville	Pere Marquette	Ice-affected
Whitehall	White	Ice-affected
Ewart	Muskegon	88
Mt. Pleasant	Chippewa	Ice-affected
Lansing	Grand	63
Grand Rapids	Grand	82
East Lansing	Red Cedar	59
Hastings	Thornapple	79
Battle Creek	Battle Creek	84
Battle Creek	Kalamazoo	67

### **General Hydrologic Information**

January precipitation amounts for Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Muskegon, Michigan, were 2.54, 1.94, and 2.80 inches, respectively (Figure 1). Monthly departures were +0.02, -0.12, and +0.38 inches, respectively. Yearly departures were +0.02, -0.12, and +0.38 inches for Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon, respectively. Percent of mean precipitation for January 2023 is shown in Figure 2.

Temperatures for the month of January at Grand Rapids, Lansing and Muskegon were much warmer than average. The monthly average temperature departures for these sites were +6.9, +8.3, and +7.5 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively.

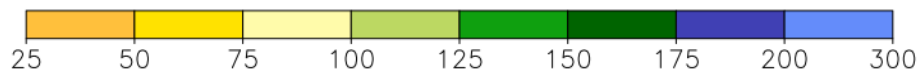
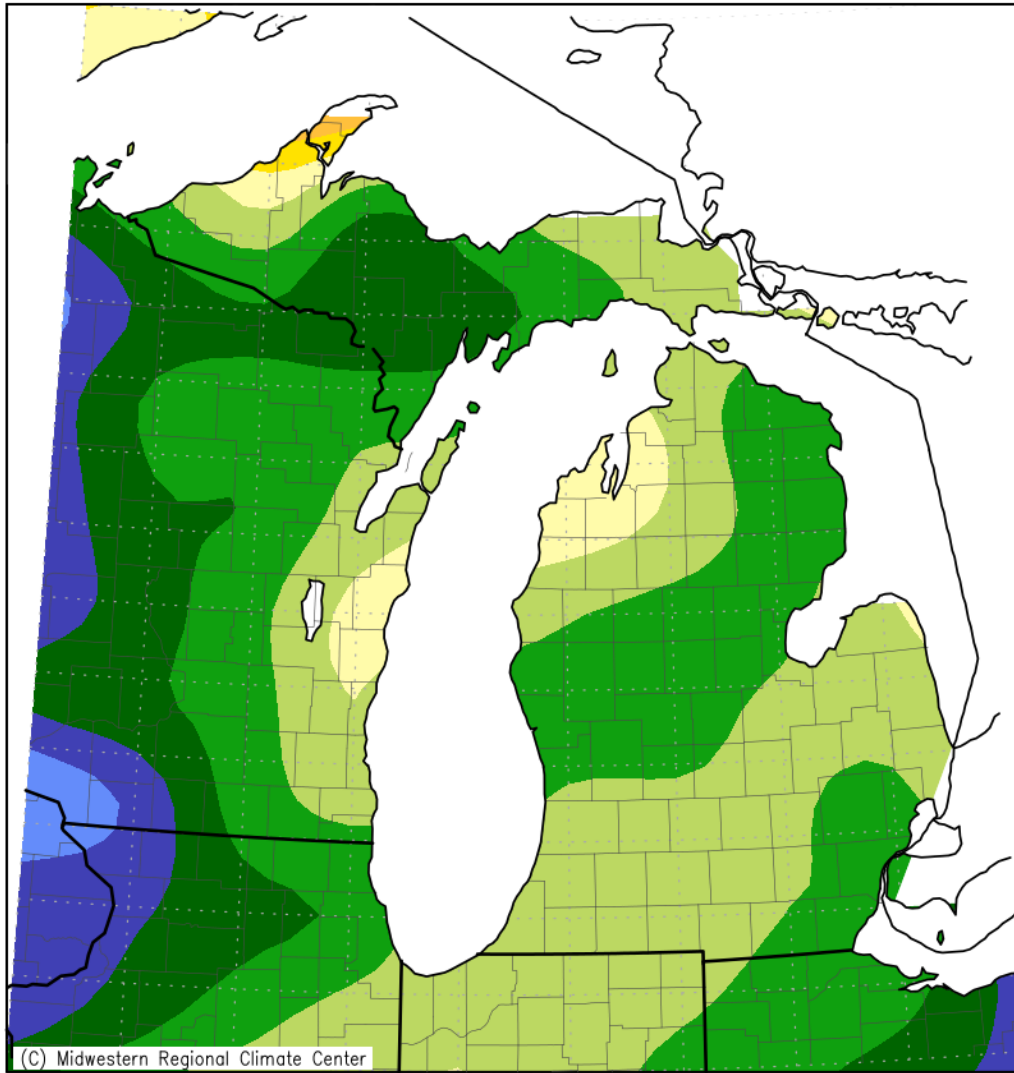
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023



Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 2/14/2023 7:45:12 AM CST

Figure 1. January 2023 Monthly Precipitation Totals.

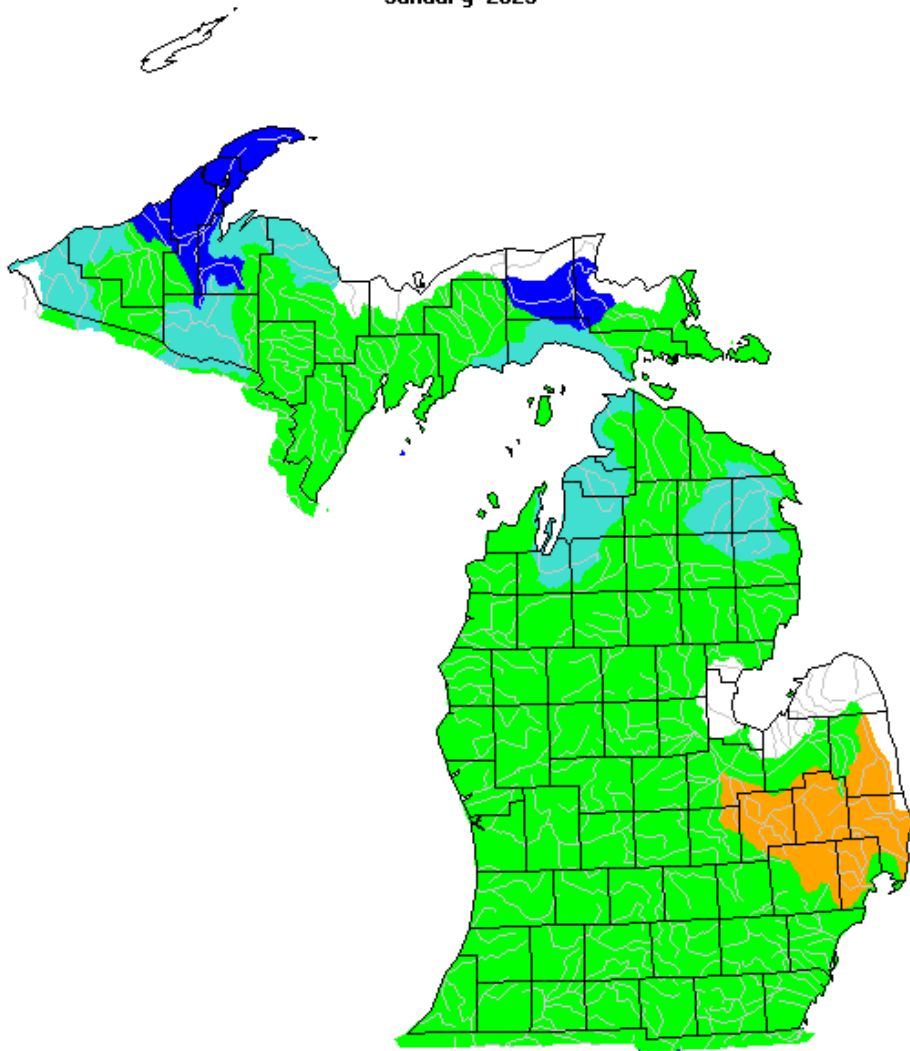
Accumulated Precipitation: Percent of Mean  
January 1, 2023 to January 31, 2023



Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 2/14/2023 7:46:00 AM CST

Figure 2. January 2023 Percent of Mean of Accumulated Precipitation.

January 2023



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Figure 3. USGS monthly streamflow for January, grouped by significant hydrologic units. Note streamflows within a relatively normal range over western Lower Michigan, but much below normal in eastern Lower Michigan for this time of year.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
JAN, 2023

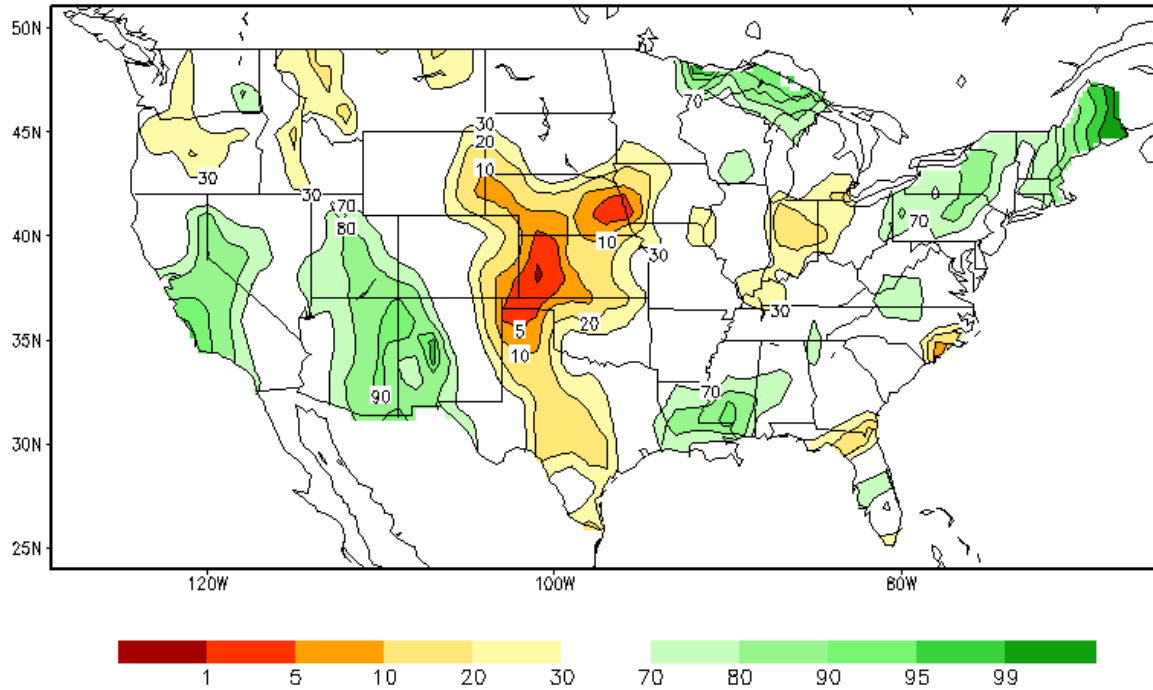
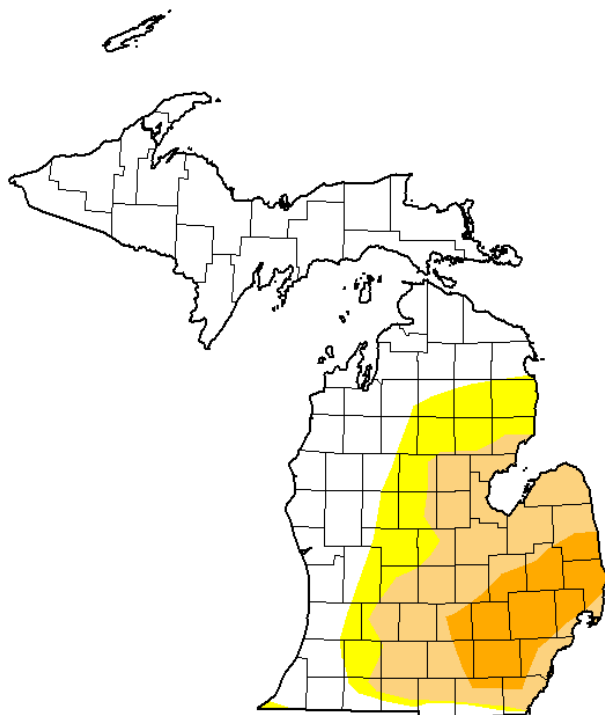


Figure 4. Chart of monthly values of soil moisture, by percentile ranking. This supports the idea that soil moisture levels are near or perhaps slightly drier than normal for this time of year, especially over Southeast Lower Michigan.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Michigan

**January 31, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	56.43	43.57	30.55	9.67	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 01-24-2023	56.43	43.57	30.55	9.67	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 11-01-2022	59.54	40.46	7.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	48.07	51.93	30.62	9.67	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	59.10	40.90	5.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 02-01-2022	55.95	44.05	7.17	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Intensity:*

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

*Author:*

Rocky Bilotta  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Figure 5. U.S. Drought Monitor showing drier than normal conditions over central Lower Michigan, but much drier than normal conditions over southeast Lower Michigan, including in the headwaters of the Grand and Kalamazoo River basins.

### Hydrologic Products issued this month

- 31 Hydrologic Summaries (ARBRVAGRR)
- 1 Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlook (ARBESFGRR)
- 0 Event-driven Hydrologic Outlook (ARBESFGRR)
- 0 Daily River Forecasts (ARBRVDGRR)
- 0 Areal Flood Advisory Statements (ARBFLSGRR)
- 0 Flood Warning Statements (ARBFLWGRR)
- 0 Flood Watch Statements (ARBFFAGRR)
- 0 River Statements (ARBRVSGRR)

### News Articles and Related Documentation

None