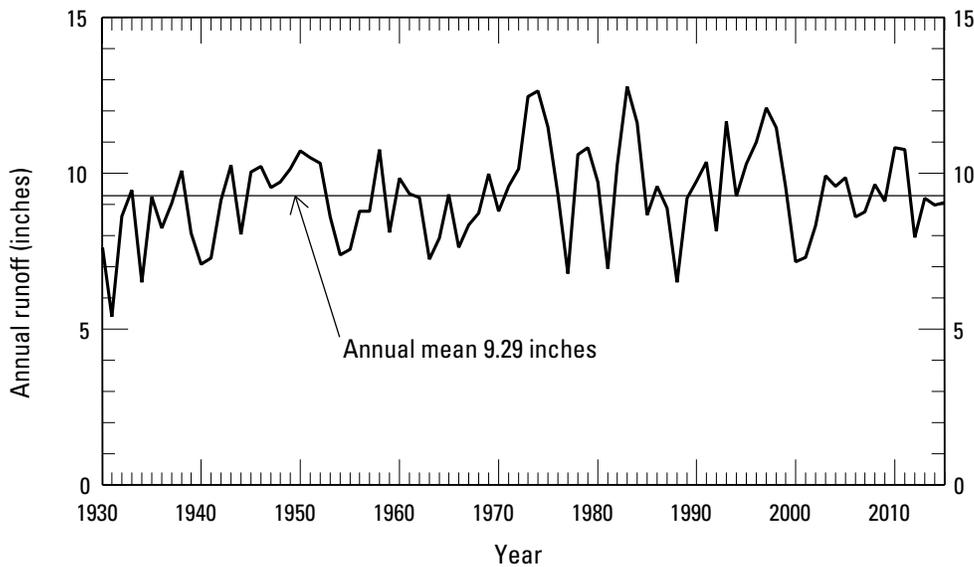




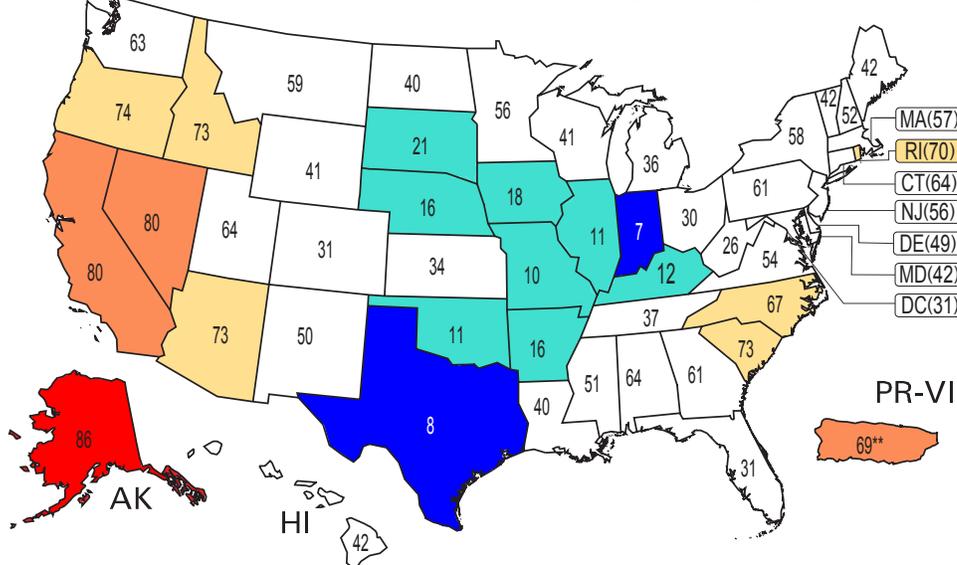
## National Overview

Annual U.S. runoff, 1930–2015



Average runoff in the Nation's rivers and streams during water year 2015 (9.07 inches) was very close to the long-term (1930–2015) annual mean for the contiguous United States (9.29 inches). Nationwide, 2015 streamflow ranked 51st out of the 86 years in the period 1930–2015. Note that in some previous water year summaries (prior to 2011) prepared by the USGS, the median runoff, not the average runoff, was compared among time periods.

2015 statewide streamflow ranks (1930–2015)



Streamflows were reported at record low levels in Alaska (AK). Much-below-normal streamflow was reported in California, Nevada, and Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands (PR-VI). Below-normal streamflow occurred in Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. Above-normal streamflow occurred in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Much-above-normal streamflow was reported in Texas and Indiana. Most States had streamflows in the normal range. Nationwide, streamflow ranked 51st out of 86 years.

\*\*For PR-VI, 72 years of available data were used and rank was adjusted accordingly.

Explanation – Rank						
86	79–85	66–78	22–65	9–21	2–8	1
Lowest	Much-below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much-above normal	Highest

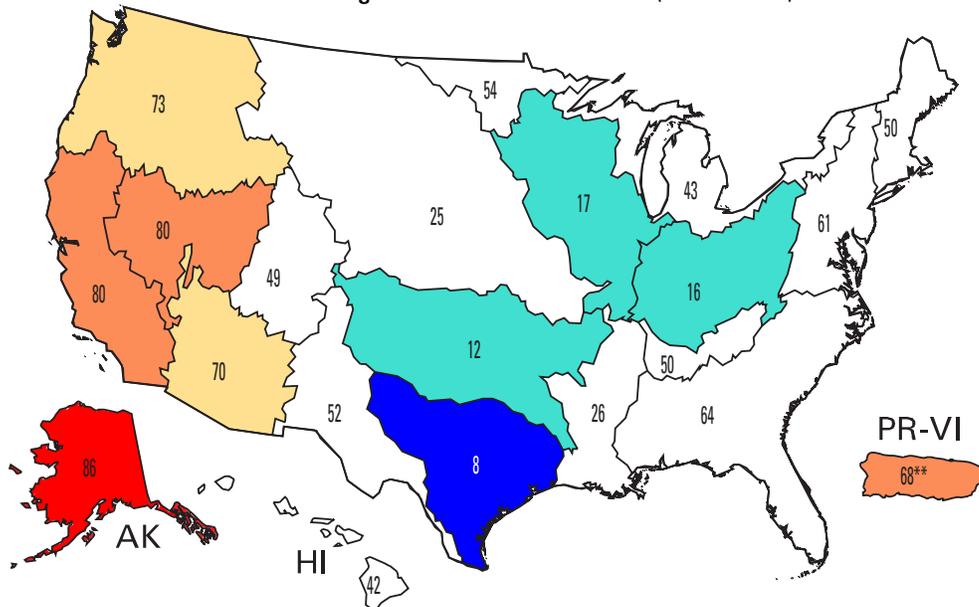
## Regional Patterns

Water-resources regions of the United States



The United States (including Puerto Rico–Virgin Islands in the Caribbean region and the District of Columbia in the Mid-Atlantic region) is divided into 21 large drainages, or water-resources regions. These hydrologic areas are based on surface topography and contain either the drainage area of a major river, such as the Columbia in the Pacific Northwest region; the combined drainage areas of a series of rivers, such as the Texas-Gulf region, which includes a number of rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico; or the area of an island or island group. Water-resources regions provide a coherent, watershed-based framework for depicting streamflow variations.

2015 regional streamflow ranks (1930–2015)



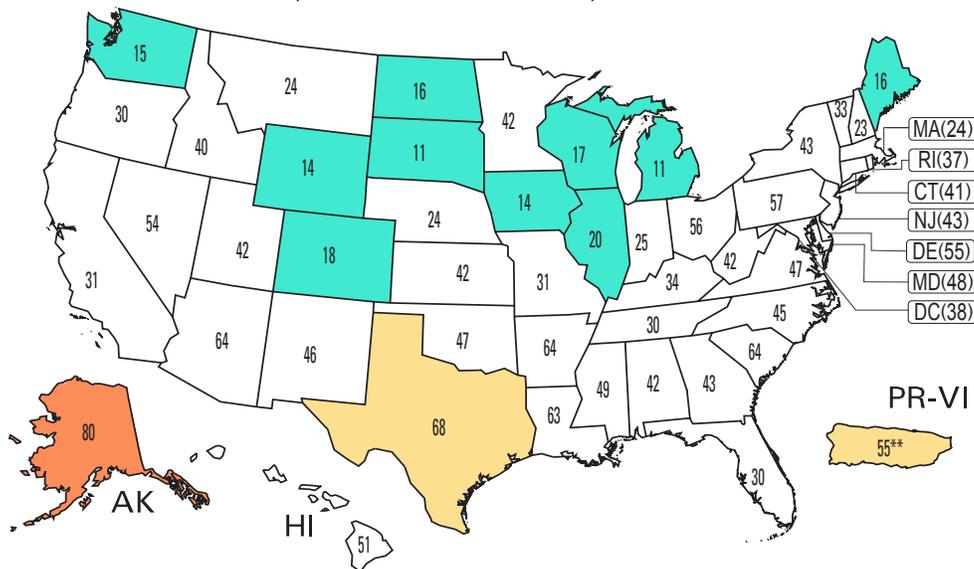
Streamflows were reported at record low levels in the Alaska region (number 19 on the water-resources regions of the United States map). Streamflows at much-below-normal levels were reported in the California (18), Great Basin (16), and Caribbean (21) regions. Below-normal conditions were measured in the Pacific Northwest (17) and Lower Colorado (15) regions. Above-normal streamflows were reported in the Upper Mississippi (07), Ohio (05), and Arkansas-White-Red (11) regions. Much-above-normal streamflow was reported in the Texas-Gulf region (12).

\*\*For PR-VI, 72 years of available data were used and rank was adjusted accordingly.

Explanation – Rank						
86	79–85	66–78	22–65	9–21	2–8	1
Lowest	Much-below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much-above normal	Highest

## Seasonal Characteristics

Autumn (October–December 2014) statewide ranks

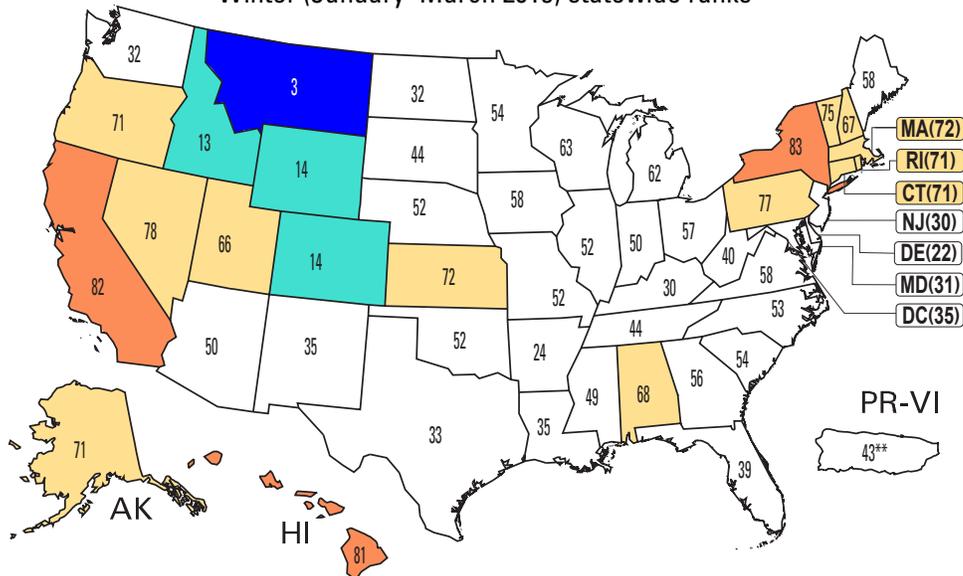


Explanation – Rank						
86	79–85	66–78	22–65	9–21	2–8	1
Lowest	Much-below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much-above normal	Highest

Autumn-season (October–December) streamflows were at much-below-normal levels in Alaska. Below-normal flows were reported in Texas and Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands. Above-normal flows were reported in Illinois, Colorado, Wisconsin, Maine, North Dakota, Washington, Iowa, Wyoming, Michigan, and South Dakota. Nationwide, autumn-season streamflow ranked 41st out of 86 years.

\*\*For PR-VI, 72 years of available data were used and rank was adjusted accordingly.

Winter (January–March 2015) statewide ranks



Explanation – Rank						
86	79–85	66–78	22–65	9–21	2–8	1
Lowest	Much-below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much-above normal	Highest

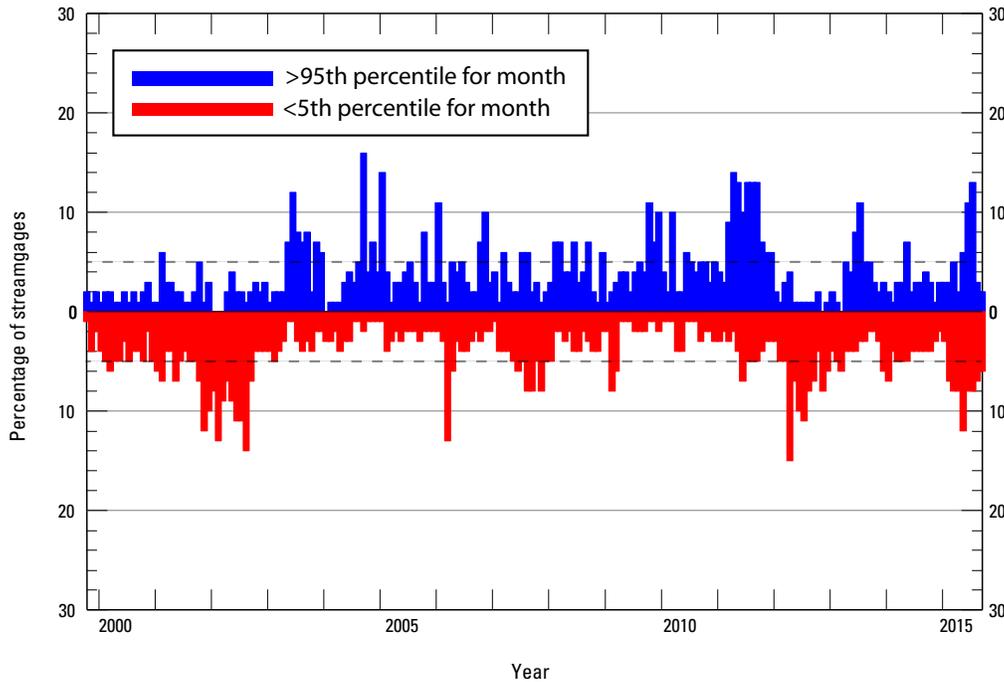
Winter-season (January–March) streamflows were at much-below-normal levels in New York, California, and Hawaii (HI). Below-normal flows were reported in Nevada, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Kansas, Massachusetts, Alaska, Connecticut, Oregon, Rhode Island, Alabama, New Hampshire, and Utah. Above-normal streamflows were reported in Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming. Streamflows at much-above levels were reported in Montana. Nationwide, winter-season streamflow ranked 67th out of 86 years.

\*\*For PR-VI, 72 years of available data were used and rank was adjusted accordingly.



## High and Low Flows

Percentage of streamgages with very high and very low monthly streamflow  
(October 1999–September 2015)



In any given month, on average, it is expected that 5 percent of the streamgages will experience very high (>95th percentile) and 5 percent will experience very low (<5th percentile) average streamflow. During water year 2015, there were 3 months (May, June, and July) that had a greater-than-expected percentage of streamgages reporting very high streamflow (6, 11, and 13 percent, respectively). In contrast, there were 8 months from February through September with a greater-than-expected percentage of streamgages with very low flows (7, 8, 8, 12, 8, 8, 7, and 6 percent, respectively).

### Additional Information

The USGS operates a network of approximately 8,100 streamgages nationwide, almost in real time. Current information derived from these stations is available over the Internet at <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov>. Tables of data that summarize historical streamflow conditions by State, beginning in the year 1900, can be accessed at <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=statesum>. These tables are updated every few months to reflect the most current streamflow data.

The streamflow information used to prepare this summary is also used for water management, monitoring floods and droughts, bridge design, and for many recreational activities. To obtain real-time and archived streamflow data and information, visit <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>. The national streamflow network, which is part of the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program (GWSIP), is operated primarily by the USGS; however, funding for network operation is provided by the USGS and approximately 850 Federal, State, tribal, regional, and local partners. For more information on this network and the GWSIP, visit <https://www.usgs.gov/science/mission-areas/water/groundwater> and watch for more information with new USGS Web sites in the future.

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