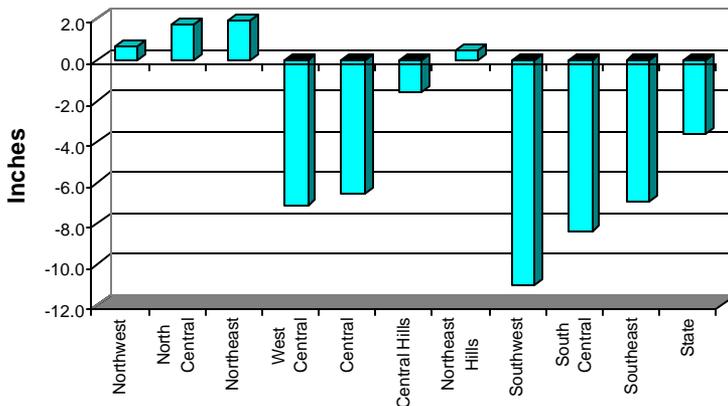


Ohio's Water Levels

Precipitation: Variation from Normal by Location in State
(July 1998- July 2000)



- According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Water, every Ohioan uses approximately 75 gallons of water for household and other domestic uses per day. Total daily household usage, when combined with industrial, manufacturing, and agriculture usage, equates to an average of over 11.7 billion gallons per day.
- State hydrologists monitor and report water levels and compare them over a two-year period. These reports include assessments and data on levels of precipitation, streamflow, reservoir storage, and ground water.
- Precipitation reports have shown overall drought conditions for the state since July of 1998. Average precipitation for the state as a whole has been four inches below normal. Severe drought conditions during the summer of 1999 greatly contributed to overall drought levels, and affected portions of central to western and southern Ohio most significantly. Other parts of the state have experienced close to normal levels over the past two years. The graph reflects drought conditions, but also the heavy rains that occurred during the spring and early summer of CY 2000. Precipitation levels are important in monitoring water supplies, floods and droughts. DNR uses precipitation data to evaluate designs for dams and levees, define floodplains, compare water supply alternatives, and determine hydraulic operations for canal systems.
- Like precipitation levels, streamflow, reservoir storage, and ground water levels have been lower than average over the last two years, but have increased because of wet weather during the spring and summer of 2000.