

Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," weekly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. This Monthly Bulletin of the lake levels for the Great Lakes may be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, by calling (313) 226-6442 or emailing hhpm@usace.army.mil. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication. This information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology March 2014

The Great Lakes basin saw below average precipitation in March. Lake Superior received 95% of its average precipitation in March while Lake Michigan-Huron received only 69% of its average. Lake Erie received only 54% of its average precipitation, whereas Lake Ontario experienced 79% of its historical March precipitation. The net basin supply of water to Lake Superior was above average in March. The net basin supplies to Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario were each below average in March. The tables below list March precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for March to long-term average (1918-2013) shows Lake Superior was slightly above average, while Lake Michigan-Huron was 13 inches below average. Lake St. Clair was 4 inches below average, and its level was impacted by ice build-up in the St. Clair River. Lakes Erie and Ontario were 3 and 5 inches below average, respectively. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on the upper Lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2014	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.64	1.72	-0.08	95	32.81	30.46	2.35	108
Michigan-Huron	1.47	2.14	-0.67	69	33.57	32.44	1.13	103
Erie	1.50	2.76	-1.26	54	38.24	35.43	2.81	108
Ontario	2.11	2.67	-0.56	79	35.34	35.73	-0.39	99
Great Lakes	1.59	2.16	-0.57	74	34.10	32.64	1.46	104

LAKE	March Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		March Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2014	Average ³ (1900-2008)	2014	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	56,000	46,000	70,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	125,000	183,000	160,000	172,000
Erie	61,000	72,000	191,000	197,000
Ontario	42,000	75,000	245,000	238,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

² Does not include diversions.

³ Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005