

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, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, 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 2015

For the second consecutive month, the overall Great Lakes basin received less than an inch of precipitation, which is well below average. In fact, all of the lakes experienced less than average precipitation, with Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario receiving less than 40% of their March average precipitation. In addition, the vast majority of the snowpack within the Lakes Michigan and Erie basins melted during March, while substantial snowpack remained in the Lakes Superior, Huron, and Ontario basins at the end of the month. With the exception of Lake Superior, all of the Great Lakes received below average net basin supplies 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 (1918-2014) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to be 8 and 7 inches above long-term average, respectively. Lake St. Clair was 2 inches above its long-term March average, while Lakes Erie and Ontario were 3 and 11 inches, respectively, below their March averages.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.15	1.72	-0.57	67	32.42	30.46	1.96	106
Michigan-Huron	0.80	2.14	-1.34	37	33.57	32.44	1.13	103
Erie	1.05	2.76	-1.71	38	31.96	35.43	-3.47	90
Ontario	0.93	2.67	-1.74	35	33.08	35.73	-2.65	93
Great Lakes	0.93	2.16	-1.23	43	32.90	32.64	0.26	101

LAKE	March Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		March Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	71,000	46,000	85,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	101,000	183,000	183,000	172,000
Erie	42,000	72,000	196,000	197,000
Ontario	30,000	75,000	228,000	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