

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 May 2015

The overall Great Lakes basin received above average precipitation for the first time in four months. The Lake Ontario basin was the only basin with below average precipitation at 91% below average. All other basins had above average precipitation, ranging from 13% to 18% above average. Lakes Superior and Erie received above average net basin supplies in May, while lakes Michigan-Huron and Ontario received below average supplies. The tables below list May precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for May to long-term average (1918-2014) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to be 6 and 4 inches above long-term average, respectively. Lake St. Clair and Erie were 3 and 4 inches, respectively, above their long-term May averages, while Lake Ontario was 7 inches below its May average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	May				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.25	2.76	0.49	118	32.21	30.43	1.78	106
Michigan-Huron	3.57	3.03	0.54	118	32.92	32.48	0.44	101
Erie	3.85	3.39	0.46	114	31.81	35.59	-3.78	89
Ontario	2.83	3.11	-0.28	91	30.48	35.83	-5.35	85
Great Lakes	3.42	3.03	0.39	113	32.19	32.68	-0.49	99

LAKE	May Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		May Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	200,000	182,000	85,000	75,000
Michigan-Huron	246,000	251,000	201,000	189,000
Erie	72,000	48,000	218,000	216,000
Ontario	34,000	60,000	232,000	260,000

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