

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 October 2015

Precipitation within the overall Great Lakes basin during the month of October was slightly below average, and has been below average 3 out of the last 4 months. Lake Superior received near average precipitation for the month, but the precipitation to Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie was around 10% below average. On the other hand, Lake Ontario, received precipitation that was 6% above average for the month of October. With the exception of Lake Ontario, all of the lakes experienced below average net basin supplies during the month of October. The tables below list October precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for October to long-term average (1918-2014) shows all lakes at levels above long term average October levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 4 and 6 inches, respectively, above long-term October average levels. Lakes St. Clair and Erie were both 11 inches, respectively, above their long-term October averages. Lake Ontario was 2 inches above its October average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.78	2.87	-0.09	97	27.99	30.43	-2.44	92
Michigan-Huron	2.60	2.91	-0.31	89	27.36	32.48	-5.12	84
Erie	2.55	2.83	-0.28	90	32.03	35.59	-3.56	90
Ontario	3.33	3.15	0.18	106	31.21	35.83	-4.62	87
Great Lakes	2.72	2.91	-0.19	93	28.42	32.68	-4.26	87

LAKE	October Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		October Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	-2,000	40,000	97,000	80,000
Michigan-Huron	-71,000	1,000	197,000	191,000
Erie	-49,000	-21,000	216,000	201,000
Ontario	9,000	7,000	279,000	243,000

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