

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 2016

Precipitation over the Great Lakes basin during October was around 6% above average, according to preliminary estimates. Precipitation over Lake Superior was 8% above average, precipitation to Lake Michigan-Huron was near average, and precipitation received by Lake Erie was 8% below its average October precipitation. Lake Ontario, however, experienced precipitation that was nearly 40% above average. Net basin supplies were below average in October for all of the Great Lakes except Ontario, which received near average water supplies. The tables below list October precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

The monthly mean levels fell from September to October for all lakes. Besides Lake Ontario, all of the lakes were above their long-term average (LTA) monthly October levels. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie were 7, 10, 13, and 11 inches above their LTA October levels, respectively. Lake Ontario was 3 inches below its LTA level. In October, Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 3 and 4 inches respectively above last October's levels, while Lake Erie matched its level of a year ago. Lake Ontario was 5 inches below last year's level.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2016	Average (1900-2013)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2013)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.11	2.88	0.23	108	33.31	30.52	2.79	109
Michigan-Huron	2.98	2.94	0.04	101	35.27	32.57	2.70	108
Erie	2.62	2.84	-0.22	92	34.26	35.65	-1.39	96
Ontario	4.28	3.15	1.13	136	32.10	35.87	-3.77	89
Great Lakes	3.10	2.93	0.17	106	34.34	32.76	1.58	105

LAKE	October Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		October Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2016	Average (1900-2008)	2016	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	14,000	40,000	97,000	80,000
Michigan-Huron	-16,000	1,000	204,000	191,000
Erie	-24,000	-21,000	213,000	201,000
Ontario	0	7,000	244,000	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