

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 August 2017

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation during the month of August was near average for the Great Lakes basin. Lake Superior received 20% more precipitation and Lake Michigan-Huron 10% more than average, while lakes Erie and Ontario received 71% and 86% of average precipitation in August, respectively. The net basin supplies were above average for Lake Superior and Lake Erie, near average for Lake Ontario, and below for Lake Michigan-Huron. The outflows for August were above average for all lakes and for the third consecutive month, Lake Ontario's preliminary average monthly outflow estimate is a record high outflow based on the period of record³.

All of the lakes were above their August long-term average water levels. From July to August, Lake Superior rose just over an inch and Lake Michigan-Huron rose less than half of an inch. Lakes Erie and Ontario declined 4 inches and 10 inches, respectively. However, all of the lakes are still above last year's August water levels by 3 to 23 inches.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2017	Average (1900-2014)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2014)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.78	3.16	0.62	120	33.22	30.52	2.70	109
Michigan-Huron	3.42	3.12	0.30	110	35.50	32.57	2.93	109
Erie	2.29	3.22	-0.93	71	37.17	35.65	1.52	104
Ontario	2.69	3.13	-0.44	86	40.43	35.87	4.56	113
Great Lakes	3.27	3.14	0.13	104	35.68	32.76	2.92	109

LAKE	August Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		August Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2017	Average (1900-2008)	2017	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	154,000	94,000	115,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	41,000	53,000	216,000	195,000
Erie	18,000	-10,000	245,000	209,000
Ontario	8,000	8,000	351,000	256,000

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