

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 January 2016

According to preliminary precipitation estimates, precipitation over the Great Lakes was above average in January. Precipitation to Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were around 60% and 30% above average, respectively. The precipitation to Erie equaled its January average, while Lake Ontario received slightly above average precipitation. The net basin supply to Lake Superior was above average in January, while the water supply to Lake Michigan was below average, and the water supplies to Lakes Erie and Ontario were near average. The tables below list January precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

With the exception of Lake Superior, water levels rose on all lakes from December to January. The mean monthly lake level of all the lakes were above their long term average (LTA) January levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 9 and 11 inches above average, respectively. The monthly mean levels of Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were, 14,9, and 3 inches, respectively, above LTA.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	January				12-Month Comparison			
	2016	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.07	1.93	1.14	159	30.87	30.43	0.44	101
Michigan-Huron	2.78	2.13	0.65	131	31.14	32.48	-1.34	96
Erie	2.48	2.48	0.00	100	33.86	35.59	-1.73	95
Ontario	2.91	2.76	0.15	106	33.22	35.83	-2.61	93
Great Lakes	3.12	2.20	0.92	142	31.83	32.68	-0.85	97

LAKE	January Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		January Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2016	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	14,000	-13,000	85,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	23,000	60,000	200,000	161,000
Erie	28,000	29,000	225,000	196,000
Ontario	34,000	32,000	216,000	222,000

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