

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 2017

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation in the month of January was close to average for the Great Lakes basin. Lake Erie received the most precipitation with 135% of average precipitation. The rest of the basin experienced close to average precipitation in the month of January. All of the lakes experienced above average water supplies and outflows for the month of January. The above average supplies in January was likely due to snowmelt during the warmer than normal conditions that persisted for about two weeks. The tables below list January precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

All of the lakes were above their long-term average (LTA) water levels for the month of January. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron declined in January by 3 and 2 inches, respectively. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario began their seasonal rise in January as they rose by 3, 5, and 6 inches, respectively. Also, Lake Superior was 3 inches below its January level from 2016 and Lake Michigan-Huron was 4 inches below its level from last year. Lake Erie was 2 inches above its level last year, while Lakes St. Clair and Ontario were near their same level as last January.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	January				12-Month Comparison			
	2017	Average (1900-2014)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 months	Average (1900-2014)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.80	1.94	-0.14	93	31.54	30.52	1.02	103
Michigan-Huron	2.31	2.15	0.16	107	32.40	32.57	-0.17	99
Erie	3.37	2.50	0.87	135	34.42	35.65	-1.23	97
Ontario	2.88	2.74	0.14	105	32.28	35.87	-3.59	90
Great Lakes	2.38	2.21	0.17	108	32.24	32.76	-0.52	98

LAKE	January Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		January Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2017	Average (1900-2008)	2017	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	14,000	-13,000	85,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	112,000	60,000	193,000	161,000
Erie	91,000	29,000	223,000	196,000
Ontario	66,000	32,000	227,000	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