

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 hphm@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 May 2014

The Great Lakes basin as a whole experienced above average precipitation in May. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron saw precipitation that was 13% and 7%, respectively, above average. The precipitation within the Lake Erie basin was near average, while Lake Ontario experienced precipitation that was 27% above its May historical average. The net basin supply of water to all of the Great Lakes was well above average in May. In fact, the net basin supply to Lake Superior was the second highest in its period of record for May. The tables below list May precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for May to long-term average (1918-2013) shows Lake Superior was about 5 inches above average, while Lake Michigan-Huron was 8 inches below average. Lake St. Clair was near average, while Lakes Erie and Ontario were 2 and 5 inches, respectively, above long-term average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	May				12-Month Comparison			
	2014	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.13	2.76	0.37	113	31.02	30.46	0.56	102
Michigan-Huron	3.25	3.05	0.20	107	31.99	32.44	-0.45	99
Erie	3.33	3.36	-0.03	99	37.75	35.43	2.32	107
Ontario	3.94	3.10	0.84	127	37.29	35.73	1.56	104
Great Lakes	3.33	3.01	0.32	111	33.03	32.64	0.39	101

LAKE	May Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		May Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2014	Average (1900-2008)	2014	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	300,000	182,000	85,000	75,000
Michigan-Huron	352,000	251,000	181,000	189,000
Erie	76,000	48,000	218,000	216,000
Ontario	77,000	60,000	268,000	260,000

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