

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 February 2015

Overall, the Great Lakes basin received 50% of average precipitation during the month of February. Each of the lakes experienced less than average precipitation. Despite the lower-than-average precipitation, however, precipitation remained on the ground as snowpack throughout February, resulting in higher than average snow water equivalent at the end of February, especially for the Lakes Erie and Ontario basins. The net result of the cold, dry February was lower than average net basin supplies to each of the lakes. The tables below list February precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for February to long-term average (1918-2013) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to be 8 and 9 inches above long-term average, respectively. Lake St. Clair, however, was 2 inches below its long-term February average, with the drop in lake level resulting from an ice jam on the St. Clair River constricting flow to the lake. Lake Erie's February level was 2 inches above the long-term average, and Lake Ontario was 4 inches below its long-term February average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	February				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.08	1.44	-0.36	75	32.91	30.46	2.45	108
Michigan-Huron	0.68	1.74	-1.06	39	34.24	32.44	1.80	106
Erie	1.15	2.09	-0.94	55	32.41	35.43	-3.02	91
Ontario	1.33	2.36	-1.03	56	34.26	35.73	-1.47	96
Great Lakes	0.89	1.78	-0.89	50	33.56	32.64	0.92	103

LAKE	February Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		February Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	3,000	9,000	85,000	67,000
Michigan-Huron	27,000	88,000	156,000	157,000
Erie	-16,000	38,000	197,000	192,000
Ontario	2,000	37,000	241,000	227,000

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