

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 2016

According to preliminary precipitation estimates, precipitation over the Great Lakes was near average in February. Precipitation to Lake Superior was about 20% below average, while precipitation to Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie was near average. Precipitation to Lake Ontario was 46% above average. The net basin supply to all of the Great Lakes was above average. The tables below list February precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and St. Clair water levels fell from January to February. However, the mean monthly lake level of all the lakes were above their long term average (LTA) February levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 9 and 11 inches above average, respectively, while the monthly mean levels of Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were, 15, 11, and 8 inches, respectively, above LTA.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	February				12-Month Comparison			
	2016	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.17	1.42	-0.25	82	30.96	30.43	0.53	102
Michigan-Huron	1.74	1.73	0.01	100	32.20	32.48	-0.28	99
Erie	2.09	2.09	0.00	100	34.80	35.59	-0.79	98
Ontario	3.45	2.36	1.09	146	35.34	35.83	-0.49	99
Great Lakes	1.76	1.77	-0.01	99	32.70	32.68	0.02	100

LAKE	February Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		February Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2016	Average (1900-2008)	2016	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	36,000	9,000	85,000	67,000
Michigan-Huron	142,000	88,000	192,000	157,000
Erie	54,000	38,000	223,000	192,000
Ontario	70,000	37,000	248,000	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