

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 publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," weekly, 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 April 2014

The Great Lakes basin experienced above average precipitation in April. Lake Superior saw slightly above average precipitation in April, while precipitation on Lake Michigan-Huron was 26% above average. The precipitation within the Lake Erie and Ontario basins were 9% and 47%, respectively, above their April historical averages. The net basin supply of water to all of the Great Lakes was well above average in April. The tables below list April precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for April to long-term average (1918-2013) shows Lake Superior was about an inch above average, while Lake Michigan-Huron was 13 inches below average. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were 3, 1, and 2 inches below average, respectively. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	April				12-Month Comparison			
	2014	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.04	2.00	0.04	102	32.24	30.46	1.78	106
Michigan-Huron	3.30	2.61	0.69	126	32.10	32.44	-0.34	99
Erie	3.46	3.16	0.30	109	36.99	35.43	1.56	104
Ontario	4.26	2.90	1.36	147	36.19	35.73	0.46	101
Great Lakes	3.09	2.55	0.54	121	33.17	32.64	0.53	102

LAKE	April Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		April Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2014	Average (1900-2008)	2014	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	191,000	150,000	72,000	68,000
Michigan-Huron	420,000	284,000	173,000	182,000
Erie	98,000	67,000	209,000	207,000
Ontario	159,000	93,000	243,000	251,000

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