

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 April 2016

Preliminary estimates show that precipitation over all of the Great Lakes was below average in April. Precipitation to Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Erie was between 15% and 23% below average, while precipitation to Lake Ontario was 40% below average. The net basin supplies to Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were below average. Lake Erie's net basin supply of water was above average, while the net basin supply to Lake Ontario was below average as well. The tables below list April precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

The lake-wide average water levels of all of the lakes rose from March to April, with Lake Superior climbing an inch and the other lakes rising 6 to 8 inches. Also, each lake's mean level in April was all above its long term average (LTA) April level and above last year's April level. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron levels were 9 and 15 inches, respectively, above their LTA April levels. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were 18, 15, and 9 inches, respectively above their LTA April levels.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	April				12-Month Comparison			
	2016	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.70	2.01	-0.31	85	31.64	30.43	1.21	104
Michigan-Huron	2.03	2.64	-0.61	77	35.08	32.48	2.60	108
Erie	2.67	3.19	-0.52	84	37.97	35.59	2.38	107
Ontario	1.75	2.91	-1.16	60	36.55	35.83	0.72	102
Great Lakes	2.01	2.56	-0.55	79	34.80	32.68	2.12	107

LAKE	April Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		April Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2016	Average (1900-2008)	2016	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	104,000	150,000	85,000	68,000
Michigan-Huron	249,000	284,000	204,000	182,000
Erie	74,000	67,000	241,000	207,000
Ontario	65,000	93,000	292,000	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