

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 August 2014

Overall, the Great Lakes basin received precipitation that was 18% above average in August. Lake Superior saw slightly below average precipitation in August, while Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario experienced above average precipitation. Lakes Michigan-Huron and Ontario have both experienced above average precipitation for 5 consecutive months. The net basin supply of water to each of the lakes was above average in August, with the exception of Lake Erie, which received near average net basin supply. The net basin supplies to Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Ontario have been above average for the past 5 months. The tables below list August precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for August to long-term average (1918-2013) shows Lake Superior was 6 inches above average, while Lake Michigan-Huron was 3 inches below average. Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 4, 5, and 3 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	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2014	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2010)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.89	3.17	-0.28	91	30.34	30.46	-0.12	100
Michigan-Huron	4.15	3.11	1.04	133	34.10	32.44	1.66	105
Erie	3.69	3.21	0.48	115	36.01	35.43	0.58	102
Ontario	3.35	3.12	0.23	107	37.96	35.73	2.23	106
Great Lakes	3.71	3.14	0.57	118	33.76	32.64	1.12	103

LAKE	August Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		August Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2014	Average (1900-2008)	2014	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	121,000	94,000	116,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	142,000	53,000	192,000	195,000
Erie	-11,000	-10,000	207,000	209,000
Ontario	31,000	8,000	285,000	256,000

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