

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 July 2015

The Great Lakes basin as a whole saw below average precipitation in July. The Lake Superior basin continued to see below average rainfall at 87% of average. The basins for Lake Michigan-Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario saw below average precipitation as well with reports of rainfall at 72%, 95%, and 69% of average for July respectively. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron saw below average net basin supplies in July while Lake Erie and Lake Ontario experienced higher than average net basin supplies despite below average rainfall. The tables below list July precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for July to long-term average (1918-2014) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron to be 7 and 6 inches above long-term average, respectively. Lake St. Clair and Erie were 15 and 17 inches, respectively, above their long-term July averages. Lake Ontario has now climbed above its long term average and was 8 inches above its July average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	July				12-Month Comparison			
	2015	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2012)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.86	3.27	-0.41	87	29.78	30.43	-0.65	98
Michigan-Huron	2.19	3.03	-0.84	72	31.16	32.48	-1.32	96
Erie	3.22	3.39	-0.17	95	34.47	35.59	-1.12	97
Ontario	2.20	3.19	-0.99	69	29.87	35.83	-5.96	83
Great Lakes	2.52	3.15	-0.63	80	31.00	32.68	-1.68	95

LAKE	July Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		July Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2015	Average (1900-2008)	2015	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	112,000	129,000	109,000	81,000
Michigan-Huron	106,000	128,000	196,000	195,000
Erie	47,000	7,000	246,000	209,000
Ontario	32,000	24,000	291,000	261,000

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