

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. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. 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 information is available on the internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology November 2012

The overall Great Lakes basin received only 39% of its average precipitation for the month of November. The Lake Superior basin received 67% of average precipitation last month and 92% of average over the past 12 months. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received 32% of average precipitation in November and 87% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Erie received 30% of average precipitation last month and 91% of average over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario saw 30% of average precipitation in November and 82% of average over the past 12 months. The water supply for Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron was below average for November. Lake Erie's water supply was above average last month while Lake Ontario's water supply was below average. The tables below list November precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

A comparison of monthly mean lake levels for November to long-term average (1918-2011) shows Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 14 and 28 inches below average, respectively. Lake St. Clair was 12 inches below average in November, and Lakes Erie and Ontario were 6 and 10 inches, respectively, below average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to continued below average water levels on all lakes.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	November				12-Month Comparison			
	2012	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2008)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.66	2.49	-0.83	67	27.94	30.51	-2.57	92
Michigan-Huron	0.89	2.78	-1.89	32	28.06	32.44	-4.38	87
Erie	0.87	2.87	-2.00	30	32.09	35.40	-3.31	91
Ontario	0.96	3.19	-2.23	30	29.11	35.71	-6.60	82
Great Lakes	1.08	2.76	-1.68	39	28.85	32.64	-3.79	88

LAKE	November WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		November OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2012	Average ³ (1900-2008)	2012	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	7,000	17,000	57,000	78,000
Michigan-Huron	12,000	40,000	161,000	190,000
Erie	3,000	-2,000	180,000	201,000
Ontario	0	20,000	206,000	239,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Water 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 water supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation.

² Does not include diversions.

³ Lake Ontario average water supplies and average outflows are based on period of record 1900-2005