



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CELRE-HH-W
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

DECEMBER 2014 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's monthly mean level declined somewhat from November's level, with its monthly mean coming in at 602.36 ft. This monthly mean level was 10 inches above its level of a year ago, 15 inches above chart datum, and 8 inches above its long-term average (LTA). This current 10-month stretch of above average water levels on the lake was preceded by 15 consecutive years of below average water levels. The Lake Superior basin received precipitation in December that was 29% below average, but experienced 10% above average precipitation over the last 12 months. The Superior level is projected to be 8 to 14 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. In addition, the lake is expected to be 6 to 10 inches above its level of a year ago until April, returning to levels similar to 2014 in May and June. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 5 to 9 inches above LTA through June.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's December level declined somewhat to 579.17 ft, from 579.20 ft in November. Levels remain well above average, however, due to the previously high levels resulting from wet conditions through the late summer and fall. December precipitation was 28% less than long term average December precipitation. The lake's mean water level was 7 inches above its mean level in November, and 8 inches above its December average. December was the fourth consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. In addition, the lake's level was 20 inches above chart datum and 22 inches above its level of a year ago. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 14 to 22 inches above last year's levels, and 7 to 8 inches above LTA through June 2015. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 18 to 28 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's mean water level increased to 574.57 ft in December from its mean level of 574.48 ft in November. In addition, the lake's mean level in December was 13 inches above its level of a year ago and 9 inches above LTA. The lake is projected to be 8 to 20 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months. Moreover, Lake St. Clair is expected to be 9 to 14 inches above its LTA from January through June.

LAKE ERIE

In December, Lake Erie's mean level rose from 571.36 ft to 571.42 ft, ending its seasonal decline. The lake's December mean level was 9 inches above last year's level and 7 inches above its LTA. Lake Erie experienced precipitation in December that was 47% below average, but has received nearly average precipitation during the past 12 months. The lake is forecasted to be 6 to 13 inches above its level of a year ago through June. Moreover, Lake Erie is projected to be 8 to 9 inches above its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ONTARIO

There was no change in Lake Ontario's level from November to December; it remains at 244.29 ft. The lake's December level was 3 inches lower than its level of a year ago and 2 inches below its LTA. The Lake Ontario basin experienced below average precipitation in December, but has experienced average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be 5 inches above to 6 inches below last year's level through May. In addition, the lake is forecasted to be 0 to 1 inches below LTA from January to June.