

Information

Recorded monthly mean 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 and Climate Change 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) 226-6441 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 <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/GreatLakesInformation.aspx>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology March 2021

Dry conditions continued in March with the Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario basins receiving 53% to 64% of their average precipitation for March, while Lake Superior received 94% of average precipitation. Precipitation in the Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario basins have been 19% to 21% below average over the past 12 months. Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario received below average water supply for March while Lake Superior matched its average supply. Outflows continue to be above average for all lakes.

From February to March, Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Ontario saw a decline of about 2 inches while Lake St. Clair rose almost 3 inches and Lake Erie rose almost 0.5 inches. The 6-month forecast projects Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Ontario to begin their seasonal rise and Lakes Erie and St. Clair to continue their rise.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2021	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.62	1.73	-0.11	94	24.17	30.59	-6.42	79
Michigan-Huron	1.36	2.13	-0.77	64	29.82	32.52	-2.70	92
Erie	1.62	2.76	-1.14	59	28.12	35.55	-7.43	79
Ontario	1.41	2.68	-1.27	53	29.03	35.83	-6.80	81
Great Lakes	1.47	2.17	-0.70	68	27.79	32.76	-4.97	85

LAKE	March WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		March OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2021	Average ³ (1900-2008)	2021	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	47,000	47,000	72,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	171,000	182,000	240,000	172,000
Erie	20,000	71,000	241,000	197,000
Ontario	42,000	72,000	275,000	237,000

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