

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 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 April 2020

Preliminary estimates indicate that precipitation for the Great Lakes basin was below average in April. For the individual lake basins, precipitation was below average on Lakes Superior and Erie, while a very wet end of the month brought precipitation to near average for Lakes Michigan-Huron and Ontario. Water supplies for all of the lakes were below average in April. Despite water supply being below average, given the high water conditions outflows remain high throughout the basin and were above average in April. The preliminary outflow estimates through the St. Clair River, Detroit River, and the Niagara River were above record highs for the month of April.

For the month of April, new record high monthly mean water levels were set on Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie. These levels surpassed their previous records by 3 to 4 inches, which were set in 1986 on Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair and in 1985 on Lake Erie. All of the lakes experienced a rise in water levels from March to April. Lake Superior rose 2 inches from March to April, while Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair both rose 3 inches. Lakes Erie and Ontario also rose by 4 and 6 inches, respectively, from March to April.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	April				12-Month Comparison			
	2020	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.37	2.05	-0.68	67	28.49	30.59	-2.10	93
Michigan-Huron	2.66	2.68	-0.02	99	33.72	32.52	1.20	104
Erie	2.16	3.19	-1.03	68	35.08	35.55	-0.47	99
Ontario	2.95	2.95	0.00	100	35.89	35.83	0.06	100
Great Lakes	2.26	2.60	-0.34	87	32.66	32.76	-0.10	100

LAKE	April WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		April OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2020	Average (1900-2008)	2020	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	99,000	150,000	80,000	68,000
Michigan-Huron	272,000	284,000	254,000	182,000
Erie	32,000	67,000	285,000	207,000
Ontario	57,000	93,000	315,000	251,000

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