

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 October 2020

Preliminary estimates indicate the precipitation for the Great Lakes basin and each individual lake basin was above average in October, except for Lake Ontario which was slightly below average for the month of October. However, this influx of precipitation had mixed results to water supplies. Lakes Superior and Ontario had below average water supplies, Michigan-Huron saw higher than normal supplies, and Erie had supplies near average. Water levels remain high and outflows remained above average. Preliminary estimates indicate outflow through the Detroit River was above the October record-high outflow.

Water levels for all the Great Lakes continued to decline from September to October. Lake Superior declined about 1 inch, Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie dropped approximately 4 inches, and Lakes St. Clair and Ontario dropped 6 inches from September to October. The current 6-month forecast predicts all lakes to continue their seasonal water level declines throughout the remainder of the fall.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2020	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	3.12	2.87	0.25	109	26.04	30.59	-4.55	85
Michigan-Huron	3.42	2.95	0.47	116	32.79	32.52	0.27	101
Erie	3.01	2.83	0.18	106	31.47	35.55	-4.08	89
Ontario	3.05	3.19	-0.14	96	30.03	35.83	-5.80	84
Great Lakes	3.21	2.95	0.26	109	30.32	32.76	-2.44	93

LAKE	October WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		October OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2020	Average (1900-2008)	2020	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	5,000	40,000	88,000	80,000
Michigan-Huron	35,000	1,000	246,000	191,000
Erie	-19,000	-21,000	250,000	201,000
Ontario	0	7,000	289,000	243,000

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