

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 August 2019

Preliminary estimates indicate that the Great Lakes basin as a whole received below average precipitation in the month of August. Only Lake Erie received above average precipitation. All lakes received below average water supplies for the month of August as a result of the dryer conditions coupled with some increased evaporation. Outflows for all lakes continued to be above average during August, with preliminary estimates showing that outflows through all but the St. Marys River continue to be above record highs.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie experienced their highest August monthly mean water levels dating back to 1918. Lake Superior tied its record high monthly mean water level for August, which was last set in 1952. From July to August, the monthly mean levels dropped for all Great Lakes, except Lake Superior which remained at approximately the same monthly mean level. Seasonal declines are underway on all the Great Lakes, but extremely high levels are forecasted to continue over the next several months.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2019	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.19	3.16	-0.97	69	28.90	30.58	-1.68	95
Michigan-Huron	2.12	3.13	-1.01	68	32.89	32.55	0.34	101
Erie	3.31	3.22	0.09	103	38.51	35.62	2.89	108
Ontario	2.91	3.14	-0.23	93	37.89	35.87	2.02	106
Great Lakes	2.39	3.15	-0.76	76	33.04	32.77	0.27	101

LAKE	August WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		August OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2019	Average (1900-2008)	2019	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	62,000	94,000	112,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	-14,000	53,000	252,000	195,000
Erie	-24,000	-10,000	269,000	209,000
Ontario	-2,000	8,000	364,000	256,000

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