

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 2020

Precipitation received by Lake Superior was below average for August according to preliminary estimates. However, precipitation in the overall Great Lakes basin was above average for August. Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario experienced precipitation in the vicinity of 15-20% above average. Water supplies to Lake Michigan-Huron was considerably above average for August. However, likely due to above normal evaporation and slightly below normal runoff, water supplies received by Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario were below average for August.

Outflows were above average in August due to the continued high water level conditions. Preliminary estimates indicate that outflows through the St. Clair River and Detroit River were above their August record-high outflows. In addition, record-high monthly mean water levels were surpassed on Lake Michigan-Huron and Lake St. Clair this August. Lake Superior rose around 2 inches from July to August, while Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair began their seasonal declines in August, falling 1 and 2 inches, respectively. The monthly mean levels of Lakes Erie and Ontario each dropped 5 inches as well, from July to August.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2020	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.86	3.15	-0.29	91	29.11	30.59	-1.48	95
Michigan-Huron	3.69	3.11	0.58	119	35.84	32.52	3.32	110
Erie	3.69	3.23	0.46	114	32.57	35.55	-2.98	92
Ontario	3.76	3.11	0.65	121	33.23	35.83	-2.60	93
Great Lakes	3.44	3.15	0.29	109	33.19	32.76	0.43	101

LAKE	August WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		August OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2020	Average (1900-2008)	2020	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	83,000	94,000	88,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	111,000	53,000	259,000	195,000
Erie	-29,000	-10,000	263,000	209,000
Ontario	-1,000	8,000	306,000	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