



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Detroit District



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## **OCTOBER 2021 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY**

### **LAKE SUPERIOR**

Lake Superior's water level declined 1 inch from September to October to a level of 602.00 feet. Like in September, the October mean level was 1 inch below the October long-term average (LTA) level. The October level was also 11 inches below its October 2020 mean level and 17 inches below its record high October level from 1985. Water supplies were below average in October likely driven by below average precipitation and near to below normal runoff. The 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Superior will continue its seasonal decline into March and begin its seasonal rise in April. From November to April, the water level is forecast to be 0 to 2 inches below its LTA levels and 8 to 11 inches below levels from last year.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON**

Lake Michigan-Huron continued its decline from September to October by about 2 inches. The October mean level of 580.31 feet was 17 inches above the LTA level, but 15 inches below its level from last year. Also, the October mean level was 24 inches below the record high October level. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received above average water supplies in October, which was likely a result of below average evaporation, above normal runoff and near average precipitation. The 6-month forecast predicts Lake Michigan-Huron will continue its seasonal decline through the winter and begin its seasonal rise in April. Water levels are forecast to be 13 to 17 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months. However, water levels are forecast to be 8 to 15 inches below levels from last year during the next 6 months. Also, Lake Michigan-Huron is forecast to be 20 to 22 inches below record high levels from November to April.

### **LAKE ST. CLAIR**

Lake St. Clair also continued its decline from September to October, to a level of 576.15 feet. The October monthly mean level was 23 inches above its monthly LTA level and 14 inches below its record high October level. The recent 6-month forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal decline over the next four months and begin its seasonal rise in March. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 4 to 8 inches below last year's levels and 13 to 18 inches below record high levels. Also, the lake is forecast to be 15 to 22 inches above its LTA levels from November to April.

### **LAKE ERIE**

Lake Erie's water level remained at the same level from September to October. The October monthly mean level was 23 inches above its LTA October level, 11 inches below the record high level from 1986, and 2 inches below the level from last year. Water supplies were well above average in October, likely due to above average precipitation, and above normal runoff. The provisional October water supplies are ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for the month of October. The recent 6-month forecast indicates Lake Erie will continue its seasonal decline over the next 4 months and begin its seasonal rise in March. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be in a range of 1 inch above to 6 inches below last year's levels and 7 to 16 inches below record high levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to remain 17 to 25 inches above LTA levels from November to April.

### **LAKE ONTARIO**

Lake Ontario declined less than an inch from September to October, to a level of 245.34 feet. The October monthly mean level was 6 inches above the October LTA level and 3 inches above last year's level. Lake Ontario received well above average water supplies likely due to above average precipitation and runoff. The recent 6-month forecast predicts that the lake will experience a slight rise in November, before continuing its seasonal decline into January. Water levels are forecast to be 4 to 10 inches above LTA levels over the forecast horizon. Also, water levels are forecast to be 4 to 15 inches above last year's levels from November to April, and 15 to 26 below record high levels for November to April.