



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Detroit District



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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
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## SEPTEMBER 2021 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

### LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's water level declined 1 inch from August to September to a level of 602.07 feet. The September mean level was 1 inch below the September long-term average (LTA) level and was below average for the first time since early 2014. The September level was also 11 inches below its September 2020 mean level and 14 inches below its record high September level from 2019. Water supplies were below average in September likely due to near average precipitation and above average evaporation. The 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Superior will continue its seasonal decline into March. From October to March, the water level is forecast to be 1 to 2 inches below its LTA levels and 8 to 11 inches below levels from last year.

### LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

After experiencing a rise in level during the summer, Lake Michigan-Huron declined from August to September by about 4 inches. The September mean level of 580.48 feet was 16 inches above the LTA level, but 16 inches below its level from last year. Also, the September mean level was 18 inches below the record high September level. The Lake Michigan-Huron basin received below average water supplies in September, which was likely a result of slightly below average precipitation and above average evaporation. The 6-month forecast predicts Lake Michigan-Huron will continue its seasonal decline through the winter. Water levels are forecast to be 12 to 15 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months. However, water levels are forecast to be 13 to 18 inches below levels from last year during the next 6 months. Also, Lake Michigan-Huron is forecast to be 22 to 26 inches below record high levels from October to March.

### LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair continued its decline from August to September, to a level of 576.25 feet. The September monthly mean level was 21 inches above its monthly LTA level and 9 inches below its record high September level set in 2020. The recent 6-month forecast indicates the lake will continue its seasonal decline into the winter. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 7 to 12 inches below last year's levels and 19 to 20 inches below record high levels. Also, the lake is forecast to be 15 to 19 inches above its LTA levels from October to March.

### LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie also continued its decline from August to September and fell 5 inches to a level of 573.06 feet. The September monthly mean level was 19 inches above its LTA September level, 8 inches below the record high level from 2019, and 6 inches below the level from last year. Despite above average precipitation, water supplies were below average in September, likely due to above average evaporation. The recent 6-month forecast indicates Lake Erie will continue its seasonal decline into the winter. Over the next 6 months, water levels are forecast to be 4 to 11 inches below last year's levels and 15 to 20 inches below record high levels. Additionally, water levels are forecast to remain 15 to 19 inches above LTA levels from October to March.

### LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario declined about 2 inches from August to September, to a level of 245.37 feet. The September monthly mean level was 2 inches above the September LTA level and 2 inches below last year's level. Lake Ontario received above average water supplies likely due to above average precipitation and runoff. The recent 6-month forecast predicts that the lake will continue its seasonal decline over the coming months. Water levels are forecast to be 5 to 7 inches above LTA levels over the next 6 months. Also, water levels are forecast to be 2 to 4 inches above last year's levels from October to January, and 9 to 15 inches above levels of a year ago from February to March.