

Information

Recorded 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 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) 226-6442 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 March 2018

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation in the month of March was significantly below average for the Great Lakes basin. Lake Superior experienced its second lowest quantity of March precipitation since 1900. In addition, the precipitation to all of the lower lakes was below average, with Lake Michigan-Huron receiving just below 50% of its March average. All of the lakes experienced below average water supplies for the month of March. Nevertheless, March outflows were above average for all of the lakes due to relatively high water levels. The tables below list March precipitation and water supply information for the Great Lakes basin.

All of the lakes were above their long-term average (LTA) water levels for the month of March. Lake Superior declined about 2 inches from February to March. Lakes Michigan-Huron and Ontario rose about an inch, while Lake Erie climbed approximately 10 inches. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Erie were 6 to 9 inches above their March 2017 levels, but Lake Ontario was 3 inches below last March's level.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2018	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	0.46	1.72	-1.26	27	31.94	30.58	1.36	104
Michigan-Huron	0.98	2.13	-1.15	46	33.06	32.55	0.51	102
Erie	2.36	2.74	-0.38	86	35.29	35.62	-0.33	99
Ontario	1.80	2.65	-0.85	68	39.86	35.87	3.99	111
Great Lakes	1.09	2.16	-1.07	50	33.84	32.77	1.07	103

LAKE	March Net Basin Supplies ¹ (cfs)		March Outflows ² (cfs)	
	2018	Average (1900-2008)	2018	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	-14,000	46,000	89,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	71,000	183,000	220,000	172,000
Erie	62,000	72,000	245,000	197,000
Ontario	48,000	75,000	319,000	238,000

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