

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 March 2020

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation for the Great Lakes basin was above average in March. The individual lakes basins experienced precipitation that was near to above average with the Lake Erie basin receiving the most precipitation, which was 121% of average. Water supplies for all of the lakes were above average in March. The higher than average water supply and high lake levels also contributed to outflows being above average. The preliminary outflow estimates through the St. Clair River, Detroit River, Niagara River, and the St. Lawrence River were at record highs for the month of March.

New record high monthly mean water levels were set on Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie in March 2020. All three lakes surpassed their previous records set in 1986. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron declined from February to March by 3 inches and 1 inch, respectively. However, both lakes are forecast to begin their seasonal rise this month. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario continued their seasonal rise from February to March and all rose about 2 inches. All three of these lakes are forecast to continue their seasonal rise through the spring.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	March				12-Month Comparison			
	2020	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2017)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.78	1.73	0.05	103	29.67	30.59	-0.92	97
Michigan-Huron	2.74	2.13	0.61	129	34.51	32.52	1.99	106
Erie	3.35	2.76	0.59	121	37.32	35.55	1.77	105
Ontario	2.51	2.68	-0.17	94	36.57	35.83	0.74	102
Great Lakes	2.51	2.17	0.34	116	33.75	32.76	0.99	103

LAKE	March WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		March OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2020	Average (1900-2008)	2020	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	103,000	46,000	84,000	66,000
Michigan-Huron	265,000	183,000	251,000	172,000
Erie	76,000	72,000	274,000	197,000
Ontario	92,000	75,000	336,000	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