

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 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) 226-6442 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 August 2018

According to preliminary estimates, precipitation within the Great Lakes basin was about 10% above average in August. Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario received 135%, 112%, and 120% of their average August precipitation, while Lake Superior received just 71% of its normal August precipitation. In August, all of the lakes received above average net basin supplies (NBS), which integrate the effects of precipitation over the lakes, evaporation from the lakes, and runoff into the lakes.

Water levels remained above their long-term average water levels for August. Lake Superior's monthly mean level was 5 inches below what it was last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair were also below their levels from last year, by 2 and 1 inch, respectively. On the contrary, Lake Erie was just above its 2017 level by 1 inch. Lake Ontario was 20 inches below its level from last year. From July to August, Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario fell 1, 3, 4 and 6 inches, respectively. Lake Superior sustained its mean July level of 602.53 into August.

PRELIMINARY PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	August				12-Month Comparison			
	2018	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average	Average Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2016)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.25	3.16	-0.91	71	28.03	30.58	-2.55	92
Michigan-Huron	4.22	3.13	1.09	135	29.65	32.55	-2.90	91
Erie	3.61	3.22	0.39	112	34.03	35.62	-1.59	96
Ontario	3.76	3.14	0.62	120	34.02	35.87	-1.85	95
Great Lakes	3.53	3.15	0.38	112	30.21	32.77	-2.56	92

LAKE	August WATER SUPPLIES ¹ (cfs)		August OUTFLOW ² (cfs)	
	2018	Average (1900-2008)	2018	Average ³ (1900-2008)
Superior	114,000	94,000	97,000	83,000
Michigan-Huron	115,000	53,000	209,000	195,000
Erie	15,000	-10,000	244,000	209,000
Ontario	18,000	8,000	300,000	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