

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Oct 12, 2018

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Early last week, temperatures in the Great Lakes basin, in general, rose well above average throughout the basin, but saw a sharp decline late in the week with continued colder temperatures expected throughout the weekend. In addition, most of the basin saw significant precipitation early this week, surpassing the previous week's heavy precipitation. So far this month Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron have received over 300% of their average rainfall. Lakes Erie and Ontario have seen 180% and 130% of their month to date precipitation, respectively. This weekend, some precipitation is expected throughout the majority of the Great Lakes basin.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

All of the Great Lakes water levels are currently above their October long-term average water levels. Lake Superior is 2 inches below its level of a year ago, while Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie are both above last year's levels by 2 inches. Lake Ontario is 9 inches below last year's level while Lake St. Clair is at the same level as last year. Lake Superior is 3 inches above its level from last month. Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario have dropped 1 to 4 inches over the last month. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are projected to fall 2 inches over the next 30 days, while Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are forecasted to drop 4 to 5 inches. See our [Daily Levels](#) web page for more water level information.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Mary's River is predicted to be above average in October. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and the outflow of Lake St. Clair through the Detroit River are projected to be above average. Moreover, Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River and the outflow of Lake Ontario through the St. Lawrence River are forecasted to be above average for October.

ALERTS

Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings.

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Oct 12, 2018 (feet)	602.89	580.45	575.98	572.90	244.95
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+21	+35	+44	+44	+20
Difference from average water level for Sep 12, 2018 (inches*)	+3	-1	-3	-2	-4
Difference from average water level for Oct 12, 2017 (inches*)	-2	+2	0	+2	-10
Difference from long-term monthly average of Oct (inches)	+10	+19	+22	+22	+2
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Oct (inches)	-6	-23	-16	-13	-22
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1985	1986	1986	1986	1945
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Oct (inches)	26	48	51	52	33
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1925	1964	1934	1934	1934
Projected change in levels by Nov 12, 2018 (inches)	-2	-2	-5	-4	-4

ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY ARE REFERENCED TO IGLD 1985
 *VALUES FOR SPECIFIC DAY ARE BASED ON 3-DAY DAILY AVERAGE AROUND SPECIFIED DATE
 LONG TERM AVERAGE PERIOD OF RECORD, 1918-2017

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
 Department of the Army
 Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
[Detroit District Home](#)

RECORDED DATA (1918 – present)
 provided by
[NOAA Center for Operational Oceanic Products and Services](#)

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