



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Lakes At Levels Not Seen Since Late 1990's

All of the Great Lakes saw above-average levels in August that have not been seen since the late 1990's, or earlier. Lakes Superior, Michigan–Huron and Ontario received above-average water supply in August, which kept their levels above average. Despite Lake Erie water supplies being well below average, which resulted in a level decline that equalled the largest August decline seen on the lake, its levels remained above average due to the well above-average supplies received in previous months.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 15 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in August 1 cm higher than August 2014, and the highest August level since 1997.
- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in August was 17 cm above average, 24 cm above last year's level and the highest mean level recorded in August since 1998.
- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 37 cm above average, 25 cm above the

August level of the previous year, and the highest monthly mean level recorded in August since 1997.

- Lake Ontario was 23 cm above its August average level, 15 cm higher than last year, and the highest August level since 1986.
- Above-average outflows from Lake Ontario contributed to above-seasonal levels in the St. Lawrence River near Montreal.

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Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	August 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-September 2015 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	15 cm above	1 cm above	16 cm above	1 cm above
Michigan–Huron	17 cm above	24 cm above	18 cm above	20 cm above
St. Clair	33 cm above	21 cm above	35 cm above	22 cm above
Erie	37 cm above	25 cm above	33 cm above	23 cm above
Ontario	23 cm above	15 cm above	19 cm above	12 cm above

Lake Superior's levels remained stable in August, when on average (1918–2014) it increases 1 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron fell 2 cm, when the average August fall is 4 cm. Dry supplies and above-average outflows resulted in Lake Erie falling 16 cm, when its average monthly fall is 8 cm, matching the largest August declines in the period of record. Lake Ontario declined 17 cm, slightly more than its average fall of 15 cm.

Beginning-of-September Lake Levels

At the beginning of September, levels of all the

lakes continued to be above average (1918–2014) and above last year's levels. Lake Superior's beginning-of-September level was 16 cm above average, 1 cm above last year's and the highest it has been since 1996. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-September level was 18 cm above average, 20 cm higher than last year, and the highest it has been since 1998. Lake Erie was 33 cm above average at the beginning of September, 23 cm higher than this time last year and levels have not been this high since 1998. Lake Ontario's level at the beginning of September was 19 cm above average, 12 cm higher than this time last year and levels have not been this high since 1992.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-September levels, and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to begin or continue their seasonal declines during September. For a graphical

representation of recent and forecasted water levels on the Great Lakes refer to the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at:

tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Derrick Beach (Editor)
Boundary Water Issues
National Hydrological Services
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
Burlington ON L7S 1A1
Tel.: 905-336-4714
Fax: 905-319-6939
Email: LEVELnews-infoNIVEAU@ec.gc.ca

Rob Caldwell
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
111 Water Street East
Cornwall ON K6H 6S2
Tel.: 613-938-5864

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August Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	103%	Lake Erie	86%
Lake Superior	109%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	105%	Lake Ontario	98%

August Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	131%	Lake Erie	115%
Lake Michigan–Huron	102%	Lake Ontario	116%

*As a percentage of the long-term August average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.