



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

October Water Level Update

Conditions generally ranged from moderate to dry over the Great Lakes basin in September. Downstream of the Great Lakes, Montreal Harbour levels remained below average throughout September.

- Below-average water supplies combined with above-average outflows resulted in Lake Superior's level falling by 2 cm in September, twice its 1918–2012 period-of-record average fall of 1 cm during the month.

- Below-average water supplies from its local basin combined with above-average inflows from Lake Superior caused Lake Michigan–Huron to fall by 6 cm, equal to its average September decline.

- Below-average water supplies combined with near-average outflows caused Lake Erie's level to fall by 14 cm during September, 5 cm more than its average September decline of 9 cm.

- On Lake Ontario, below-average water supplies along with above-average outflows resulted in the lake falling 22 cm during the month, 9 cm more than its average September decline of 13 cm on average.

- The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 31 cm below average in September, but 65 cm higher than September's level last year.

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	September 2013 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-October 2013 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2012)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2012)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	5 cm below	28 cm above	6 cm below	32 cm above
Michigan–Huron	46 cm below	18 cm above	44 cm below	25 cm above
St. Clair	12 cm below	21 cm above	12 cm below	22 cm above
Erie	Same	21 cm above	1 cm below	20 cm above
Ontario	6 cm above	29 cm above	Same	28 cm above

As shown in the water level information table, the levels of all the Great Lakes remain above last year's levels at this time, but most were below their respective 1918–2012 averages for the beginning of October, with the exception of Lake Ontario which began the month at average. Lake Superior's level was 32 cm above last year's level at the beginning of October, just 6 cm below average, and the highest it's been since 1997 at this time of year. Including the past 15 years, lower beginning-of-October levels have been recorded on Lake Superior in 32 years since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron's

beginning-of-October level was 44 cm below average, but 25 cm above last year's level at this time. Lower beginning-of-October levels have been recorded 14 times on Lake Michigan–Huron since 1918, including last year. Lakes Erie and Ontario remain close to the middle of their ranges. Lake Erie began October 1 cm below average, and 20 cm higher than last year. Lake Ontario began October at average and 28 cm above last year's level.

their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels please refer to the September 2013 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-October levels and assuming average water supply conditions, water levels on each of the Great Lakes are expected to fall in October, as is typical for this time of year. Assuming average water supplies, forecasts indicate that Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in October is expected to remain at about the same level as September.

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour compared to

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September Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	82%	Lake Erie	94%
Lake Superior	73%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	82%	Lake Ontario	88%

September Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	120%	Lake Erie	95%
Lake Michigan–Huron	90%	Lake Ontario	104%

* As a percentage of the long-term September average.
NOTE: These figures are preliminary.