



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Michigan–Huron Sets Two New Record Lows in January 2013

Despite a late-month increase in its water level due to rain and runoff, provisional data indicates that Lake Michigan–Huron has set a new record low level for the month of January. The lake's January 2013 monthly mean level was 3 cm lower than the previous low for the month set in 1965. In addition, the January 2013 level was lower than any other month on record since 1918, being 1 cm lower than the previous record low monthly mean level for the lake set in March of 1964.

- Lake Superior's level fell by 4 cm during January, 3 cm less than its average January decline of 7 cm.
- The monthly average level of Lake Michigan–Huron fell 4 cm from December 2012 to January 2013, which brought the lake to a new record low monthly mean level for January. However, precipitation which occurred towards the end of January returned the end-of-month water level to just 1 cm lower than at the start of that month.

This is less than the lake's average January decrease of 3 cm

- Lake Erie fell by 1 cm during January, an amount equal to its average January decline.
- Lake Ontario's level rose by 13 cm during January, much more than its average January increase of 5 cm.
- Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in January was 34 cm higher than the

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Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	January 2013 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-February 2013 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	34 cm below	2 cm below	31 cm below	Same
Michigan–Huron	73 cm below	42 cm below	69 cm below	39 cm below
St. Clair	32 cm below	50 cm below	21 cm below	49 cm below
Erie	17 cm below	57 cm below	18 cm below	62 cm below
Ontario	18 cm below	42 cm below	13 cm below	50 cm below

harbour's monthly mean level in December. Although levels in the harbour have increased, the January level was still 75 cm below the average for the month.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-February levels and assuming average water supply conditions, the levels of lakes Superior, Michigan–Huron and St. Clair are expected to decline in February, while the levels of lakes Erie and Ontario are expected to rise slightly. Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in February is expected to rise compared to its January level.

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the January 2013 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html

Bulletin's Naming Convention

Each month, LEVELnews directs its readers to the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin (the bulletin) for the latest six-month water level forecast. For example, this month's issue points to the January 2013 edition. This naming convention is used to indicate that the water level data documented in the bulletin includes recorded water level data up to and including, January 2013. The bulletin covering each month is produced and posted on the internet by the Canadian Hydrographic Service early in the month following the month covered by the bulletin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ISSN 1925-5713

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January Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	126%	Lake Erie	123%
Lake Superior	78%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan–Huron	161%	Lake Ontario	94%

January Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	81%	Lake Erie	100%
Lakes Michigan–Huron	95%	Lake Ontario	94%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.