



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Lake Levels Remain Above Last Year's

The levels of all the Great Lakes remained above last year's levels, a trend that has been seen since July 2013. Water supplies to Lake Superior were well above average in February resulting in a smaller than average water level decline. The water supplies to the other lakes were close to but below average, resulting in Lake Michigan–Huron levels dropping slightly when on average they are stable and Lake Erie levels rising slightly less than average. Above-average outflow resulted in Lake Ontario levels falling in

a month that, on average sees the lake rise. Although outflows were above average downstream of the lakes, smoother maturing ice conditions allowed the increased flow to pass, resulting in below average levels in the lower St. Lawrence River.

- Above-average water supplies to Lake Superior resulted in the lake's level falling by 1 cm in February, 4 cm less than its 1918–2013 period-of-record average fall of 5 cm during the month.

- Water supplies to Lake Michigan–Huron were slightly below average resulting in levels falling by 1 cm in February when on average they are stable.
 - Near-average water supplies caused Lake Erie's level to rise by 1 cm, 2 cm less than the lake's average February rise of 3 cm.
 - On Lake Ontario, average water supplies combined with above-average outflows resulted in the lake falling 6 cm, 9 cm less than its average February rise of 3 cm.
- (continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	February 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-March 2014 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	2 cm below	30 cm above	same	32 cm above
Michigan–Huron	33 cm below	34 cm above	32 cm below	33 cm above
St. Clair	17 cm below	7 cm above	2 cm below	11 cm above
Erie	5 cm below	8 cm above	5 cm below	6 cm above
Ontario	1 cm above	9 cm above	4 cm below	2 cm above

The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 34 cm below the 1967–2013 period-of-record February average, but 23 cm higher than the harbour's February level last year.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-March levels and assuming average water supply conditions, generally lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron are expected to remain relatively stable in March, while lakes Erie and Ontario are expected to rise slightly. Unless below-average water supplies are received, forecasts indicate that Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level is expected to rise

keeping it well above chart datum.

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour, compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the February 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html

Period of Record Update

Each year the data set used to calculate the monthly average water levels for each of the lakes is updated to include the data collected during the previous year. The lake level data for 2013 has now been verified and the period-of-record statistics used for comparison purposes has been updated to include data from 1918 to 2013. This update makes the January 2013 monthly average water level the official new period-of-record monthly average low level for January, replacing the previous record set in 1965.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Derrick Beach (Editor)
Boundary Water Issues Unit
MSC – Operations Ontario
Environment Canada
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington ON L7R 4A6
Tel.: 905-336-4714
Fax: 905-336-8901
Email: water.levels@ec.gc.ca

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

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at

droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.ca

Photos: © Environment Canada – 2011
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2014

ISSN 1925-5713

Aussi disponible en français

February Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	59%	Lake Erie	87%
Lake Superior	75%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	40%	Lake Ontario	65%

February Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	105%	Lake Erie	99%
Lake Michigan–Huron	98%	Lake Ontario	108%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.