



# LEVELnews

## Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

### Above-Average Levels On All Lakes In September

For the first time since 1998, water levels on all Great Lakes were above average on a monthly basis in September. The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 17 cm above its 1918–2013 period-of-record average, 22 cm higher than September 2013, and the lake's highest September level since 1996. Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in September was 1 cm above average, the highest monthly mean level recorded in September since 1998, and the first above-average value for any month since December

1998. The Lake Michigan–Huron level was also 47 cm above the level recorded last year. The monthly mean level of Lake St. Clair was 18 cm above its September average and 30 cm above the level last year. Lake Erie's level was 15 cm above average and 15 cm above the lake's September 2013 level, while Lake Ontario's level was 4 cm above average, but 1 cm lower than it was a year ago.

Water supplies to lakes Superior, Michigan–Huron and Erie were well-above average during September. As a result,

water levels have yet to begin their seasonal decline on lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron, and levels fell less than average on Lake Erie during the month. On Lake Ontario, above-average outflows combined with near-average water supplies caused the lake's level to decline much more than average during the month and fall below average on a daily basis by month's end. Lake Ontario's above-average outflow helped keep levels in the lower St. Lawrence River near Montreal slightly above average.

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### Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	September 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-October 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	17 cm above	22 cm above	18 cm above	24 cm above
Michigan–Huron	1 cm above	47 cm above	6 cm above	50 cm above
St. Clair	18 cm above	30 cm above	21 cm above	33 cm above
Erie	15 cm above	15 cm above	17 cm above	18 cm above
Ontario	4 cm above	1 cm below	2 cm below	2 cm below

Lake Superior water supplies were above average during September for the eighth consecutive month, and 16 of the last 17 months. The above-average supplies on Lake Superior were offset somewhat by above-average outflows, but the lake's level still rose 2 cm in September, when on average the lake falls by 1 cm during the month over the 1918–2013 period of record. The level of Lake Michigan–Huron continued to rise during September as above-average inflows from Lake Superior combined with above-average water supplies caused its level to

increase by 2 cm compared to its average drop of 6 cm. The level of Lake Erie fell by 3 cm, much less than its average September decline of 9 cm. On Lake Ontario, above-average outflows combined with near-average water supplies resulting in the lake declining by 22 cm during September, much more than the average decline of 13 cm. The monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 2 cm above its 1967–2013 period-of-record September average and 32 cm higher than the September level last year.

Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-October level was 6 cm above average, and 50 cm higher than last year, and the highest beginning-of-October level since 1998. Lake Erie was 17 cm above average at the beginning of October, and 18 cm higher than last year. Lake Ontario's level began October 2 cm below average, and 2 cm lower than last year.

### Water Level Forecast

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 September 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at:

**[tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html](http://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html)**

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**ISSN 1925-5713**

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### Beginning-of-October Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remained above last year's levels at the beginning of October, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which is currently 2 cm below where it was last year at this time. Lake Superior's beginning-of-October level was 18 cm above average, 24 cm above last year's level, and the highest it has been this time of year since 1996.

### September Precipitation over the Great Lakes\*

Great Lakes Basin	113%	Lake Erie	129%
Lake Superior	125%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	111%	Lake Ontario	72%

### September Outflows from the Great Lakes\*

Lake Superior	134%	Lake Erie	105%
Lake Michigan–Huron	101%	Lake Ontario	111%

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