



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Record Rise on Lakes Erie and Ontario

Well above-average water supplies to lakes Erie and Ontario contributed to record rises in both lakes in June. Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron also received above average water supplies resulting in average to above-average June water level increases. The continued rise in levels resulted in above average beginning-of-July levels in all the Great Lakes.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 19 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in

June, 3 cm higher than June 2014, and the highest June level since 1997.

- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in June was 14 cm above average, 30 cm above last year's level and the highest mean level recorded in June since 1998.

- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 20 cm above average and 13 cm above the June level of the previous year.

- Lake Ontario was 3 cm below its June average level, 15 cm lower than last year,

however lower June levels have been recorded as recently as 2012.

- Low outflow from Lake Ontario contributed to Montreal Harbour's level remaining well below average in June.

Above-average outflows balanced the above-average water supplies to Lake Superior, resulting in its level rising 8 cm in June, equal to the lake's average (1918–2014) June rise. Lake Michigan–Huron's level rose 8 cm in

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Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	June 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-July 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	19 cm above	3 cm above	19 cm above	4 cm above
Michigan–Huron	14 cm above	30 cm above	17 cm above	28 cm above
St. Clair	28 cm above	23 cm above	44 cm above	36 cm above
Erie	20 cm above	13 cm above	39 cm above	30 cm above
Ontario	3 cm below	15 cm below	16 cm above	4 cm above

June, considerably more than the average rise of 5 cm, due to above-average supplies. Lake St. Clair rose 21 cm in June, much more than the average rise of 3 cm. The record high water supplies for Lake Erie resulted in a June record high 28 cm rise in lake level, when on average it rises only 1 cm. Below-average outflows combined with record high water supplies in Lake Ontario resulted in levels rising a record 33 cm during June, a month that on average sees a fall of 1 cm.

Beginning-of-July Lake Levels

At the beginning of July, levels of all the lakes were above average and above last year's levels. Lake Superior's beginning-of-July level was 19 cm above the 1918–2014 average, and 4 cm above last year's level. Higher beginning-of-July levels have been recorded on Lake Superior in only 13 years since 1918, and levels have not been this high since 1997. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-July level was 17 cm above average, 28 cm higher than last year, and the highest beginning-of-July level since 1998. Lake Erie was 39 cm above average at the beginning of July, and 30 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Ontario's level at the beginning of July was 16 cm above average, and 4 cm higher than last year at this time. Beginning-of-July levels have been higher on Lake Ontario in 26 of the past 98 years, and were higher as recently as 2011.

Water Level Forecast

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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June Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	128%	Lake Erie	194%
Lake Superior	92%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	115%	Lake Ontario	180%

June Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	121%	Lake Erie	105%
Lake Michigan–Huron	104%	Lake Ontario	93%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.