



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

September Brings Above-Average Water Supplies

All of the Great Lakes saw above-average water supplies in September keeping all the lakes above their average levels.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 16 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in September and 1 cm lower than September 2014. This is the first time that Lake Superior’s monthly level has been lower, when compared to its level one year ago, since April 2013.
- Lake Michigan–Huron’s

mean level in September was 20 cm above average, 19 cm above last year’s level and the highest mean level recorded in September since 1997.

- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 34 cm above average, 19 cm above the September level of the previous year, and the highest monthly mean level recorded in September since 1997.
- Lake Ontario was 17 cm above its September average level, 13 cm higher than last year, and the highest

September level since 2004.

- Above-average outflows from Lake Ontario contributed to St. Lawrence River levels near Montreal generally remaining above seasonal average.

All lakes have entered their seasonal level decline. Lake Superior’s levels fell 2 cm in September, slightly more than the average (1918–2014) fall of 1 cm, mainly due to above-average outflows. Lake Michigan–Huron fell 4 cm,

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Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	September 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-October 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	16 cm above	1 cm below	15 cm above	3 cm below
Michigan–Huron	20 cm above	19 cm above	20 cm above	14 cm above
St. Clair	34 cm above	16 cm above	42 cm above	21 cm above
Erie	34 cm above	19 cm above	35 cm above	18 cm above
Ontario	17 cm above	13 cm above	12 cm above	14 cm above

when the average September fall is 6 cm. Lake Erie fell 8 cm, when its average monthly fall is 10 cm. Lake Ontario's above-average outflows resulted in its levels declining 20 cm, compared to its average fall of 13 cm.

Beginning-of-October Lake Levels

At the beginning of October, levels of all the lakes were above average (1918–2014) and above last year's levels, with the exception of Lake Superior. Lake Superior's beginning-of-October level was 15 cm above average, but 3 cm below last year's level. Lake Michigan–

Huron's beginning-of-October level was 20 cm above average, 14 cm higher than last year, and the highest it has been since 1997. Lake Erie was 35 cm above average at the beginning of October and 18 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Ontario's level at the beginning of October was 12 cm above average, 14 cm higher than this time last year and levels have not been this high since 2004.

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-October levels, and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to continue their seasonal declines during October. 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 at:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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September Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	85%	Lake Erie	81%
Lake Superior	92%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	75%	Lake Ontario	112%

September Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	121%	Lake Erie	116%
Lake Michigan–Huron	104%	Lake Ontario	120%

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