



# LEVELnews

## Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

### Lake Levels Near Same Levels Seen A Year Ago

Wet basin conditions in Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron, and dry conditions in Lakes Erie and Ontario resulted in all lake levels being within 10 cm of those seen at the same time last year.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 12 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in November and 9 cm lower than November 2014.
- Lake Michigan–Huron’s mean level in November was 17 cm above average and the

same as last year’s level, which ends the streak where the mean monthly levels have been the highest we have seen recorded since 1997.

- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 23 cm above average, 7 cm above the November level of the previous year, and the highest monthly mean level recorded in November since 1997.
- Lake Ontario was 3 cm above its November average level and 10 cm higher than last year.

- Montreal Harbour generally remained below average despite the Ottawa River flow recovering from the very low outflow seen last month.

All of the Great Lakes saw declines in their lake levels, which is expected for November. Wet conditions on Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron resulted in their lake levels falling less than average while dry conditions for Lakes Erie and Ontario resulted in their levels falling more than

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Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	November 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-December 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	12 cm above	9 cm below	13 cm above	9 cm below
Michigan–Huron	17 cm above	same	18 cm above	2 cm below
St. Clair	22 cm above	2 cm above	31 cm above	same
Erie	23 cm above	7 cm above	22 cm above	4 cm above
Ontario	3 cm above	10 cm above	4 cm below	5 cm above

average. Lake Superior's level fell 1 cm in November, compared to the average (1918–2014) fall of 5 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron fell 3 cm when the average November fall is 5 cm. Lake Erie fell 7 cm, slightly more than the average monthly fall of 4 cm. Lake Ontario's levels declined 13 cm, significantly more than the average fall of 3 cm.

### Beginning-of-December Lake Levels

At the beginning of December, levels of all the Great Lakes were above average (1918–2014) with the exception of Lake Ontario. When compared to

their levels a year ago, Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron were below those seen December 2014, and Lake Erie and Ontario were above last year's levels. Lake Superior's beginning-of-December level was 13 cm above average, but 9 cm below last year's level. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-December level was 18 cm above average and 2 cm lower than last year. Lake Erie was 22 cm above average at the beginning of December and 4 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Ontario's level fell below average in November with December beginning 4 cm below average, but 5 cm higher than this time last year. Levels have been higher as recent as 2013.

### Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-December levels, and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to continue their seasonal declines during December. 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](http://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html).

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### November Precipitation over the Great Lakes\*

Great Lakes Basin	88%	Lake Erie	64%
Lake Superior	98%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	101%	Lake Ontario	49%

### November Outflows from the Great Lakes\*

Lake Superior	105%	Lake Erie	107%
Lake Michigan–Huron	105%	Lake Ontario	116%

\*As a percentage of the long-term November average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.