



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

All Lakes Return to Late 90's Levels

For the second consecutive month, all the Great Lakes received relatively high water supplies resulting in the highest beginning-of-April levels since the late 1990's, and above average levels in all the lakes.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 23 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2015) average in March and 4 cm higher than March 2015.
- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in March was 32 cm above average and

13 cm higher than last year's March level.

- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 34 cm above average, and 42 cm higher than March 2015.
- Lake Ontario was 30 cm above its March average level and 56 cm higher than last year.
- The wet conditions in the Great Lakes extended into the St. Lawrence River basin where the levels near Montreal were well above average during March.

Lake Superior was the only lake that remained stable through March, compared to its average (1918–2015) fall of 1 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron rose 14 cm in March, the fourth largest March rise on record, and much more than the average rise of 4 cm. Lake Erie rose 17 cm in March, when its average monthly rise is 13 cm. Lake Ontario rose 12 cm through March, and was the only lake to have its monthly level rise less than the average of 14 cm.

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	March 2016 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-April 2016 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2015)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2015)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	23 cm above	4 cm above	25 cm above	6 cm above
Michigan–Huron	32 cm above	13 cm above	39 cm above	22 cm above
St. Clair	42 cm above	38 cm above	50 cm above	34 cm above
Erie	34 cm above	42 cm above	37 cm above	41 cm above
Ontario	30 cm above	56 cm above	28 cm above	60 cm above

Beginning-of-April Lake Levels

Also for the second consecutive month, the beginning-of-month levels of all the Great Lakes were above average (1918–2015) and above those seen last year. Lake Superior's beginning-of-April level was 25 cm above average and 6 cm above last year's. Higher beginning-of-April levels have been recorded three times on Lake Superior since 1918, with the most recent being 1997. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-April level was 39 cm above average, 22 cm higher than last year

and the highest it has been since 1998. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-April level has been recorded higher 15 times since 1918. Lake Erie was 37 cm above average at the beginning of April and 41 cm higher than this time last year. Lake Erie's beginning-of-April levels have also been higher 15 times since 1918, most recently in 1998. Lake Ontario's level began April at 28 cm above average and 60 cm higher than this time last year. Higher beginning-of-April levels have been recorded on Lake Ontario 16 times since 1918, with the most recent record occurring in 1998.

precipitation, wave and wind, ice cover, and water temperature along with other links on this page. Visit www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water and click on "Water Quantity" then "Great Lakes Water Levels."

Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-month levels, and assuming average water supply conditions, all of the Great Lakes are expected to continue their seasonal rises during April. All lakes are forecasted to remain above average through the spring. 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](http://CanadianHydrographicService.ca) at: tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html.

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Water Levels Information Web Page

Environment and Climate Change Canada has recently updated their [Great Lakes Water Levels and Related Data web page](http://GreatLakesWaterLevelsandRelatedData.gc.ca).

This web page contains links to many information sources related to Great Lakes water levels. You can find Great Lakes data for water levels, forecasts, outflows,

March Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	155%	Lake Erie	159%
Lake Superior	106%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	187%	Lake Ontario	116%

March Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	129%	Lake Erie	116%
Lake Michigan–Huron	115%	Lake Ontario	119%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.