



# LEVELnews

## Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

### Lakes Start May Higher Than Last Year

Lake levels remain above average and beginning-of-May levels are higher than last year despite April having drier conditions than seen in February and March.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 23 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2015) average in April and 4 cm higher than April 2015.
- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in April was 39 cm above average and 24 cm

higher than last year's April level.

- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 38 cm above average, and 38 cm higher than April 2015.
- Lake Ontario was 23 cm above its April average and 49 cm higher than last year.
- The wet conditions from the Great Lakes continued to extend into the St. Lawrence River basin where the levels near Montreal were well above average during April.

All of the lakes except Lake Erie experienced below average rises during April. Lake Superior rose 2 cm, when on average (1918–2015) it rises 7 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron rose 7 cm in April, less than the average rise of 11 cm. Lake Erie rose 13 cm in April, when its average monthly rise is 12 cm. Lake Ontario rose 8 cm through April, less than its average rise of 21 cm due mainly to higher-than-average outflow.

### Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	April 2016 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-May 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	20 cm above	2 cm above
Michigan–Huron	39 cm above	24 cm above	37 cm above	23 cm above
St. Clair	45 cm above	32 cm above	44 cm above	30 cm above
Erie	38 cm above	38 cm above	38 cm above	36 cm above
Ontario	23 cm above	49 cm above	15 cm above	35 cm above

## Beginning-of-May Lake Levels

For the third 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-May level was 20 cm above average and 2 cm above last year's. Lake Superior's beginning-of-May levels have not been this high since 1997. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-May level was 37 cm above average, 23 cm higher than last year and the highest it has been since 1998. Lake Erie was 38 cm above

average at the beginning of May, 36 cm higher than this time last year and the highest they have been since 1998. Lake Ontario's level began May at 15 cm above average, 35 cm higher than this time last year and the highest it has been since 2009.

## Planning Activities Around the Great Lakes

When planning your activities on or around the Great Lakes, be sure to check out the [Government of Canada's Marine Forecast website](http://weather.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html) at: [weather.gc.ca/marine/index\\_e.html](http://weather.gc.ca/marine/index_e.html) for current and forecasted wind, wave and weather conditions. For current lake levels, visit the [Government of Canada's Water Level Gauging website](http://tides.gc.ca/eng/find/region/6) at: [tides.gc.ca/eng/find/region/6](http://tides.gc.ca/eng/find/region/6) and click on the gauge in the area where you are planning your activity. In addition, real-time water levels for each gauge are available by calling the phone number listed on the website.

## Summer Level Outlook

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 May. The current predictions for summer water levels show that all the lakes are likely to stay above average throughout the summer months, unless very dry conditions occur. 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://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html) at: [tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html](http://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html).

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## April Precipitation over the Great Lakes\*

Great Lakes Basin	78%	Lake Erie	84%
Lake Superior	84%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	78%	Lake Ontario	61%

## April Outflows from the Great Lakes\*

Lake Superior	125%	Lake Erie	117%
Lake Michigan–Huron	112%	Lake Ontario	114%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.