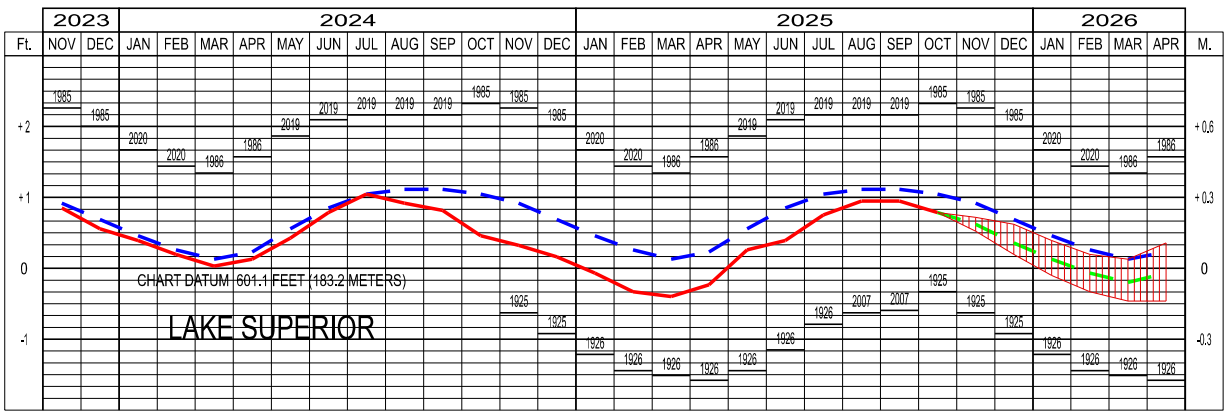
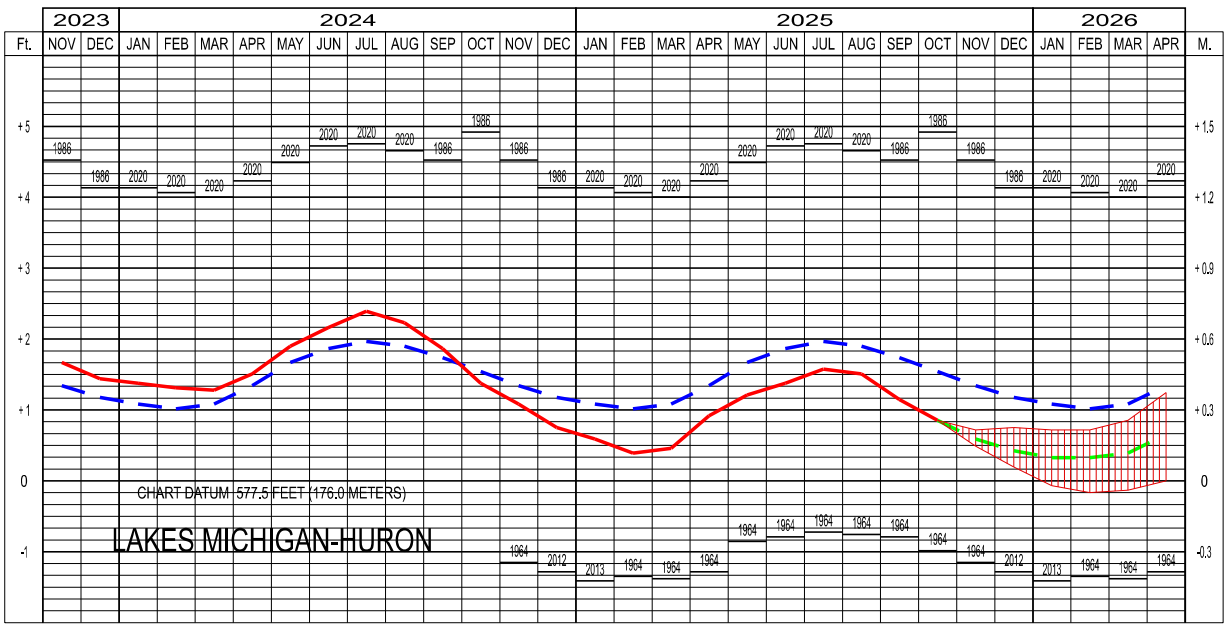
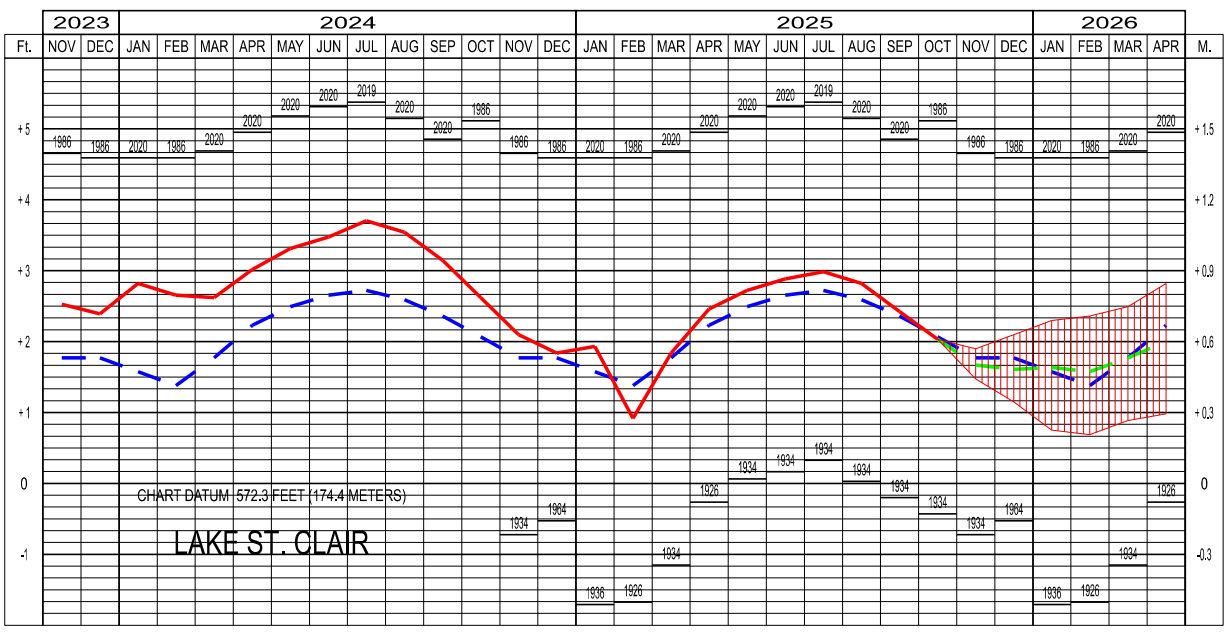
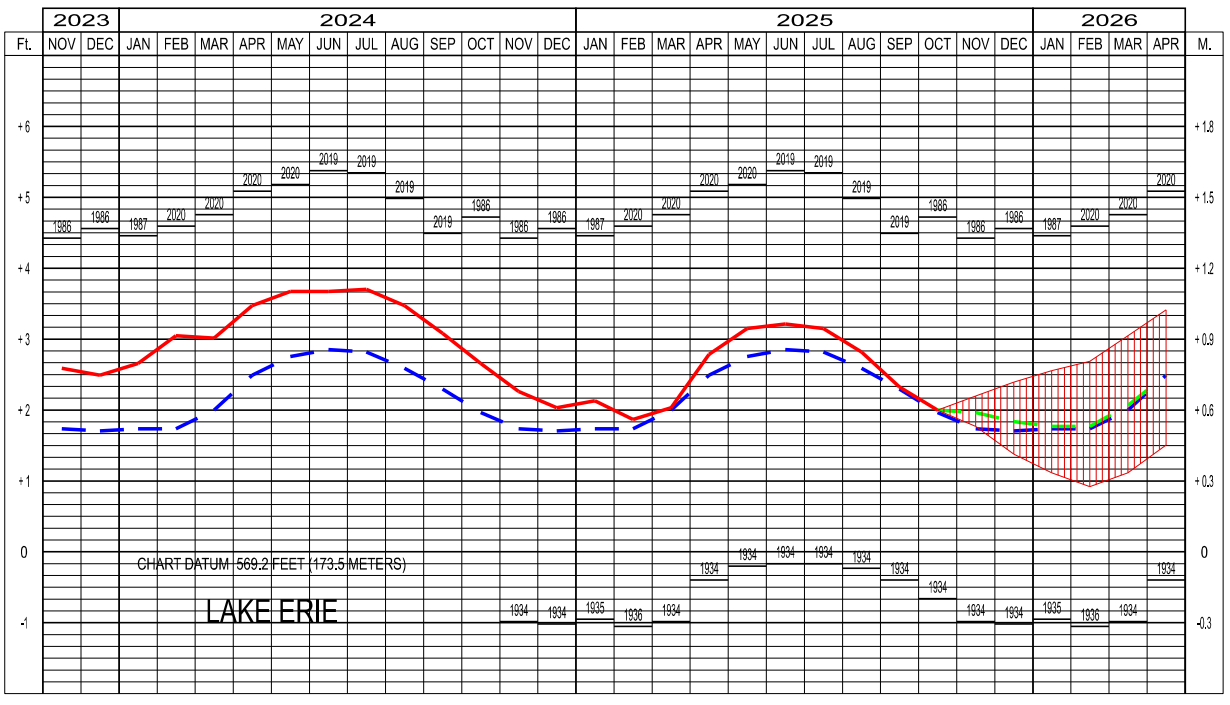
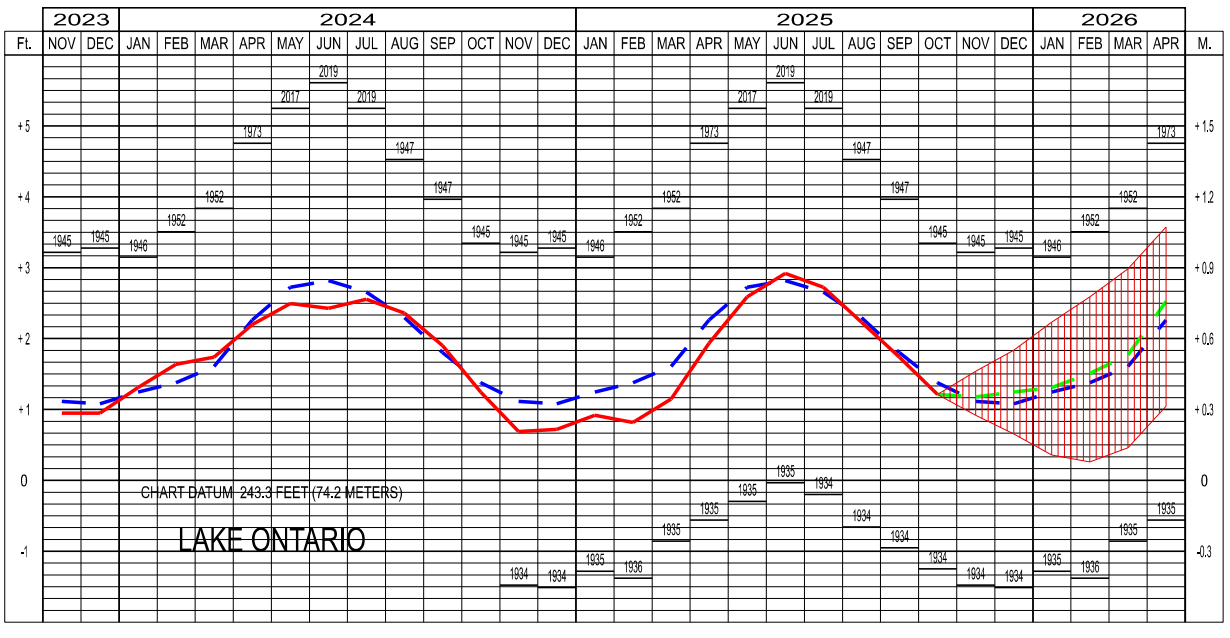










ELEVATIONS REFERENCED TO THE CHART DATUM OF EACH RESPECTIVE LAKE

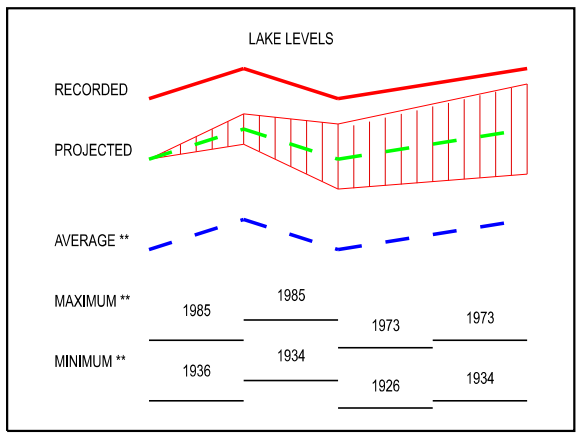
US Army Corps of Engineers
Detroit District

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF LAKE LEVELS FOR THE GREAT LAKES

NOVEMBER 2025

Water levels for the previous year and the current year to date are shown as a solid line on the hydrographs. A projection for the next six months is given as a dashed line. This projection is based on the present condition of the lake basin and anticipated future weather. The shaded area shows a range of possible levels over the next six months dependent upon weather variations. Current and projected levels (solid and dashed lines) can be compared with the 1918-2024 average levels (dotted line) and extreme levels (shown as bars with their year of occurrence). The legend below further identifies the information on the hydrographs.

LEGEND



The levels on the hydrographs are shown in both feet and meters above (+) or below (-) Chart Datum. Chart Datum, also known as Low Water Datum, is a reference plane on each lake to which water depth and Federal navigation improvement depths on navigation charts are referred.

All elevations and plots are referenced to the International Great Lakes Datum 1985 (IGLD 1985). IGLD 1985 has its zero base at Rimouski, Quebec near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River (approximate sea level).

OCTOBER MEAN LAKE LEVELS

(IGLD 1985)

		Superior	Mich-Huron	St. Clair	Erie	Ontario
* 2025	Ft.	601.84	578.28	574.21	571.23	244.65
	M.	183.44	176.26	175.02	174.11	74.57
2024	Ft.	601.51	578.81	574.80	571.88	244.69
	M.	183.34	176.42	175.20	174.31	74.58
** MAX.	Ft.	603.38	582.35	577.30	573.95	246.78
	M.	183.91	177.50	175.96	174.94	75.22
	Yr.	1985	1986	1986	1986	1945
** MIN.	Ft.	600.72	576.44	571.75	568.57	242.19
	M.	183.10	175.70	174.27	173.30	73.82
	Yr.	1925	1964	1934	1934	1934
** AVG.	Ft.	602.10	578.97	574.25	571.19	244.82
	M.	183.52	176.47	175.03	174.10	74.62

* provisional
** Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2024

Information

Recorded monthly mean water levels in this bulletin are results from a representative network of water level gages on each lake. Providers of these data are U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and Integrated Science Data Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment and Climate Change Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under auspices of Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

The Corps makes the bulletin monthly as a public service. The Corps also, on a weekly basis publishes online the *Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths*, which supplies a forecast of depths in connecting rivers between Great Lakes and International Section of St. Lawrence River. This *Monthly Bulletin of the Lake Levels for the Great Lake*s is available in full color on the internet at https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Water-Information/Water-Management/Great-Lakes-and-Harbors/Water-Level-Forecasts/. For questions, email hhpm@usace.army.mil or call 1-888-694-8313 and select option 1.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
October 2025

Preliminary estimates indicate that precipitation during October was generally below average for the Great Lakes Basin overall. The Superior and Michigan-Huron basins received below average precipitation, while Lakes Erie and Ontario received above average precipitation. Over the last 12 months, cumulative precipitation has been near average for all basins, ranging from 97% to 103% of average. Provisional streamflows for October indicate that runoff was generally dry in the Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Ontario basins, while Erie runoff was generally normal over the month. Air temperatures and surface water temperatures were generally above average for October. The October outflows were close to average for Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario, while Superior's outflow was slightly above average. Water supplies were below average in the Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario basin and slightly below average in the Superior basin.

From September to October, water levels for Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario declined by 2, 4, 5, 4, and 6 inches, respectively. Compared to their long-term average October levels, the October 2025 monthly mean levels on Lake St. Clair and Erie remained close to average, while Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Ontario were below their long-term averages. The updated 6-month Great Lakes water level forecast predicts that all the lakes will likely continue their seasonal declines over the next month.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2025	Average (1900-2023)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-2023)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.96	2.95	-0.99	66	31.63	30.71	0.92	103
Michigan-Huron	2.44	3.07	-0.63	79	33.36	33.03	0.33	101
Erie	4.08	2.91	1.17	140	35.76	36.02	-0.26	99
Ontario	4.35	3.27	1.08	133	35.35	36.50	-1.15	97
Great Lakes	2.69	3.03	-0.34	89	33.39	33.15	0.24	101

Lake	October WATER SUPPLIES[1] (cfs)		October OUTFLOW[2] (cfs)	
	2025	Average (1900-2020)	2025	Average (1900-2020)
Superior	20,000	42,000	90,000	81,000
Michigan-Huron	-97,000	8,000	191,000	193,000
Erie	-38,000	-20,000	195,000	202,000
Ontario	-3,000	9,000	236,000	245,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

[1] Net basin supply is the net result of precipitation falling on the lake, runoff from precipitation falling on the land which flows to the lake, and evaporation from the lake. Negative net basin supply denotes evaporation exceeded runoff and precipitation. The net total supply can be found by adding the net basin supply and the outflow from the upstream lake.

[2] Does not include diversions.

Published November 3, 2025