



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Detroit District



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

May 2026 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

Note: that all forecast water level comparisons are based on the center of the forecast band (red dotted line).

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior's water level increased 7 inches from April to May to a level of 601.67 feet. This level is 1 inch above its May long-term average (LTA) level, 4 inches above last year's May level, 25 inches above its May record low water level, and 15 inches below its May record high level. Precipitation was below average in May, which likely contributed to below average water supplies*. The current 6-month water level forecast projects Lake Superior will continue its seasonal rise, peaking in September with water levels 6 inches higher than current. Throughout the 6-month forecast, water levels are forecast to be near LTA, 17 to 24 inches above record lows and 13 to 16 inches below record highs.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's water level increased 7 inches from April to May to a level of 579.20 feet. This level is 1 inch above its LTA for May, 7 inches above last year's May level, 32 inches above its May record low water level, and 33 inches below its May record high water level. Precipitation was below average in May, which likely contributed to the below average water supplies*. The current 6-month forecast projects that water levels will continue their seasonal rise through July. Water levels are expected to remain above last year's levels throughout the duration of the forecast by 6 to 12 inches. Throughout the 6-month forecast, water levels are expected to be above LTAs by 1 to 2 inches, while remaining 30 to 33 inches above record lows, and 32 to 39 inches below record highs.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's water level increased 6 inches from April to May to a level of 575.00 feet. This level is 4 inches above its May LTA, 1 inch above last year's May level, 33 inches above its May record low level, and 28 inches below its May record high level. The current 6-month forecast projects that Lake St. Clair will continue its seasonal rise through July. Water levels are expected to remain above LTA for the 6 months. Throughout the forecast, water levels are expected to remain above record low water levels by 31 to 33 inches and below record high levels by 27 to 34 inches.

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie's water level increased 7 inches from April to May to a level of 572.21 feet. This level is 3 inches above LTA, 2 inches below last year's May level, 38 inches above its May record low level, and 26 inches below its May record high level. Precipitation was slightly above average for Lake Erie, which likely contributed to increased water supplies* for the lake. The current 6-month forecast projects that Lake Erie will reach its seasonal peak in June before beginning its seasonal decline for the remainder of the forecast. During the 6-month forecast, water levels are expected to remain above LTA by 2 to 3 inches. Water levels are expected to be below last year's levels through July, near last year's level for August, and above last year's levels from September through November. Throughout the forecast, water levels are expected to remain above record low water levels by 34 to 39 inches and below record high water levels by 24 to 30 inches.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario's water level increased 10 inches from April to May to a level of 247.28 feet. This level is 13 inches above LTA, 15 inches above last year's May level, 50 inches above record lows for May, and 17 inches below May's record high level. Precipitation was above average in May, which likely contributed to the greater than average water supplies*. The current 6-month forecast projects Lake Ontario is nearing its seasonal peak and will begin its seasonal decline from June to July. Over the next 6-months, water levels are expected to be 8 to 12 inches above both LTAs and last year's levels. Throughout the 6-month forecast, water levels are expected to be above record lows by 39 to 47 inches and below record highs by 15 to 21 inches.

* "Water supplies" refers to the combined quantity of precipitation plus runoff minus evaporation. Also known as the net basin supply.