ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE

Nov 14, 2025

WEATHER CONDITIONS

This past Sunday into Monday, a low-pressure system moved across southern and eastern portions of the Great Lakes basin, bringing some of the coldest air of the season and snowfall to these areas. As the workweek progressed, temperatures gradually rose and precipitation has been concentrated in areas west of the lakes impacted by lake-effect precipitation, such as Sault Ste. Marie, MI and Buffalo, NY. Going into the weekend, temperatures will continue to rise with most areas in the 40s (°F) and 50s, however, locations such as, Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI, and Toledo, OH could experience high temperatures in the low 60s on Saturday. Along with the higher temperatures will come increased chances for precipitation as another low-pressure system moves across the region Saturday into Sunday. Once the system passes, temperatures will drop and bring chances for lake-effect precipitation to develop again.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

Forecasted water levels for November 14th are below levels from last month on all lakes by a range of 3 to 8 inches, depending on the lake. Compared to last year, the predicted November 14th water levels indicate that Lakes Superior and Ontario are both 3 inches above levels from last year, while Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie are 8 to 9 inches below last year's levels. All lakes are below their long-term November average levels by 2 to 11 inches, depending on the lake. However, water levels remain well above their record low November levels by a range of 14 to 31 inches. By December 14th, water levels are forecast to decline by 1 to 3 inches on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie. Lake Ontario is forecast to rise an inch by mid-December.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow through the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River, Lake Erie's outflow through the Niagara River, and Lake Ontario's outflow through the St. Lawrence River are projected to be near average for November. Lake Superior's outflow through the St. Marys River is projected to be above average for November.

ALERTS

Water levels shown are still-water surface elevations over the entire lake surface. Water levels at specific locations may differ due to meteorological influences. Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. Great Lakes, connecting channels, and St. Lawrence River users should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities affected by changing water levels. Mariners should use navigation charts and refer to current water level readings.

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Nov 14, 2025 (feet)	601.57	577.85	573.62	570.80	244.36
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+6	+4	+16	+19	+13
Difference from average water level for Oct 14, 2025 (inches*)	-3	-5	-8	-6	-4
Difference from average water level for Nov 14, 2024 (inches*)	+3	-8	-9	-9	+3
Difference from long-term monthly average of Nov (inches)	-5	-11	-4	-2	-2
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Nov (inches)	-21	-49	-39	-34	-28
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1985	1986	1986	1986	1945
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Nov (inches)	+14	+19	+26	+31	+29
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1925	1964	1934	1934	1934
Projected net change in levels by Dec 14, 2025 (inches)	-3	-2	-1	-1	+1

ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY ARE REFERENCED TO IGLD 1985
*VALUES FOR SPECIFIC DAY ARE BASED ON 3-DAY DAILY AVERAGE AROUND SPECIFIED DATE
LONG TERM AVERAGE PERIOD OF RECORD, 1918-2024

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers

<u>Detroit District Home</u>
1-888-694-8313 ext. 1

RECORDED DATA (1918 – present)
provided by
NOAA Center for Operational Oceanic Products
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