

Weekly Great Lakes Water Level Update for January 2, 2009

Weather Conditions: Very warm temperatures and heavy rain last weekend lead to numerous instances of flooding across the Great Lakes basin. Colder weather returned to start the workweek and a swift moving winter storm brought 2 to 6 inches of new snow Tuesday night. Precipitation across the Great Lakes basin as a whole was well above average for the month of December. Look for continued cold temperatures and snow showers across the Great Lakes basin during the upcoming weekend.

Lake Level Conditions: Currently, Lake Superior is 4 inches higher than it was at this time last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair are 14 and 16 inches, respectively, above their levels of a year ago, while Lakes Erie and Ontario are 7 and 9 inches, respectively, higher than last year's levels. Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are forecasted to fall 1 to 2 inches over the next month. The level of Lake St. Clair rose significantly at the end of last month due to heavy rain and snowmelt runoff, but is projected to fall 6 inches during the next 30 days. Lake Erie is predicted to fall an inch, while Lake Ontario is forecasted to remain steady during January. Through June, Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are predicted to remain above their levels of a year ago. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario, however, are projected to fall below their levels of a year ago in January or February. See our [Daily Levels web page](#) for more water level information.

Current Outflows/Channel Conditions: In December, the outflows through the St. Mary's and St. Clair Rivers were lower than average. The outflow from the Detroit River was below average, while Niagara River outflows were near average. The outflow through the St. Lawrence River was above average.

Alerts: Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are currently at or slightly below their chart datum elevations and are expected to be below datum over the next several months. Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by changing water levels. Mariners should utilize navigation charts and refer to current water level readings. Ice information can be found at the [National Ice Center's webpage](#).

Forecasted information provided by:
Department of the Army
Detroit District, Corps of Engineers
[Detroit District Home](#)
(313) 226-6442

Recorded data (1918 – present)
provided by [NOAA](#).
[Great Lakes Online](#)
(301) 713-9596

For More Information Visit:
[Detroit District Great Lakes Homepage](#)
[International Joint Commission Great Lakes Information Network](#)

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Expected water level for January 2, 2009 , in feet	601.0	577.5	574.2	571.1	245.0
Chart datum, in feet	601.1	577.5	572.3	569.2	243.3
Difference from Chart Datum , in inches	-1	0	+23	+23	+20
Difference from December 2, 2008 , in inches*	-2	+2	+12	+6	+6
Difference from January 2, 2008 , in inches*	+4	+14	+16	+7	+9
Difference from long-term monthly average level for January , in inches	-6	-12	+7	+4	+4
Difference from highest recorded monthly mean level for January , in inches	-20 (1986)	-46 (1987)	-31 (1986)	-31 (1987)	-19 (1946)
Difference from lowest recorded monthly mean level for January , in inches	+14 (1926)	+16 (1965)	+44 (1936)	+34 (1935)	+34 (1935)
Projected change in levels By February 2, 2009 , in inches	-2	-1	-6	-1	0

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