

Table 356. Great Lakes Profile

[The Great Lakes contain the largest supply of freshwater in the world, holding about 18% of the world's total freshwater and about 90% of the United States' total freshwater. The Lakes are a series of five interconnecting large lakes, one small lake, four connecting channels, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Combined, the lakes cover an area of over 94,000 square miles (245,000 square kilometers) and contain over 5,400 cubic miles (23,000 cubic kilometers) of water]

Characteristics	Unit	Lake Superior	Lake Michigan	Lake Huron	Lake Erie	Lake Ontario
		Length	Miles	350	307	206
Breadth	Miles	160	118	183	57	53
Depth						
Average	Feet	489	279	159	62	283
Maximum	Feet	1,333	923	750	210	802
Volume	Cubic miles	2,935	1,180	849	116	393
Water Surface Area ¹	Square miles	31,700	22,300	23,000	9,910	7,340
Surface area in U.S.	Square miles	20,598	22,300	9,111	4,977	3,560
Retention/Replacement Time ²	Years	191	99	22	3	6

¹ Includes surface area in both U.S. and Canada. ² The amount of time it takes for lakes to get rid of pollutants.

Source: Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, "About Our Great Lakes, Lake by Lake Profiles," June 2004, <<http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/pr/ourlakes/intro.html>>.

Table 357. Great Lakes Length of Shoreline in Separate Basin

[In statute miles]

	Total	Canada	U.S.	MI	MN	WI	IL	IN	OH	PA	NY
Total	10,368	5,127	5,241	3,288	189	820	63	45	312	51	473
Lake Superior	2,980	1,549	1,431	917	189	325	—	—	—	—	—
St. Marys River	297	206	91	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lake Michigan	1,661	—	1,661	1,058	—	495	63	45	—	—	—
Lake Huron	3,350	2,416	934	934	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Clair River	128	47	81	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lake St. Clair	160	71	89	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Detroit River	107	43	64	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lake Erie	860	366	494	54	—	—	—	—	312	51	77
Niagara River	99	34	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
Lake Ontario	726	395	331	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	331

— Represents zero.

Source: State of Michigan, Department of Environment Quality, "Great Lakes, Shorelines of the Great Lakes," <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677---,00.html>.

Table 358. Largest Lakes in the United States

[The list of lakes include manmade lakes and those that are only partially within the United States]

Lake	Location	Area in sq. mi.	Lake	Location	Area in sq. mi.
Lake Superior	MI-MN-WI-Ontario	31,700	Lake Pontchartrain	Louisiana	631
Lake Huron	MI-Ontario	23,000	Lake Sakakawea ¹	North Dakota	520
Lake Michigan	IL-IN-MI-WI	22,300	Lake Champlain	NY-VT-Quebec	490
Lake Erie	MI-NY-OH-PA-Ontario	9,910	Becharof Lake	Alaska	453
Lake Ontario	NY-Ontario	7,340	Lake St. Clair	MI-Ontario	430
Great Salt Lake	Utah	2,117	Red Lake	Minnesota	427
Lake of the Woods	MN-Manitoba-Ontario	1,485	Selawik Lake	Alaska	404
Iliamna Lake	Alaska	1,014	Fort Peck Lake ¹	Montana	393
Lake Oahe ¹	ND-SD	685	Salton Sea	California	347
Lake Okeechobee	Florida	662	Rainy Lake	MN-Ontario	345

¹ Manmade lakes.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 2003, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "Great Lakes, 2002" and The National Atlas of the United States of America, *Lakes*, <http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/mapping/a_general.html>.