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Weekly Forecast

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WEEKLY GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL UPDATE
Feb 28, 2020

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperatures in the Great Lakes basin began last weekend ranging from average to moderately below average. However, the region warmed up considerably starting on Saturday, and temperatures were 10-20 degrees Fahrenheit above average in most of the basin on Sunday and Monday. Several cities in the southern half of the basin saw daily high temperatures in the low 50's, and temperatures were as high as 49 degrees in northern cities like Marquette, MI, and Traverse City, MI, on Sunday. The region cooled down on Tuesday and temperatures were near average in nearly all the basin by Wednesday. Areas around Lakes Erie and Ontario experienced significant precipitation on Tuesday and Wednesday, but precipitation has been 50% below average in the overall basin in February. This weekend, temperatures will be around 10 degrees below average on Friday throughout the region. Starting on Saturday, the western portion of the basin will see a rise in temperatures and by Monday, some areas in the southern half of the basin could experience temperatures in the 50's again. Significant lake-effect snowfall is predicted in upstate NY this weekend, but most of the region will experience rain on Monday.

LAKE LEVEL CONDITIONS

Forecasted water levels for February 28th on the Great Lakes are all well above their long term monthly averages. Lake Superior's level now approximates its level of a year ago, while the other lakes are 4 to 15 inches above what they were at the end of February 2019. The February 28th forecasted water levels of Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, and Erie either match or exceed their respective record high February monthly mean levels. Also, Lake Erie is only Great Lakes that is higher than it was a month ago. Over the next month, Lake Superior is projected to fall 1 inch from its February 28th level, while the water levels forecasted for Lakes Michigan-Huron, St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario are all projected to be 2,3,4, and 1 inches higher than their respective February 28th levels. See our [Daily Levels](#) web page for more water level information.

FORECASTED MONTHLY OUTFLOWS/CHANNEL CONDITIONS

Lake Superior's outflow into the St. Mary's River is forecasted to be above average this month. Lake Michigan-Huron's outflow into the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair's outflow through the Detroit River are predicted to be above average for February. In addition, Lake Erie's outflow into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario's outflow into the St. Lawrence River are projected to be above average for February. Water levels and flows in the connecting channels can be significantly impacted by ice during the winter months.

ALERTS

Water levels shown are still-water surface elevations over the entire lake surface. Water levels at specific locations may differ substantially due to meteorological influences. Official records are based on monthly average water levels and not daily water levels. 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. High water levels and potentially record high water levels are expected to persist for at least the next six months, so flood prone areas are expected to remain vulnerable. Ice information can be found at the [National Ice Center's website](#).

	SUPERIOR	MICH-HURON	ST. CLAIR	ERIE	ONTARIO
Forecasted Water Level for Feb 28, 2020 (feet)	602.33	581.40	576.80	573.85	246.36
Chart Datum (feet)	601.10	577.50	572.30	569.20	243.30
Difference from chart datum (inches)	+15	+47	+54	+56	+37
Difference from average water level for Jan 28, 2020 (inches*)	-4	-2	-2	+1	-2
Difference from average water level for Feb 28, 2019 (inches*)	0	+15	+11	+11	+4
Difference from long-term monthly average of Feb (Inches)	+13	+37	+40	+36	+19
Difference from highest monthly average of record for Feb (inches)	-2	+4	0	+5	-7
Year of highest recorded monthly mean	1986	1986	1986	1987	1952
Difference from lowest monthly average of record for Feb (inches)	+33	+64	+76	+68	+52
Year of lowest recorded monthly mean	1926	1964	1926	1936	1936
Projected net change in levels by Mar 28, 2020 (inches)	-1	+2	+3	+4	+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, 1918-2017

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY Department of the Army	RECORDED DATA (1918 – present) provided by	FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT Detroit District Great Lakes Homepage
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