

Weekly Great Lakes Water Level Update for January 23, 2009

Weather Conditions: More frigid temperatures affected the Great Lakes basin this week, with many locations seeing single digit temperatures. Only light amounts of snow fell across the region as a cold high pressure center dominated the weather pattern. Another round of arctic air is expected to arrive in the Great Lakes for the weekend. Temperatures will be well below average into next week, further accelerating ice formation on the lakes.

Lake Level Conditions: Lake Superior is 2 inches higher than it was at this time last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron and St. Clair are 12 and 10 inches, respectively, above their levels from a year ago. Lakes Erie and Ontario are 4 and 6 inches, respectively, higher than last year's levels. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and St. Clair are forecasted to fall 1 to 2 inches over the next 30 days. Water levels on Lake St. Clair can fluctuate greatly due to ice in the connecting channels. Lakes Erie and Ontario are forecasted to remain steady over the next 30 days. 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 23, 2009 , in feet	600.8	577.5	573.9	571.0	245.3
Chart datum, in feet	601.1	577.5	572.3	569.2	243.3
Difference from Chart Datum , in inches	-3	0	+19	+22	+24
Difference from December 23, 2008 , in inches*	-2	+2	+3	+3	+9
Difference from January 23, 2008 , in inches*	+2	+12	+10	+4	+6
Difference from long-term monthly average level for January , in inches	-8	-12	+4	+2	+9
Difference from highest recorded monthly mean level for January , in inches	-22 (1986)	-46 (1987)	-34 (1986)	-32 (1987)	-15 (1946)
Difference from lowest recorded monthly mean level for January , in inches	+12 (1926)	+16 (1965)	+41 (1936)	+33 (1935)	+38 (1935)
Projected change in levels By February 23, 2009 , in inches	-2	-1	-2	0	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