



# Division of Water



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## LAKE MICHIGAN - Lake Level Fluctuations

Fluctuations in Great Lakes water levels have occurred continually since the Great Lakes formed at the end of the Ice Age. Lake levels can affect the extent of flooding, shoreline erosion and shoreline property damage, wetland acreage, depth of navigation channels and hydroelectric power output.

Lake level records have been kept for Lake Michigan/Huron since 1860, at Harbor Beach, Michigan. The lowest monthly average lake level recorded during that time, 576.05 IGLD 1985 International Great Lakes Datum, occurred in March 1964. The highest monthly average lake level recorded, 582.32 IGLD 1985, occurred in October 1986. This is a difference of 6.27 feet in water level since records have been kept. The all time high recorded level of Lake Michigan is 582.64 IGLD 1985 which occurred in June 1886.

Lake levels for Lake Michigan have been recorded since 1960 at Calumet Harbor in Illinois and are monitored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake level information can also be obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- [Lake Michigan Lake Levels 1960-2001 Monthly Averages](#)
- [Lake Michigan Lake Levels 1960 - 2001 Graph](#)
- [Great Lakes Information Network Water Level Site](#)

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## LAKE MICHIGAN - Lake Levels 1960-2001 Monthly Averages

### Calumet Harbor, Illinois Gage

[Lake Michigan Lake Levels 1960 - 2001 Graph](#)

| IGLD 1985 | 1960   | 1961   | 1962   | 1963   | 1964   | 1965   | 1966   | 1967   |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Jan       | 577.88 | 578.70 | 577.93 | 577.02 | 576.17 | 576.17 | 577.83 | 577.62 |
| Feb       | 578.13 | 578.54 | 578.15 | 576.96 | 576.11 | 576.22 | 577.83 | 577.75 |
| Mar       | 578.09 | 578.72 | 578.29 | 577.07 | 576.27 | 576.58 | 577.99 | 577.77 |
| Apr       | 578.30 | 578.75 | 578.40 | 577.30 | 576.36 | 576.91 | 578.34 | 578.28 |
| May       | 579.22 | 578.93 | 578.72 | 577.53 | 576.61 | 577.32 | 578.43 | 578.75 |
| Jun       | 579.63 | 578.96 | 578.89 | 577.79 | 576.74 | 577.61 | 578.49 | 579.04 |
| Jul       | 579.85 | 579.03 | 578.79 | 577.70 | 576.86 | 577.60 | 578.44 | 579.19 |
| Aug       | 579.95 | 578.99 | 578.63 | 577.65 | 576.76 | 577.66 | 578.28 | 579.16 |
| Sep       | 579.91 | 578.86 | 578.38 | 577.65 | 576.63 | 577.72 | 578.18 | 578.98 |
| Oct       | 579.47 | 578.69 | 578.19 | 577.19 | 576.42 | 577.80 | 577.52 | 578.57 |
| Nov       | 579.10 | 578.47 | 577.74 | 576.77 | 576.25 | 577.62 | 577.67 | 578.53 |
| Dec       | 578.83 | 578.20 | 577.36 | 576.53 | 576.22 | 577.78 | 577.74 | 578.51 |

| IGLD 1985 | 1968   | 1969   | 1970   | 1971   | 1972   | 1973   | 1974   | 1975   |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Jan       | 578.49 | 579.00 | 579.47 | 579.47 |        | 580.63 | 580.58 | 580.25 |
| Feb       | 578.58 | 579.21 | 579.32 | 579.52 |        | 580.86 | 580.91 | 580.35 |
| Mar       | 578.46 | 579.13 | 579.43 | 579.83 |        | 581.05 | 580.87 | 580.61 |
| Apr       | 578.62 | 579.45 | 579.49 | 580.03 |        | 581.32 | 581.17 | 580.71 |
| May       | 578.96 | 579.89 | 579.81 | 580.40 | 580.69 | 581.55 | 581.49 | 581.08 |
| Jun       | 579.11 | 580.25 | 580.08 | 580.66 | 580.71 | 581.77 | 581.77 | 581.25 |
| Jul       | 579.27 | 580.69 | 580.15 | 580.63 | 580.77 | 581.77 | 581.79 | 581.23 |
| Aug       | 579.34 | 580.51 | 580.05 | 580.63 | 581.01 |        | 581.60 | 581.15 |
| Sep       | 579.43 | 580.38 | 579.98 | 580.54 | 581.03 |        | 581.22 | 581.12 |
| Oct       | 579.21 | 579.96 | 579.90 |        | 580.85 | 581.20 | 580.84 | 580.62 |
| Nov       | 579.27 | 579.81 | 579.80 |        | 580.89 | 580.90 | 580.70 | 580.34 |
| Dec       | 579.08 | 579.69 | 579.72 |        | 580.68 | 580.89 | 580.54 | 580.28 |
|           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| IGLD 1985 | 1976   | 1977   | 1978   | 1979   | 1980   | 1981   | 1982   | 1983   |
| Jan       | 579.96 | 578.88 | 579.25 | 579.24 | 580.00 | 579.54 | 579.20 | 579.79 |
| Feb       | 579.99 | 578.79 | 579.14 | 579.28 | 580.01 | 579.35 | 579.11 | 579.83 |
| Mar       | 580.42 | 579.03 | 579.05 | 579.42 | 579.89 | 579.59 | 579.09 | 580.16 |
| Apr       | 581.01 | 579.50 | 579.43 | 580.01 | 580.24 | 579.79 | 579.38 | 580.22 |
| May       | 581.27 | 579.53 | 579.69 | 580.56 | 580.39 | 580.20 | 579.73 | 580.65 |
| Jun       | 581.33 | 579.45 | 579.77 | 580.72 | 580.61 | 580.18 | 579.83 | 580.97 |
| Jul       | 581.33 | 579.35 | 579.81 | 580.85 | 580.63 | 580.38 | 579.84 | 580.87 |
| Aug       | 581.12 | 579.24 | 579.72 | 580.84 | 580.59 | 580.31 | 579.85 | 580.85 |

|                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sep                  | 580.69      |             | 580.01      | 580.69      | 580.46      | 580.30      | 579.78      | 580.48      |
| Oct                  | 580.23      |             | 579.72      | 580.49      | 580.23      | 580.04      | 579.48      | 580.44      |
| Nov                  | 579.51      | 579.18      | 579.55      | 580.13      | 579.87      | 579.80      | 579.43      | 580.26      |
| Dec                  | 579.09      | 579.22      | 579.19      | 580.10      | 579.68      | 579.42      | 579.62      | 579.93      |
|                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>IGLD<br/>1985</b> | <b>1984</b> | <b>1985</b> | <b>1986</b> | <b>1987</b> | <b>1988</b> | <b>1989</b> | <b>1990</b> | <b>1991</b> |
| Jan                  | 579.78      | 580.51      | 581.26      | 581.41      | 579.41      | 578.68      | 577.96      | 578.65      |
| Feb                  | 580.03      | 580.46      | 581.40      | 581.33      | 579.54      | 578.67      | 578.15      | 578.59      |
| Mar                  | 580.12      | 580.86      | 581.29      | 581.28      | 579.52      | 578.86      | 578.24      | 578.87      |
| Apr                  | 580.45      | 581.40      | 581.74      | 581.29      | 579.88      | 578.98      | 578.48      | 579.34      |
| May                  | 580.56      | 581.72      | 581.85      | 581.17      | 579.97      | 579.09      | 578.86      | 579.66      |
| Jun                  | 580.93      | 581.73      | 582.01      | 581.13      | 579.84      | 579.54      | 579.02      | 579.86      |
| Jul                  | 581.02      | 581.58      | 582.13      | 580.95      | 579.62      | 579.65      | 579.33      | 579.76      |
| Aug                  | 581.05      | 581.49      | 582.14      | 580.85      | 579.35      | 579.38      | 579.28      | 579.64      |
| Sep                  | 580.86      | 581.44      | 582.12      | 580.60      | 579.10      | 579.18      | 579.10      | 579.09      |
| Oct                  | 580.68      | 581.28      | 582.50      | 580.10      | 578.92      | 578.80      | 578.91      | 578.89      |
| Nov                  | 580.54      | 581.64      | 581.91      | 579.89      | 578.93      | 578.35      | 578.73      | 578.67      |
| Dec                  | 580.34      | 581.35      | 581.58      | 579.77      | 578.75      | 578.19      | 578.81      | 578.78      |
|                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| <b>IGLD<br/>1985</b> | <b>1992</b> | <b>1993</b> | <b>1994</b> | <b>1995</b> | <b>1996</b> | <b>1997</b> | <b>1998</b> | <b>1999</b> |
| Jan                  | 578.67      | 579.30      | 579.40      | 579.20      | 578.71      | 579.99      | 579.95      | 578.41      |
| Feb                  | 578.74      | 579.27      | 579.40      | 579.07      | 578.77      | 580.18      | 580.02      | 578.37      |
| Mar                  | 578.94      | 579.27      | 579.43      | 579.10      | 578.94      | 580.41      | 580.12      | 578.36      |
| Apr                  | 579.04      | 579.46      | 579.56      | 579.23      | 579.10      | 580.58      | 580.54      | 578.56      |

|                      |             |             |             |        |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| May                  | 579.30      | 579.82      | 579.79      | 579.46 | 579.53 | 581.04 | 580.58 | 578.49 |
| Jun                  | 579.30      | 580.18      | 579.92      | 579.66 | 580.05 | 581.23 | 580.44 | 578.63 |
| Jul                  | 579.33      | 580.38      | 580.12      | 579.46 | 580.25 | 581.43 | 580.37 | 578.70 |
| Aug                  | 579.23      | 580.31      | 580.09      | 579.63 | 580.25 | 581.40 | 580.09 | 578.73 |
| Sep                  | 579.07      | 580.12      | 579.99      | 579.33 | 580.31 | 580.20 | 579.67 | 578.29 |
| Oct                  | 579.04      | 579.82      | 579.69      |        | 580.05 | 580.77 | 579.27 | 577.89 |
| Nov                  | 579.27      | 579.69      | 579.46      | 578.87 | 579.95 | 580.38 | 578.78 | 577.52 |
| Dec                  | 579.10      | 579.49      | 579.36      | 578.74 | 579.95 | 580.05 | 578.44 | 577.30 |
|                      |             |             |             |        |        |        |        |        |
|                      |             |             |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| <b>IGLD<br/>1985</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> |        |        |        |        |        |
| Jan                  | 577.22      | 576.67      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Feb                  | 577.08      | 576.73      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Mar                  | 577.25      | 576.93      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Apr                  | 577.41      | 577.07      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| May                  | 577.56      | 577.47      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Jun                  | 577.79      | 577.75      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Jul                  | 578.02      | 577.75      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Aug                  | 577.96      | 577.66      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Sep                  | 577.80      | 577.65      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Oct                  | 577.46      | 577.48      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Nov                  | 577.07      | 577.58      |             |        |        |        |        |        |
| Dec                  | 576.88      | 577.50      |             |        |        |        |        |        |

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### LAKE MICHIGAN LAKE LEVELS 1960 - 2001

Monthly Averages Plotted

