

3355. Wabash River at Lafayette, Ind.

Location.--Lat 40°25'19", long 86°53'49", in sec.20, T.23 N., R.4 W., on right bank 20 ft downstream from Brown Street Bridge in Lafayette, 5.1 miles downstream from Wildcat Creek, and at mile 311.9.

Drainage area.--7,247 sq mi.

Gage.--Nonrecording prior to Nov. 21, 1933; recording thereafter. Prior to Oct. 1, 1913, at site half a mile upstream at datum 501.15 ft above mean sea level, unadjusted. Datum of present gage is 504.14 ft above mean sea level, datum of 1929.

Stage-discharge relation.--Defined by current-meter measurements below 130,000 cfs.

Bankfull stage.--11 ft (U.S. Weather Bureau).

Historical data.--R. L. Sackett in Proceedings of Indiana Academy of Science (1913) states that large floods which did much damage occurred June 11, 1858, Aug. 5, 1878, and Feb. 17, 1883. The stage of the 1883 flood was reported higher than any previously known, and according to Sackett, was 22 in. lower than the 1913 flood, and was produced by an ice jam which formed about a mile below the city.

The 25th Annual Report of Indiana State Board of Agriculture (1875) states that on Aug. 3, 1875, the river rose 16 in. higher than ever before known.

Flood of March 1913 is the maximum known.

Remarks.--Records 1904-12 from R. L. Sackett in Proceedings of Indiana Academy of Science (1913). Gage heights 1914-23 furnished by U.S. Weather Bureau. Gage heights 1924-27 furnished by Indiana Department of Conservation. Figures in parentheses are approximate values; those for 1904-12 considered accurate within 30 percent and those for 1914-23 considered accurate within 20 percent. Base for partial-duration series, 30,000 cfs. Only annual peaks are shown prior to 1914.

Peak stages and discharges

Water year	Date	Gage height (feet)	Discharge (cfs)	Water year	Date	Gage height (feet)	Discharge (cfs)
1901	Mar. 12, 1901	17.22	30,800	1920	July 15, 1920	14.9	(30,600)
1902	July 1, 1902	17.85	32,000	1921	Mar. 29, 1921	18.9	(44,400)
1904	Mar. 27, 1904	-	a(70,000)	1922	Nov. 21, 1921	20.2	(51,900)
1907	Mar. 15, 1907	-	(41,500)		Mar. 16, 1922	17.6	(38,700)
1908	Mar. 7, 1908	-	(57,000)		Apr. 1, 1922	21.2	(58,400)
1909	Feb. 25, 1909	-	(44,000)		Apr. 18, 1922	20.9	(56,300)
1910	Jan. 19, 1910	-	(49,000)	1923	Mar. 18, 1923	20.5	(53,600)
1911	Jan. 29, 1911	-	(31,000)		May 17, 1923	18.1	(40,700)
1912	Mar. 20, 1912	-	(45,900)	1924	Dec. 7, 1923	15.3	31,600
1913	Mar. 26, 1913	b32.9	a190,000		Dec. 15, 1923	17.5	38,400
1914	Mar. 17, 1914	15.4	(31,900)		Dec. 24, 1923	14.8	30,400
	Apr. 9, 1914	18.2	(41,100)		Feb. 1, 1924	d23.7	e40,000
	May 14, 1914	15.5	(32,200)		Mar. 30, 1924	21.35	59,800
1915	Feb. 7, 1915	17.2	(37,300)		June 11, 1924	18.6	42,900
	July 17, 1915	14.9	(30,600)	1925	Dec. 21, 1924	21.2	58,400
1916	Jan. 4, 1916	20.7	(55,000)		Mar. 15, 1925	21.9	63,300
	Jan. 15, 1916	18.2	(41,100)	1926	Feb. 27, 1926	16.2	34,100
	Jan. 23, 1916	16.0	(33,500)		Apr. 10, 1926	21.1	57,700
	Feb. 1, 1916	23.5	(76,000)		Sept. 7, 1926	16.1	33,800
	Mar. 29, 1916	15.0	(30,900)	1927	Oct. 5, 1926	18.6	42,400
1917	Mar. 15, 1917	15.4	(31,900)		Jan. 31, 1927	22.0	64,000
	Apr. 7, 1917	15.9	(33,200)		Feb. 8, 1927	18.8	43,900
1918	Feb. 14, 1918	21.6	(61,200)		Mar. 22, 1927	21.0	57,000
1919	Dec. 16, 1918	17.6	(38,700)		Apr. 3, 1927	15.4	31,900
	Dec. 23, 1918	20.3	(52,400)		Apr. 20, 1927	16.4	34,700
	Mar. 18, 1919	23.5	(76,000)		May 20, 1927	20.2	51,800
1920	Nov. 2, 1919	c15.0	(30,900)		May 26, 1927	18.1	40,700
	Apr. 22, 1920	21.4	(59,800)	1928	Dec. 2, 1927	21.9	63,500
					Dec. 8, 1927	17.4	42,300
					Dec. 15, 1927	18.8	48,600

a Estimated. b From floodmark by U.S. Weather Bureau. c Maximum observed.
d Backwater from ice. e Daily mean discharge, estimated.

Peak stages and discharges of Wabash River at Lafayette, Ind.--Continued

Water year	Date	Gage height (feet)	Discharge (cfs)	Water year	Date	Gage height (feet)	Discharge (cfs)
1928	Feb. 16, 1928	15.9	36,100	1946	Jan. 1, 1946	16.58	32,400
1929	Jan. 20, 1929	16.6	35,300	1947	Feb. 15, 1946	17.50	36,400
	Jan. 24, 1929	16.2	34,100		May 2, 1947	18.00	38,900
	Apr. 2, 1929	17.45	38,000		June 4, 1947	18.39	41,200
	May 16, 1929	16.7	35,600	June 9, 1947	17.20	35,200	
	1930	Dec. 19, 1929	16.8	39,700	1948	Mar. 1, 1948	16.95
Jan. 3, 1930		20.5	56,500	Mar. 24, 1948		18.55	41,300
Jan. 10, 1930		19.7	52,600	Mar. 29, 1948		17.64	36,500
Jan. 16, 1930		24.07	74,600	Apr. 9, 1948		16.12	31,000
Feb. 27, 1930		16.4	34,100	Apr. 15, 1948		16.94	33,800
1931		Apr. 5, 1931	7.78	13,100	1949	Jan. 7, 1949	18.50
1932	Jan. 19, 1932	17.28	37,600	Jan. 21, 1949		21.63	62,000
	1933	Dec. 9, 1932	14.7	31,600		Jan. 30, 1949	19.4
1933	Dec. 26, 1932	17.0	40,500	1950		Feb. 17, 1949	20.46
	Jan. 2, 1933	16.4	38,100		Dec. 23, 1949	17.42	34,600
	Mar. 22, 1933	21.5	61,500		Jan. 6, 1950	25.35	90,000
	Mar. 28, 1933	15.2	33,400		Jan. 16, 1950	21.45	57,600
	Apr. 19, 1933	15.2	33,400		Jan. 27, 1950	20.56	51,300
	May 14, 1933	22.70	67,500		Feb. 16, 1950	22.43	64,200
	1934	Mar. 31, 1934	11.57		21,700	Mar. 29, 1950	18.5
1935		May 5, 1935	17.01		37,000	Apr. 6, 1950	20.75
1936	Feb. 27, 1936	25.50	93,500	Apr. 12, 1950	17.17	33,800	
	May 4, 1936	15.38	31,800	1951	Dec. 6, 1950	16.40	40,700
1937	Nov. 4, 1936	19.72	46,900		Jan. 5, 1951	17.05	35,800
	Jan. 1, 1937	15.54	32,800	Feb. 22, 1951	20.48	50,600	
	Jan. 10, 1937	18.99	47,400	1952	Jan. 2, 1952	17.60	37,000
	Jan. 17, 1937	21.28	58,500		Jan. 21, 1952	16.10	31,800
	Feb. 22, 1937	15.22	32,500		Jan. 29, 1952	18.85	41,500
	Apr. 7, 1937	16.99	39,000		Feb. 6, 1952	18.00	37,800
	Apr. 29, 1937	15.68	34,200		Mar. 14, 1952	18.90	41,900
	1938	Feb. 21, 1938	15.88		33,200	Apr. 15, 1952	16.40
Mar. 18, 1938		18.68	44,400		Apr. 25, 1952	18.20	39,200
Apr. 2, 1938		20.00	50,600	May 26, 1952	18.67	41,900	
Apr. 10, 1938		21.90	63,300	June 15, 1952	15.89	31,100	
June 29, 1938		19.01	44,900	1953	Mar. 6, 1953	16.97	35,000
June 3, 1938		16.98	36,600		1954	Apr. 13, 1954	10.64
1939	Feb. 22, 1939	17.86	39,900	1955		Jan. 8, 1955	16.60
	Mar. 2, 1939	15.13	30,900		Mar. 6, 1955	17.10	35,300
	Mar. 14, 1939	23.33	74,400	1956	Feb. 27, 1956	16.78	30,000
	Apr. 18, 1939	21.26	59,100		1957	Apr. 8, 1957	20.30
1940	Mar. 5, 1940	16.33	34,200	Apr. 21, 1957		18.35	42,500
	1941	June 15, 1941	9.33	14,600		July 1, 1957	18.18
1942	Feb. 8, 1942	18.90	44,200	1958	Dec. 21, 1957	19.95	47,000
	Mar. 12, 1942	15.77	30,600		June 14, 1958	26.28	99,000
	Mar. 19, 1942	16.10	31,400		July 17, 1958	18.36	39,100
	Apr. 12, 1942	17.55	37,000	Aug. 16, 1958	17.20	33,900	
1943	Dec. 29, 1942	17.20	39,600	1959	Jan. 25, 1959	18.42	34,000
	Mar. 21, 1943	16.42	35,800		Feb. 1, 1959	16.82	32,200
	May 13, 1943	21.30	67,000		Feb. 11, 1959	25.30	89,000
	May 19, 1943	28.47	131,000		Apr. 3, 1959	16.79	32,200
	1944	Apr. 13, 1944	22.75	73,300	Apr. 30, 1959	22.28	71,200
Apr. 25, 1944		19.02	44,800	1960	Feb. 12, 1960	18.04	37,600
1945	Apr. 3, 1945	18.48	41,800		Mar. 30, 1960	18.35	39,500
	May 18, 1945	19.33	46,600	1961	Mar. 15, 1961	16.70	34,000
	1946	Oct. 3, 1945	18.08		39,400	Apr. 20, 1961	17.09
					Apr. 26, 1961	20.15	55,400
				May 11, 1961	17.12	35,300	

e Daily mean discharge, estimated.

f Furnished by U.S. Weather Bureau.