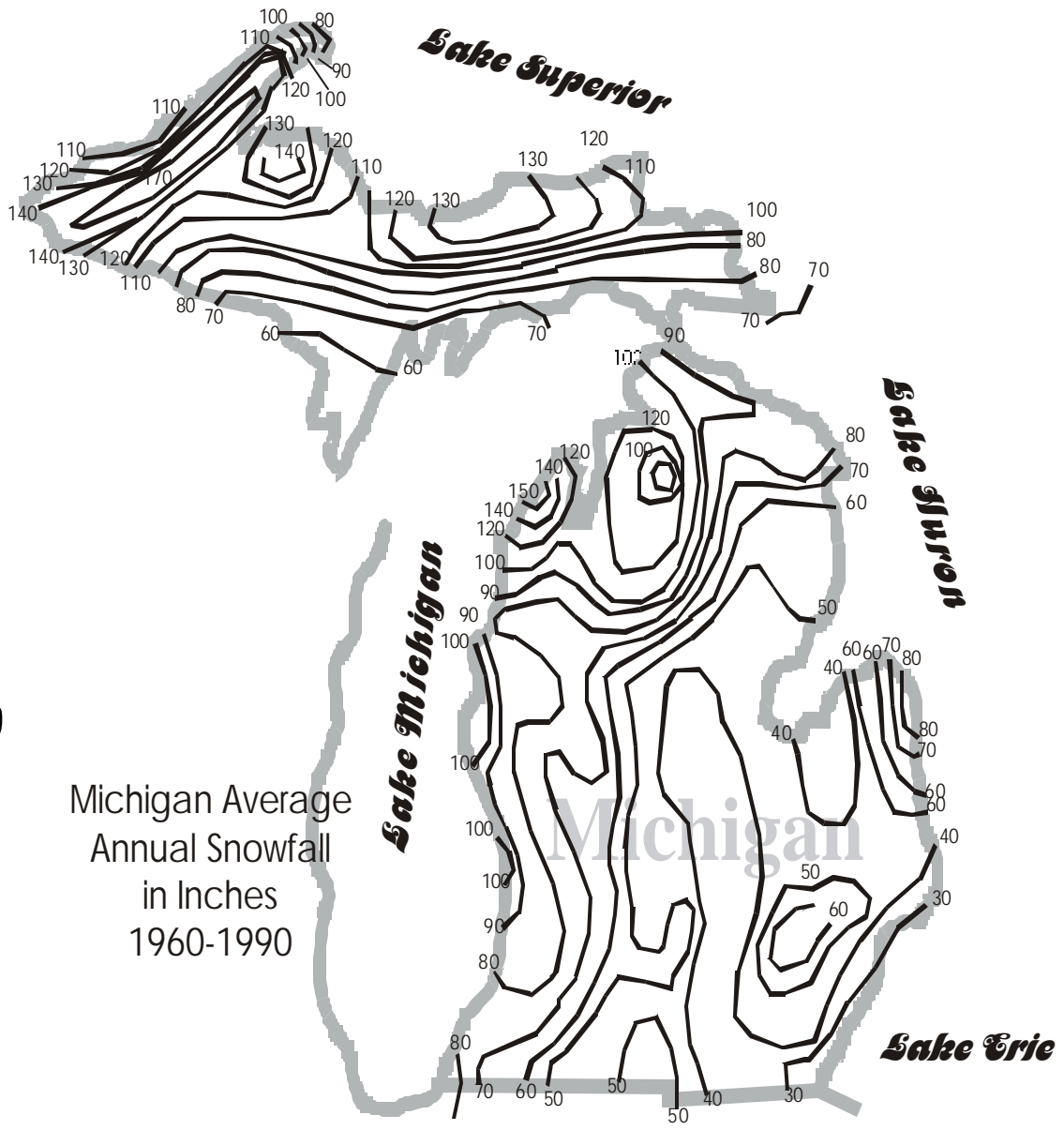




Average Snowfall Depth

As a result of being surrounded by the Great Lakes, Michigan experiences large differences in snowfall in relatively short distances. The annual mean accumulation ranges from 30 to 170 inches of snow. The highest accumulations are in the northern and western parts of the Upper Peninsula. In Lower Michigan, the highest snowfall accumulations occur near Lake Michigan and in the higher elevations of the northern Lower Michigan.

The snowfall map shows that the western Upper Peninsula experiences the most snowstorms in Michigan each year. The western half of the Lower Peninsula also experiences a relatively large number of snowstorms. One reason for this is the "lake effect" process. Cold winter air moving across Lake Michigan and Lake Superior picks up moisture from the warmer lake waters, resulting in significant snowfall amounts in the western part of the state.



Michigan Average Annual Snowfall in Inches 1960-1990