

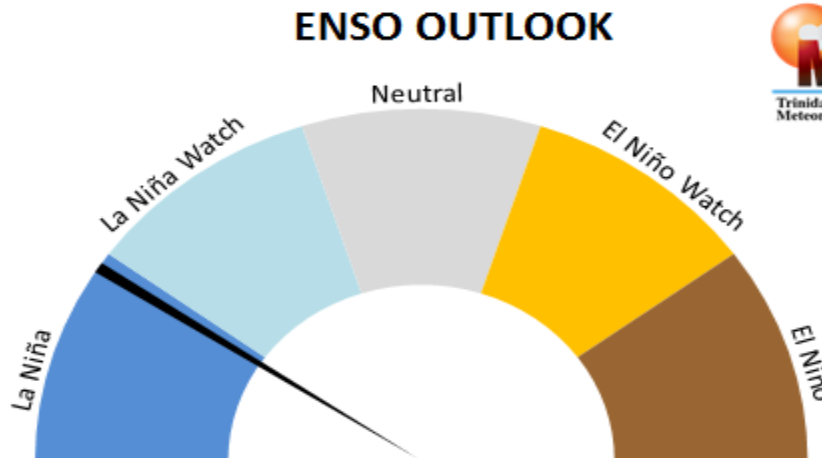
# El Niño/La Niña Watch



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ENSO Watch Update (based on the NIÑO 3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)) Issued: April 05, 2018

**La Niña continues to transition to ENSO-neutral**



La Niña conditions continue to decline in the tropical Pacific Ocean with both oceanic and atmospheric indicators trending towards El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral, meaning neither El Niño nor La Niña.

Currently, sea surface temperatures remain cooler than average, but just near the threshold for La Niña conditions. In addition, throughout March, waters beneath the surface have warmed, leading to positive sub-surface temperature anomalies that have been increasing and will likely extend to the surface in the coming weeks. This is indicative of a further decline of La Niña conditions in the coming weeks. Furthermore, consensus among ENSO models indicates a 55% chance for transition to ENSO-neutral by May. As such, neither El Niño nor La Niña signals are likely during the upcoming wet season.

## **Why is La Niña transitioning to ENSO-neutral condition important for Trinidad and Tobago?**

Historically, ENSO-neutral conditions have not shown any strong odds of tilting seasonal rainfall and temperature away from average conditions in Trinidad and Tobago, but ENSO-neutral tends to reduce the chance for very wet or very dry weather. It is therefore likely that other climate drivers may provide a greater influence during the remainder of the local dry season. It is likely that the current weakening La Niña played a role in the most recent wetter than usual March conditions. This is because La Niña favours upward-moving air in the Caribbean region and tends to be associated with reduced wind shear; thus making it easier for rain producing clouds to form.