

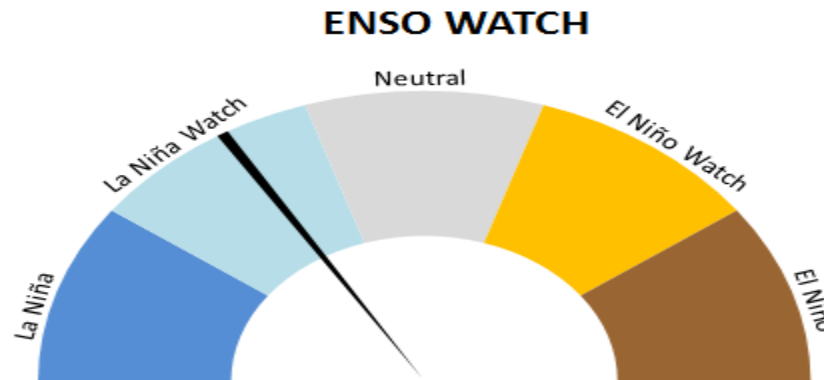
El Niño/La Niña Watch



Climate Section | Tel: (868) 225-3477/3440/3479 | Fax: (868) 669-4009 | Email: dirmet@metoffice.gov.tt

ENSO Watch Update (based on the NIÑO 3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)) Issued: October 09, 2017

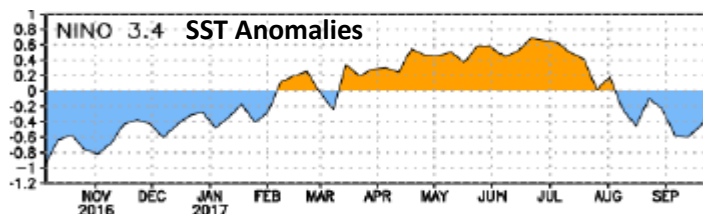
Moderate Chance (55-60%) for La Niña Conditions during October to December 2017 La Niña Watch Initiated



Currently, the equatorial Pacific Ocean remains in an (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) ENSO-neutral state, but during the last four weeks (ending September 30th), below average equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean have cooled to La Niña threshold and expanded in spatial coverage across the eastern Pacific Ocean. Nonetheless, the atmosphere continues to maintain a largely ENSO-neutral pattern. The majority of ENSO prediction models indicate ENSO-neutral cool or weak La Niña conditions as two possible outcomes during the rest of the local wet season and the start of the 2018 dry season; however, the forecast slightly favours La Niña development, with a 55-60% chance compared to a 35-40% chance for ENSO Neutral on the cool side. As a result, the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service ENSO Watch switches to La Niña watch. Should La Niña develop, it is likely to be weak to moderate and short lived. Historically, La Niña conditions during the local wet season has often shown some association with tilting the odds towards wetter and cooler conditions in Trinidad and Tobago, but this is not always the case.

The NIÑO 3.4 Index is based on the three-month running-mean SST departure from average in the Niño 3.4 region (120-170W, 5S-5N) and is a principal measure for monitoring, assessing, and predicting ENSO. El Niño or La Niña conditions are considered to be present when the monthly Niño3.4 SST departures meet or exceed +/- 0.5°C, along with associated changes in atmospheric features.

- Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service El Niño/La Niña Watch is activated when CPC/IRI Probabilistic ENSO Outlook indicates approximately 50% chance or greater for development of El Niño or La Niña.



Source: Adopted from <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml>