El Niño/La Niña Watch

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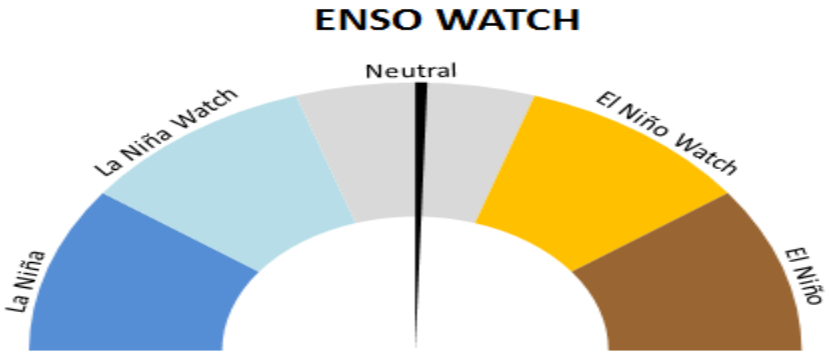
ENSO Watch Update (based on the NIÑO 3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)) **Issued: September 04, 2017**

High Chance (70-80%) for ENSO-neutral Conditions during September to November 2017

ENSO Watch in Neutral State

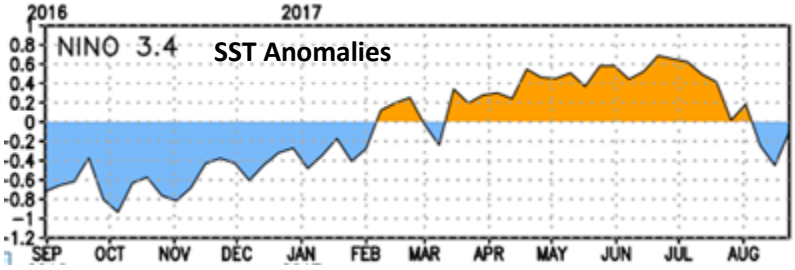


During the last four weeks ending September 4th 2017, sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) have cooled in the Niño 3.4 region of the central equatorial Pacific Ocean used to define El Niño and La Niña events. Average weekly SST departures are now on the cool side of neutral ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) state. Related atmospheric variables, including trade winds and rainfall patterns are showing average conditions while sub-surface ocean temperatures are showing slightly below average conditions. The most reliable set of Models predicting the ENSO state are indicating neutral conditions as the most likely state for the rest of the local wet season and the start of the 2018 dry season. During June and early July, SSTs in the Nino 3.4 region were neutral but close to the threshold of weak El Niño conditions. This may have been responsible for the short term suppression of rainfall witnessed in Tobago during June and July, which is typical during El Niño conditions.

Historically, ENSO-neutral condition during the local wet season has often shown some association with tilting the odds towards drier and warmer 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 +/- 0.5ºC, 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 for development of El Niño or La Niña.



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