

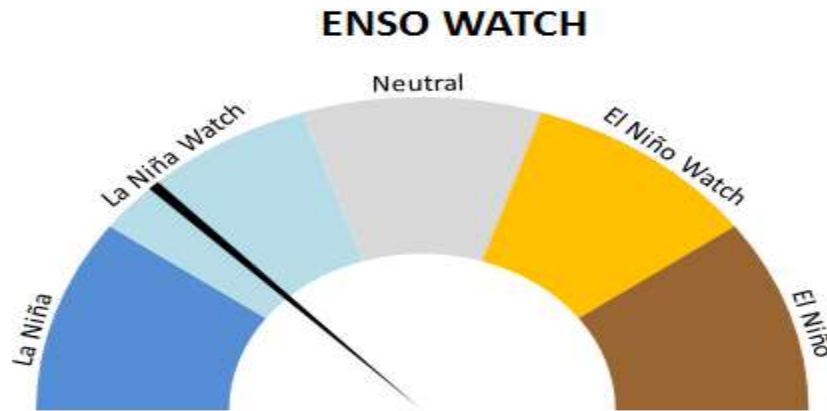
El Niño/La Niña Watch



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ENSO Watch Update (based on the NIÑO 3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)) Issued: October 31, 2017

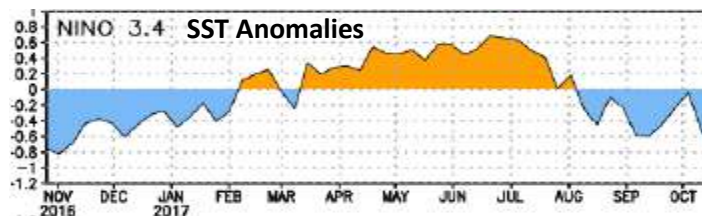
**Very Good Chance (55-65%) for La Niña to Develop During November to January 2018
La Niña Watch Continues**



At the end of October, the equatorial Pacific Ocean remained in an ENSO-neutral (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) state. The most recent weekly sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly in the Niño3.4 region was -0.5°C , at the borderline of weak La Niña. At the same time, related atmospheric variables, including the upper and lower level wind anomalies have shown patterns indicative of near-La Niña. Meanwhile, during the last two months, negative subsurface temperature anomalies have expanded across the Pacific Ocean. The multi-model averages from the majority of ENSO predicting models favour La Niña (55%-65%) forming in late 2017 and to persist into the start of the 2018 dry season. Consequently, the Meteorological Services Division ENSO Monitor remains at La Niña watch. Should La Niña develop, it is likely to be weak and short lived. Historically, La Niña condition 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 $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, 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>