



**Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago
July to August 2015 (JAS)**

Near-Average Rainfall Expected Over Trinidad and Tobago During JAS

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Key Messages

- Rainfall in July to August (JAS) is likely to be near normal in Trinidad and Tobago.
- In Trinidad, the percentage of average rainfall is likely to range between 94% and 122 % of the long term average (LTA). While in Tobago, the percentage of average rainfall is likely to be approximately 98 to 99% of the long term average (LTA).
- Total rainfall amounts for JAS are likely to range between 443.0 mm in south-western Trinidad and 1081.0 mm in north-eastern Trinidad. Rainfall amounts in Tobago are likely to range from 485.0 to 677.0mm.
- Warmer than average day and night-time temperatures are expected over all of the country.

Impacts and Response

- Likely impacts include: increased ground water recharge, surface water flow and water availability; increased risk of floods and landslides.
- The public, relevant agencies and ministries are advised to continue to conserve water and take measures to optimize on the effects of likely impacts.

**Percentage of Average Rainfall
July to September 2015 Outlook**

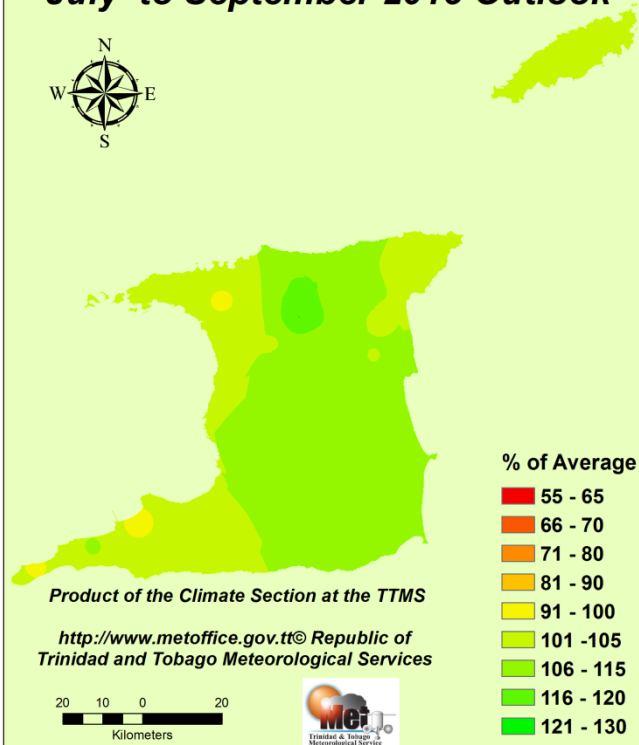


Figure 1.

**Rainfall Totals Outlook
July to September 2015**

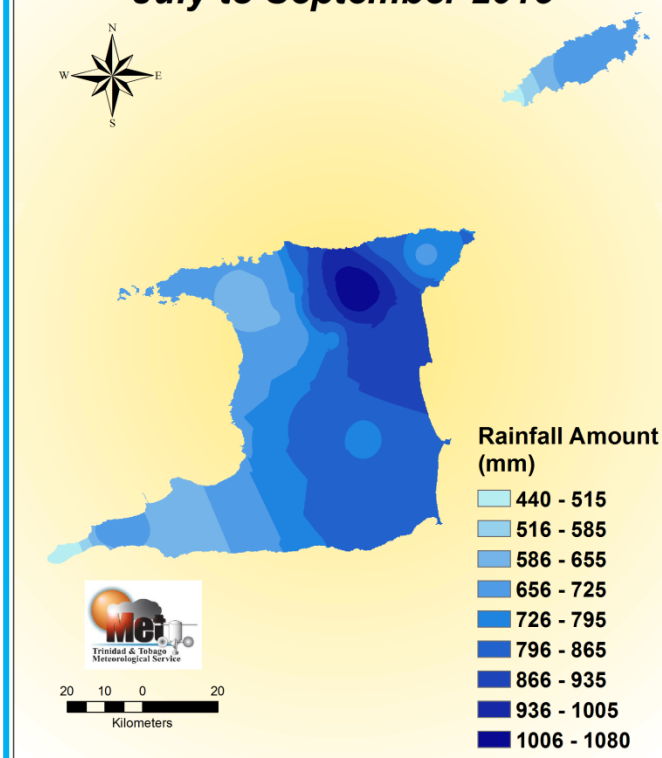


Figure 2.



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Details of the Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for July to September 2015 (JAS)

- The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) Climate Early Warning (CEW) outlook for the period JAS 2015 favours near average rainfall across the country. Rainfall performance is likely to be strongest in Northeast Trinidad.
- The JAS rainfall outlook shows the highest and most frequent odds favour near average rainfall totals (near average rainfall is 75 % to 125 % of the long term average-LTA) to occur over the country, see figure 1.
- In districts where near average rainfall totals are likely to occur, the percentage of average rainfall is expected to range between 94% and 122% of the LTA in Trinidad and between 98% and 99% in Tobago (figure 1).
- On a monthly scale, rainfall in the month of July is expected to be near average in the country, while in August below to near average and September it is expected to be near average.
- Total rainfall amounts for JAS are likely to range from as low as 443.0.0 mm in south-western Trinidad to 1081.0 mm in north-eastern Trinidad, while total rainfall amounts in Tobago during the period are likely to range from 485.0 mm in south-western areas to 677.0 mm in north eastern areas (figure 2).
- Hotter than average normal day and night temperatures are expected for all of the country during July to September 2015. Maximum temperatures are expected to average near 32.6⁰ C and range between 33.1⁰ C and 32.1⁰ C over the period. Minimum temperatures are expected to average near 24.1⁰ C and range between 23.7⁰ C and 24.5⁰ C in most areas.

Preliminary Outlook October to December 2015:

- Above average.

Likely Outcome

Likely impacts of near average rainfall and warmer than average temperatures include:

- Reduced browning of weeds, pastures and some trees.
- Increase in ground water recharge.
- Increase in surface water flow and water availability.
- Above normal temperatures can aid more intense showers which will increase the risk for flash flood occurrence.
- Increased risk of vector borne illnesses.
- Increased risk of pest and diseases.
- Increased rainfall could lead to disruptions in localized travel.
- Wet conditions will hamper some outdoor activities including those in the tourism industry

How Should You Respond?

- The public is advised to conserve, store and manage water in a safe and adequate manner.
- Take measures to harvest rainfall during JAS for anticipated drier period during the period.
- Be watchful for extreme rainfall events especially on extremely hot days when winds are light.
- Farming communities are encouraged to use methods that would reduce the impact of pest and diseases.
- Relevant agencies and ministries are advised to take measures to mitigate the potential impacts from near average and warmer than average temperatures.



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Climatic Influences on Outlook

The seasonal rainfall and temperature outlook considered the understanding that local and regional Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) changes, along with SST conditions external to the region can provide useful guidance for short and long term seasonal rainfall outlook for Trinidad and Tobago. The seasonal outlook employed a method which combined output from dynamical models, statistical models, and local expert analysis, judgment and knowledge of the climate system.

Current Climatic Influences :

- ❖ Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in waters surrounding Trinidad and Tobago are slightly warmer than usual. These warmer waters are expected to influence increased rainfall and maximum temperature outlooks. Clouds associated with the expected rainfall can aid in trapping heat near the ground. This will support nights being warmer.
- ❖ Indicators used to monitor the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in Central Tropical Pacific Ocean showed El Nino conditions are likely to continue for the July to September 2015 period. SSTs in the Central tropical Pacific were above average and are forecasted to maintain El Nino conditions for the JAS season. There is a very high chance (85-90%) for El Nino conditions to remain through to the end of the wet season. El Nino conditions are often associated with below-average rainfall over Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ Assessment of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) index shows that part of the first week in July will be in a negative phase and is forecasted to remain negative until it nears the middle of July. When in its positive phase, the NAO tends to enhance the northeast trade winds, leading to cooler sea surface temperatures and reduced rainfall in the vicinity of Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ Current analysis of the Madden Julian oscillation (MJO) shows that during the last week of June it was in a phase which did not enhance rainfall near Trinidad and Tobago. The MJO is not expected to influence rainfall significantly during the first two weeks of the month and will continue to be in a phase that is unfavourable to rainfall in Trinidad and Tobago for the remainder of July.

For more information feel free to contact the Climate Section @ Telephone: 1-868-669-5465; E-Mail: dirmet@metoffice.gov.tt , or visit our website www.metoffice.gov.tt

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