



**Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago
June to December 2015 (JJASOND)**

Large parts of Trinidad are likely to be wetter than usual during the 2015 wet season Issued on: May 25, 2015

Key Messages

- We are expected to get some decent rains over the next three months (June to August - JJA), but this is unlikely to continue right through to the end of the wet season, as the odds for El Nino to continue during the late wet season are high.
- The Wet Season Rainfall Outlook indicates that for June to December, large parts of Trinidad are likely to be wetter than usual with north Trinidad likely to be the wettest area. Tobago, south-western Trinidad and isolated parts of north-eastern and north-western Trinidad have increased chances for drier than usual conditions (see Fig. 1).
- In areas where below average rainfall is expected, the percent of average rainfall is likely to range between 70% and 74% of the average. In areas where near average rainfall is expected, the percentage of average rainfall expected ranges from 89% to 107%, and where above average rainfall is expected to be between 126% and 130% of the average.
- Accumulated rainfall totals for the wet season are likely to range from 960 mm in the Chatham, Point Fortin areas in southwest Trinidad and Chaguaramas in northwest Trinidad to near 2400 mm in Hollis reservoir and Sangre Grande areas in northeast Trinidad and 1700 mm near the Hillsborough Dam, Mount Saint George, in northeast Tobago (see Fig. 2).
- Warmer than average normal 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 conserve water and take measures to reduce the effects of likely impacts.

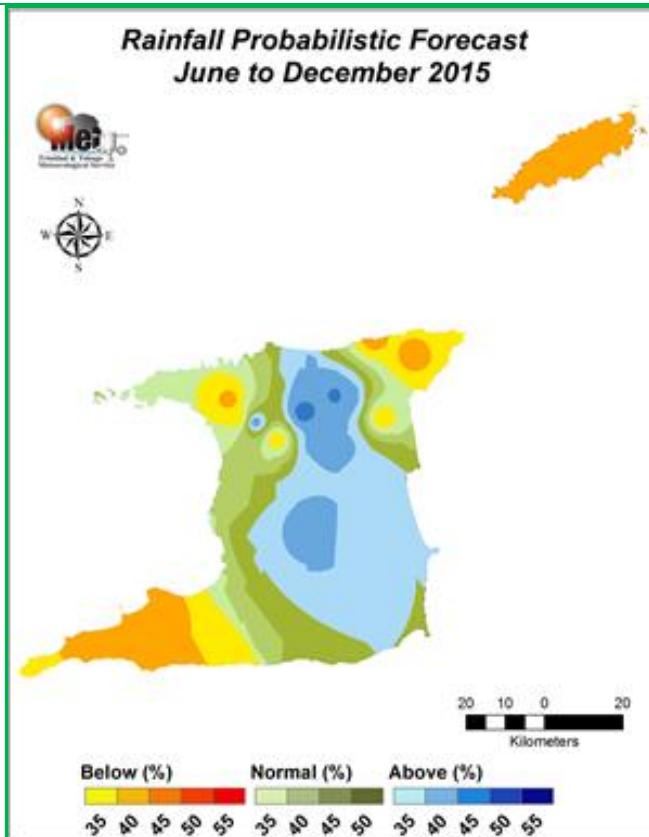


Figure 1

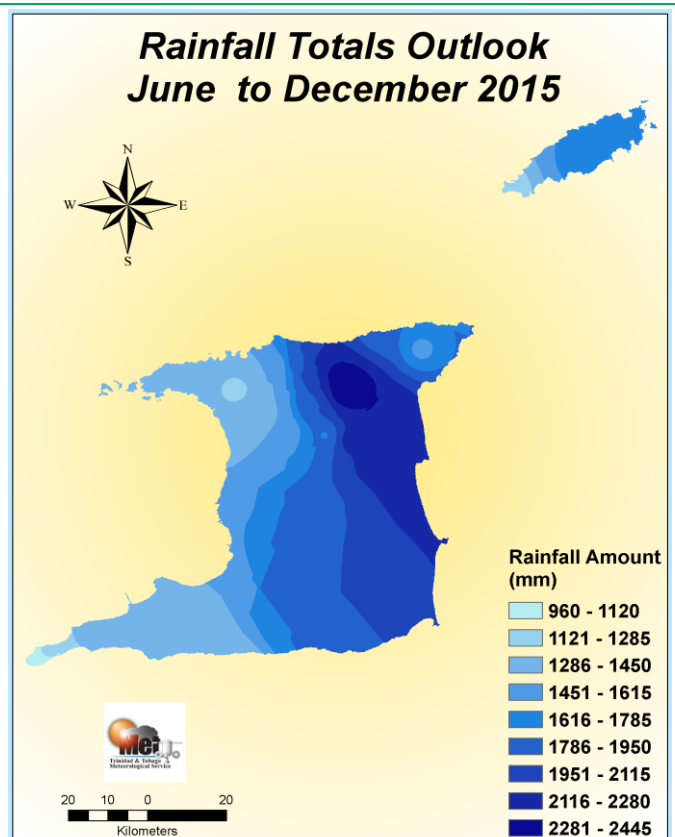


Figure 2

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Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service

Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for Trinidad and Tobago

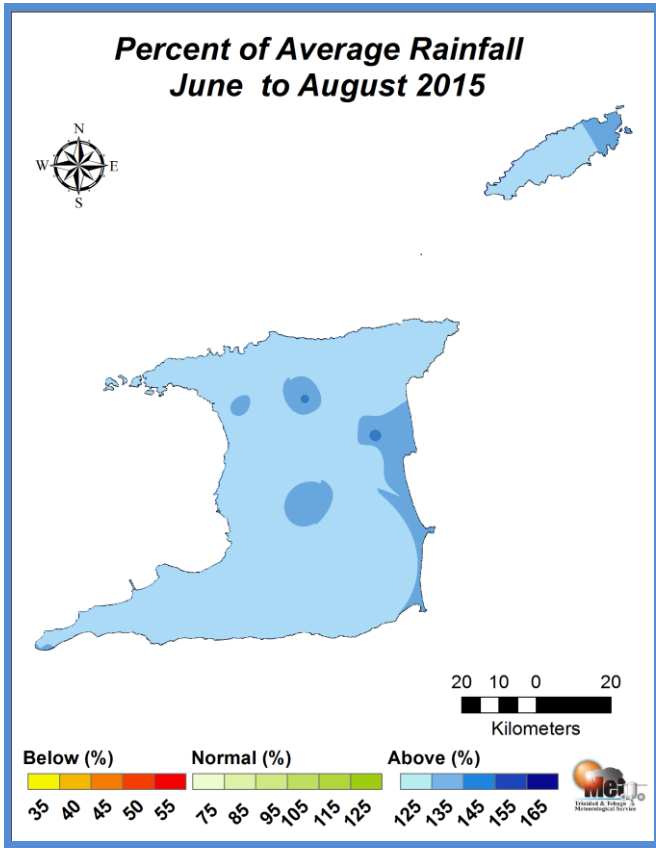


Figure 3

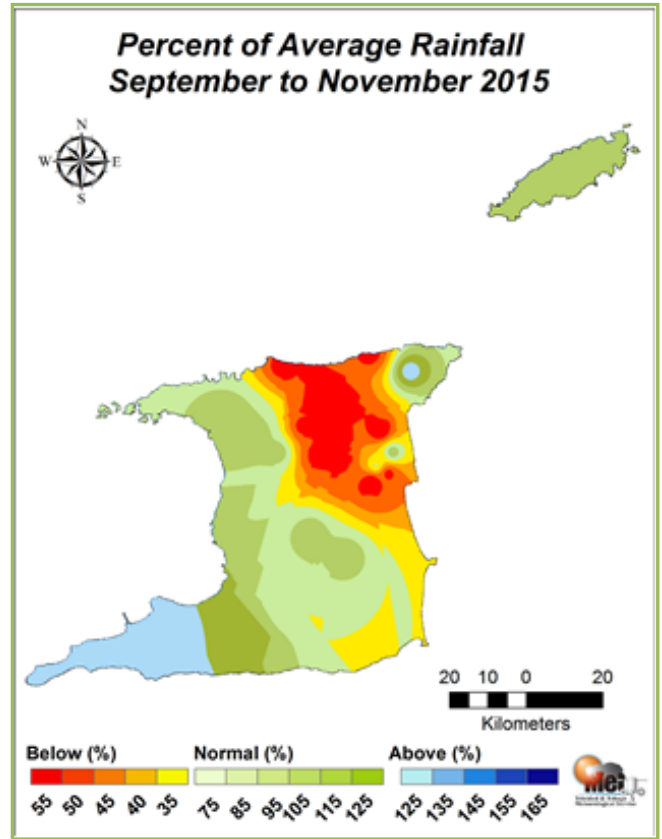


Figure 4



Details of the Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for June to December 2015 (JJASOND)

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) Climate Early Warning (CEW) Outlook for the 2015 Wet Season favours below average to near average rainfall across the country. Rainfall performance is likely to be weakest in Tobago, northwest and southwest Trinidad.

- Trinidad and Tobago is expected to get some decent rains over the next three months (June to August), but this is unlikely to continue right through to the end of the wet season, as the odds for the El Nino to continue throughout the wet season are high.
- The wet Season rainfall outlook indicates that for June to December large parts of Trinidad are likely to be wetter than usual with north Trinidad likely to be the wettest area. Tobago, south-western Trinidad and isolated parts north-eastern and north-western Trinidad have increased chances for drier than usual conditions (see Fig. 1).
- In areas where below average rainfall is expected the percent of average rainfall expected is between 70 and 74% of the average. In areas where near average rainfall is expected, the percentage of average rainfall expected ranges from 89% to 107%, and where above average rainfall is expected to be between 126% and 130% of the average.
- Accumulated rainfall totals for the wet season are likely to range from 960 mm in the Chatham, Point Fortin areas in southwest Trinidad and Chaguaramas in north west Trinidad to near 2400 mm in Hollis reservoir and Sangre Grande areas in north east Trinidad (see Fig. 2).
- Accumulated rainfall totals in Tobago are likely to be between 1200 mm in the Crown Point area in southwest Tobago to near 1700 mm near the Hillsborough Dam, Mount Saint George, in northeast Tobago (see Fig. 2).
- The early part of the wet season (JJA) has a higher chance of being wetter than usual for all Trinidad and Tobago (Fig. 3) with Percent of average rainfall likely to be between 126% and 145 %.
- Due to wetter than average rainfall being favoured, expect more clouds to be present during JJA which will contribute to the trapping of heat near the ground during the night which allow nights to be warmer.
- The late part of the wet season (September to November-SON) is expected to be drier than usual to near usual for large parts of Trinidad, except in south-western Trinidad and isolated parts of north Trinidad where there are increased chances for wetter than usual conditions. Tobago is expected to receive near usual rainfall for SON.
- Both day and night-time temperatures for JJA and SON are likely to be warmer than normal over Trinidad and Tobago.
- The odds are high (66%) for JJA maximum temperatures to be warmer than average and to average 32.8 °C, while there are much higher odds (80 %) for JJA night time minimum temperatures to be warmer than average and to average 24.5 °C.

Likely Outcome

- Increased rainfall combined with recent bushfires will encourage faster run-off leading to increased risk of flooding, landslips and landslides.
- Above normal temperatures can aid more intense showers which will increase the risk for flash flood occurrence.
- Increased rainfall, mixed with warm and humid conditions tend to encourage development of some agricultural pests, diseases and fungal growth.
- Increased rainfall tends to increase the chance for more vector borne diseases.
- Expect pastures, bush and trees to green-up quickly.
- Expect an increase in ground water recharge, surface water flow and water availability.
- 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?

- Proper preparation especially for persons in at risk areas: clean drains and surrounding areas of debris, remove dry branches from nearby trees, have sand bags on standby.
- Conserve, store and manage water in a safe and adequate manner. Use water wisely.
- Take measures to harvest rainfall during JJA for the anticipated drier period later in the season.
- Be watchful for extreme rainfall events especially on extremely hot days when the winds are light.
- Relevant agencies and ministries are advised to take measures to mitigate the potential impacts from the expected rainfall and warmer than average temperatures.
- Be vigilant and visit the Met Office website regularly to keep up to date of local weather changes.



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 warmer than usual for this time of the year and this is favoured to continue into the early part of the wet season. These warmer waters are expected to influence increased rainfall and maximum temperature outlooks. Because greater than usual rainfall is favoured, expect more clouds to also be present which can aid in trapping heat near the ground. This will support nights being warmer.
- ❖ The Met. Service notes that El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently in place with much warmer than usual sea surface temperatures found across most of the tropical Pacific Ocean. There is a very good (60%-70%) chance 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 during the second half of the wet season and can lead to higher temperatures locally, depending on the strength of the El Nino event.
- ❖ There are also indications that the negative North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) index phase which occurred during the last three to four weeks can persist into mid-June. When there is a negative NAO index phase there is a tendency for warmer sea surface temperatures to exist east of Trinidad and Tobago. This will influence rainfall occurrence positively.
- ❖ During the last 30 days the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) has been weak or had little presence near Trinidad and Tobago. Based on current analysis and model outputs, it is likely that the MJO could influence Trinidad and Tobago rainfall as early as mid-June. When the MJO is located over the western hemisphere it is often associated with enhanced rainfall occurrence and amounts.

For more information feel free to contact the Climate Section @ Telephone: 1-868-669-5465; E-Mail: dirmet@tstt.net.tt , or visit our website www.metoffice.gov.tt. Also, like us on facebook and follow us on twitter.

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