



## Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service

Synoptic Branch

Telephone: 1-868-669-4392 ext 120/121 | Fax: 1-868-669-4727  
Email: [synop@metoffice.gov.tt](mailto:synop@metoffice.gov.tt) | Website: [www.metoffice.gov.tt](http://www.metoffice.gov.tt)

## Monthly Climate Summary

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# Trinidad and Tobago's Monthly Climate Summaries

## Overview of the Climate for May 2021

May 2021 began very unsettled and rainy and ended very wet, with widespread rainfall at both ends of the month. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks, it became less wet but it rained on each day across most areas during the period, even though the wet season officially started on May 22, 2021, due to the passage of the first tropical wave.

Nationally, the month of May was cooler than average with the wetness of the month reflected in the temperatures. Trinidad's mean temperature for the month was 27.4°C, which is 1.1°C below the 1991-2020 long-term average (normal), making it the coolest May since 1989. The mean maximum temperature was a full 2.0 °C below the normal at Piarco, but the difference between the mean minimum temperature of 24.0°C and the normal was much smaller, at only 0.3°C less than the normal.

Trinidad's monthly extreme temperatures were as follows:

- The warmest maximum temperature of 32.3°C was recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a day with 5.5 mm of rainfall and was 3.6°C less than the warmest day (35.9°C) for May, on record, which occurred on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- The lowest maximum temperature of 26.1°C occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup>, the wettest day of the month. A minimum temperature of 22.1 °C was recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>, a night without rainfall, while the warmest minimum temperature of 25.7°C occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup>, on a night without rainfall.

Tobago's monthly extreme temperatures were as follows:

- The warmest maximum temperature of 32.6°C was recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a day without rainfall and was 1.4°C less than the warmest day (34.0°C) for May, on record, which occurred on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 1980.
- The lowest maximum temperature of 27.8°C occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a cloudy day without rainfall. A minimum temperature of 22.1°C was recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the wettest night and day of the month, while the warmest minimum temperature of 26.7°C occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, on a night with 0.5 mm of rainfall.



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Across both islands, all areas had a very wet month, with both Piarco and Crown Point having well over typical May rainfall, as most areas in Trinidad received more than double their average May rainfall; while, areas in Tobago received close to one and a half times the months' typical rainfall.

Based on Piarco's rainfall, May 2021 with 245.4mm representing 224% of the normal, was Trinidad's seventh wettest May on the record from 1946, and the wettest May in ten years since 2011. In the 24 hours starting at 8:00 am on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 60.1 mm of rain fell at Piarco to make it the wettest day of the month but areas east of Piarco received more rainfall than this. In total, there were four heavy rainfall days, these are days with 25.0 mm or greater.

At Crown Point, the month's rainfall total of 118.0 mm represents 136% of the normal, to make May 2021 the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest May on the island of Tobago, since 1971 and the wettest in the last eight years. Over the 24 hours starting at 8:00 am on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 35.7mm of rain fell to make it the wettest day of the month.

The total sunshine hours were also below the 1991-2020 average, with 91% of average or 229.6 sunshine hours measured, compared to the average of 251.8 hours. The 29<sup>th</sup> produced the most sunshine hours with 12 hours of sunshine measured, compared to the monthly average of 12.1 hours. No sunshine hours were measured on the wettest day of the month. A total of 26 dust haze days were recorded for the month while the mean wind speeds 11.5 km/h hour compared to the average of 12.96 km/h.

Trinidad and Tobago Weather Extremes During May 2021				
Trinidad			Tobago	
Hottest day	32.3 °C	16 <sup>th</sup>	32.6°C	25 <sup>th</sup>
Coollest day	26.1 °C	04 <sup>th</sup>	27.8°C	04 <sup>th</sup>
Coollest night	22.1°C	29 <sup>th</sup>	22.1°C	08 <sup>th</sup>
Warmest night	25.7°C	24 <sup>th</sup>	26.7°C	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Wettest day	60.1 mm	24-hour ending 8:00am on the 5 <sup>th</sup>	35.7 mm	24-hour ending 8:00am on the 9 <sup>th</sup>
Heavy rain days	4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	Days with ≥ 25.0 mm	8 <sup>th</sup>	Days with ≥ 25.0 mm
Wettest 7-day	193.7 mm	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>	85.2 mm	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>

**Kenneth Kerr**  
Chief Climatologist (A.g)  
Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service