

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DROUGHT OUTLOOK

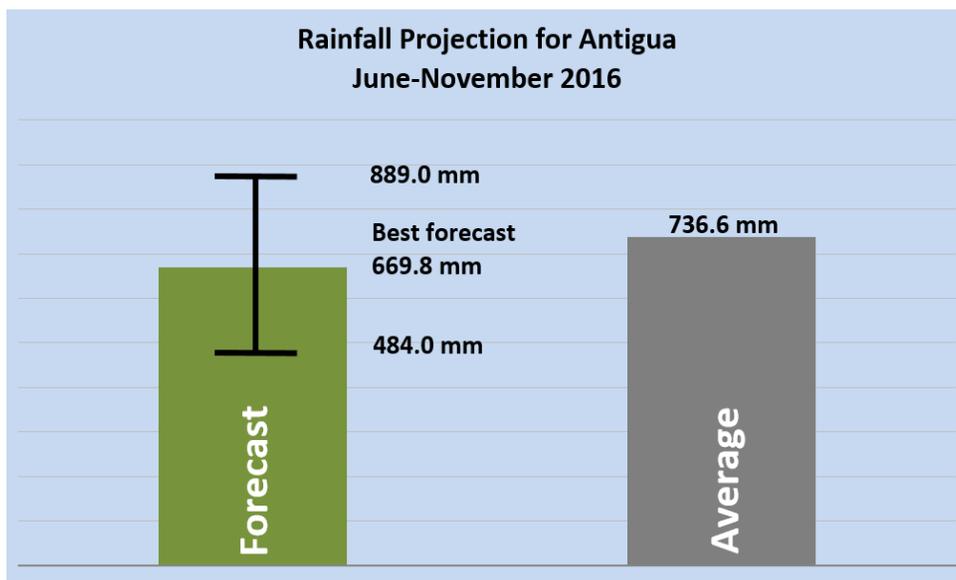


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...Drought watches are in effect...

Based upon rainfall that has already fallen and rainfall forecast predicated on sea surface temperatures across the tropics, the following are being projected for Antigua with respect to droughts, particularly those of **moderate or worse intensity**. The up-tick in rainfall has eased the droughts; however, we are far from being “out of the wood”. Rainfall analyses up to the end of the various periods below, show that moderate droughts or worse are possible over the medium and long term. Hence, drought watches are in effect for these periods. There is minimal concern for the short term.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Based (Rainfall) Projections



Short Term – Six Months

June to November 2016

Based on the rainfall measured for June and July 2016 (186.7 mm or 7.35 in) and the outlook for August to November – **slight meteorological and agricultural droughts are possible** at the end of the June-November (JN) 2016 period; hence, there is minimal concerns for drought by the end of the JN period. However, significant hydrological and socioeconomic drought concerns remain. The probability of a

moderate drought or worse is around 30%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for JN is around **669.8 mm** (26.4 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 484.0 to 899.0 mm (19.1 to 35.4 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 736.6 mm (29.0 in).

Medium Term – Nine Months

April to December 2016

Based on the rainfall measured for April to July 2016 (302.8 mm or 11.92 in) and the outlook for August to December, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** at the end of the April-December (AD) 2016 period. Hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for AD. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 35%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for AD is around **882.8 mm** (34.8 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 646.5 to 1171.0 mm (25.5 to 46.1 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1028.7 mm (40.5 in).

Long Term – One Year

March 2016 to February 2017

Based on the rainfall measured for March to July 2016 (349.8 mm or 13.77 in) and the outlook for August to February, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** over the March 2016-February (MF) 2017 period; hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for MF. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 40%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for MF is around **1009.3 mm** (39.7 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 739.8 to 1338.8 mm (29.1 to 52.7 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1181.1 mm (46.5 in).

Related Products

More outlooks: [Sep 2016](#), [Sep-Nov 2016](#), [Dec 2016-Feb 2017](#), [Sep 2016-Feb 2017](#)

Recently observed: [Rainfall](#), [Temperature](#)

Definition

Drought: In the most general sense, drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time--usually a season or more--resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector. There are four types – *meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, and socioeconomic*. [Read more...](#)

Drought watch: An announcement that a **moderate drought or worse (MD/+)** is possible or has a probability of 35-49% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, the implementation of management plans and residents to keep updated.](#)

Drought warning: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of 50-82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, maximized water conservation and efficiency measures.](#)

Drought emergency: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of over 82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, enforcement of water restrictions.](#)

The next outlook will be issued around October 5.

Disclaimer

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