

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DROUGHT OUTLOOK

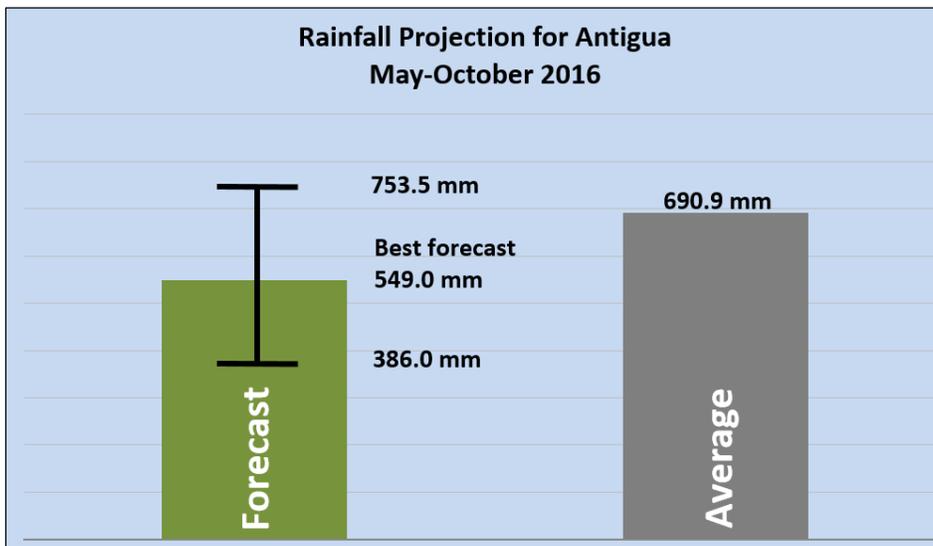


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...Drought watches and warnings are in effect...

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**. Notwithstanding an up-tick in rainfall, a drought is evolving over the year period ending January 2017 and are possible for the six and nine months ending October and November respectively. Hence, drought watches and warnings are in effect. *There is around a 40% chance of the drought, coming to, at least, a temporary end at the end of the August-October "season". However, this is more unlikely than likely. Evolving global atmospheric conditions continue to point to more rainfall for Antigua and Barbuda this year than last year. The best forecast is for below to near normal rainfall; however, there are large uncertainties with this forecast due mainly to the uncertainties regarding the development of La Nina.*

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Based (Rainfall) Projections



Short Term – Six Months

May to October 2016

Based on the rainfall measured for May and June 2016 (139.7 mm or 5.50 in) and the outlook for July to October, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** at the end of the May-October (MO) 2016 period; hence, a drought watch is in effect for MO. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 40%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for MO is around **549.0 mm** (21.6

in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 386.0 to 753.5 mm (15.2 to 29.7 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 690.9 mm (27.2 in).

Medium Term – Nine Months

March to November 2016

Based on the rainfall measured for March to June 2016 (265.9 mm or 10.46 in) and the outlook for July to November, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** at the end of the March-November (MN) 2016 period; hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for MN. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 45%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for MN is around **800.0 mm** (31.5 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 534.0 to 1143.5 mm (21.0 to 45.0 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 980.4 mm (38.6 in).

Long Term – One Year

February 2016 to January 2017

Based on the rainfall measured for February to June 2016 (294.9 mm or 11.61 in) and the outlook for July to February, a **moderate drought or worse is evolving** over the February 2016-January 2017 (FJ) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for FJ. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 55%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for FJ is around **936.0 mm** (36.9 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 683.5 to 1246.0 mm (26.9 to 49.1 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1183.6 mm (46.6 in).

Related Products

More outlooks: [August 2016](#), [August-October 2016](#), [November 2016-January 2017](#), [August 2016-January 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 September 3.

Disclaimer

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