

**Meteorological Department
St. Maarten**

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Weather & Climate

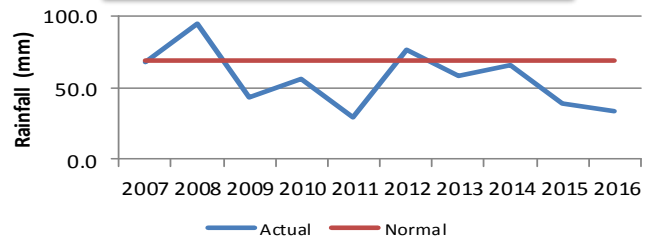
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January 2017

NORMAL JANUARY CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	60.3 mm – 85.0 mm	2–3 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	13 days	
Daily Average Temperature	25.5°C	78°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	28.8°C	84 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23.2°C	74°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 hrs	

Actual Vs Normal January Rainfall



**Sunny Days
with few wet
days.**

Rainfall for the month of January was below -normal for 8 of the last 10 years.

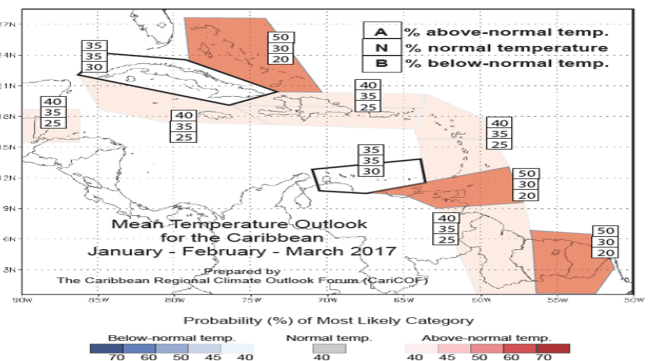
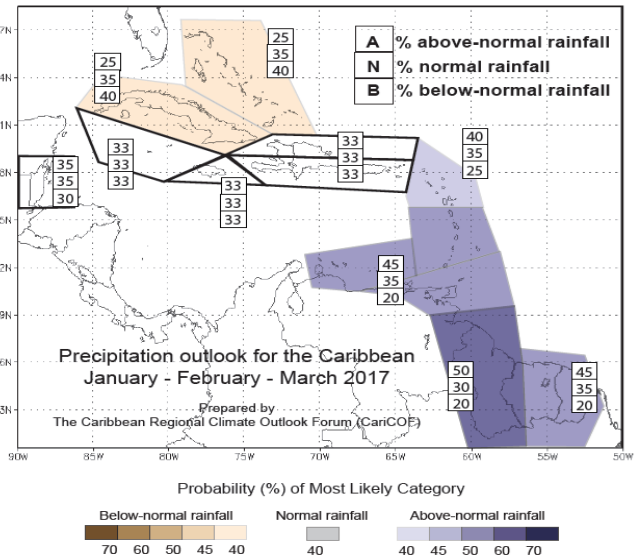
Seasonal Outlook for January to March (JFM) 2017

According to the Caribbean Outlook Forum : <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

Rainfall in most of the Eastern Caribbean is forecast to be above to normal for the season Jan-Feb-Mar but the Bahamas, and Cuba below to normal with low predictability elsewhere.

The normal rainfall for St. Maarten ranges from 144.6 mm –200.5 mm/ 6-8in. During January to March there is usually sunny days and some days with showers. Relatively very few wet days compared to other times of the year.

Temperatures for most of the Caribbean is forecast to rise but generally continue to be comfortable until April.



During mid-December 2016, sea surface temperature anomaly across the Pacific Ocean was near -0.5C, the threshold for a weak La Nina.

Models are now indicating that this weak La Nina will weaken into a cool-neutral phase by the end of this season. The mid-December projections are predicting that a neutral phase will continue until October 2017.

Please note that all data was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport and may not necessarily reflect conditions at other points on country St Maarten.

Rainfall for the month of December was above the normal range (74.6-110.1 mm). A total of 155.5 mm/6.1 inches were recorded with nineteen (19) rain days. Most of the rainfall was as a result of instability caused by upper level troughs and frontal boundaries across the Region.

Total Rainfall	155.5 mm	6.1 in.
2016 Cumulative Rainfall	816.6 mm	32.1 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	December 23rd	31.1 mm/ 1.2 in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	19 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	5 days	
No. Thunderstorm Days	1 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	11 kts.	13 mph
Max. Wind Gust	December 18th	42 kts. / 48 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.8 °C	80 °F
Max. Temperature	December 7th	30.2 °C / 86 °F
Min. Temperature	December 20th	21.8°C / 71 °F

The Maximum and mean temperatures during the month of December were above-normal while the minimum temperature was below-normal.

The warmest day was the 9th with an average temperature of 27.8°C/82°F.

The days with the most sunshine hours were the 3rd & 5th (9hrs :54min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 31st (2 hr: 06 min).

The windiest day was the 18th, with a daily average wind speed of 17 kts. / 19 mph.

Skies were partly cloudy during the month of December.

2016 SUMMARY

Rainfall/ Winds:

Annual rainfall has been below normal for the second year in a row. A total of 816.6 mm/32.1 inches were recorded for 2016; 312 mm/13 inches more than 2015. There were 132 rain days (> 1 mm). December was the wettest month of the year while June was the driest month with 6.4 mm. October 2016 was the driest October on record with 30.6 mm.

Winds were mainly from the east at an average speed of 9 kt./10Mph. The windiest month was March with an average speed of 11 kt./13Mph. The highest gust was recorded on August 24th during the passage of a tropical wave through the region.

Temperature/ Sunshine:

On Average, maximum temperature was above normal while minimum temperature was below normal for 2016. The warmest month was August with an average temperature of 29.1°C/83°F. The coolest month was March with an average temperature of 26.0°C/79°F.

The highest temperature was recorded on August 26th at 10:46 am and September 4th at 13:37 pm as 32.8°C/91°F.

The lowest temperature was recorded on March 12th at 02:45 am as 21.7°C/71°F.

April 16th was the day with most sunshine 12 hour 24 minutes.