

**Meteorological Department
St. Maarten**

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Weather & Climate

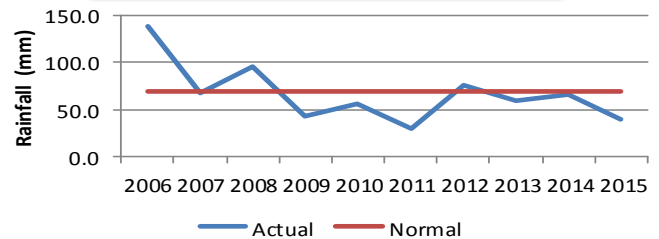
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January 2016

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



Rainfall for the month of January has been below-normal for 6 out of the last 10 years.

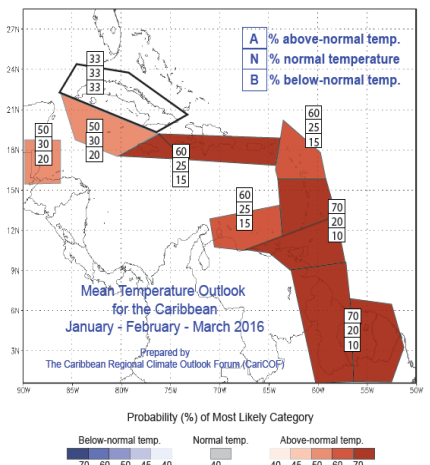
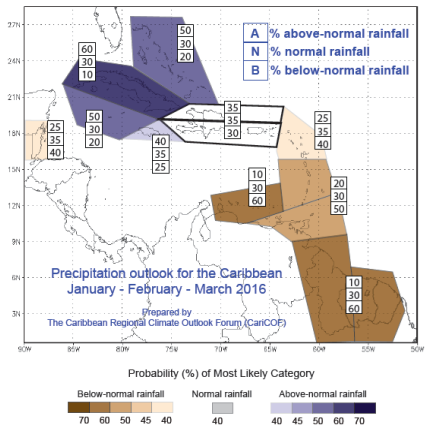
Most Islands is forecast to experience drought by May 2016

Seasonal Outlook for January to March (JFM)2016

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

The precipitation outlook for the season ‘Jan—Mar 2016’ is expected to be below-normal to near-normal. Normal rainfall for this season ranges between 144.6 mm –200.5 mm/ 6-8in. This season, rainfall is most likely to be below-normal with fewer wet days than usual.

Temperature for most of the Caribbean is forecast to be above-normal for the same period.



El Niño conditions are ongoing, above normal sea surface temperatures continue across the Pacific Ocean. This El Niño is forecast to last until the mid-2016 and then transition into the neutral phase.

In the dry season, El Niño often weakens the development of rain and thunderstorm formation in the eastern and southern Caribbean, but enhances it in the north and west.

Most islands are no longer in long-term drought due to added rainfall in parts of the Caribbean in October and November 2015. As a result a shorter term drought is expected to arise in portions of the Eastern Caribbean by March 2016 and expected to persist till the end of May 2016.

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 below the normal range. A total of 60.4 mm/2.4 inches was recorded, this was approximately 60% of the normal. The Caribbean Drought Monitoring Network is continuing its drought warning for the Leeward Islands and the southern Caribbean until the end of May 2016.

Total Rainfall	60.4 mm	2.4 in.
2015 Cumulative Rainfall	495.4 mm	19.5 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	December 6th	17.9 mm/ 0.7 in.
No. Rain Days (≥1.0 mm)	15 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (≥10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 days	
Avg. Wind Speed	11kts.	13 mph
Max. Wind Gust	December 22nd & 24th	33 kts. / 38 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.9 °C	80 °F
Max. Temperature	December 3rd & 4th	29.9 °C / 86 °F
Min. Temperature	December 17th	22.6°C / 73 °F

The normal rainfall for December ranges from 74.6 - 110.1 mm /3-4 in.

The temperatures recorded during the month of December varied from below normal to above normal.

The warmest days were the 2nd & 3rd with an average temperature of 27.8°C/82°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 9th (10hrs :12 min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 6th (2 hr: 42min)

The windiest day was the 25th, with a daily average wind speed of 15 kts. / 17 mph.

Skies were mostly cloudy during the month of December.

2015 SUMMARY

**2015 was the driest year
on record**

Rainfall/ Winds:

Annual rainfall total was the lowest in over 60 years. A total of 495.4mm/19.5 inches were recorded, this was more than 50% below the normal. There were eleven (11) months with below normal rainfall for 2015. November was the wettest month of the year and was the only month that rainfall was within the normal range.

July was the driest month of 2015 and the driest July on record with 8.4mm/0.3 inch.

Winds were mainly from the east at an average speed of 10kt./12Mph. The highest gust was recorded on August 27th during the passage of Tropical Storm Erika as the center passed about 98 miles south of the island.

Temperature/ Sunshine:

On Average, temperature was above normal for 2015. The warmest months were September and October with an average temperature of 29.1°C/84°F. The coolest month was March with an average temperature of 26.0°C/79°F.

The highest temperature was recorded on September 22nd at 1:03pm as 32.8°C/91°F.

The lowest temperature was recorded on January 12th at 11:45 am as 21.7°C/71°F.

The sunniest month was March with a total of 303.2 hours, an average of 10hrs daily.