

**Meteorological Department
St. Maarten**

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Weather & Climate

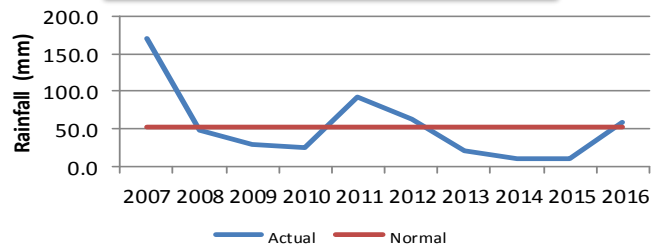
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March 2017

NORMAL MARCH CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	32.4 mm – 58.3 mm	1– 2 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	9 days	
Daily Average Temperature	25.7°C	78°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.2°C	85 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23.4°C	74°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	

Actual Vs Normal March Rainfall



Rainfall for the month of March was below -normal for 6 of the last 10 years.

**Sunny Days
with very few
wet spells.**

Seasonal Outlook for March to May (MAM) 2017

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

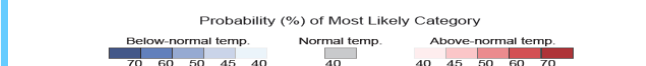
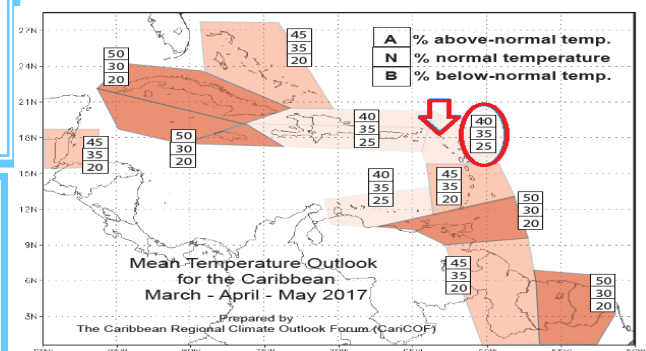
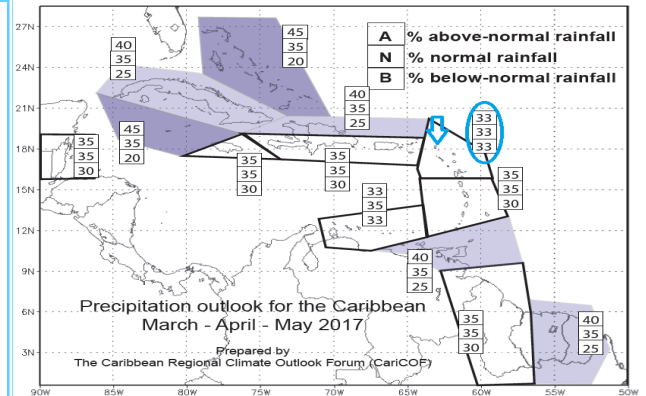
Rainfall in most of the Greater Antilles, Trinidad and eastern Guianas is forecast to be near to above normal for the season Mar-Apr-May. There is low predictability for St. Maarten and other areas. There is an equal chance for either above or below normal rainfall to occur in St. Maarten this season.

The normal rainfall for St. Maarten ranges from 162.5 mm – 262.0 mm/ 6-10 in. In March and April, there are mostly sunny days with very few wet spells however, May can either be very dry or wet as transition into the wet season begins.

Temperatures across the Caribbean are forecast to gradually become more uncomfortable throughout this season.

During mid-February 2017, sea surface temperature anomaly across the Pacific Ocean was close to 0.0°C, in the ENSO neutral range.

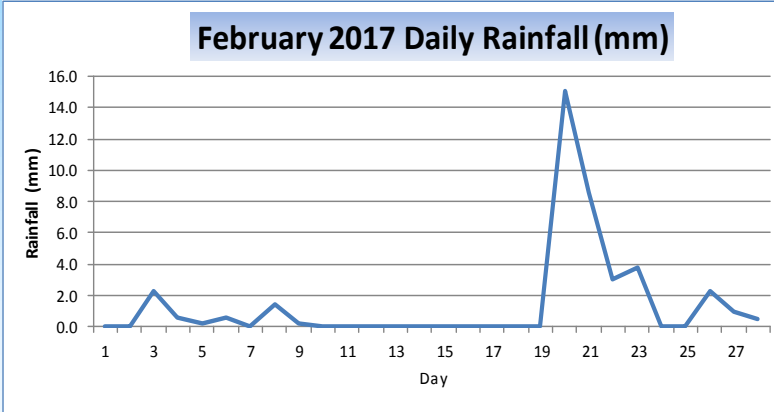
Models are now indicating that this neutral phase will persist until May 2017 and there is a chance for El Nino conditions to return by the July-August-September season. See diagram on page 2.



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.

FEBRUARY 2017 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of February was within the normal range (31.2-57.0 mm). A total of 39.6 mm/1.6 inches were recorded with eight (8) rain days. There was only one heavy rainfall day, when 15.1 mm was measured. This was due to the presence of a frontal boundary over the northeast Caribbean. Otherwise, the Atlantic high pressure system influenced mostly fair conditions across the island during the month of February.



The longest dry spell was 11 days.

Total Rainfall	39.6 mm	1.6 in.
2017 Cumulative Rainfall	82.1 mm	3.2 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	February 20th	15.1 mm/ 0.6 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	8 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	8 kts.	9 mph
Max. Wind Gust	February 21st	29 kts. / 33 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.0 °C	79 °F
Max. Temperature	February 26th	29.3 °C / 85 °F
Min. Temperature	February 21st	21.6°C / 71 °F

The average and maximum temperature for February were above the normal range while the minimum temperature was below-normal.

The warmest day was the 9th with an average temperature of 26.7°C/80°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 20th (10hrs :30min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 21st (7hr: 12 min).

The windiest day was the 28th, with a daily average wind speed of 13 kts. / 15 mph.

The highest wind gust was recorded as 29kts/ 33 mph on February 21st.

Skies were mostly fair during the month of February.

