

Meteorological Department St. Maarten

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Weather & Climate

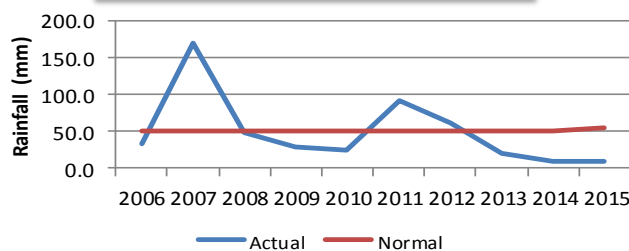
Volume 2, Issue 24

March 2016

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 has been below-normal for 7 out of the last 10 years.

Drought conditions continue for most of the islands.

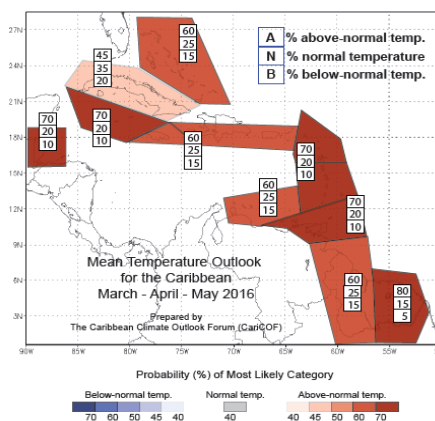
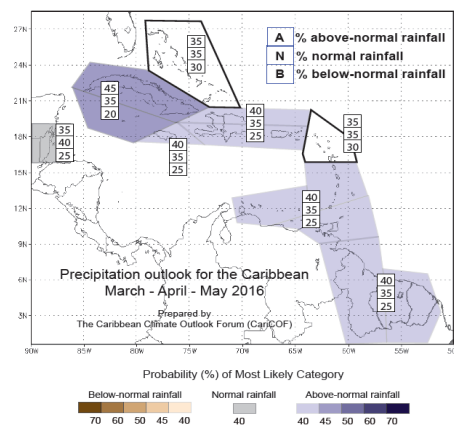
Seasonal Outlook for March to May (MAM) 2016

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

There is little predictability at this time in precipitation over the north-east Caribbean this season; ‘Mar.—May 2016’. However, it is more likely that precipitation will be near normal to above normal. Normal rainfall ranges from 162.5 mm –262.0 mm/ 6-10in on St. Maarten.

March and April are expected to be dry and increasing possibilities of rainfall in the month of May.

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



El Niño conditions are ongoing, sea surface temperatures across the Pacific Ocean remained above normal for the first two months of 2016 but are weakening.

El Niño is forecast to continue weakening and a neutral phase to begin by mid-year followed by a La Nina towards the Sept-Oct-Nov. season.

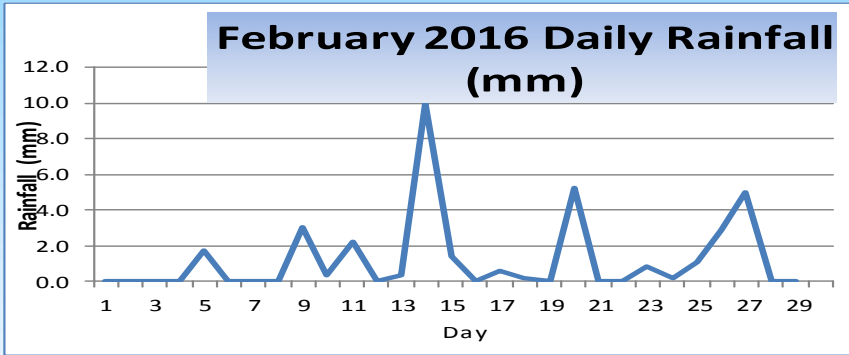
This could mean one; an early start of the rainfall season for the Caribbean and two a more active end of the 2016 hurricane season.

El Niño often weakens the development of rain and thunderstorm formation in the eastern Caribbean while La Nina causes an opposite effect however, this phenomenon is not the only feature that comes to play.

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.

JANUARY 2016 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of February was within the normal range. A total of 33.9 mm/1.3 inches was recorded. There was hardly any dry spell during the month some light showers were recorded throughout with only one day with heavy showers. The Caribbean Drought Monitoring Network is continuing its drought warning for the Leeward Islands and the southern Caribbean until the end of May



The longest dry spell was 4 days.

Total Rainfall	33.9 mm	1.3 in.
2016 Cumulative Rainfall	67.3 mm	2.6 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	February 14th	10.0 mm/ 0.4 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	9 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 days	
Avg. Wind Speed	8 kts.	9 mph
Max. Wind Gust	February 14th	29 kts. / 33 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.1 °C	79 °F
Max. Temperature	February 29th	29.3 °C / 85 °F
Min. Temperature	February 14th	22.3°C / 72 °F

The normal rainfall for February ranges from 31.2 - 57.0 mm /1-2 in.

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

The warmest day was the 8th with an average temperature of 26.7°C/80°F.

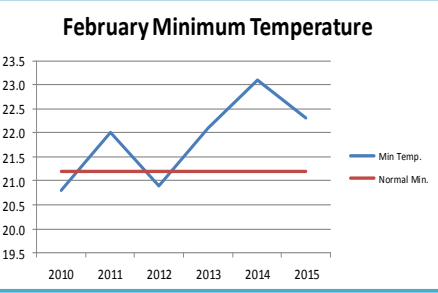
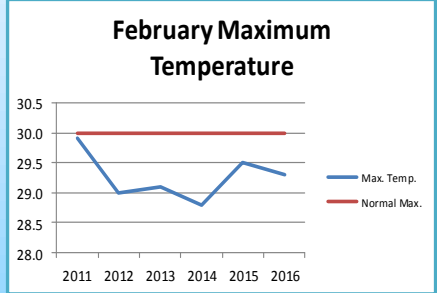
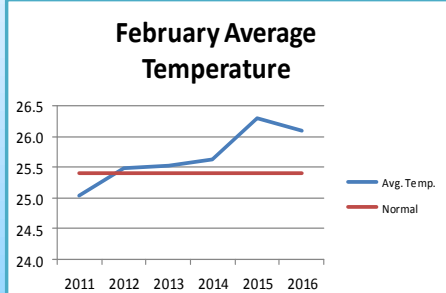
The day with the most sunshine hours was the 25th (10hrs :42 min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 19th (2 hr: 12 min)

The windiest days were the 15th & 16th, with a daily average wind speed of 12 kts. / 14 mph.

Skies were mostly fair during the month of February.

February Temperature Trends



On average daily temperatures and nights are getting warmer over the past 5 years. However extreme temperatures during the day have remained below average during the month of February.

This newsletter is produced by the Meteorological Department of St. Maarten. We would appreciate your comments and feedback. Kindly drop us a line at meteo@sintmaartengov.org , fax at (1 721) 545 2998 or call us at (1 721) 545 2024/ 545 4226.