

# Meteorological Department St. Maarten

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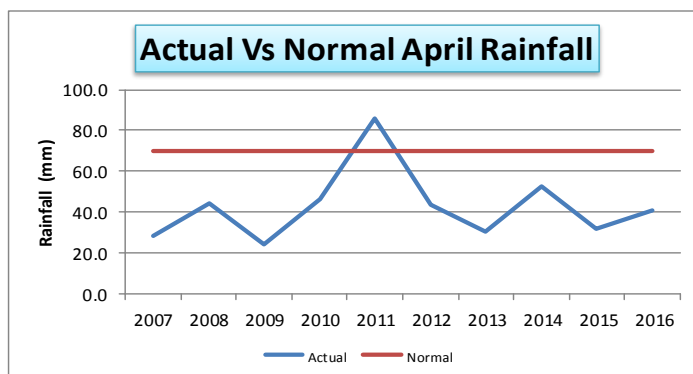
## Weather & Climate

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### NORMAL APRIL CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	41.3 mm – 74.9 mm	2– 3 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	8 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.6°C	80°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.9°C	86 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	24.2°C	76°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	



**Sunny Days in April, wet spells in May & June**

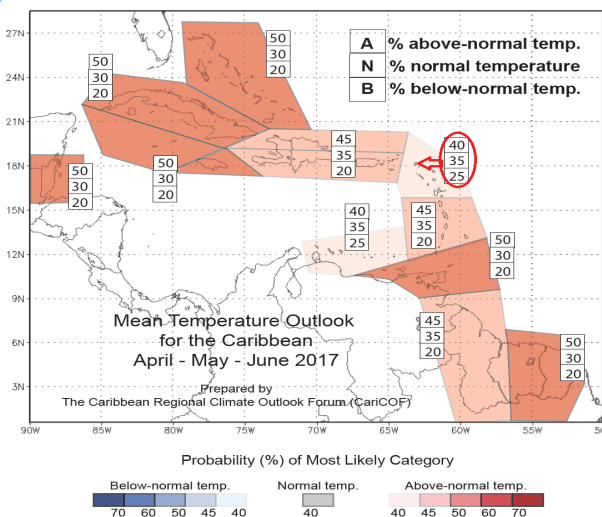
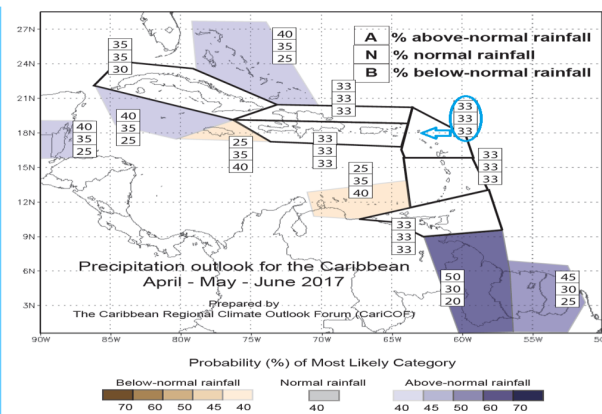
Rainfall for the month of April was below -normal for 9 of the last 10 years.

### Seasonal Outlook for April to June (AMJ) 2017

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

Rainfall in the northwest and southern Caribbean, is forecast to be near to above normal for the season Apr-May-June. 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 155.7 mm – 253.2 mm/ 6-10 in. In April, there are mostly sunny days with limited wet spell events. May and June usually has more frequent shower activity as transition into the wet season takes place. Temperatures across the Caribbean are forecast to gradually increase throughout this season.



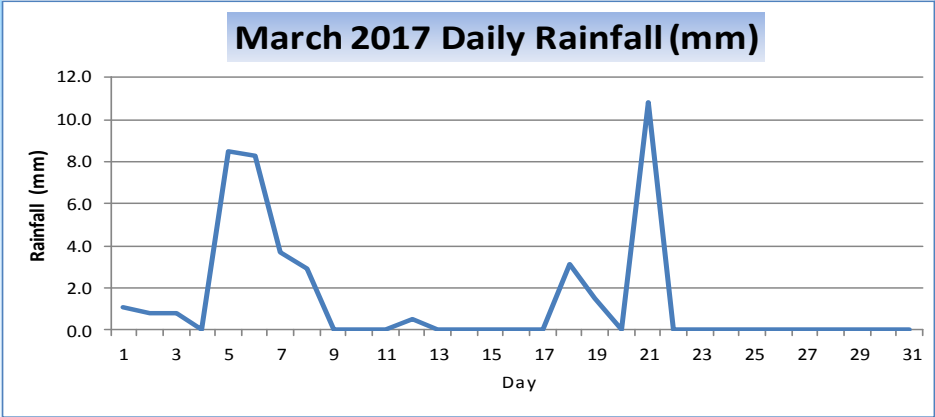
During mid-March 2017, sea surface temperature anomaly across the Pacific Ocean was mainly in the ENSO neutral range but warmer than average.

Models are now indicating that this neutral phase will persist until the end of June and there is an increasing chance for El Nino conditions to return by summer 2017. 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.

**MARCH 2017 IN REVIEW**

Rainfall for the month of March was within the normal range (32.4-58.3 mm). A total of 42.0 mm/1.7 inches were recorded with eight (8) rain days. There was only one heavy rainfall day, when 10.8 mm was measured. This was due to available low level moisture and instability across the local area. Otherwise, the Atlantic high pressure system influenced mostly fair conditions across the island during the month of March.



**The longest dry spell was 10 days.**

Rainfall for the year so far is 124.1mm this amount is below the normal range (145-200mm).

This raises drought concerns for St. Maarten. Therefore there is the need to be on the lookout for bush fires throughout this season Apr-May-Jun especially during long dry spells.

<b>Total Rainfall</b>	<b>42.0 mm</b>	<b>1.7 in.</b>
<b>2017 Cumulative Rainfall</b>	<b>124.1 mm</b>	<b>4.9 in.</b>
<b>Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall</b>	<b>March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.8 mm/ 0.4 in.</b>
<b>No. Rain Days (&gt;=1.0 mm)</b>	<b>8 days</b>	
<b>No. Heavy Rain Days (&gt;=10.0 mm)</b>	<b>1 day</b>	
<b>No. Thunderstorm Days</b>	<b>0 day</b>	
<b>Avg. Wind Speed</b>	<b>10 kts.</b>	<b>12 mph</b>
<b>Max. Wind Gust</b>	<b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>29 kts. / 33 mph</b>
<b>Avg. Temperature</b>	<b>26.0 °C</b>	<b>79 °F</b>
<b>Max. Temperature</b>	<b>March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>29.2 °C / 85 °F</b>
<b>Min. Temperature</b>	<b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>21.5°C / 71 °F</b>

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

The warmest day was the 28<sup>th</sup> with an average temperature of 27.1°C/81°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 13<sup>th</sup> (11hrs :12min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 24<sup>th</sup> (2hr: 42 min).

The windiest days were the 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, with a daily average wind speed of 16 kts. / 18 mph.

The highest wind gust was recorded as 21kts/ 24 mph on March 7<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup>.

Skies varied throughout the month from fair to partly cloudy and cloudy.

