

Meteorological Department St. Maarten

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sxmweather

www.meteosxm.com

Follow us on twitter:

@sxmweather

Weather & Climate

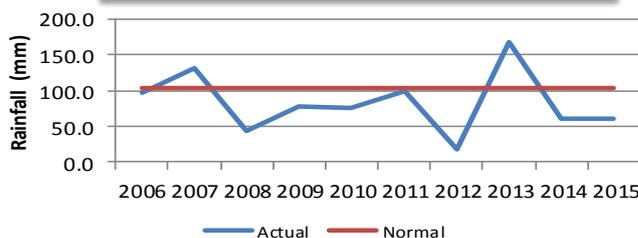
Volume 2, Issue 32

December 2016

NORMAL DECEMBER CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	74.6 mm – 110.1 mm	3– 4 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	14 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.2°C	79°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	29.4°C	85 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	23.9°C	75°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 hrs	

Actual Vs Normal December Rainfall



Cool & wet at first becoming drier Jan. through Feb.

Rainfall for the month of December has been below -normal for 8 of the last 10 years.

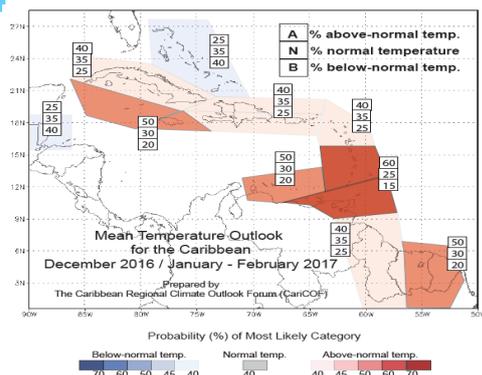
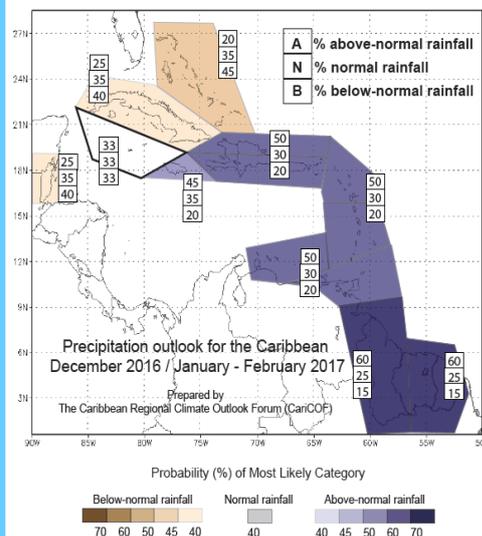
Seasonal Outlook for December to February (DJF) 2016/17

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

Rainfall in most of the Caribbean is forecast to be above to normal for the season Dec-Jan-Feb with the exception of Bahamas, Belize and Cuba. The normal rainfall for St. Maarten ranges from 172.5 mm – 258.2 mm/ 7-10in.

December to January normally starts the dry season therefore heavy showers occur less often. While in February there is an alternation of sunny and showery days mostly without heavy rainfall thus fewer disruption to outdoor activities.

Temperatures for most of the Caribbean is forecast to be normal to above normal however, it is expected to be more comfortable than recent months.



For the first week of December, sea surface temperature anomaly across the Pacific Ocean was near -0.5°C , the threshold for a weak La Nina.

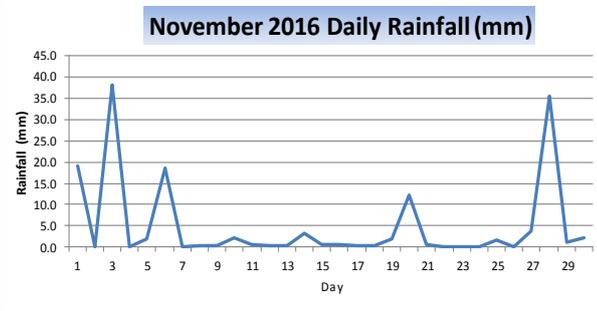
Models are now indicating that a weak La Nina will persist through Dec-Jan-Feb and then weaken to a cool-neutral phase by the Mar-Apr-May season.

Therefore with the ongoing weak La Nina in the Pacific and warmer than average waters around the Caribbean this decreases the chances of a very intense dry season.

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.

NOVEMBER 2016 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of November was within the normal range (85.3-169.9mm). A total of 145.3mm/5.7 inches were recorded with thirteen (13) rain days. Most of the rainfall was as a result of upper level troughs and instability across the Region. There were two days which produce more than an inch of rainfall; November 3rd and 28th. Tropical storm Otto; the last storm of the season formed on the 21st in the Caribbean Sea.



Rainfall for 2016 remains below -normal

Rainfall from Jan. to November	
Normal	936.3–1126.4 mm
2015	435.0 mm
2016	661.1 mm

Total Rainfall	145.3 mm	5.7 in.
2016 Cumulative Rainfall	661.1 mm	26.0 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	November 3rd	38.1 mm/ 1.5 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	13 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	5 days	
No. Thunderstorm Days	3 days	
Avg. Wind Speed	7 kts.	8 mph
Max. Wind Gust	November 5th	31 kts. / 36 mph
Avg. Temperature	27.8 °C	82 °F
Max. Temperature	November 12th	31.2 °C / 88 °F
Min. Temperature	November 28th	22.2°C / 72 °F

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

The warmest day was the 11th with an average temperature of 28.9°C/84°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 15th (9hrs :42min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 28th (0 hr: 00 min).

The windiest day was the 24th, with a daily average wind speed of 12 kts. / 14 mph.

Skies were mostly Cloudy during the month of November.

2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially came to an end on November 30th. There were fifteen (15) named storms, seven (7) of which became hurricanes and three (3) were major hurricanes (Gaston, Matthew & Nicole).

Based on the long term average, 2016 was an above normal season. A normal season produces 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

There were no notable impacts from any of the systems on St. Maarten this year.

Month	Number of storms formed
January	1
May	1
June	2
August	4
September	5
October	1
November	1