



BARBADOS



BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

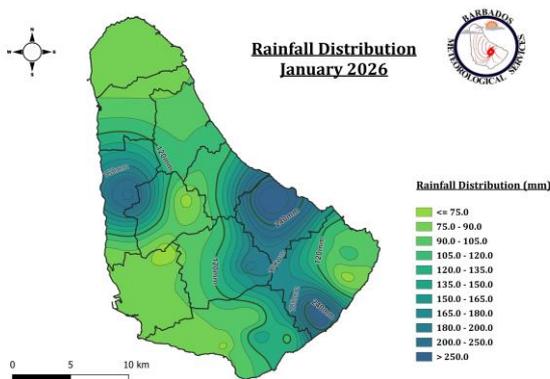
January 2026 | Issue No.72

Key Messages: Near to above average rainfall is expected for the remainder of the dry season and into the early wet season. However, given that prolonged periods of dryness is expected, **Agricultural Drought and Hydrological Drought Watches will come into effect for March and April.** Warmer-than-normal temperatures will persist, particularly at night. Weak La Niña to ENSO neutral conditions are present and are expected for FMA and a transition to weak el Niño is expected thereafter. Persons are urged to continue monitoring the BMS daily weather forecast as well as seasonal outlooks for updates.

JANUARY IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: January Rainfall Distribution



A wet end to January resulted 89% of the month's measured rainfall across two rainfall days, at least at Charnocks. Total rainfall for the month was 123.8mm, which was almost (2) times the climatological average for January (68.1mm). Rainfall across the island ranged from 37.4mm to 280.8mm, as seen in figure 1.

After a very dry start to the year, the first and only rainfall event for the month occurred on the 29th and continued into the 30th of January. A low-level trough affected the island and prompted the issuance of a flash-flood watch. During this event, 3 to 5 inches of rainfall was recorded across the island.

A small craft advisory was issued this month as wind speeds agitated sea swells in open water ranging from 2.5 to 3.0m. This advisory was issued on the 21st January and was maintained into the weekend where conditions improved.

Temperature

Figure 2: January Average Temperature Distribution

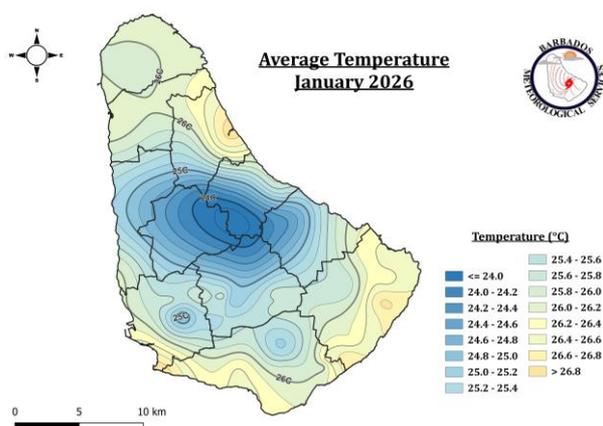
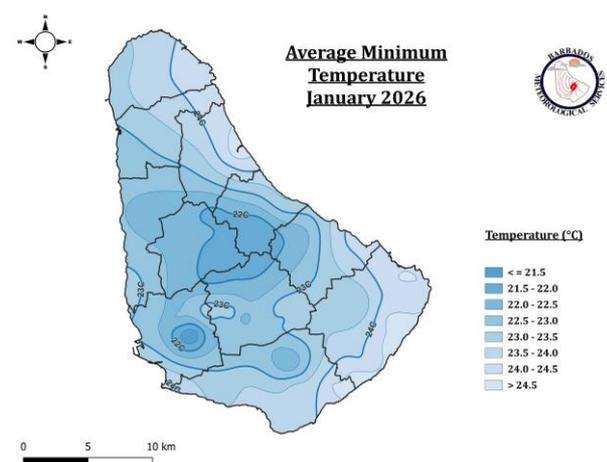


Figure 3: January Minimum Temperature Distribution



Barbados continued to experience more pleasant temperatures, although night time temperatures were warmer than average. Here at Charnocks, an average temperature of 26.0°C was recorded, which was equalled the climatological average for January. Meanwhile, the average temperature at the 3DPaws stations across the island ranged from 23.7°C to 26.9°C, as seen in Figure 2. Night-time temperatures here at Charnocks were 24.5°C, which was 1.2°C warmer than the climatological average (23.3°C). Minimum temperatures across the island ranged from 21.2°C to 24.6°C, as seen in Figure 3.



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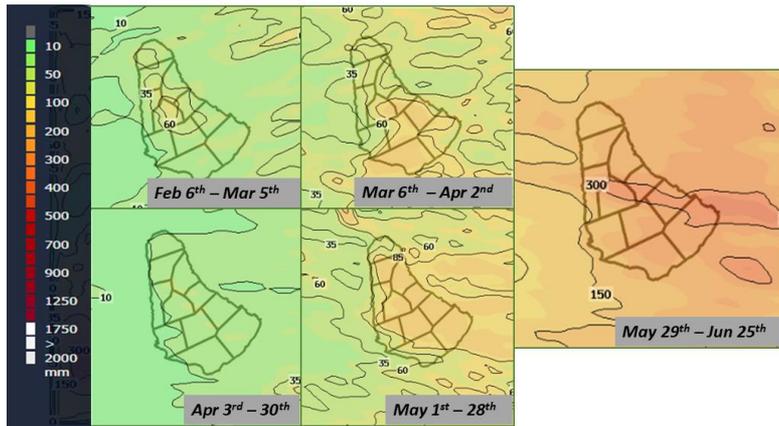


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January 2026 | Issue No.72

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 4: BMS Experimental rainfall forecast from February to June 2026



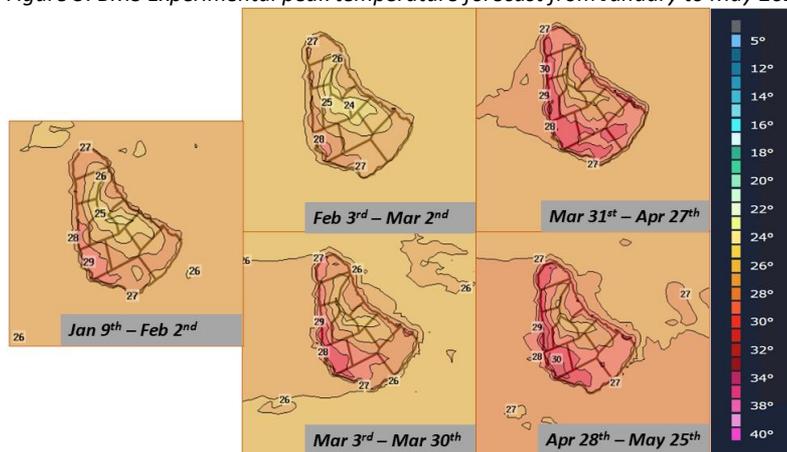
Significant dryness is expected in February and April, while wet conditions are expected in March, May, and June. The BMS Experimental model (figure 4) is suggesting that the pattern observed over the last few months (prolonged and intense dry periods broken by at least one very intense rainfall event) may continue until May/June. Given that Barbados has now entered the driest period of the year based on the 30-year climatology; intrusions of Saharan dust, which are common for this time of the year; and the expectation of very little to no impact from ENSO, the official forecast leaned closer to near to above average rainfall for the remainder of the dry season and into the early wet season. Therefore, all forecasts issued by the BMS should be monitored for updates in the coming months.

Month	Projections (mm)	Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charcocks
February	35-60	Near to Above Average
March	75-100	Above Average
April	50-75	Near Average
May	75-150	Near to Above Average
June	150-200	Above Average

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for February to June 2026

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Experimental peak temperature forecast from January to May 2026



Above-normal temperatures are expected to persist for the remainder of the Cool Season and into the start of the Heat Season, particularly at night. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast continues to favour above-normal minimum and mean temperatures for the entire forecast period (Table 2). As for the maximum temperature, the probabilistic forecast is leaning towards below to near-normal for FMA and above-normal for MJJ. Based on the BMS experimental model (Figure 5), daytime temperatures should peak between 27°C and 30°C until around April. After this, a transition into the Heat Season is expected and temperatures should peak around 29°C in the higher elevations and around 33°C in the urban and south-western districts.

Temperature	Season	Forecast Probability (%)		
		Below	Normal	Above
Minimum Temperature	FMA	10	24	66
	MJJ	8	23	69
Maximum Temperature	FMA	39	36	25
	MJJ	34	25	41
Mean Temperature	FMA	18	33	49
	MJJ	12	35	53

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for February to July 2026

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Although Barbados is well into the dry season, concerns for drought have been lowered for much of the dry season. Given the very wet end to January and the expectation of near to above average rainfall for February, the alert level has been lowered **to be aware for the possibility of an agricultural drought for February**. For **March and April, the Agricultural Drought Watch remains in effect**, given that prolonged periods of dryness are expected and has been lowered thereafter. Given the current state of available water resources as reported by BWA, the alert level has been lowered **to be aware for the possibility of drought** for February and remains elevated to **Hydrological Drought Watch for March and April**. Members of the public are urged to continue to conserve water, regardless of the drought alert level and to monitor the BWA and the BMS for updates. Below is a table of the forecast drought alert levels based on the forecast rainfall accumulations (Table 1).

Table 3: Drought Outlooks for February to June 2026

MONTH	AGRICULTURAL	HYDROLOGICAL
FEBRUARY	Be Aware	Be Aware
MARCH	Drought Watch	Drought Watch
APRIL	Drought Watch	Drought Watch
MAY	Be Aware	Be Aware
JUNE	Be Aware	Be Aware



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Agricultural Drought Watch

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- *Protect resources*
- *Conserve and recycle water*
- *Repair and upgrade infrastructure*
- *Prepare for increased irrigation during periods of extensive dryness*
- *Report Impacts*
- ✓ *Continue to monitor for updates from the Barbados Water Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security.*
- ✓ *Continue to monitor the BMS Climate Outlook for monthly updates.*

Hydrological Drought Watch

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- *Encourage water conservation through public awareness campaigns*
- *Last minute infrastructural repairs and upgrades*
- *Implement drought management plans*
- ✓ *Continue to monitor for updates from the Barbados Water Authority.*
- ✓ *Continue to monitor the BMS Climate Outlook for monthly updates.*

Likely Impacts for the February to June 2026 Period

What do these forecasts mean for Barbados?

- Falling reservoir/aquifer levels.
- Employ rainwater harvesting techniques for rain feed crops during dry periods.
- It is recommended to have an irrigation plan and systems to ensure the best crop yield during the dry season.
- More comfortable nights as compared to the warmer months.
- Air quality may be impacted by periodic intrusions of Saharan dust and grass fires.
- Keep updated with daily weather as well as seasonal forecasts issued by the BMS.

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation)

ENSO is the interaction between the ocean and atmosphere in the equatorial Pacific which results in periodic departures from the expected sea surface temperatures. There are two phases of ENSO, the cold phase of sea surface temperatures, La Niña and the warm phase, El Niño. La Niña conditions usually results in higher rainfall for Barbados. El Niño conditions usually result in lower rainfall for the island. Neutral conditions which are close to average or what is normally expected. These are the general conditions associated with each phase however, there are other factors which influence the rainfall patterns across Barbados which may result in a deviation from the norm.

Current state

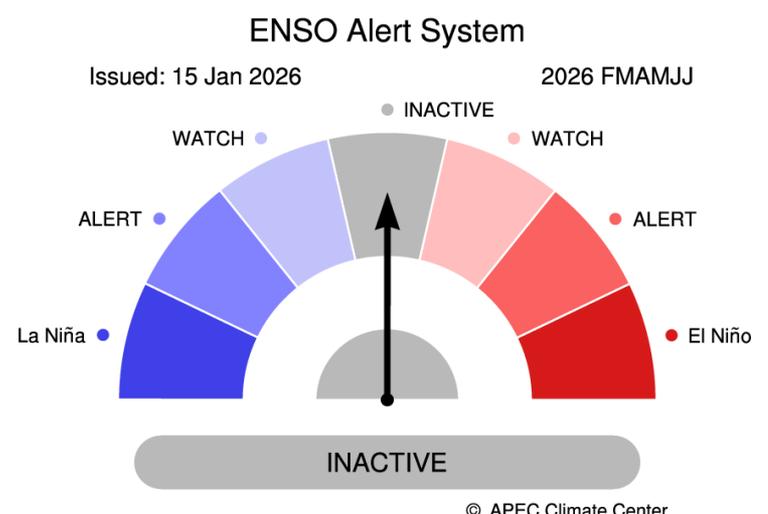
Weak La Niña to ENSO Neutral conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

What's the Outlook?

ENSO neutral conditions are expected until April, transitioning to weak El Niño thereafter.

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

There is typically no significant predictability on rainfall patterns in Barbados during ENSO-neutral events; weak El Niño conditions may favour a decrease in rainfall across Barbados.



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)



BCOON



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CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected across the tropical Atlantic. SSTs are forecast to remain above normal by 0.2°C to 0.6°C through to July 2026. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, SSTs are expected to be close to the climatological average, which is consistent with the ENSO-neutral conditions for FMA and are forecast to be between 0.6°C to 1°C warmer than average thereafter, consistent with an El Niño.

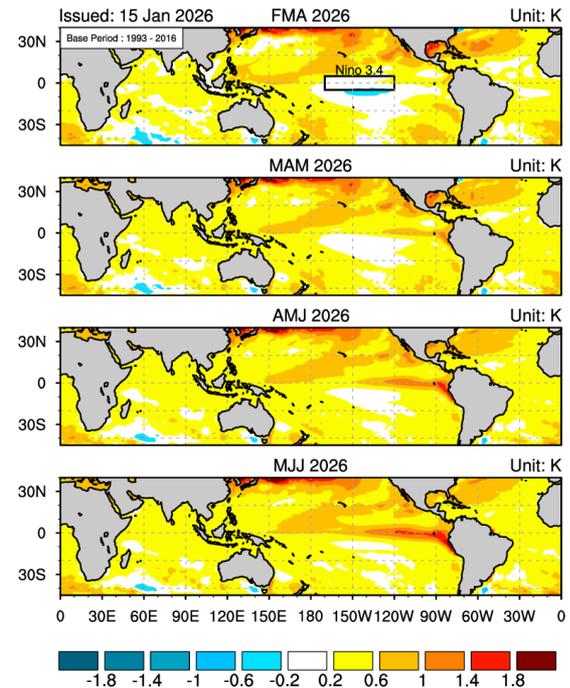
Impact on Rainfall

Warmer-than-normal SSTs in the Atlantic may continue to favour some periods of increased rainfall; however, the emergence of El Niño will likely cause a decrease in rainfall activity later in the forecast period.

Impact on Temperatures

Warmer-than-normal SSTs across the tropical Atlantic will result in warmer-than-normal temperatures, although not uncomfortable during the cool season.

SST Anomaly for FMA-MJJ 2026



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)

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