



BARBODN



BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

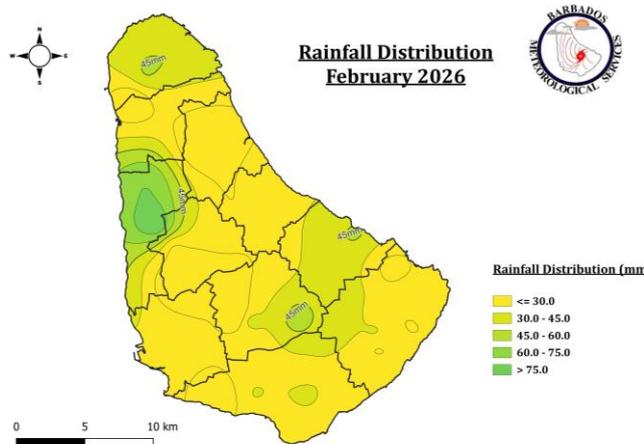
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Key Messages: Near to above average rainfall is still expected for the remainder of the dry season and into the early wet season. Therefore, the concerns for an agricultural drought have been lowered. However, a Hydrological Drought Watch may come into effect for April and May. Warmer-than-normal temperatures will persist, particularly at night. Weak La Niña to ENSO neutral conditions are present; a transition to El Niño is expected sometime after April. Persons are urged to continue monitoring the BMS daily weather forecast as well as seasonal outlooks for updates.

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: February Rainfall Distribution



A wet end to January was followed by an overwhelmingly dry month of February. The previous forecast for near to above average rainfall for the month did not hold true, and well below-normal accumulations for the month were observed. Here at Charnocks, Christ Church, total rainfall for the month was 18.7mm which is far below the climatological average of 41.7mm. Rainfall across the island as depicted in Figure 1 gave a predominantly dry Barbados with much of the stations having recorded less than 30mm. Meanwhile, a few stations managed to reach above 40mm.

The wettest day for the month occurred on the 18th as a low-level trough generated 9.3mm of rainfall throughout the day.

A small craft and high surf advisory were issued this month as northerly swells agitated sea swells in open water ranging from 2.5 to 3.0m. These advisories were frequent throughout the month, lasting as long as 14 days in February.

Temperature

Figure 2: February Average Temperature Distribution

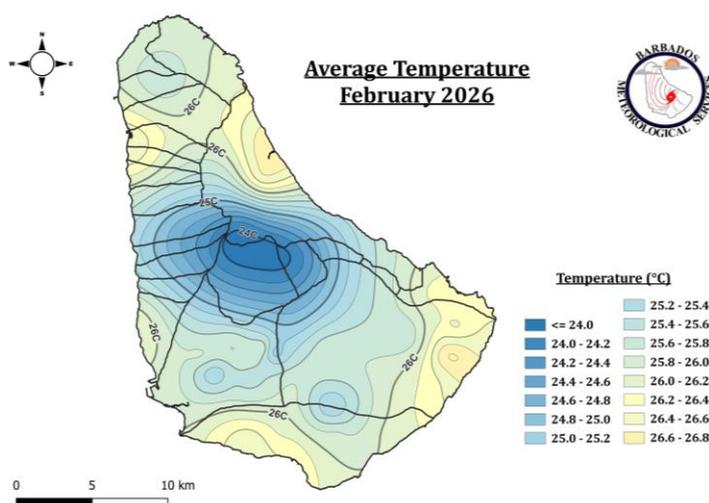
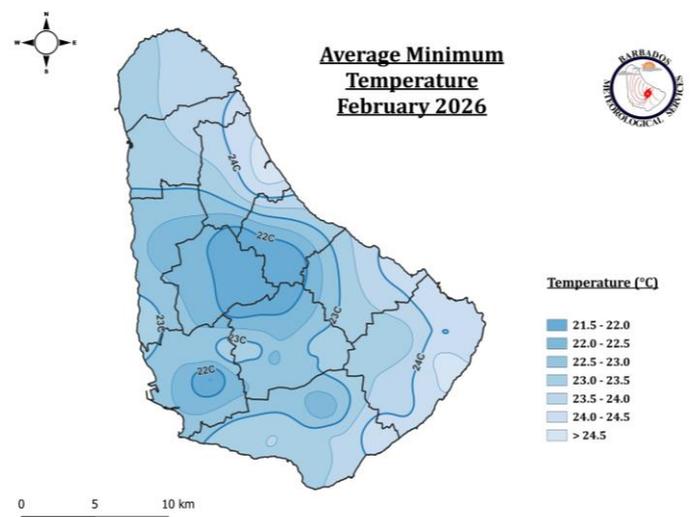


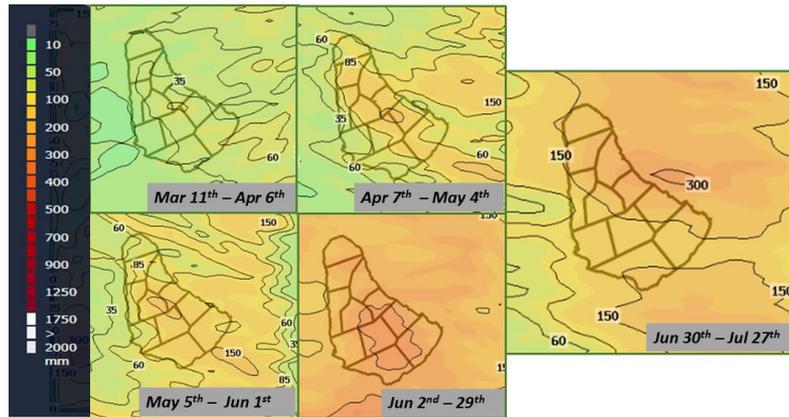
Figure 3: February Minimum Temperature Distribution



Barbados continued to experience more pleasant temperatures, although nighttime temperatures were warmer than average. Here at Charnocks, an average temperature of 26.0°C was recorded, which was 0.1°C higher than the climatological average for February. Meanwhile, the average temperature at the 3DPaws stations across the island ranged from 23.9°C to 26.8°C, as seen in Figure 2. Night-time temperatures here at Charnocks were 24.9°C, which was 1.9°C warmer than the climatological average (23.0°C). Minimum temperatures across the island ranged from 21.5°C to 24.7°C, as seen in Figure 3.

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 4: BMS Experimental rainfall forecast from March to July 2026



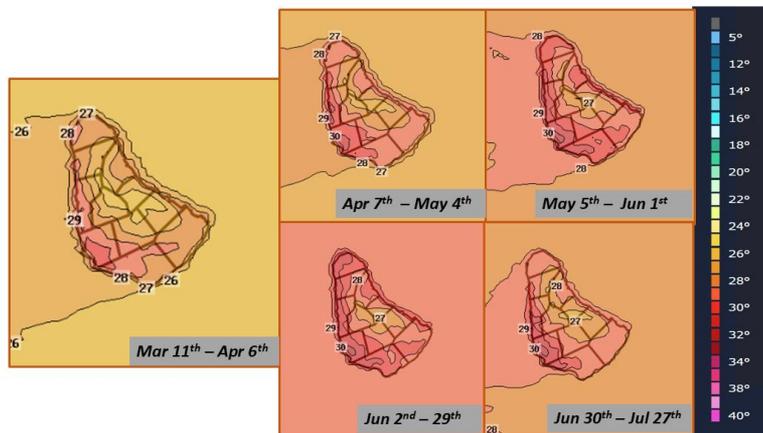
A steady increase in rainfall is expected until June, as Barbados transitions from the dry season to the wet season. Given that Barbados has now entered the driest period of the year based on the 30-year climatology and that the BMS Experimental model (figure 4) showed a gradual increase in rainfall until June, the official forecast calls for near to above-average rainfall for the entire forecast period. However, intrusions of Saharan dust, which limit rainfall and are common for this time of the year, along with the possible emergence of El Niño later in the forecast period, the longer-term rainfall forecast may be adjusted downwards in subsequent issues. Therefore, the BMS should be closely monitored for updates to the forecast in the coming months.

| Month | Projections (mm) | Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charcocks |
|-------|------------------|---|
| March | 50-70 | Above Average |
| April | 50-100 | Near to Above Average |
| May | 75-150 | Above Average |
| June | 175-230 | Above Average |
| July | 150-200 | Above Average |

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for March to July 2026

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Experimental peak temperature forecast from March to July 2026



Normal daytime temperatures and above-normal nighttime temperatures are expected to persist for the remainder of the Cool Season and into the start of the Heat Season. 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 near-normal for MAM and above-normal for JJA. 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 | MAM | 9 | 26 | 65 |
| | JJA | 9 | 23 | 68 |
| Maximum Temperature | MAM | 38 | 41 | 21 |
| | JJA | 18 | 35 | 47 |
| Mean Temperature | MAM | 9 | 26 | 65 |
| | JJA | 9 | 23 | 68 |

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for March to August 2026

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Although Barbados is well into the dry season, the concerns for drought have been lowered, particularly for the agriculture sector, for the remainder of the dry season and into the early wet season. Given the expectation of near to above-average rainfall until July, the alert level has been lowered to **be aware for the possibility of an agricultural drought until May** and no concern 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 March and remains elevated to **Hydrological Drought Watch for April and May**. 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 |
|-------|--------------|---------------|
| MARCH | Be Aware | Be Aware |
| APRIL | Be Aware | Drought Watch |
| MAY | Be Aware | Drought Watch |
| JUNE | No concern | Be Aware |
| JULY | No concern | No concern |



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Be aware for the Possibility of Agricultural Drought

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- Monitor resources
- Prepare the infrastructure for the possibility of drought
- Prepare for the possibility of increased irrigation during periods of extensive dryness

- ✓ 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 March to July 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

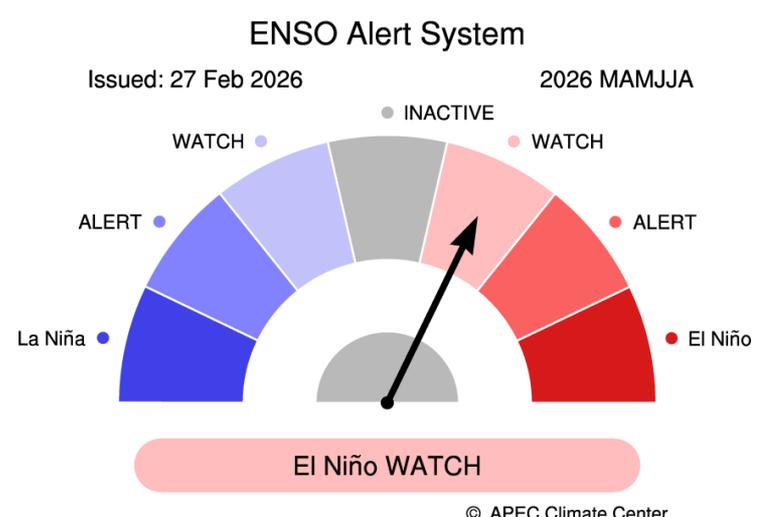
Weak La Niña to ENSO Neutral conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

What's the Outlook?

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

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

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



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)



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CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest that 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 August 2026. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, SSTs are expected to be slightly above the climatological average, which is consistent with the trend towards El Niño conditions for MAM and are forecast to be between 0.6°C to 1.8°C warmer than average thereafter, consistent with a moderate to strong El Niño.

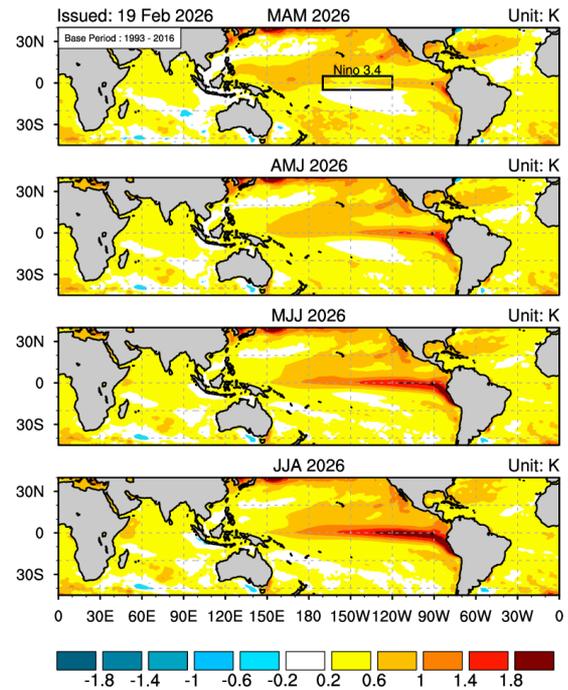
Impact on Rainfall

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. Uncomfortable temperatures are not expected during the cool season. However, as the Heat Season begins, conditions will become uncomfortable, particularly at night.

SST Anomaly for MAM-JJA 2026



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)

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