



BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

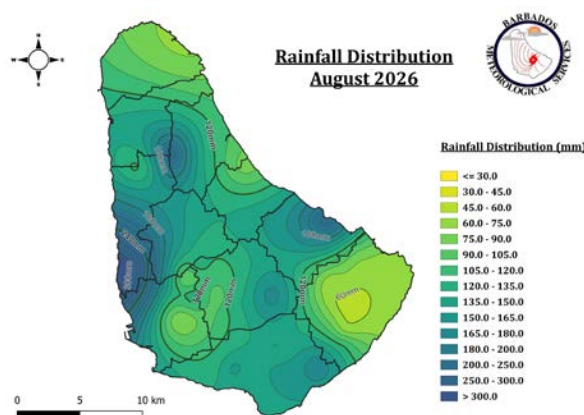
August 2026 | Issue No.79

Key Messages: Below to Near average rainfall is expected until early in 2027. A Hydrological Drought Warning remains in effect until October. An Agricultural Drought is possible and the current alert level remains at Be Aware. Warmer-than-normal temperatures are expected to persist into the early part of 2027. Moderate to strong El Niño conditions are present and are expected to become strong to very strong by the year's end. Persons are urged to adhere to the guidance of all relevant agencies and to continue monitoring the BMS forecast and seasonal outlooks for updates.

AUGUST IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: August Rainfall Distribution



Light to intense showers, rain, gusty winds and thunderstorm activity dominated the weather conditions on two occasions, when a tropical wave and a shear-line moved across the region between the 17th and the 20th prompting a flash flood warning and severe thunderstorm advisory and watch to be issued. At Charnocks 33.7mm of rainfall was recorded overnight on the 16th until 6pm on the 17th and 14.3mm of rainfall recorded in 24 hours on the 19th.

When compared to the previous four months there has been a steady increase in observed rainfall in August, even though the total remained below the climatological norm. Total rainfall at Charnocks was 135.3mm, near to, but below the climatological average for August (of 150.7); rainfall across the island ranged from 55.6 mm to 326.8 mm (Figure 1).

Small craft advisories for above normal swell heights and/or high winds were also issued throughout the month, while slightly hazy skies were also observed with a significant dust haze advisory being issued on the 10th.

Temperature

Figure 2: August Average Maximum Temperature

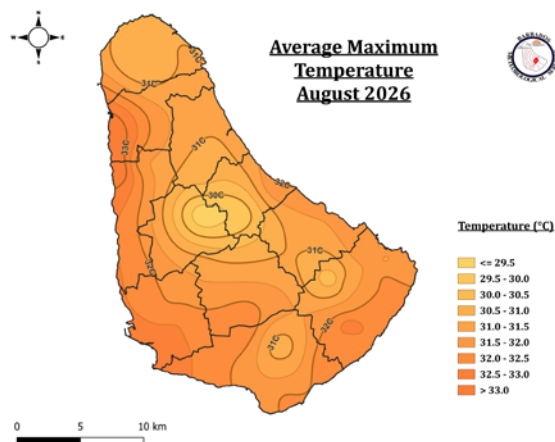


Figure 4: August Average Temperature Distribution

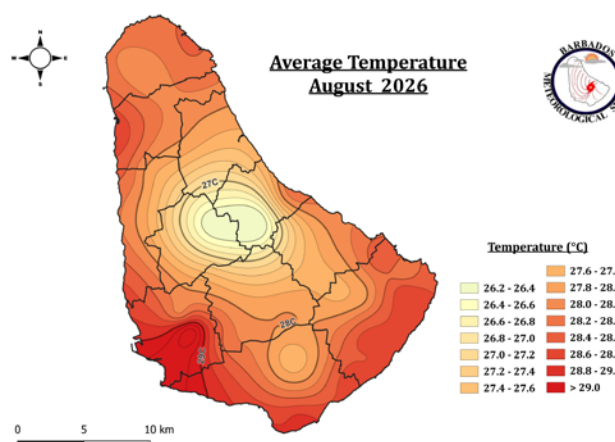
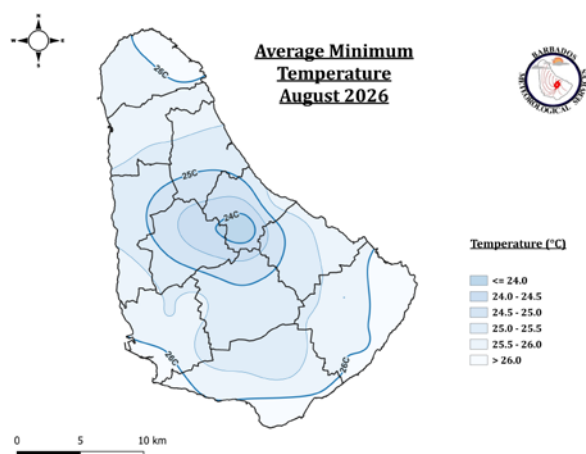


Figure 3: August Minimum Temperature Distribution



Close to average maximum temperatures were observed, while night time temperatures remained warmer than average. Here at Charnocks, the average maximum temperature was 31.1°C, slightly above the climatological average (30.9°C). However, overnight temperatures were warmer, averaging 26.3°C which was 1.5°C warmer than the climatological average (24.8°C), and on par with August 2025.

Across the island, average maximum temperatures ranged between 29.2°C and 33.4°C (figure 2); average minimum temperatures were between 23.8°C and 26.4°C (figure 3) and daily temperatures ranged between 26.2°C and 29.5°C (figure 4).

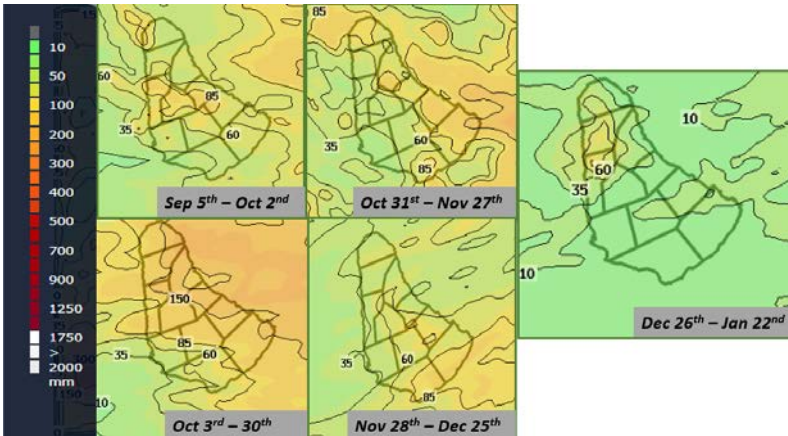


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PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Climate rainfall forecast from September 2026 to January 2027



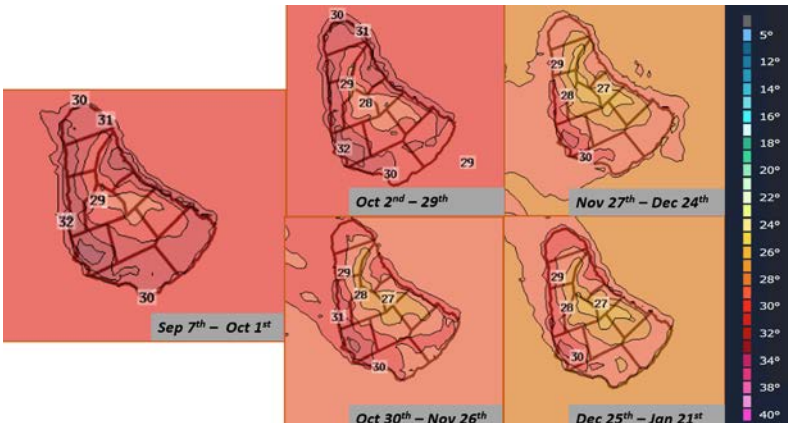
Below average rainfall is expected to persist given that El Niño conditions are present and will likely peak into the early part of 2027. Much of the probabilistic and dynamic global climate models continue to suggest below-average rainfall for Barbados, mainly due to El Niño. The BMS Climate model (Figure 5) suggested intense rainfall events which could lead to flash flooding and run off, particularly in October and November. However, given that El Niño has already began limiting rainfall, less than typical of these intense events are expected. Additionally, periodic intrusions of Saharan dust will likely continue to limit rainfall and the official forecast calls for below to near average rainfall until the early part of 2027. Members of the public are urged to continue monitoring the BMS for updates to the daily weather forecast as well as season outlooks.

Month	Projections (mm)	Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charnocks
September	85 -150	Near to Below Average
October	100-200	Below to Near Average
November	50-100	Below Average
December	50-100	Below to Near Average
January	10-50	Below Average

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for September 2026 to January 2027

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 6: BMS Climate peak temperature forecast from September 2026 to January 2027



Warmer than average temperatures are expected to persist until early in 2027. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast continues to favour above-normal temperatures for the entire forecast period (table 2). The BMS Climate model (Figure 6) continues to show that daytime temperatures should peak around 32°C for the higher elevations and between 32°C and 34°C in the more populated, urban and south-western districts until the Heat Season concludes in November. Thereafter, daytime temperatures should peak between 27°C and 31°C. The general public is urged to adhere to the guidance and recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Wellness during periods of heat stress and to stay updated with the daily weather forecast issued by the BMS.

Temperature	Season	Forecast Probability (%)		
		Below	Normal	Above
Minimum Temperature	SON	1	5	94
	DJF	4	9	87
Maximum Temperature	SON	2	8	90
	DJF	2	5	93
Mean Temperature	SON	2	6	92
	DJF	1	6	93

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for September 2026 to February 2027

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Given that below average rainfall was recorded until the end of August, and with drier than normal conditions expected to persist, the concerns for drought remains elevated. The alert level for Agriculture remains at Be Aware for the possibility of an agricultural drought for the remainder of 2026, particularly across the southern and eastern sections of the island. An agricultural drought watch may be issued from start of the upcoming Dry Season. Given the current rainfall outlooks and the current state of available water resources, as reported by the BWA, the alert level remains elevated to Hydrological Drought Warning until October and Hydrological Drought Watch, thereafter. Members of the public are urged to continue to conserve water, regardless of the drought alert level and to monitor the BWA, BMS and other local agencies for updates. Below is a table of the forecast drought alert levels based on the forecast rainfall accumulations (Table 3).

Table 3: Drought Outlooks for August to December 20260201

MONTH	AGRICULTURAL	HYDROLOGICAL
SEPTEMBER	Be Aware	Drought Warning
OCTOBER	Be Aware	Drought Warning
NOVEMBER	Be Aware	Drought Watch
DECEMBER	Drought Watch	Drought Watch
JANUARY	Drought Watch	Drought Watch

Disclaimer: Drought alert levels are collaborative effort between the BMS, BWA and Ministry of Agriculture; the BMS offers guidance on rainfall and the other agencies make assessment based of the state of the resources under their responsibility.



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Be aware for the Possibility of an Agricultural Drought

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- o Monitor resources
- o Prepare the infrastructure for the possibility of drought
- o 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 Warning

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- o Protect resources
- o Implement management plans
- o Response training
- o Monitor and repair infrastructure
- ✓ **Continue to monitor for updates from the Barbados Water Authority.**
- ✓ **Continue to monitor the BMS Climate Outlook for monthly updates.**

Likely Impacts for the September 2026 to February 2027 Period

**What do these forecasts mean
for Barbados?**

- o Slow recharge in reservoir/aquifer levels.
- o Prolonged dry spells.
- o Employ irrigation systems and rainwater harvesting techniques during dry spells.
- o No more than usual intense rainfall events that could lead to flash-flooding.
- o Uncomfortable temperatures, with recurrent periods of heat stress, until November.
- o Increased demand for cooling and hydration.
- o Periods of heat stress in farm animals and pets.
- o Air quality may be impacted by periodic intrusions of Saharan dust.
- o Adhere to the advice from all the relevant agencies.
- o 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

Moderate to Strong El Nino conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

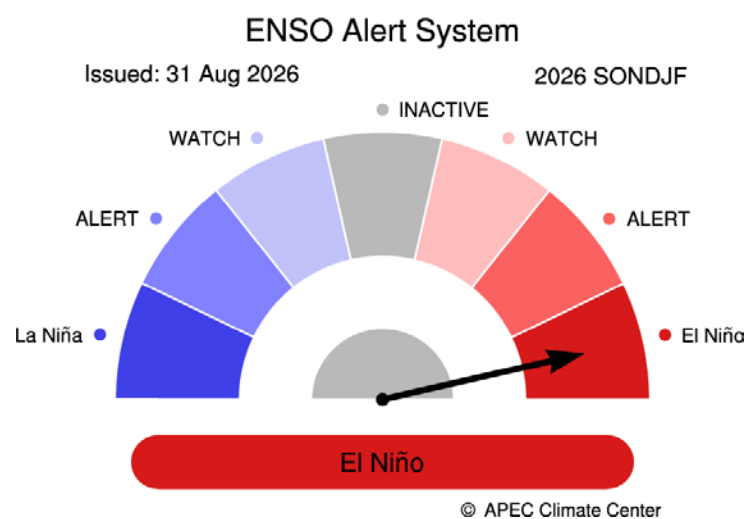
What's the Outlook?

A transition to a very strong El Niño is expected by the end of February 2027.

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

El Niño conditions tend to favour a decrease in rainfall and higher temperatures across Barbados. As for the hurricane season; there are typically less Atlantic hurricanes during El Nino events.

Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services





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CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

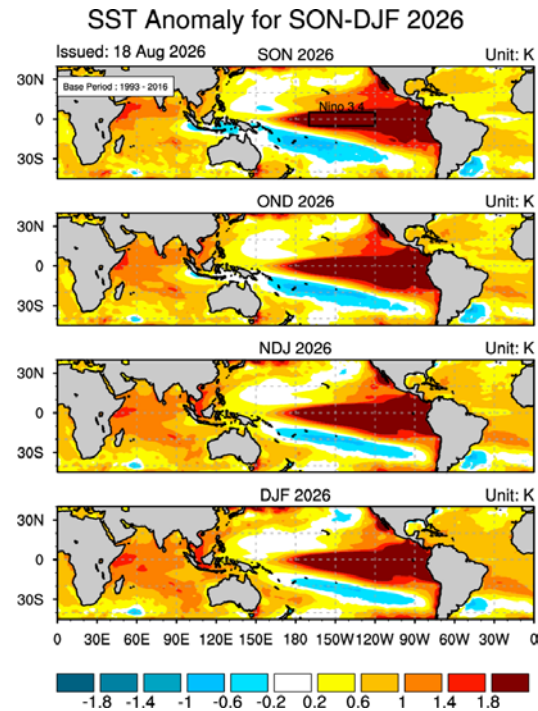
The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest that above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected across the tropical Atlantic. SSTs are forecast to remain near to above normal by 0.2°C to 0.6°C through to January 2027. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, SSTs are expected to remain above the climatological average, which is consistent with El Niño conditions. SSTs are still expected to be greater than 1.8°C, which is consistent with a strong to very strong El Niño for the entire forecast period.

Impact on Rainfall

While SSTs in the Atlantic remain above-normal, the low range is not expected to have a significant impact on rainfall. However, the emergence of El Niño means that a decrease in rainfall activity remains highly likely for the remainder of the Wet season and into the Dry season.

Impact on Temperatures

Warmer-than-normal SSTs across the tropical Atlantic along with a strong to very strong El Niño event, will contribute to warmer-than-normal temperatures during the peak of the heat season.



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)

2026 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK

Forecasts for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane season from Colorado State University and Tropical Storm Risk indicate a near normal activity for the Hurricane Season. Meanwhile, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts a higher probability for **below normal activity** in the Atlantic basin, given their forecast for the El Niño conditions to intensify during the Hurricane Season. Although the Atlantic waters are likely to be slightly warmer than normal and trade winds slightly weaker, (which favours hurricane development), it is expected that the El Niño will dominate. The Barbados Meteorological Services has also produced a forecast, a hybrid statistical and deterministic product to predict the activity in the Eastern Atlantic (bounded by 10°W – 65°W, 5°N – 20°N). The below table summarizes these forecasts as compared to Atlantic hurricane season Climatology.

Table 3: 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast compared to Atlantic Hurricane Season

	Atlantic Basin Climatology (1991-2020)	Cumulative Forecast Ranges for 2026 Hurricane Season	BMS 2026 Eastern Atlantic Outlook	Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Atlantic (31st August)	Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Eastern Atlantic (31 st August)
Named Storms	14	8 - 20	5-7	5	1
Hurricanes	7	3 - 9	2-3	0	0
Major Hurricanes (Category 3 and above)	3	1 - 4	1-2	0	0

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