



BARBODN



BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

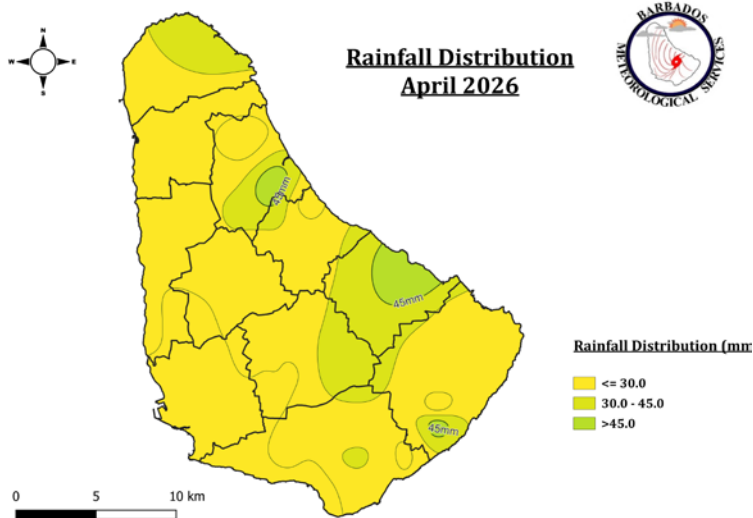
April 2026 | Issue No.75

Key Messages: Below to Near average rainfall is expected until September. Agricultural and Hydrological Drought Watches in effect. The Annual Heat season has begun and warmer-than-normal night-time temperatures will persist. The transition to El Niño is expected in the coming months, becoming moderate to strong by the peak of the wet season. Persons are urged to continue monitoring the BMS daily weather forecast as well as seasonal outlooks for updates.

APRIL IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: April Rainfall Distribution



Between 2.2mm and 59.2mm of rainfall were recorded across Barbados last month; with the station at the BMS recording about 77% less than normal (58.1mm) at 13.5mm. Despite the few areas of convergence and trough systems, which affected the island, the atmosphere remained relatively dry and stable under the influence of a robust high-pressure system.

Of most significance for April were marine conditions where the high- pressure system, along with midlatitude systems generated northerly swells. Conditions deteriorated to the point where alert levels were elevated along northern and Western coast, and in open water on the East Coast throughout the month.

Temperature

Figure 2: April Average Maximum Temperature Distribution

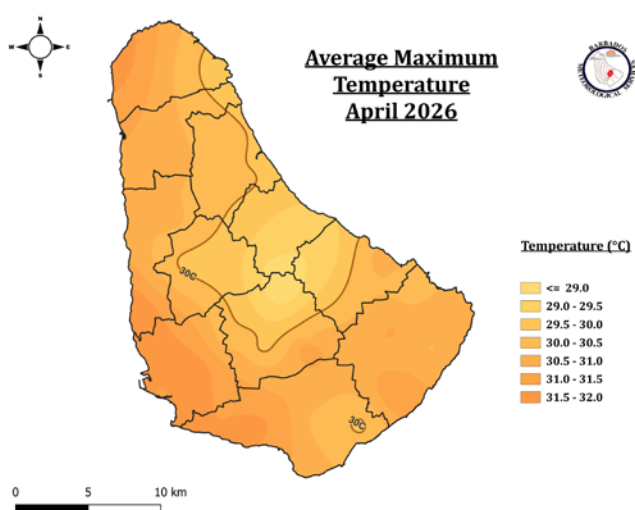
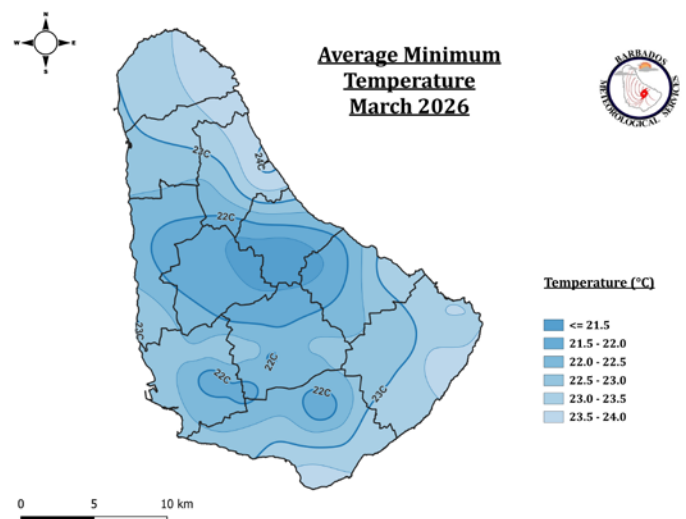


Figure 3: April Minimum Temperature Distribution



Last month temperatures in Barbados were noticeably warmer than the previous months. As we transition into the beginning of the heat season, temperature peaked between 28.7°C and 32.0°C (Figure 2) across the island. Nighttime temperatures were warmer than the climatological norm as average minimum temperatures (Figure 3) ranged between 22.2°C and 25.6°C, and peaked between 23.3°C and 27.2°C across the island. Despite the noticeable warming, daytime temperatures remained near to below normal, while nighttime temperatures were above average. The average maximum was 0.2°C cooler at 30.0°C, the mean temperature was 0.4°C cooler at 26.6°C and the average minimum was 0.6°C warmer at 24.8°C at Charnocks.



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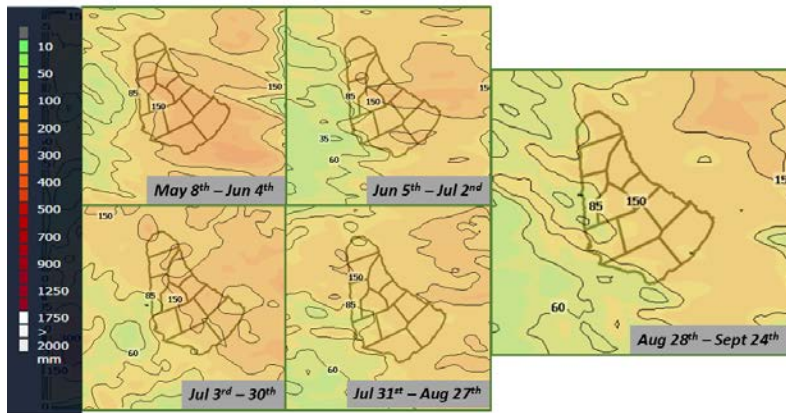


BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

April 2026 | Issue No.75

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 4: BMS Experimental rainfall forecast from May to September 2026



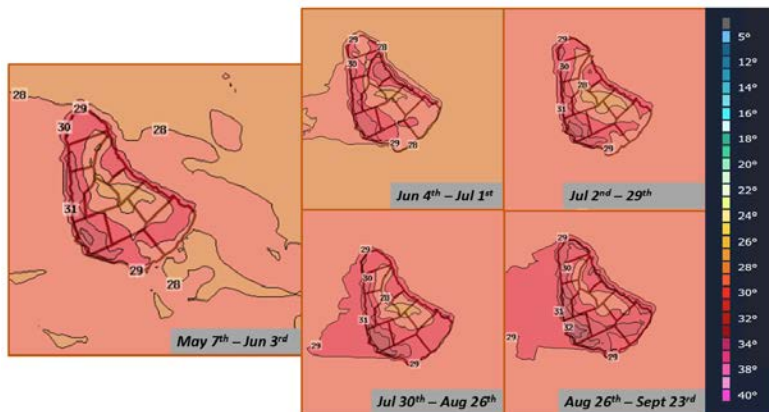
Below-average rainfall is forecast into the early wet seasonal with current outlooks suggesting a low probability for near-normal accumulations till the end of the forecast period. The BMS Experimental model (figure 4) had a higher bias for last month's forecast, showing wetter conditions than were actually observed, and continues to indicate near to above-normal conditions for the entire forecast period. However, the latest probabilistic and dynamic global climate models are continuing to suggest below-average rainfall for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, mainly due to a stronger confidence in a moderate to strong El Niño developing by the peak of the wet season. Considering this, along with the possibility of Saharan Dust intrusions, the official forecast has been revised downward. Further adjustments to the longer-term rainfall forecast being possible in subsequent issues of BCON; the BMS should be closely monitored for updates in the coming months.

Month	Projections (mm)	Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charnocks
May	20 – 125	Below Average
June	30 – 150	Below Average
July	60 – 150	Below to Near Average
August	80 – 175	Below Average
September	60 – 150	Below Average

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for May to September 2026

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

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



The Heat season officially begun, and above-normal temperatures are expected, especially at night. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast continues to favour above-normal temperatures for the entire forecast period (Table 2). Based on the BMS experimental model (Figure 5), daytime temperatures should peak between 29°C and 31°C until about August, and peaking between 30°C and 32°C in September, for higher elevations and less populated areas. The urban and south-western districts, can expect temperatures between 31°C and 34°C for the forecast period.

Temperature	Season	Forecast Probability (%)		
		Below	Normal	Above
Minimum Temperature	MJJ	9	30	61
	ASO	7	18	75
Maximum Temperature	MJJ	28	26	46
	ASO	9	21	70
Mean Temperature	MJJ	11	40	49
	ASO	10	18	72

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for May to October 2026

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

The concern for drought has increased, particularly for the agriculture sector for the rest of the forecast period; given the expectation of below-average rainfall, the alert level has been elevated to **Agricultural Drought Warning**. While a brief relief is possible in early June, the long-term outlook suggests that the alert level remain elevated, the situation will continue to be monitored for monthly updates. BWA reports that the current state of available water resources is as expected for the Dry Season, however, the alert level has been elevated to **Hydrological Drought Watch** for the remainder of the forecast period given the current rainfall outlooks. 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 1).

Table 3: Drought Outlooks for May to September 2026

MONTH	AGRICULTURAL	HYDROLOGICAL
MAY	Drought Warning	Drought Watch
JUNE	Drought Warning	Drought Watch
JULY	Drought Watch	Drought Watch
AUGUST	Drought Watch	Drought Watch
SEPTEMBER	Drought Watch	Drought Watch



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April 2026 | Issue No.75

Agricultural Drought Warning

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- Protect resources
 - Update and ratify management plans
 - Utilise irrigation systems for the best crop yield
 - Report impacts.
- Monitor and repair infrastructure*

- ✓ 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

Hydrological Drought Watch

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- Protect resources and conserve water
- Implement management plans
- Response training
- 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 May to September 2026 Period

What do these forecasts mean for Barbados?

- Falling reservoir/aquifer levels.
- Possible Dry Spells during the wet season.
- Employ rainwater harvesting techniques for rain-fed crops during dry periods.
- It is recommended to have an irrigation plan and systems to ensure the best crop yield during dry periods.
- Uncomfortable temperatures, especially at night during the heat season.
- Air quality may be impacted by periodic intrusions of Saharan dust and bush 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

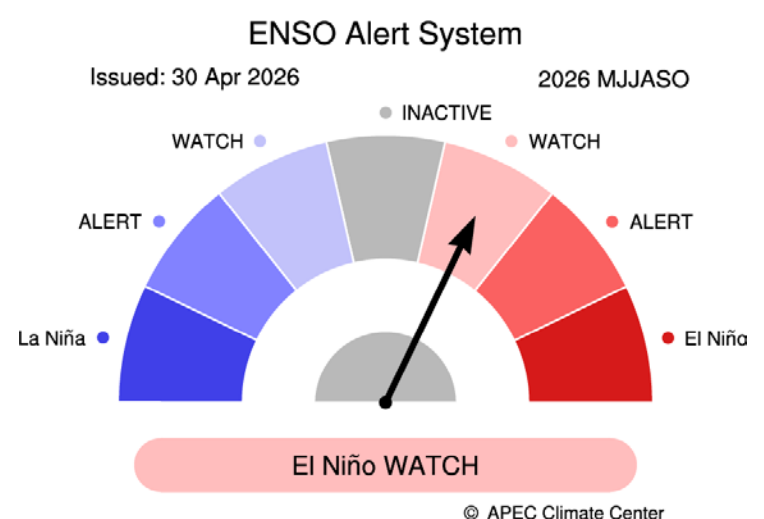
ENSO neutral conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

What's the Outlook?

The transition to El Nino is expected in the May-June-July period, with high probability for a strong El Nino by August-September-October.

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

There is typically no significant predictability on rainfall patterns in Barbados during ENSO-neutral events. El Niño conditions tend to favour a decrease in rainfall and higher temperatures across Barbados. As for the upcoming hurricane season; there are typically less Atlantic hurricanes during El Nino events.



Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)



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April 2026 | Issue No.75

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 October 2026. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, SSTs are expected to be above the climatological average, which is consistent with the transition towards El Niño conditions for MJJ and are forecast to be between 1.0 °C to 1.8°C warmer than average thereafter, consistent with a moderate to strong El Niño.

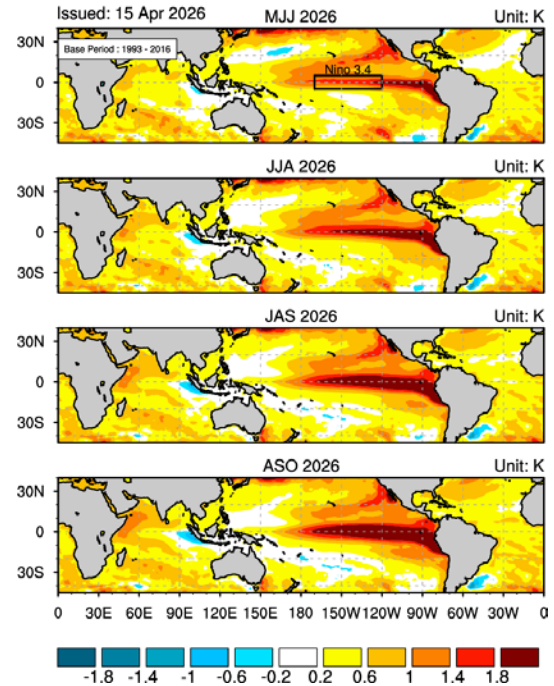
Impact on Rainfall

While SSTs in the Atlantic remain above-normal, the low range may not have a significant impact on rainfall; along with the emergence of an El Niño event, a decrease in rainfall activity is likely during the forecast period.

Impact on Temperatures

Warmer-than-normal SSTs across the tropical Atlantic will contribute to warmer-than-normal temperatures during the heat season.

SST Anomaly for MJJ-ASO 2026



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)

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