



## BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

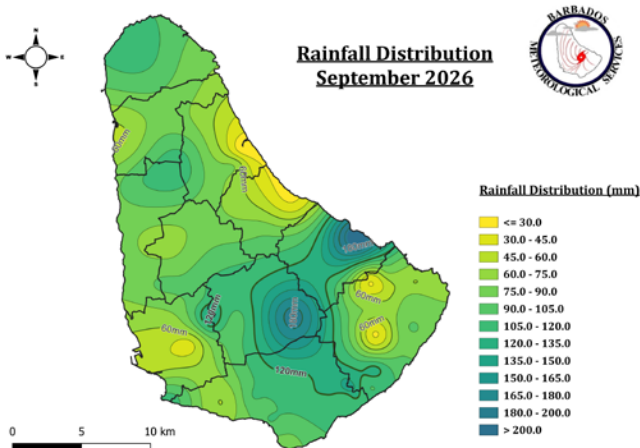
September 2026 | Issue No.80

**Key Messages:** Below to Near average rainfall is expected until early in 2027. The Hydrological Drought Warning remains has been extended into 2027. Agricultural Drought watches and warning will likely be issued in the coming months. Warmer-than-normal temperatures are expected to persist into 2027. Strong to very strong El Niño conditions are present and are expected to be very strong through to early 2027. Persons are urged to adhere to the guidance of all relevant agencies and to continue monitoring the BMS forecast and seasonal outlooks for updates.

## SEPTEMBER IN REVIEW

### Precipitation

Figure 1: September Rainfall Distribution



Despite tropical waves producing showers and bringing some relief from the heat between the 8th-10th, 14th-16th and 27th-28th; below average rainfall was recorded for the month of September. 111.5 mm was recorded at Charnocks, which is about 69% of the climatological norm for this month; this takes the annual total at Charnocks to 689.8 mm, 159.7mm below the climatological annual total by September 30th.

Below normal rainfall was expected given the current strong El Niño conditions, which usually extend dry periods, especially in the wet season. Normally, localised and strong tropical wave activity prompts frequent flood watches and warnings. One Flash Flood Watch was issued this month, which also suggests that they were less than usual excessive rainfall events.

### Temperature

Figure 2: September Average Maximum Temperature

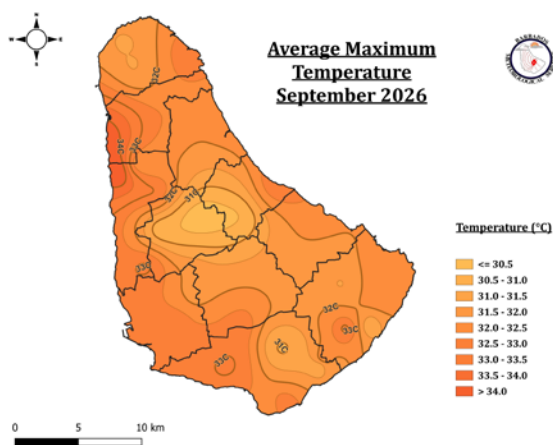


Figure 4: September Average Temperature Distribution

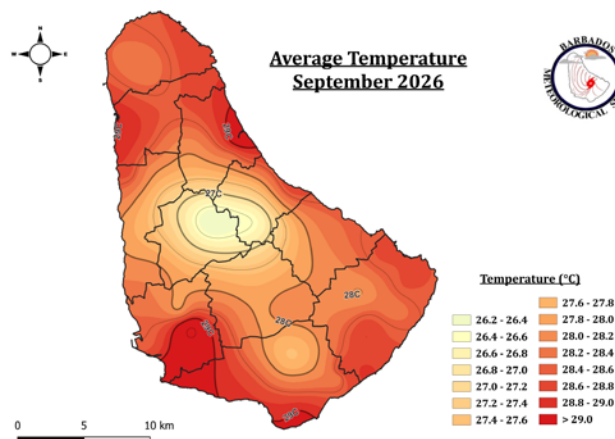
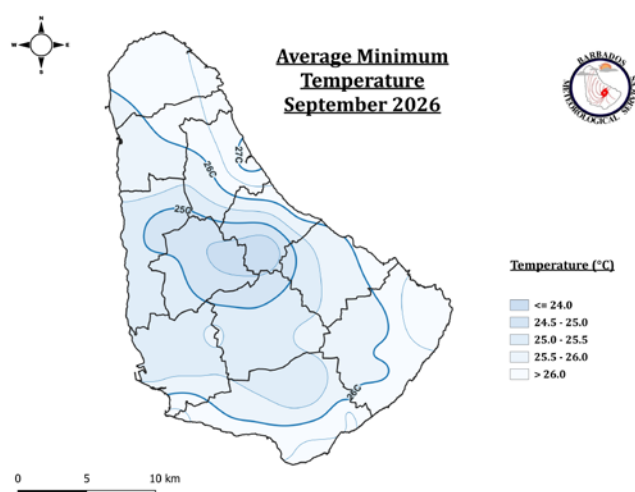


Figure 3: September Minimum Temperature Distribution



Average daytime temperatures (figure 4) across the island, ranged between 26.2°C and 29.5°C; peaking between 30.2°C and 34.4°C (figure 2). When compared to climatology the max temperatures are on par with climatology being 0.2°C above average. Nighttime temperatures (figure 3) were on the higher end, ranging between 25.4.3°C and 27.0°C; peaking between 25.2°C and 28.8°C., higher than climatology at Charnocks by 1.7°C.

Based on the data from our synoptic station, no hot spells or heat waves were recorded. However, nighttime temperatures were in the top 5% of our records for 17 days this month.

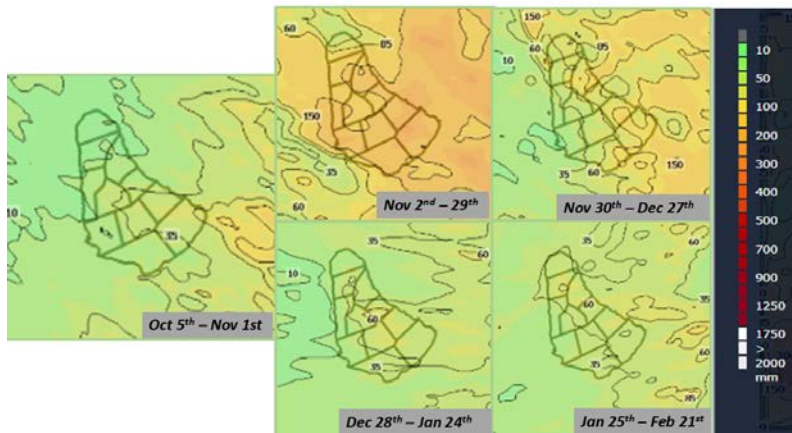


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### PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Climate rainfall forecast from October 2026 to February 2027



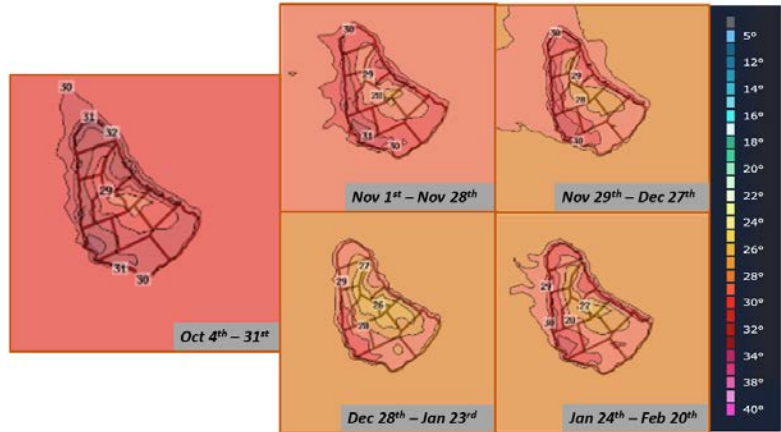
A wet end to the rainy season is possible given the current outlooks, however, below average rainfall is likely to persist into the early part of next year. The influence of the very strong El Niño means that much of the probabilistic and dynamic global climate models continue to suggest below-average rainfall for Barbados, through to 2027. Based on the BMS Climate model (Figure 5) intense rainfall events, which could lead to flash flooding and run off, particularly in October and November are still highly likely albeit less numerous than typical. These factors along with periodic intrusions of Saharan dust means that the official forecast calls for below to near average rainfall until the early part of 2027. Members of the public are urged to adhere to the guidance and recommendations provided by all relevant agencies and to continue closely monitoring the BMS for updates all forecast and outlooks.

| Month    | Projections (mm) | Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charnocks |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| October  | 100-170          | Below to Near Average                     |
| November | 150-200          | Near Average                              |
| December | 50-100           | Below to Near Average                     |
| January  | 20-50            | Below to Near Average                     |
| February | 30-50            | Below to Near Average                     |

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for October 2026 to February 2027

### TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 6: BMS Climate peak temperature forecast from October 2026 to February 2027



Warmer than normal temperatures are expected to persist into 2027. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast continues to favour above-average 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 November, when the Heat Season is expected to end. 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 | OND    | 3                        | 16     | 81    |
|                     | JFM    | 4                        | 13     | 83    |
| Maximum Temperature | OND    | 2                        | 8      | 90    |
|                     | JFM    | 1                        | 3      | 96    |
| Mean Temperature    | OND    | 3                        | 5      | 92    |
|                     | JFM    | 2                        | 5      | 93    |

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for September 2026 to February 2027

### DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Barbados continues to record below average rainfall with this trend is expected to persist into 2027, therefore the concerns for drought remain elevated. With the high likelihood flood and run off with the fewer than typical intense rainfall events in October and November. Given the current precipitation outlooks, an Agriculture Drought Watch will likely be issued early next year while an Agriculture Drought Warning may be issued thereafter. Given the current state of available water resources, as reported by the BWA and the expectation of below average rainfall into the dry season, the Hydrological Drought Warning has now been extended into 2027. 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 October to December 2026

| MONTH    | AGRICULTURAL    | HYDROLOGICAL    |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| OCTOBER  | Be Aware        | Drought Warning |
| NOVEMBER | Be Aware        | Drought Warning |
| DECEMBER | Be Aware        | Drought Warning |
| JANUARY  | Drought Watch   | Drought Warning |
| FEBRUARY | Drought Warning | Drought Warning |

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 October 2026 to March 2027 Period

*What do these forecasts mean for Barbados?*

- o Slow recharge in reservoir/aquifer levels.
- o Prolonged dry spells.
- o Employ rainwater harvesting techniques
- o Use irrigation systems 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, until November.
- 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**

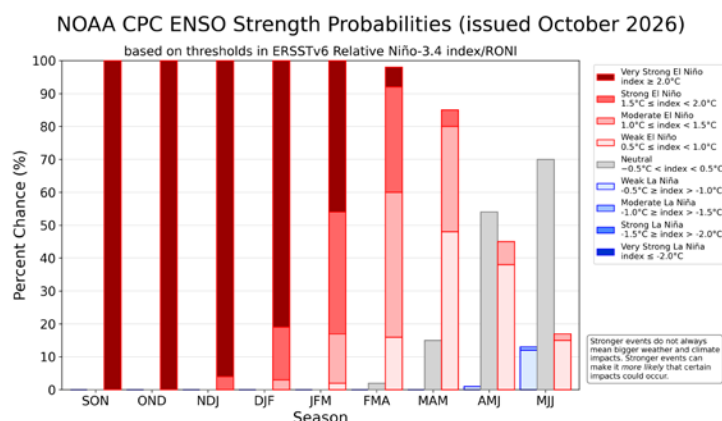
Strong to very strong El Nino conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

#### **What's the Outlook?**

Very strong El Niño conditions are expected to persist until March 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: NOAA CPC/ENSO Strength Probabilities



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CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

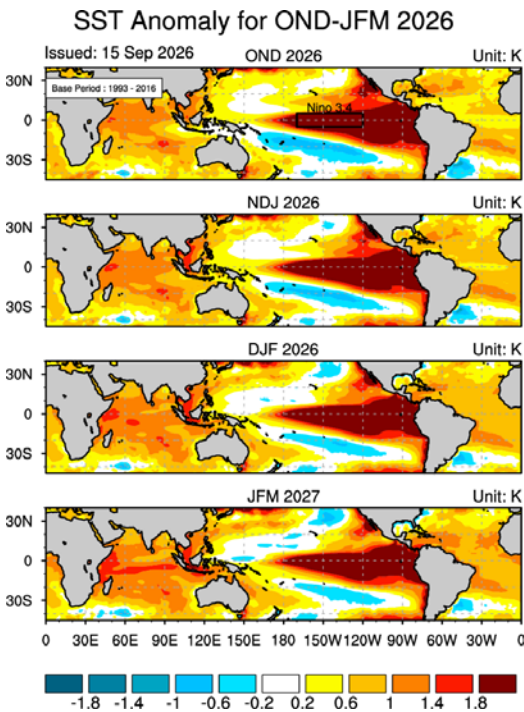
The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest that above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected across the tropical Atlantic. SSTs are forecast to remain near to above normal by 0.6°C to 1.0°C through to March 2027. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, El Niño conditions are expected to persist with SSTs remaining above the climatological average by more than 1.8°C 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. El Niño means that a below average rainfall will likely persist 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 for the entire forecast period. However, recurrent periods of heat stress will persist until around November, when the heat season is expected to end.



(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 (30 <sup>th</sup> September) | Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Eastern Atlantic (30 <sup>th</sup> September) |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Named Storms                            | 14                                     | 8 - 20                                               | 5-7                               | 8                                                                       | 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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Editors: Mr. Christophe Martin (Meteorologist), Mr. Don Layne (Senior Meteorological Assistant), Ms. Cherise Brathwaite (Meteorologist), Ms. Danielle Nurse (Meteorologist), Ms. Marlene Arthur (Meteorological Assistant), Mr. Keoni Williams (Meteorological Assistant Ag)

For more information, contact the Barbados Meteorological Services at  
BCAA Building Charnocks Christ Church  
Tel: 535-0023|Fax: 535-0029|Email: climateservices.bms@barbados.gov.bb

CONTRIBUTORS:

