



BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER

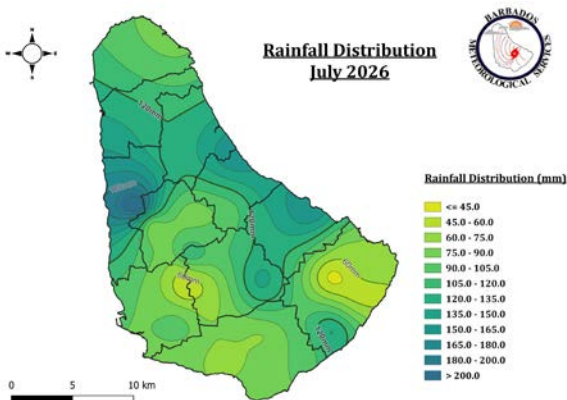
July 2026 | Issue No.78

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

JULY IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: July Rainfall Distribution



Although an increase in rainfall events was observed in July when compared to the previous six months, below average rainfall was recorded. Here at Charnocks 80.0mm of rainfall was recorded which was 41.5mm below the climatological average for July (121.5mm). Rainfall across the island ranged from 14.8 mm to 218 mm (figure 1).

Excess rainfall in July was a result of tropical waves, trough systems, a favourable upper-level pattern and low-level convergence; flash-flood watches were issued as a result of these weather features.

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.

Temperature

Figure 2: July Average Maximum Temperature Distribution

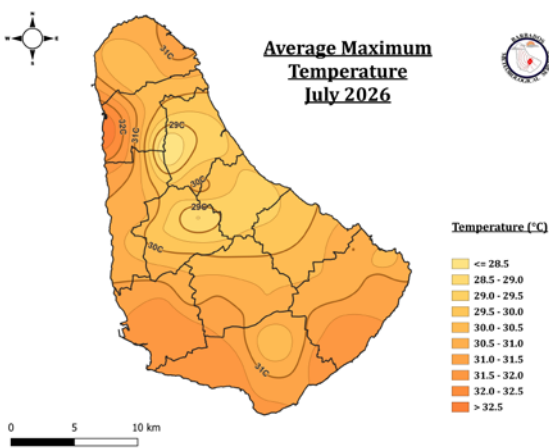


Figure 4: July Average Temperature Distribution

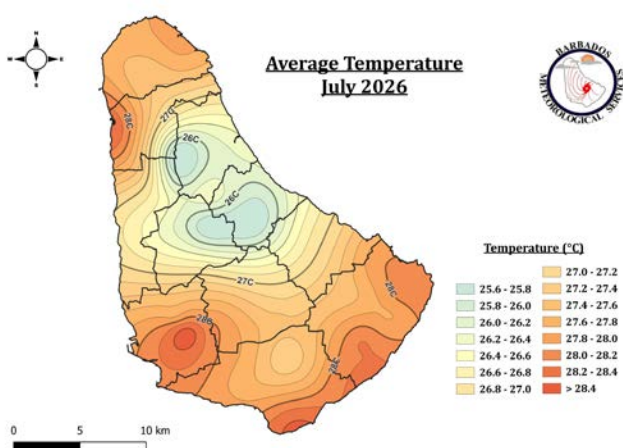
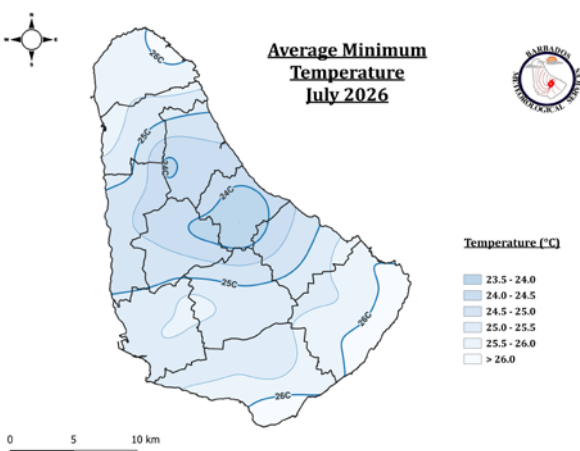


Figure 3: July Minimum Temperature Distribution



Close to average maximum temperatures were observed, while night time temperatures remained warmer than average. Here at Charnocks, the average maximum temperature was 30.6°C, a bit cooler than the climatological average (30.7°C). However, overnight temperatures were warmer, averaging 26.0°C which was 0.9°C warmer than the climatological average (25.1°C), and warmer than July 2025.

Across the island, average maximum temperatures ranged between 28.1°C and 32.8°C (figure 2); average minimum temperatures were between 23.5°C and 26.4°C (figure 3) and daily temperatures ranged between 25.6°C and 28.5°C (figure 4).

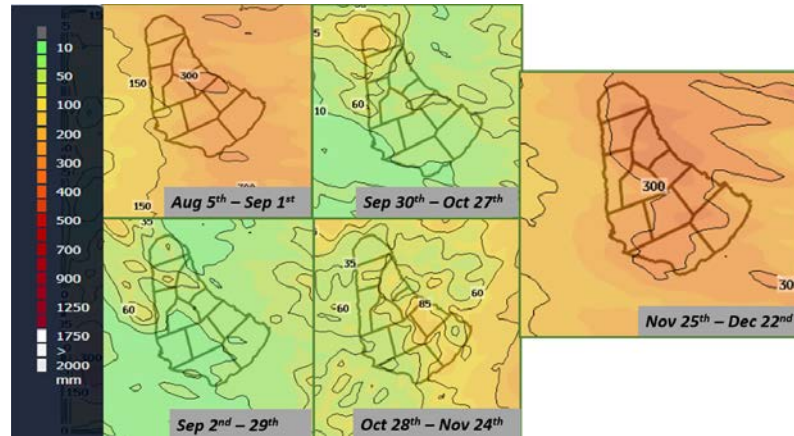


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PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Climate rainfall forecast from August to December 2026



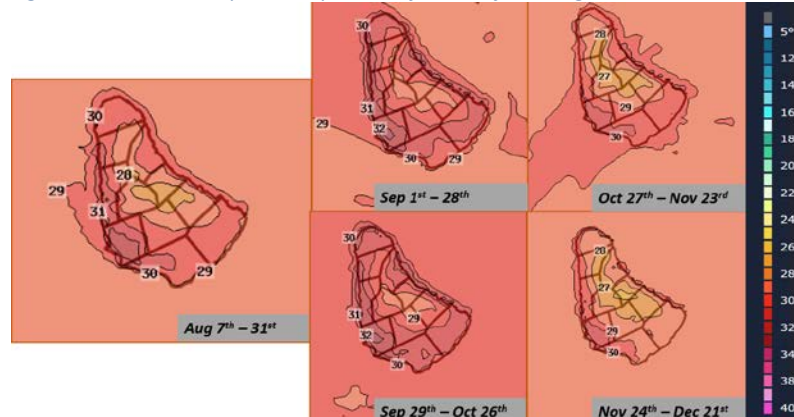
Although some intense rainfall events are expected, a strong to very strong El Niño is still very likely to cause a drier than normal end to the year. The latest probabilistic and dynamic global climate models continue to suggest below-average rainfall for Barbados. The BMS Climate model (Figure 5) suggested periods of intense rainfall for October through to December, this run was seemingly drier than previous runs, likely due to the influence of an intensifying El Niño. Specifically for December, the BMS model did indicate a very wet month, with rainfall above 300mm, however this seems unlikely given this is when El Niño peaks, that the climatological average for December is 91mm and most of the dynamical models are calling for below average rainfall. Consequently, the official forecast calls for below to near average rainfall for the remainder of 2026. Adjustments to the longer-term rainfall forecast are still possible and the BMS should be closely monitored for updates.

Month	Projections (mm)	Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charnocks
August	100 -150	Below to Near Average
September	50 -100	Below Average
October	50-100	Below Average
November	75-150	Below Average
December	50-100	Below to Near Average

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for August to December 2026

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 6: BMS Climate peak temperature forecast from August to December 2026



Warmer than average temperatures will likely persist until early in 2027. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast favour above-normal temperatures for the remainder of the Heat Season and into the Cool Season (Table 2). Similarly, the BMS Climate model (Figure 6) shows that daytime temperatures should peak between 30°C and 32°C for the higher elevations and less populated areas until around November. Meanwhile, across the more populated, urban and south-western districts, daytime temperatures will continue to peak between 32°C and 34°C until the Heat Season concludes in November. Guidance and recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Wellness during periods of heat stress should be adhered; stay updated with the daily weather forecast issued by the BMS.

Temperature	Season	Forecast Probability (%)		
		Below	Normal	Above
Minimum Temperature	ASO	2	11	87
	NDJ	4	10	86
Maximum Temperature	ASO	3	16	81
	NDJ	3	10	87
Mean Temperature	ASO	4	12	84
	NDJ	4	11	85

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for August 2026 to January 2027

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

Given the increased likelihood of a drier than normal wet season and low rainfall totals recorded up to the end of July, the concerns for drought remain elevated. The alert level for Agriculture remains at Be Aware for the possibility of an agricultural drought for much of the wet season, especially in the south eastern sections of the island, given that the official forecast calls for below to near average rainfall for the remainder of 2026. BWA reports that the current state of available water resources is below what is expected for this time of year, and the alert level has been elevated to Hydrological Drought Warning until October, 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 3).

Table 3: Drought Outlooks for August to December 2026

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

- 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 Warning

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- Protect resources
- 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 August 2026 to January 2027 Period

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

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

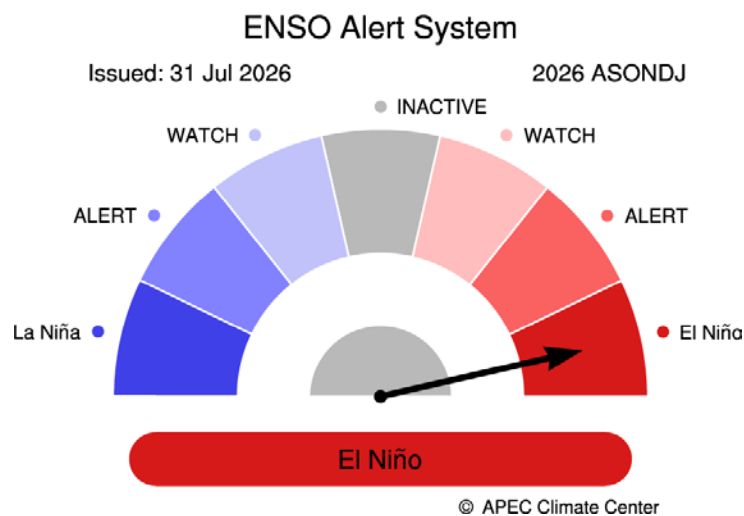
What's the Outlook?

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

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

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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CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

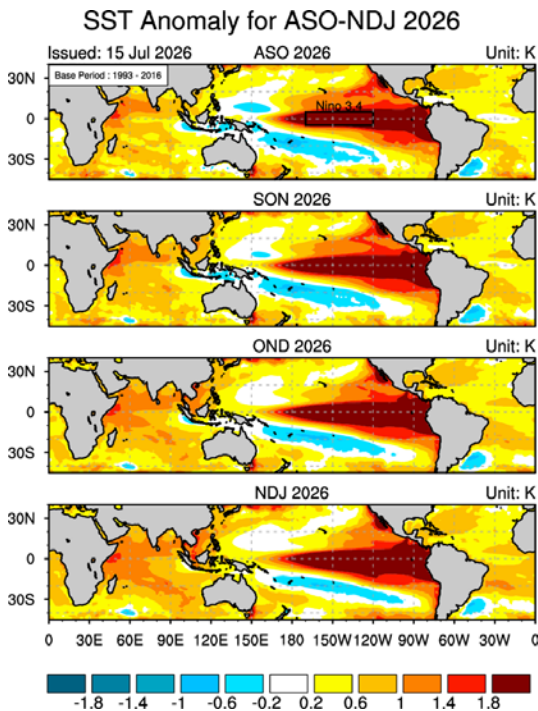
The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest that above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected across the tropical Atlantic. SSTs are forecast to remain near to above normal by 0.2°C to 0.6°C through to January 2027. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, SSTs are expected to 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 may not have a significant impact on rainfall. However, an El Niño event means that a decrease in rainfall activity is highly likely throughout the forecast period.

Impact on Temperatures

Warmer-than-normal SSTs across the tropical Atlantic along with an El Niño event, will contribute to warmer-than-normal temperatures during 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 July)	Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Eastern Atlantic (31st July)
Named Storms	14	8 - 20	5-7	2	0
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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