

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DROUGHT OUTLOOK

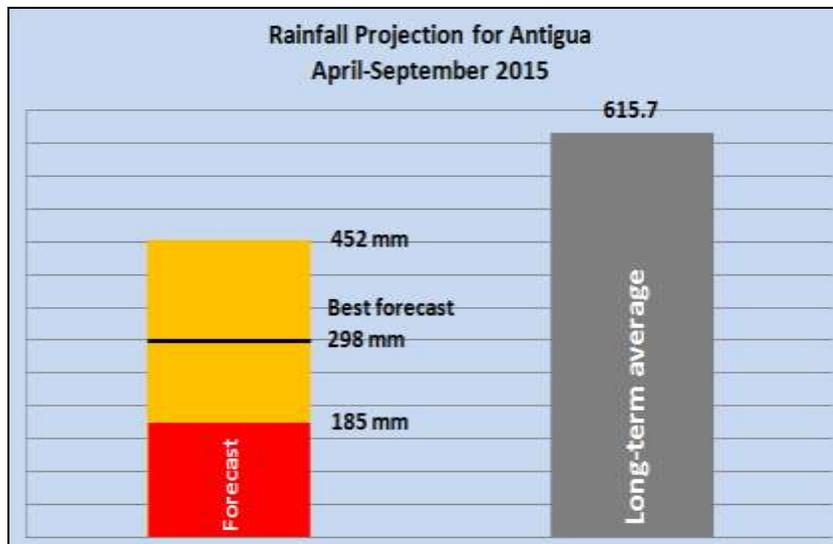


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...Possible record low rainfall for 2015...Serious drought evolving...drought warnings in effect...

Based upon rainfall that has already fallen and forecast rainfall based on sea surface temperatures across the tropics, the following are being projected for Antigua with respect to droughts, particularly those of **moderate or worse intensity**. *There is a high chance that the existing drought will continue until, at least, the end of the year.* It is also possible that 2015 could become the driest year on record, eclipsing the existing record of 681.5 mm (26.8 in) set in 1983.

Standard Precipitation index (SPI) Based (Rainfall) Projections



Short Term

April to September 2015

Based on the rainfall experienced April and May (49.8 mm or 1.96 in), and the outlook for June to September, a **serious drought is evolving** over the April-September (AS) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the AS period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 72%. Further, the most likely rainfall accumulation for the AS period is around **298 mm** (11.7 in) with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 185 to 452 mm (7.3 to 17.8 in),

which is well below normal relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 615.7 mm (24.2 in).

Medium Term

February to October 2015

Based on the rainfall experienced February to May (108 mm or 4.3 in), and the outlook for June to October, a **serious drought is evolving** over the February-October (FO) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the FO period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 74%. Further, the most likely rainfall accumulation for the FO period is around **474 mm** (18.7 in) with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 332 to 653 mm (13.1 to 25.7 in), which is well below normal relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 884 mm (34.8 in).

Long Term

January to December 2015

Based on the rainfall experienced January to May 2015 (140.2 mm or 5.52 in), and the outlook for June to December, a **serious drought is evolving** over the January-December (JD) period; hence, a **drought warning** is in effect for the JD period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is 75%. Further, the most likely rainfall

accumulation for the JD period is around **638 mm** (25.1 in) with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 449 to 875 mm (17.7 to 34.4 in), which is well below normal relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1203 mm (47.4 in). Actually, 638 mm would be record breaking low rainfall.

Related Products

Rainfall outlooks: [July](#), [July-September](#), [October-December](#), [July-December](#)

Recently observed: [Rainfall](#), [Temperature](#)

Definition

Drought watch: An announcement that a **moderate drought or worse (MD/+)** is possible or has a probability of 35-49% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, the implementation of management plans and residents to keep updated.](#)

Drought warning: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of 50-82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, maximized water conservation and efficiency measures.](#)

The next outlook will be issued around July 31.

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