

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DROUGHT OUTLOOK

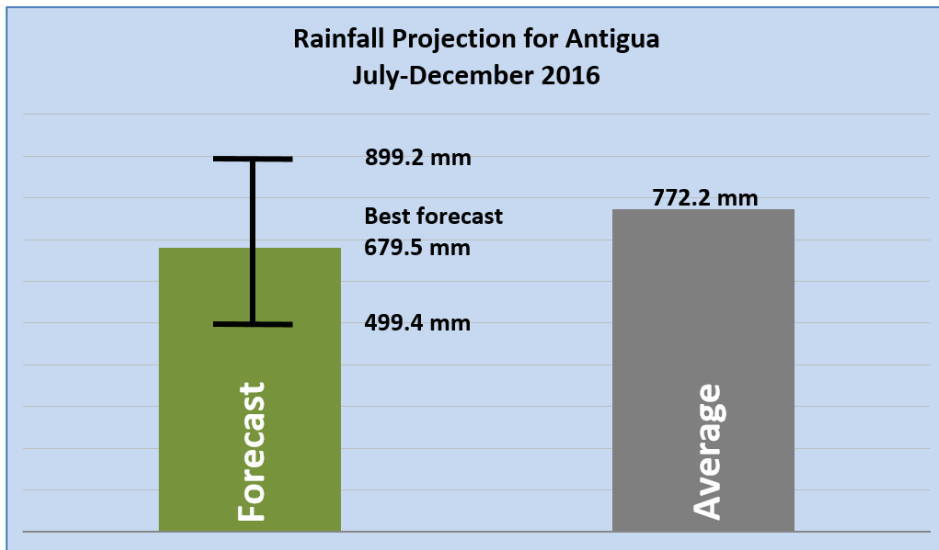


Dale C. S. Destin ([follow @anumetservice](#))
Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service Climate Section
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...Drought watches are in effect...

Based upon rainfall that has already fallen and rainfall forecast predicated 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**. The rainfall for September has just about erased the droughts of the past few years; however, this may be temporary. Rainfall analyses up to the end of the various periods below, show that moderate droughts or worse are possible over the medium and long term. Hence, drought watches are in effect for these periods. There is minimal drought concern for the short term.

Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) Based (Rainfall) Projections



Short Term – Six Months

July to December 2016

Based on the rainfall measured for July and August 2016 (215.1 mm or 8.47 in) and the outlook for September to December – a **moderate drought or worse is UNLIKELY** at the end of the July-December (JD) 2016 period; hence, there is minimal concerns for drought by the end of the JD period. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 30%. Further, the best

forecast of rainfall accumulation for JD is around **679.5 mm** (26.8 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 499.4 to 899.2 mm (19.7 to 35.4 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 772.2 mm (30.4 in).

Medium Term – Nine Months

May 2016 to January 2017

Based on the rainfall measured for May to August 2016 (354.8 mm or 13.97 in) and the outlook for September 2016 to January 2017, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** at the end of the May-January (MJ) period. Hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for MJ. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 35%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for MJ is around **890.0 mm** (35.0 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 655.3 to 1175.6 mm (25.8 to 46.3 in), which is centred **near normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 995.7 mm (39.2 in).

Long Term – One Year

April 2016 to March 2017

Based on the rainfall measured for April to August 2016 (433.8 mm or 17.08 in) and the outlook for September to March, a **moderate drought or worse is possible** over the April 2016-March (AM) 2017 period; hence, a **drought watch** is in effect for AM. The probability of a **moderate drought or worse** is around 35%. Further, the best forecast of rainfall accumulation for AM is around **1020.7 mm** (40.2 in), with a 70% chance that the accumulation will be in the range 771.2 to 1319.7 mm (30.4 to 52.0 in), which is centred **below normal** relative to the 1981-2010 normal of 1183.6 mm (46.6 in).

Related Products

More outlooks: [Oct 2016](#), [Oct-Dec 2016](#), [Jan-Mar 2017](#), [Oct 2016-Mar 2017](#)

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

Definition

Drought: In the most general sense, drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time--usually a season or more--resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector. There are four types – *meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, and socioeconomic*. [Read more...](#)

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.](#)

Drought emergency: An announcement that a **MD/+** is evolving or has a probability of over 82% of occurring. [This alert calls for, among other things, enforcement of water restrictions.](#)

The next outlook will be issued around October 5.

Disclaimer

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