

Wet Season Statement for Antigua - July to December 2013



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...Well below normal rainfall and near normal temperature...

Rainfall

The island had below normal rainfall with an average total of 22.97 inches. This is the 15th driest wet season on record and the driest since 2009, when we had only 20.88 inches and were in a drought which also started in the wet season. Similarly also to 2009, surface catchments, including Potworks Reservoir, were on the verge of drying up. The wettest month for the period was November with 5.14 inches, and the driest month was July with 1.99 inches. The normal wet season rainfall total is 30.26 inches, accounting for 65% of the annual total nearly twice the amount of the dry season. However, this wet season was actually drier than the [dry season](#). This is only the second time ever, dating back to 1928, that the dry season was wetter than the wet season.



Temperature

The temperature was near normal with the average at the airport being 27.4°C. The warmest month for the period was August with a below normal temperature of 28.2°C, and the coldest month was December with a near normal temperature of 25.9°C. The normal wet season temperature is 27.5°C.

The main [causes](#) of the below normal rainfall wet season were due to exceptionally dry, sinking air and strong vertical wind shear over much of the tropical North Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Detrimental to rainfall were also strong outbreaks of Saharan Dust which is dry and stable air that originated from Sahara Africa.

Definition

The following definitions are being used based on the 1981 to 2010 datasets:

- **Well Below normal:** Total or average in the lowest 10% of the dataset
- **Below Normal:** Total or average in the lowest 33.3% of the dataset
- **Near Normal:** Total or average in the middle 33.3% of the data
- **Above Normal:** Total or average in the highest 33.3% of the dataset
- **Well Above Normal:** Total or average in the highest 10% of the dataset
- **Rainfall:** Island average, based on rainfall at the airport and Green Castle

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