



Monthly Climate Outlook

Authors: D. Destin, O. Paige, M. Alvarez Guerrero, C. Humphreys

APRIL 2026



SUMMARY

This month's climate outlook includes forecasts of rainfall totals, average temperatures, and maximum and minimum temperatures for May, May to July (MJJ) and August to October 2026 (ASO).



Currently, La Niña conditions are present. A La Niña Final Advisory and El Niño Watch are in effect.

ENSO-neutral conditions favored through April-June 2026 (80% chance). In May-July 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (61% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026.

ENSO: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

ENSO Alert System: <https://www.climate.gov/enso>

March 2026 Summary

The island-average rainfall for Antigua was near normal; it was 47.5 mm (1.87 in). Rainfall distribution across Antigua indicates that the southern and northeastern regions were the wettest. The highest rainfall value for March was recorded at Cobbs Station, located in St. Paul parish with 79.0 mm (3.11 in) and the highest 24-hour value was 59.7 mm (2.35 in) recorded at 27.4 mm (1.08 in) recorded at Dunbars Station on the 10th, St. John parish. There were 14 wet days, one 5-day wet spell and one 6-day dry spell; recorded at the V. C. Bird International Airport Station (VCBIA).

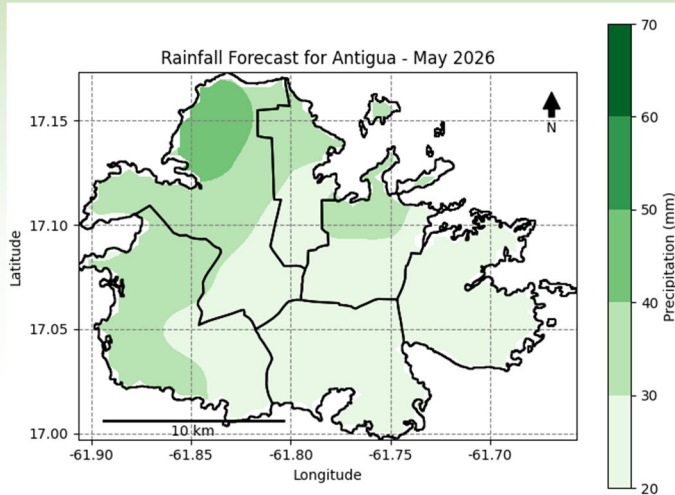
In Barbuda, at Sir McChesney George Secondary Station (SMGSS), the total rainfall accumulation for the month was 54.4 mm (2.14 in). The maximum 24-hour total was 25.2 mm (0.99 in) recorded on the 6th. There were 9 wet days, two heavy rainfall days and one 8-day dry spell.

At VCBIA, the mean daily temperature was 25.2°C (77.4°F), which was below normal. The mean daily maximum temperature was well below normal at 28.1°C (82.6°F), while the mean daily minimum was near normal at 22.6°C (72.7°F). The highest recorded temperature was 32.8°C (91.0°F) on the 28th at Diamonds Station in the parish of St. Peter, while the lowest was 18.6°C (65.5°F) on the 28th at the same station.

In Barbuda at SMGSS, the mean daily temperature was 25.8°C (78.4°F). The mean daily maximum temperature reached 30.2°C (86.4°F) and the mean daily minimum temperature was 22.2°C (72.0°F) at SMGSS. The highest recorded temperature was 31.8°C (89.2°F) on March 23rd, while the lowest recorded temperature was 19.1°C (66.4°F) on the 28th at SMGSS.

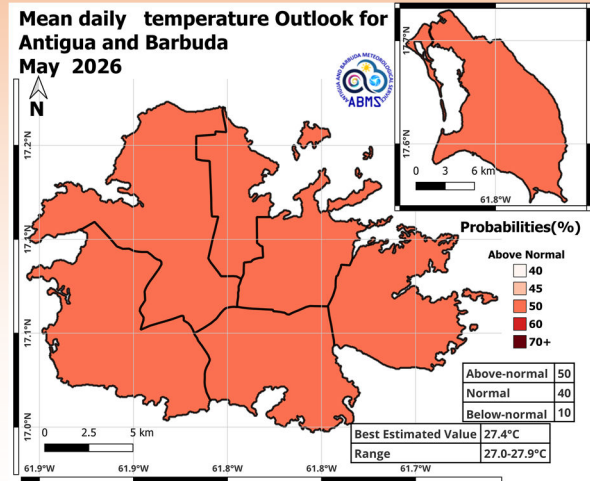
May 2026 Outlook

Rainfall is likely to be **below to near normal**, with a 75% chance. Specifically, there is a 45% chance of below normal rainfall, a 30% chance of near normal levels and a 25% chance of above normal rainfall. The best estimated total accumulation for the month is 60 mm (2.36 in), with a 70% confidence that it will fall within the range of 15 to 155 mm (0.59 to 6.10 in). Map 1 displays the forecast values for Antigua.



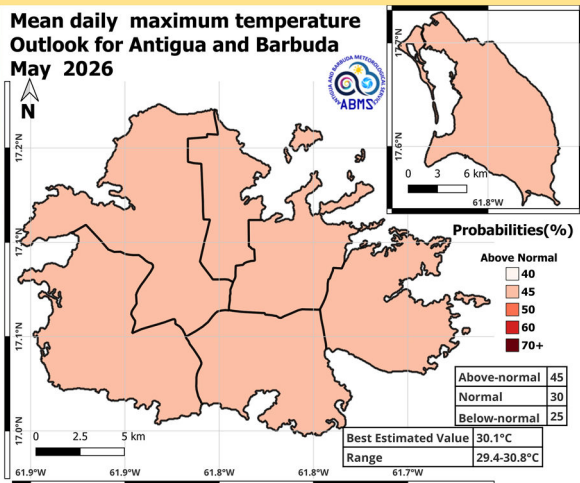
Map 1. Rainfall Outlook

The mean daily temperature is more likely than not **above normal**, with a 50% chance. There is a 40% chance of it being near normal and 10% chance of it being below normal. The best estimated value is 27.4°C (81.3°F).

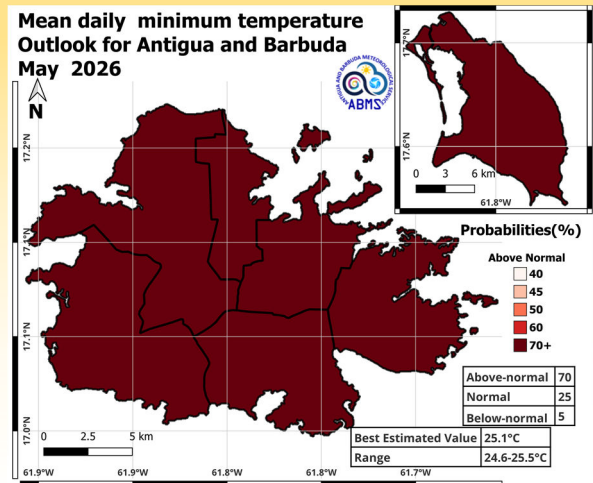


Map 2. Mean daily Temperature Outlook

For May, the mean daily maximum is likely to be **near to above normal**, with a 75% chance. There is a 25% chance of the maximum temperature being below normal. The mean daily minimum is likely to be **above normal** with a 70% chance; there is a 25% chance of it being near normal and 5% chance of it being below normal. The best estimates are 30.1°C (86.2°F) for the maximum and 25.1°C (77.2°F) for the minimum.



Map 3. Mean Daily Maximum Temperature Outlook



Map 4. Mean Daily Minimum Temperature Outlook

May-June-July 2026 (MJJ) Outlook

For the upcoming MJJ season, there is a 60% chance that rainfall will be **below normal**, there is a 30% chance of near normal and 10% of below normal rainfall. The best estimated total accumulation is 160 mm (6.30 in), with a 70% confidence that the total will fall within the range of 85 to 280 mm (3.35 to 11.02 in).

The chance of mean daily temperature for MJJ being **above normal** is 55% with 27.9°C (82.2°F) as the best estimated value. There is a 30% chance of it being near normal and a 15% chance of it being below normal.

The chance of the mean daily maximum temperature being **above normal** over the next three months is 40%. The chance of it being near normal is 30%, while the chance of it being above normal is 30%. The chance of the mean daily minimum temperature being **above normal** is 65%. There is a 25% chance of near-normal conditions and a 10% chance of below-normal temperatures.

The best estimated value for the mean maximum temperature is 30.5°C (86.9°F), and for the mean minimum temperature, it is 25.4°C (77.7°F).

August-September-October 2026 (ASO) Outlook

During the three-month period of ASO, there is a 70% chance of rainfall being **below to near normal**. The chance of precipitation being below normal is 40%, a 30% chance of it being near normal and a 30% chance of it being above normal. The best estimated total rainfall accumulation is 360 mm (14.17 in), with a 70% confidence that it will fall within the range of 195 to 580 mm (7.68 to 22.83 in).

The chance of the mean daily temperature being **above normal** for ASO is 40%. There is a 30% chance of it being below normal and a 30% chance also of it being near normal. The best estimated value is 28.1°C (82.6°F).

The chance of the mean daily maximum temperature being **above normal** is 50% over ASO. The chance of near normal mean daily maximum temperature is 25%, and 25% chance also of it being below normal. The chance of the mean daily minimum temperature being **above normal** is 60%. There is a 25% chance of near normal, and a 15% chance of below normal mean daily minimum temperature.

The best estimated value for the mean daily maximum temperature is 31.1°C (88.0°F), while the mean daily minimum temperature best estimate is 25.4°C (77.7°F).

Drought Monitoring

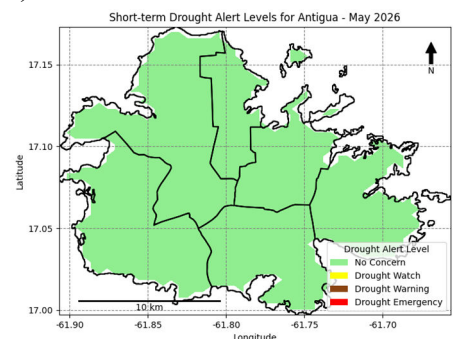
The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for March indicates that conditions over the past **30 days** were **moderately wet** in the southeastern part of Antigua and **normal** in the rest of the island. For the **3-month** period from January to March 2026, rainfall conditions were **moderately and severely dry** in the eastern part of the island and **slightly dry** in the rest of the island. Over the **6-month** period from October 2025 to March 2026, precipitation levels were **normal** across the island.

Based on the 6-month SPI for February to July 2026, there is a **Drought Watch** across the eastern and southern part of the island and **No Concern** in the rest of the island for moderate or worse **6-month short-term drought** by the end of **July** (Map 6).

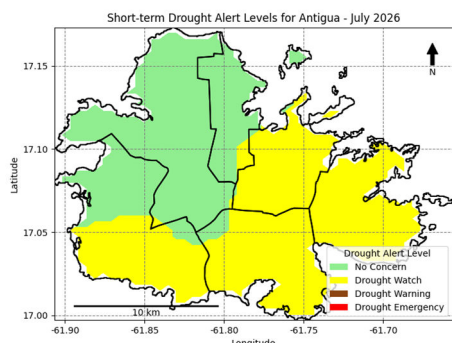
Based on the 12-month SPI for June 2025 to May 2026, there is a **Drought Warning** across most of the island and a **Drought Watch** in the northern region, with moderate or worse long-term drought by the end of **May** (Map 7).

Drought Outlook

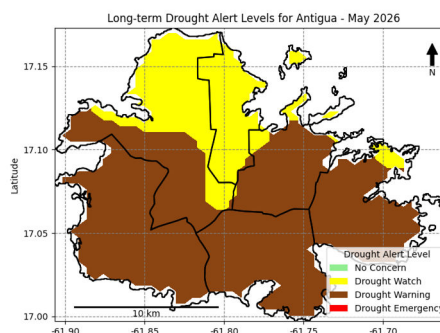
Anticipated level of drought concern, based on the 3-month SPI for March to May 2026, is **No Concern** across the island for moderate or worse **3-month short-term drought** by the end of **May** (Map 5).



Map 5 Antigua Short-term Drought Alert Levels by the end of May



Map 6 Antigua Short-term Drought Conditions by the end of July



Map 7 Antigua Long-term Drought Alert Levels by the end of May

Note 1: Due to the limited data available for Barbuda, it is not possible to determine whether short-term drought conditions exist. However, satellite-estimated precipitation suggests that conditions are similar to those in Antigua. It remains uncertain whether the warning should also apply to Barbuda; conditions are being monitored for any signs of water stress.

Note 2: The SPI forecast values were estimated from Antigua Rainfall Stations. There is limited available data for Barbuda; however, conditions are likely to be similar to Antigua.

Note 3: The forecast rainfall values were estimated from the Antigua Island average, while the temperature values were taken from the V. C. Bird International Airport (VCBIA) station. It also correctly states that these temperature values are most applicable to the VCBIA surroundings.

Note 4: The global models were reviewed, and we ensured that this forecast is representative of Barbuda, not necessarily in terms of exact values, but in indicating climate conditions are expected to be above normal, near normal or below normal.

Key Terms:

Well above normal: Top 10% (90 percentile or higher of the WMO standard climate period of 1991–2020)

Above normal: Top third (upper tercile) of the WMO standard climate period of 1991–2020

Near normal: Middle third (middle tercile) of the WMO standard climate period of 1991–2020

Below normal: Bottom third (lower tercile) of the WMO standard climate period of 1991–2020

Well below normal: Bottom 10% (10 percentile or lower of the WMO standard climate period of 1991–2020)

Very likely: Probabilities greater than 90%

Likely: Probabilities greater than 66%

More likely than not: Probabilities greater than 50% and less than 66%

Short Term Drought: Dry conditions lasting 1 to 6 consecutive months.

Long-Term Drought: Dry conditions persisting for more than 6 consecutive months.

Moderate Drought: Dry conditions for at least three consecutive months with SPI values of less than or equal to -0.8.

SPI: <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/spi-monitor/>

ALERT LEVEL	
No Concern	No concern for moderate or worse drought
Drought Watch	Moderate or worse drought possible
Drought Warning	Moderate or worse drought evolving
Drought Emergency	Moderate or worse drought of immediate concern

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service (ABMS) in collaboration with Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), which hosts the WMO-designated Caribbean Regional Climate Center and Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF).

DISCLAIMER

The user assumes the entire risk related to the use of this data. ABMS is providing this information and data "as is," and ABMS disclaims no warranties, whether express or implied, including (without limitation) any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will the ABMS be liable to you or to any third party for any direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special or exemplary damages or lost profit resulting from any use or misuse of this information and data