

May 2016 Climate Review for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Synopsis: *50 to 85 percent of the normal rainfall fell across Puerto Rico. Warm to hot temperatures prevailed across all islands. May 2016 ended as the second warmest May on record at Cyril E King Airport in St Thomas. There is a higher chance of normal to above normal rainfall during June-July and August.*

Summary

A seasonable weather pattern prevailed during the month of May with showers and thunderstorms developing over and north of the Cordillera Central each day. Showers and thunderstorms embedded in the trades also affected the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as the south and east coastal areas of Puerto Rico. From time to time, shower and thunderstorm activity was enhanced by upper level troughs across the local area. Based on the Cooperative Observer Network Data (COOP), an average rainfall total of 6.98 inches was measured across Puerto Rico, which is 2.09 inches below normal (Table 1).

At the primary climatological data sites, a rainfall total of 3.21 and 1.21 inches was observed at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in Saint Croix (TISX) and Cyril E King Airport in St Thomas (TIST) respectively. This is 0.94 and 1.85 inches below the normal rainfall at TISX and TIST respectively. In terms of temperature, the mean temperature at TISX and TIST was 82.1 and 83.7°F, which is 0.7 and 1.8°F above normal. In fact, May 2016 ended as the 2nd warmest May on record at TIST.

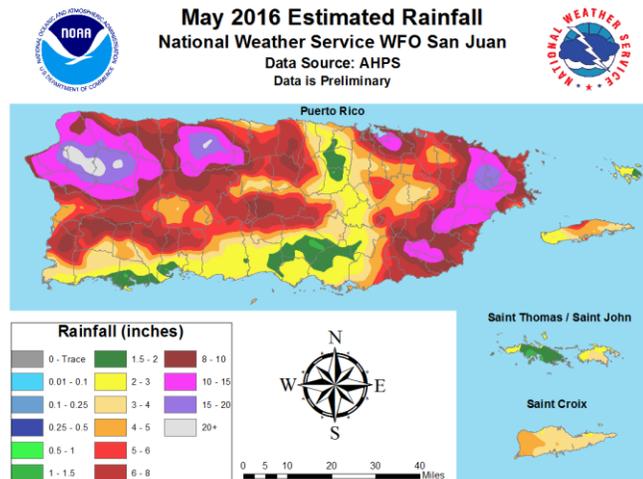
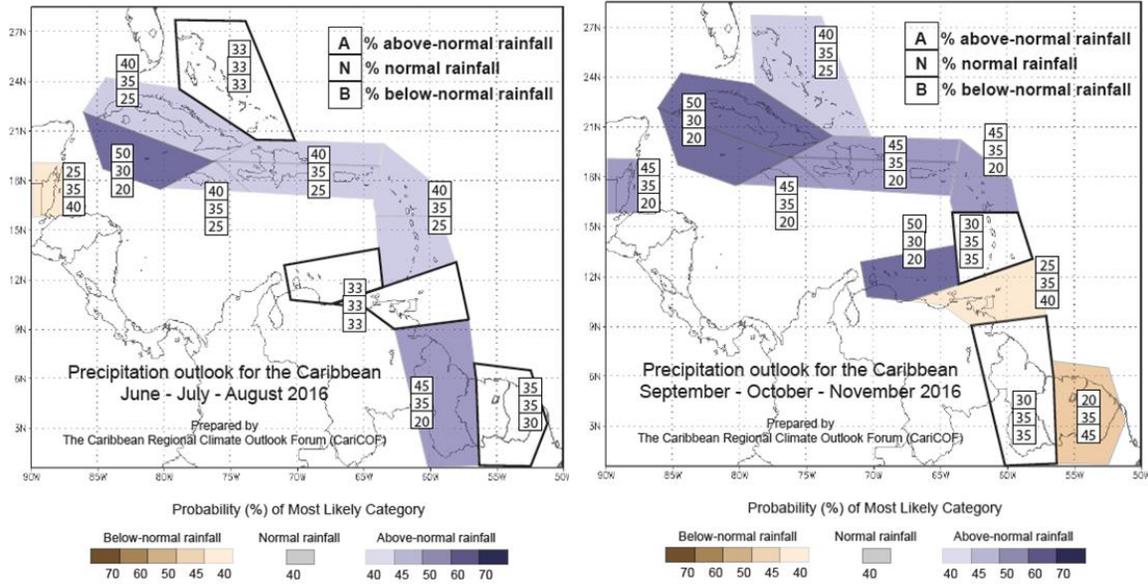


Figure 1. Rainfall Totals based on AHPS (click on the image to enlarge)

Looking Ahead

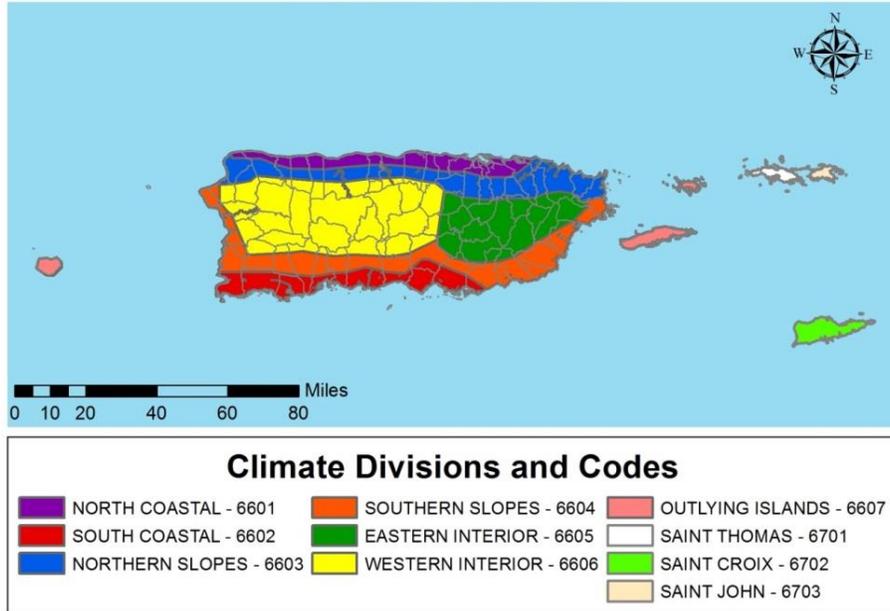
All the models indicate a fading El Niño, with >50% chance of La Niña conditions by June-July and August increasing to 75% for September-October and November. La Niña increases chances of wetter than usual conditions in much of the region; therefore there is a higher chance of normal to above normal rainfall.



More Info: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

Average Rainfall Accumulation per climate zones based on COOP

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Climate Divisions



	North Coastal	South Coastal	Northern Slopes	Southern Slopes	Eastern Interior	Western Interior	All PR	St Thomas / St John	St Croix
Observed (May)	4.65	2.06	5.16	5.74	6.97	5.44	4.89	**	6.19
Normal (May)	7.24	4.39	7.47	5.90	8.15	8.70	6.98	**	3.88
% PON (May)	64	47	69	97	86	63	70	**	160
Accumulated YTD	20.44	11.54	21.24	20.83	28.76	24.58	21.62	**	18.25
Normal accumulation YTD	22.29	12.00	23.19	15.95	25.92	23.32	20.45	**	11.49
% PON accumulated YTD	92	96	92	131	111	105	106	**	159

Table 1. May 2016 and Year to date (YTD) Rainfall (inches). Percent of Normal (PON).

Islandwide averages for St Thomas/St John are not available at this time

Historical Rainfall and Temperature

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1990	2.67	1972	0.44	2008	0.06	1974	0.22
2	1974	2.92	1973	0.48	2007	0.28	2003	0.37
3	1973	3.05	1925	0.71	1973	0.47	2002	0.39

Table 2. Driest May on record.

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1986	15.77	1936	16.88	1979	9.98	1981	14.03
2	1945	14.28	1965	14.99	1987	9.8	2001	11.38
3	2011	13.90	2013	14.54	1980	8.22	1987	8.89

Table 3. Wettest May on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1969	79.3	1980	83.8	1994	85.9	1988	83.6
2	1948	79.3	1981	83.4	2016	85.7	1973	83.4
3	2010	79.1	2007	83.3	1973	83.5	1972	83.3

Table 4. Warmest May on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1943	70.0	1913	76.1	1959	79.3	1982	76.8
2	1940	70.3	1929	76.7	1957	79.7	1979	78.4
3	1941	70.3	1918	76.8	1986	79.8	1959	79.2

Table 5. Coolest May on record.

** Following years are not included : 1956, 1957, 1959, 1967, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981**

	Puerto Rico	San Juan Area	IST	ISX
Temperature	77.1	81.9	81.9	81.4
Rainfall	7.21	5.90	3.06	4.15

Table 6. Normal Values for May

Monthly and Seasonal Highlights for Primary Climatological Data Sites.

	March	April	May	Season	Year to Date
San Juan Area	---	6 th wettest 10.02"	---	---	9 th warmest start to a year with an avg. temp. of 79.7 °F.
IST	6 th warmest (80.7F) and 9 th wettest (2.43")	6 th warmest 82.0F	2 nd warmest 83.7F	4 th warmest 82.1F	3 rd warmest start to a year with an avg. temp. of 80.9 °F.
ISX	5 th warmest (80.0F) and 10 th wettest (2.39")	10 th warmest 80.6F	---	6 th warmest 80.9F	3 rd warmest start to a year with an avg. temp. of 80.1 °F.

Table 7. Spring 2016

Additional Highlights Based on COOP Data

Wettest Days

Station	Inches (inches)	Date
GUAYAMA 2 E	3.76	5/5/2016
CHRISTIANSTED FT	3.65	5/2/2016
MOROVIS 1 N	3.12	5/14/2016

Highest Maximum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
ISABELA SUBSTN	93	5/24/2016
PONCE 4 E	93	5/23/2016
TOA BAJA LEVITOWN	93	5/7/2016

Lowest Minimum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
MARICAO 2 SSW	61	5/2/2016
TORO NEGRO FOREST	61	5/2/2016
AIBONITO	62	5/2/2016

Data is preliminary and has not undergone final quality control by the National Centers for Environmental Information / NCEI/. Therefore, this data is subject to revision. Report based on data received until June 4th 2016.

Puerto Rico Climate Record Period: 1940 to 2016

San Juan Metro Area Climate Record Period: 1898 to 2016 (Primary climatological site)

Cyril E. King Airport/St Thomas Climate Record Period: 1953 to 2016 (Primary climatological site)

Henry E. Rohlsen Airport/St Croix Climate Record Period: 1951 to 2016 (Primary climatological site)

