

April 2017 Climate Review for Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Synopsis: April 2017 can be described as a wet month across the area except for Saint Thomas and south Puerto Rico.

Summary

A typical transitional weather pattern was observed across the region during April. After a mainly fair weather pattern the first week of the month, a fairly active pattern was observed from approximately the 10th of the month onwards. Frequent trofiness and abundant low to mid-level moisture created a favorable environment for the generation of showers and thunderstorms across the majority of the islands. These rainfall events produced several days of urban and small stream flooding as well as river flooding across most of Puerto Rico.

Based on the Cooperative Observer Network Data (COOP), 138 % of the normal rainfall was observed across Puerto Rico. Across St. Croix, an average rainfall total of 6.80 inches was observed which is 4.33 inches above normal (Table 1). In terms of temperature, the mean temperature for PR was 76.1°F, which is approximately 0.3°F warmer than the 30-year average from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

At the primary climatological data sites, a rainfall total of 7.69 and 1.05 inches was observed at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in Saint Croix (TISX) and Cyril E King Airport in St Thomas (TIST), respectively. This is 5.56 inches above normal at TISX; but 1.69 inches below normal at TIST. In terms of temperature, the mean temperature at TISX and TIST was 79.2 and 79.4F, which is 0.8 and 1.2°F below normal, respectively.

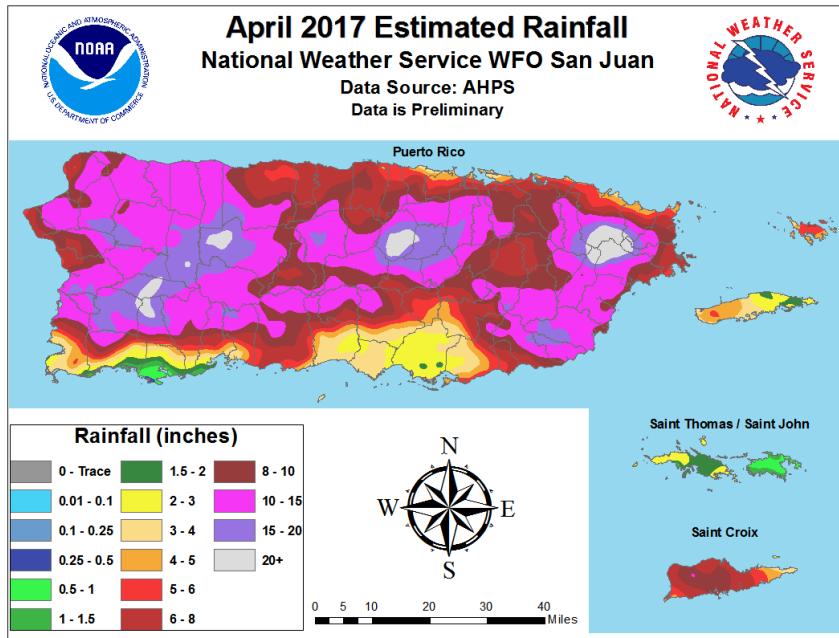
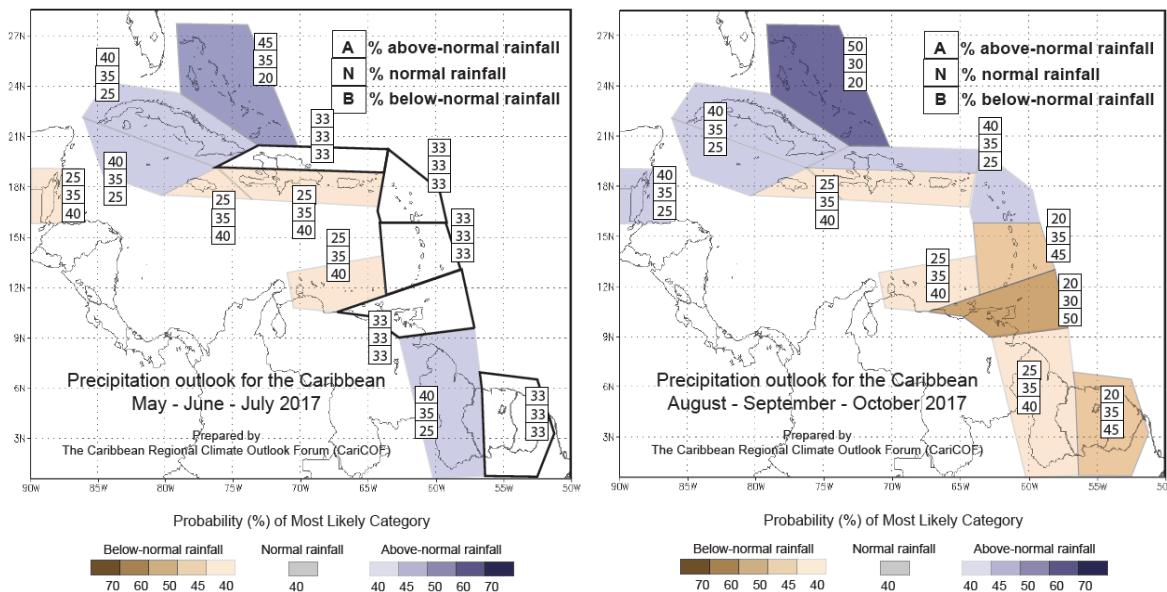


Figure 1. April Rainfall Totals based on AHPS.

Looking Ahead

As ENSO conditions are currently neutral, no impact on Caribbean rainfall is expected. However, with a possible El Niño on forecast by Aug-Sep-Oct, there are increased chances for drier than usual conditions. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) across the north Caribbean may lead to above-average humidity and atmospheric instability going into the wet season in the northern islands, which tilts the odds towards a wetter wet season. With SSTs remaining near or slightly above average throughout the region, air temperatures are also expected to be warmer than average.

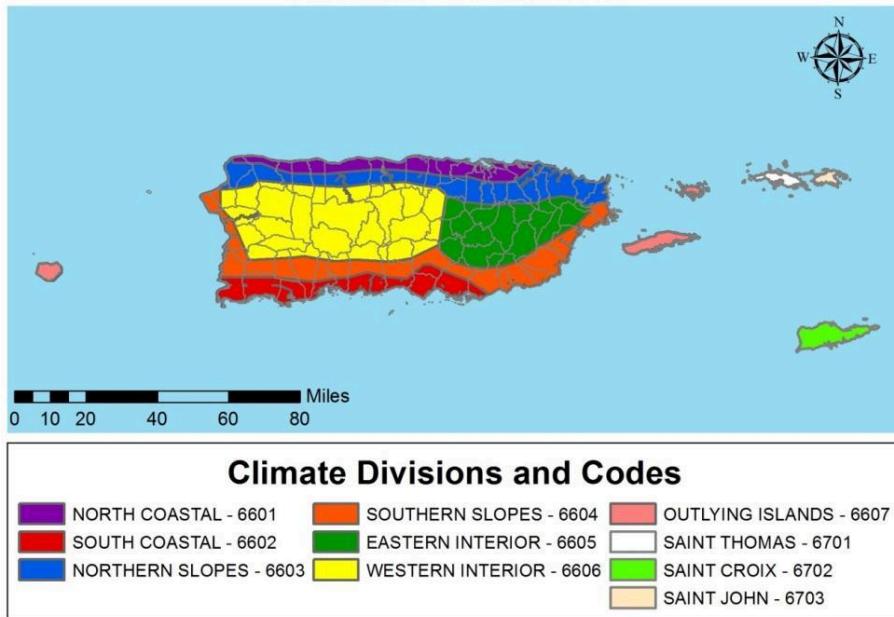


More Info: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>



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 (April)	5.52	1.87	7.80	5.04	8.88	8.73	6.44	1.23	6.80
Normal (April)	5.16	2.76	5.26	3.91	5.26	5.75	4.68	2.92	2.47
% PON (April)	107	68	148	129	169	152	138	42	275
Accumulated YTD	18.55	5.90	20.81	9.86	24.78	23.18	17.59	6.47	16.85
Normal accumulation YTD	15.05	7.61	15.72	10.05	17.77	14.62	13.47	8.82	7.61
% PON accumulated YTD	123	78	132	98	139	159	131	73	221

Table 1. April 2017 and Year to date (YTD) Rainfall (inches). Percent of Normal (PON).



Historical Rainfall and Temperature

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1997	0.89"	1997	0.08"	1953	0.23"	1988	T
2	1968	1.56"	1984	0.28"	1985	0.48"	1997	0.02"
3	1984	1.57"	1935	0.42"	2004	0.54"	1953	0.22"

Table 2. Driest April on record.

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	2003	12.38"	2005	15.00"	2003	11.20"	2003	8.53"
2	1960	10.82"	1915	13.17"	1978	6.66"	1983	8.24"
3	2002	10.62"	1988	10.37"	1986	6.52"	2017	7.69"

Table 3. Wettest April on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1969	77.9 °F	2014	82.5 °F	1993	84.0 °F	1958	82.0 °F
2	1987	77.9 °F	1984	81.8 °F	1995	83.2 °F	2000	81.3 °F
3	1958	77.7 °F	1983	81.7 °F	1994	83.2 °F	1987	81.3 °F

Table 4. Warmest April on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1941	68.9 °F	1922	74.3 °F	1955	77.4 °F	1982	75.7 °F
2	1940	69.6 °F	1921	74.6 °F	2008	78.2 °F	1955	76.6 °F
3	1942	73.0 °F	1938	74.7 °F	1956	78.4 °F	1954	77.3 °F

Table 5. Coolest April on record.

** Following years are not included : 1956, 1957, 1959, 1963, 1967, 1979 and 1980**

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
Temperature	75.8 °F		80.3 °F		80.6 °F		80.0 °F	
Rainfall	4.68"		4.68"		2.74"		2.13"	

Table 6. Normal Values for April



Monthly Highlights for Primary Climatological Data Sites.

	April
San Juan Area	---
IST	---
ISX	3 rd wettest

Table 7. April 2017

Additional Highlights Based on COOP Data

Wettest Days

Station	Inches (inches)	Date
ARECIBO OBSY	5.5	4/12/2017
PALMA SOLA	5.16	4/17/2017
SABANA GRANDE 2 ENE	4.02	4/18/2017

Highest Maximum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
AN JUAN L M MARIN AP	92	4/25/2017
San Juan Area	92	4/25/2017
AGUIRRE	91	4/17/2017

Lowest Minimum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
ARECIBO OBSY	60	4/19/2017
AIBONITO 1 S	61	4/20/2017
RIO PIEDRAS EXP STN	63	4/6/2017

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 May 6th, 2017.

Puerto Rico Climate Record Period: 1940 to 2017

San Juan Metro Area Climate Record Period: 1898 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)

Cyril E. King Airport/St Thomas Climate Record Period: 1953 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)

Henry E. Rohlsen Airport/St Croix Climate Record Period: 1951 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)