



NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF BELIZE

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SEASONAL PRECIPITATION & TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Several agro-meteorological stations across the country are used to produce monthly and seasonal rainfall and temperature forecast. This is done by using the historical data observed at these stations, global and regional climate models, statistical models such as the Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) and Subjective inputs.

Based on these inputs, the Rainfall Forecast for the country during the period July-August-September 2018 (JAS 2018) is for normal to slightly above normal rainfall over southern areas and below normal rainfall over central and northern areas. Driest conditions are expected in the north where rainfall amounts could be as low as 30% below normal. Maximum temperatures are expected to be slightly above normal during this period while minimum nighttime temperatures will be just slightly cooler than in recent years.

Approximate rainfall amounts that are expected over different regions of the country during the period July-August-September 2018 are as follows:

REGION	RAINFALL (mm)	CATEGORY
North (Orange Walk and Corozal Districts)	350-450	Below Normal
Central Inland Areas (Cayo District)	350-750	Slightly Below Normal
Central Coastal Areas (Belize District)	475-575	Slightly Below Normal
Southern Areas (Stann Creek and Toledo Districts)	1000-2100	Slightly Above Normal

The Rainfall Forecast for the country during the period October-November-December 2018 (OND 2018) is for slightly above normal rainfall over the south, near normal over central areas and slightly below normal rainfall in the north. Temperatures are expected to be just slightly above normal during this period.

Approximate rainfall amounts that are expected over different regions of the country during the period October-November-December 2018 are as follows:

REGION	RAINFALL (mm)	CATEGORY
North (Orange Walk and Corozal Districts)	250-350	Slightly Below Normal
Central Inland Areas (Cayo District)	450-800	Near Normal
Central Coastal Areas (Belize District)	600-700	Near Normal
Southern Areas (Stann Creek and Toledo Districts)	750-1000	Slightly Above Normal

The maps below show approximate rainfall totals that can be expected. The expected maximum and minimum temperatures are also shown. Users are advised that the amounts shown are only an approximation and are therefore cautioned not to focus on the exact value on the maps but instead to expect that the rainfall and temperature should be somewhere in that general range.

What influences the next season?

Observations show that Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial eastern Pacific (NINO3.4) have become near normal suggesting neutral ENSO conditions. Most global models suggest that conditions will remain generally neutral during the next few months with the possibility of a weak El Nino developing later in the year during the OND season. Moderate warming in the Nino 3.4 region would suggest drier conditions over our region. In the Caribbean and North Atlantic, SSTs have been generally lower than normal during the past month or so and are expected to be cooler than normal at least for the next month or so. This would support lower rainfall totals in the region as well as lower than normal temperatures. There is always some level of uncertainty in predicting the major climate drivers. Users of this information are therefore asked to continue to monitor the monthly updates.

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