



SOLOMON ISLANDS SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

May— July 2019



This Seasonal outlook is based upon two months average value of February and March 2019 of the Central Eastern and South Western Pacific Ocean sea-surface temperature anomalies. The outlook is presented as the 'probability' or chance of the coming rainfall being in one of the three Tercile Classes – **Below normal, Normal and Above normal**. The lead time is one month.

Summary:

- March shows below-normal rainfall in most parts of the country, above-normal in parts of the western region.
- Rainfall Outlook shows below normal for most stations in the country.
- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook remains at Watch level.

Monthly Rainfall Updates

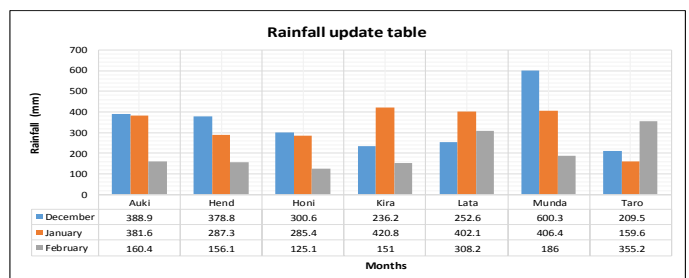
Station (include data period)	February 2019						
	January 2019 Total	February 2019 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Auki (1962 – 2019)	401.1	381.6	160.4	302.2	451.0	363.6	3/58
Henderson (1975 – 2019)	360.8	287.3	156.1	188.6	328.0	252.6	10/45
Honiara (1954 – 2019)	397.2	285.4	125.1	235.5	343.7	297.5	9/65
Kirakira (1965 – 2019)	423.2	420.8	151.0	284.4	394.9	359.8	3/52
Lata (1975 – 2019)	495.2	402.1	308.2	359.1	526.9	414.3	13/44
Munda (1962 – 2019)	354.5	406.4	186.0	281.0	428.9	340.0	9/58
Taro (1975 – 2019)	160.2	159.6	355.2	233.6	309.6	276.3	37/44

Rainfall was below average at all sites apart from Taro in the western region which recorded above normal rainfall. Auki and Kirakira recorded their third-driest March on record.

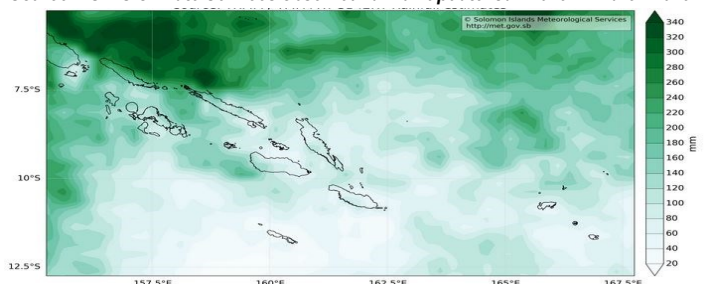
Taro in the central region recorded the highest monthly total rainfall of 355.2 mm for the month, an increase of the rainfall recorded in February. Honiara in the central region recorded the lowest rainfall of 125.1 mm.

Normal to below normal rainfall are expected over the country during this period.

General easterly trade winds flow persists over Solomon Islands during the month at 5 knots.

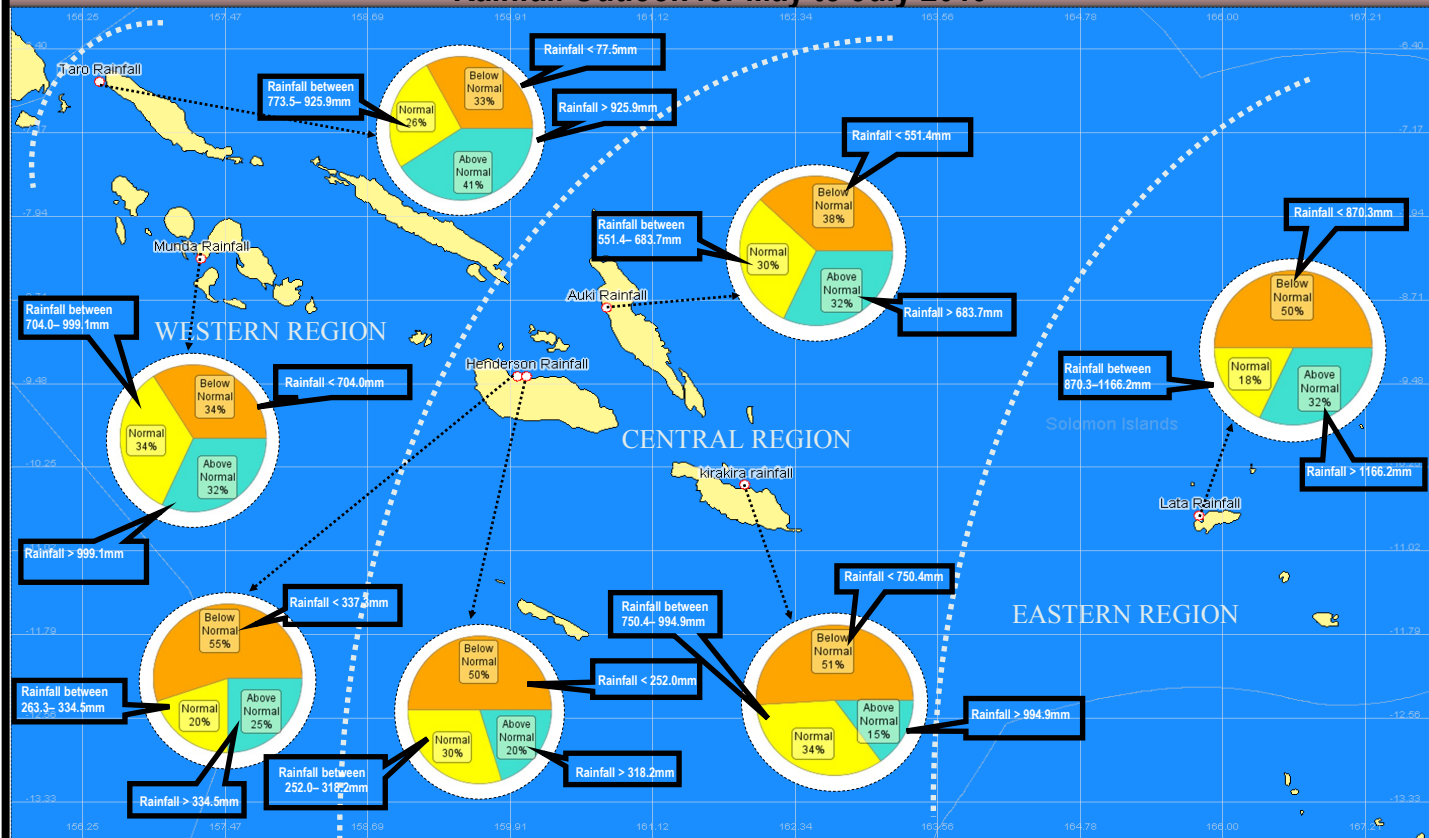


Source - SIMS Climate Services observed rainfall update: Jan 2019 – March 2019



Source - TRMM/TMPA-RT rainfall observed—March 2019

Rainfall Outlook for May to July 2019



Rainfall Outlook

Below normal: Henderson Rainfall, Honiara Rainfall, Kirakira Rainfall and Lata Rainfall

Above normal: Taro Rainfall

Climatology: Auki Rainfall and Munda Rainfall

Skill

Range: very low - moderate

Average: very low

The outlook favours below-normal rainfall for Henderson, Honiara, Kirakira and Lata. At Taro, the outlook shows above-normal rainfall as the most likely outcome, with below normal as the next most likely outcome. Normal is the least likely. The outlook offers little guidance for Auki and Munda as the chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal are similar.

Forecast Verification for January to March 2019

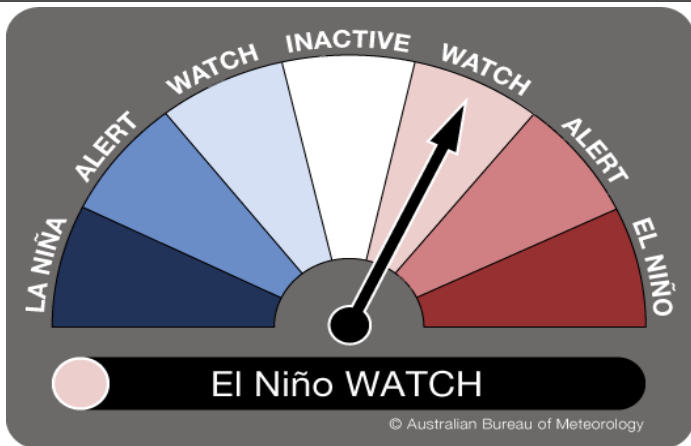
Three months Rainfall Table—The three months total rainfall recorded across Solomon Islands with their forecasted rainfall over the period and its verification.

Amount of Rainfall below the 33% percentile is **Below Normal** and the amount of rainfall above 66% percentile is **Above Normal**. Rainfall amount between 33% and 66% percentile is **Normal**.

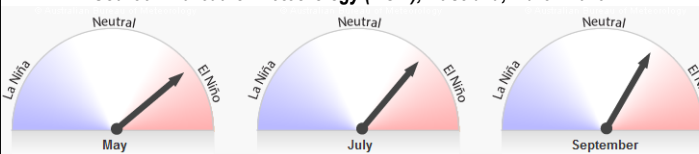
STATIONS	TOTAL Rainfall (mm)	Forecasted Rainfall	Forecast Verification (Consistent, inconsistent, near consistent)	33% Rainfall (mm)	66% Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)
Auki	930.9	Below normal	Consistent	992.0	1271.2	1183.5
Henderson	822.2	Normal	Near-consistent	666.1	905.3	749.3
Honiara	711.1	Normal	Near-consistent	695.5	948.8	849.8
Kirakira	808.0	Below normal	Consistent	875.2	1154.3	1022.9
Lata	962.9	Below normal	Consistent	1143.2	1383.3	1276.6
Munda	1192.7	Normal	Consistent	1046.1	1311.7	1142.0
Taro	724.3	Normal	Consistent	681.5	863.2	768.7

Below-normal rainfall was recorded at Auki and Kirakira in the central region, and Lata in the eastern region. Henderson and Honiara in the central region, and Munda and Taro in the western region recorded normal rainfall. Auki, Kirakira, Lata, Munda, and Taro were consistent with their outlooks. Henderson and Honiara were near-consistent.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Update



Source—Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), Australia, March 2019



El Niño—Associated with Below normal rainfall.

Source— BOM, ENSO model Outlook - May to September 2019

NEUTRAL—Associated with Normal rainfall.

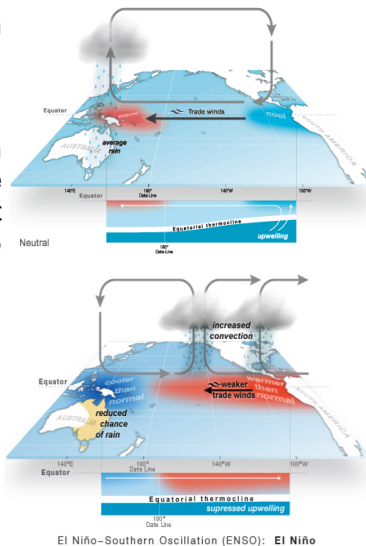
LA NIÑA—Associated with Above normal rainfall.

Current status:

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains at WATCH.

Outlook:

The Sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean have continued to warm indicating that there is approximately 50% chance of it occurring in late 2019.



Disclaimer:

Whilst Solomon Islands Meteorological Service takes all measures in providing accurate information, it does not guarantee 100% accuracy of the forecast provided in this summary. The division should be consulted for expert advice, clarification and further information when necessary. The users take all risk resulting indirectly or directly from the use of the information provided.

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