



# SOLOMON ISLANDS SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

March— May 2019



This Seasonal outlook is based upon two months average value of December 2018 and January 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 two months.

## Summary:

- December shows normal rainfall in most parts of central and western region, below normal in the eastern part of the country.
- Rainfall Outlook shows below normal for most stations in the country.
- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is at Watch level.

## Monthly Rainfall Updates

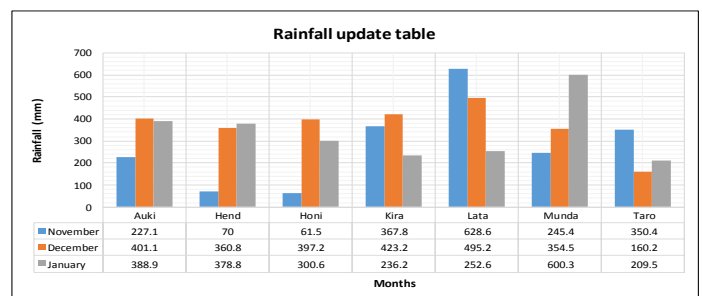
Station (include data period)	January 2019						
	November 2018 Total	December 2018 Total	Total	33%tile Rainfall (mm)	67%tile Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)	Ranking
Auki (1962 – 2018)	227.1	401.1	388.9	293.2	422.2	348.1	35/58
Henderson (1975 – 2018)	70.0	360.8	378.8	180.3	272.6	231.2	40/45
Honiara (1954 – 2018)	61.5	397.2	300.6	193.1	300.6	249.0	43/63
Kirakira (1965 – 2018)	367.8	423.2	236.2	236.0	416.0	295.8	19/52
Lata (1975 – 2018)	628.6	495.2	252.6	339.9	477.7	378.7	8/45
Munda (1962 – 2018)	245.4	354.5	600.3	286.0	416.6	369.3	46/58
Taro (1975 – 2018)	350.4	160.2	209.5	208.8	263.4	233.9	10/41

Above-normal rainfall was recorded at Henderson in the central region and at Munda in the western region. Auki, Honiara and Kirakira in the central region and Taro in the western region recorded normal rainfall, while below-normal was registered at Lata in the eastern region.

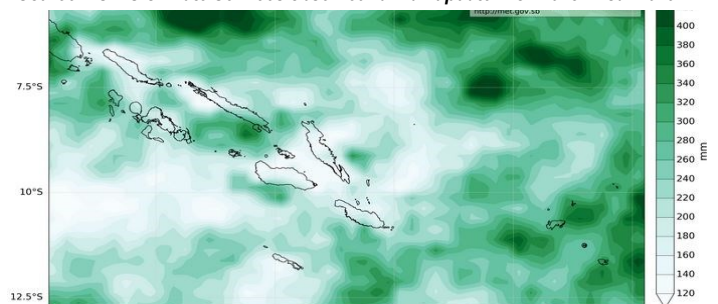
Munda in the western region recorded the highest monthly total rainfall of 600.3 mm for the month, an increase of the rainfall recorded in December. Lata in the eastern region recorded the lowest rainfall of 252.6 mm.

We are still in the wet season (October - January) therefore above normal rainfall are expected over the country. However, with the development of El Nino which influences rainfall, normal rainfall are observed over most parts the country during the month of January.

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

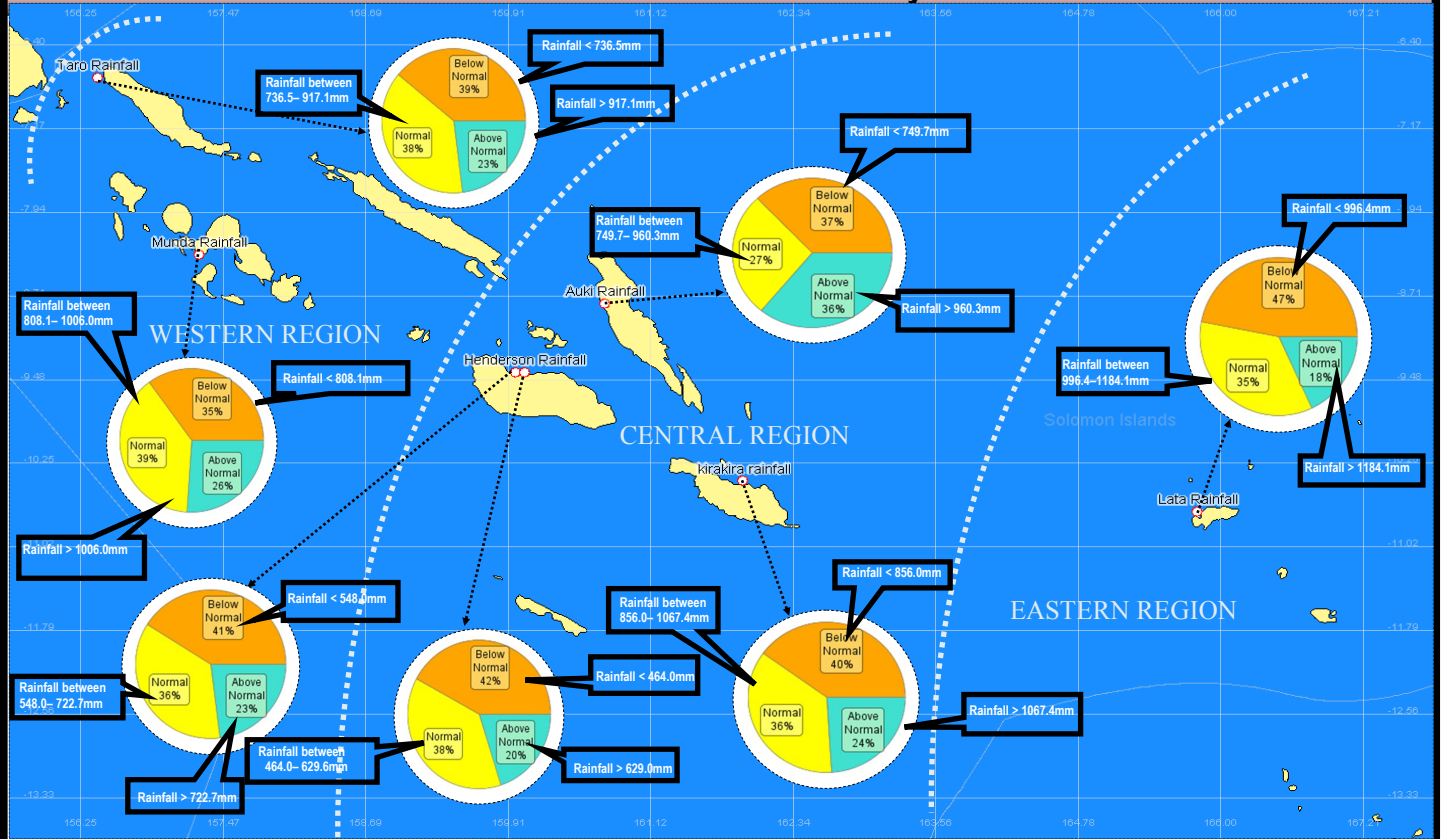


Source - SIMS Climate Services observed rainfall update: Nov 2018 — Jan 2019



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

## Rainfall Outlook for March to May 2019



### Rainfall Outlook

**Below normal:** Henderson Rainfall, Honiara Rainfall, Kirakira Rainfall, Lata Rainfall  
**Normal:** Munda Rainfall. **Below normal & normal:** Munda Rainfall  
**Climatology:** Auki Rainfall

### Skill

**Range:** very low - moderate  
**Average:** very low

The outlook shows below-normal rainfall for Henderson, Honiara, Kirakira and Lata as the most likely outcome, with normal as the next most likely outcome. Above-normal is the least likely. At Munda, the outlook indicates normal as the most likely, with below-normal the next most likely. Above-normal is the least likely. The forecast for Taro shows near equal likelihood of below-normal and normal-rainfall. Above-normal is the least likely. The outlook is mixed for Auki, with similar chances of above-normal and below-normal rainfall, near-normal is the least most likely.

## Forecast Verification for November 2018 to January 2019

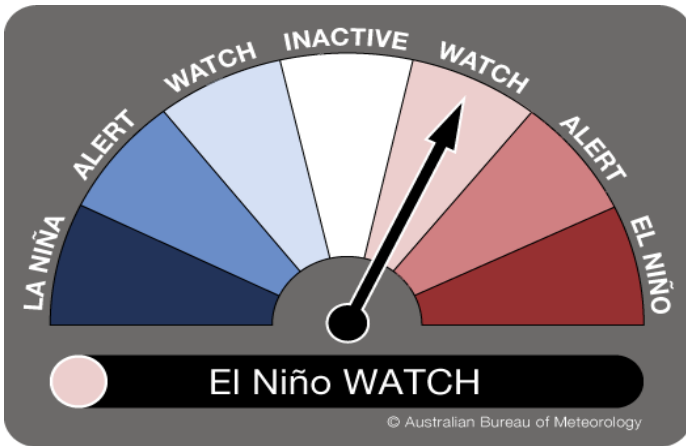
**Three months Rainfall Table**—The three months total rainfall recorded across Solomon Islands with their forecasted rainfall over the period and its verification.

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**.

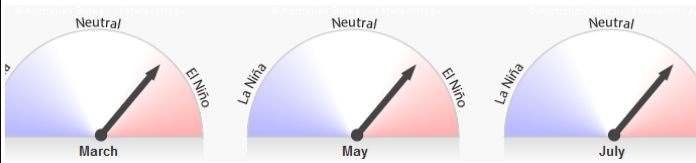
STATIONS	TOTAL Rainfall (mm)	Forecasted Rainfall	Forecast Verification (Consistent, inconsistent, near consistent)	33% Rainfall (mm)	66% Rainfall (mm)	Median Rainfall (mm)
Auki	1017.1	Above normal	Inconsistent	775.2	971.4	874.8
Henderson	809.6	Above normal	Near-consistent	472.4	719.1	592.2
Honiara	759.3	Above normal	Inconsistent	510.6	655.1	583.8
Kirakira	1027.2	Above normal	Inconsistent	702.2	925.6	802.3
Lata	1376.4	Above normal	Near-consistent	1045.9	1270.2	1120.6
Munda	1200.2	Above normal	Inconsistent	817.8	1009.2	863.3
Taro	720.1	Normal	Near-consistent	590.1	779.7	694.0

Above-normal rainfall was recorded at all stations apart from Taro in the western region where normal rainfall was observed. The outlook verification was near-consistent for Henderson, Lata and Taro. The outlooks for Auki, Honiara, Kirakira and Munda were inconsistent with their verification.

## El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Update



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



**El Niño**—Associated with Below normal rainfall.

Source—BOM, ENSO model Outlook - March to July 2019

**NEUTRAL**—Associated with Normal rainfall.

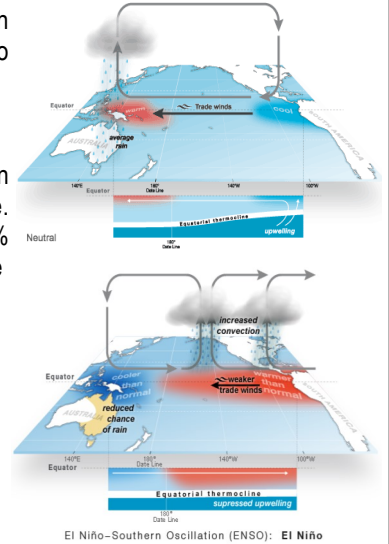
**LA NIÑA**—Associated with Above normal rainfall.

**Current status:**

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has been downgraded to WATCH.

**Outlook:**

The tropical Pacific Ocean remains warmer than average. 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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