



Email: dmsclimate@dominica.gov.dm

Website: www.weather.gov.dm

Tel: (767) 6184490/ 445 7849/ 6184494

Seasonal Forecast: January to March (JFM) 2023

Date of Issue: January 14, 2023

What are the usual JFM conditions?

January-February-March		
RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGICAL NORMAL (30YEARS)		
	CANEFIELD AIRPORT	DOUGLAS-CHARLES AIRPORT
Normal Accumulation	146.2 to 263.3mm	252.0 to 373.8mm
Number of Wet Days	14 to 23 days	21 to 30 days
Number of 7-day Wet Spells	0 to 2	0 to 1
Number of 7-day Dry Spells	-	0 to 1
TEMPERATURE (15YRS AVERAGES)		
Average Maximum	29.9°C to 30.3°C	28.6°C to 28.9°C
Average Mean	25.8°C to 26.0°C	25.2°C to 25.6°C
Average Minimum	21.5°C to 21.8°C	21.9°C to 22.3°C

What is the forecast for this JFM season?

Rainfall

- There is medium confidence that rainfall accumulation is likely to remain at least as high as usual;
- Rainfall for January so far has already exceeded 146.2mm at Canefield while Douglas-Charles has been drier;
- An increase in the number of wet days is likely, particularly over the western and southern parts of the island;
- No significant shift in the number of very wet spells which could result in flash floods is expected, with the usual one event likely;
- There is a low chance of having a 7-day dry spell;
- At this time, there is no concern for drought conditions;

- Drier than usual rainfall is likely during the second half of the dry season, which may increase the chance of bush fires

Temperature

- Temperatures are expected to be generally comfortable as the cool season progresses;
- Daytime and night-time temperatures are likely to be close to the usual or even slightly lower.

What factors are influencing this forecast?

1. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Recent observations: Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern Pacific remain below normal (-1.0°C); 2022 was a La Niña year.

Model forecast and guidance: ENSO neutral conditions are possible in JFM (50-60% confidence) with higher confidence of this by AMJ. El Niño may develop afterwards.

Expected impacts on rainfall and temperatures: La Niña tilts the odds to a wetter JFM. ENSO neutral offers little predictability in seasonal forecasting.

2. Climate conditions in the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA) and the Caribbean Sea

Recent observations: SSTs are around 0.5°C above average in much of the sub-tropical North Atlantic, but near average in the Caribbean Sea and the Tropical North Atlantic (TNA).

Expected conditions: Models are forecasting SST to remain between $0-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ above average, across the Caribbean and in the sub-tropical North Atlantic.

Expected impacts: Warm SSTs in and around the Caribbean tend to contribute to higher air temperatures with above-average humidity, seasonal rainfall totals and an increased frequency of extreme rainfall.