

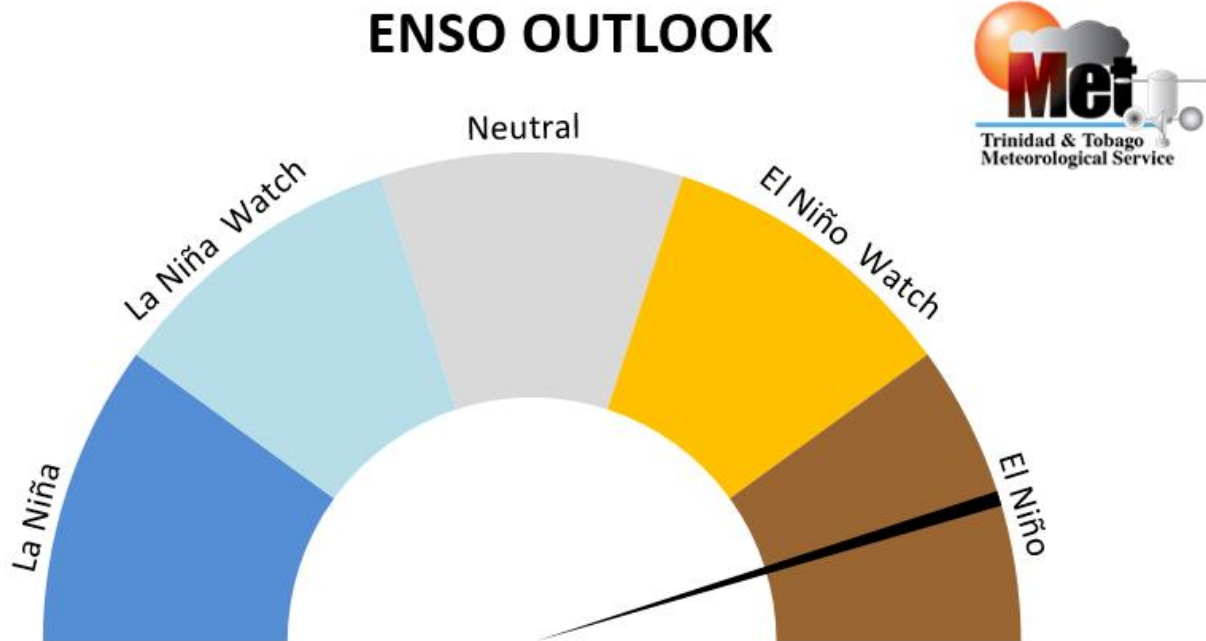
El Niño/La Niña Watch



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ENSO Monitor Update (based on the NIÑO 3.4 index (120-170W, 5S-5N)) Issued: October 27th, 2023

A moderately strong El Niño may develop in November 2023 and continue into April 2024 with possible weakening afterward.



In September 2023, sea surface temperatures steadied in the equatorial Pacific Ocean while positive anomalies slightly weakened in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The latest Niño indices show values that are in excess of positive 1.2 °C. The area-averaged subsurface temperature anomalies are consistent with elevated subsurface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Climate models have indicated with a high probability (75%-85%) that a moderately strong El Niño event may develop in November and continue into April 2024 with possible weakening afterward.

What does this mean for Trinidad and Tobago?

A moderately strong El Niño event increases the likelihood of El Niño related climate anomalies to occur but does not necessarily equate to stronger impacts locally. However, historically El Niño conditions tend to produce below-normal rainfall within Trinidad and Tobago, but not always. There is a moderate probability (68%) that the El Niño conditions will likely have a negative influence on local rainfall during the months of November 2023 to January 2024.

Guide: A La Niña (El Niño) is declared when the average SSTs in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean become at least -0.5°C cooler than average (0.5°C warmer than average) in the preceding month and

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the cooling (warming) is expected to persist for five consecutive overlapping three-month periods. This must occur together with a corresponding change in the overlying atmospheric circulation. The TTMS La Niña/El Niño Watch is activated when the ENSO Outlook indicates a probability of approximately 50% chance or greater for the development of La Niña or El Niño.