



Climate Outlook 2024



February to April 2024

Issued: 18 January 2024

Recent Observations

December 2023

- Below average rainfall received across the country. (see table below)
- The mean air temperature was 27.1°C which was 0.6°C warmer than average.
- Highest 24hrs rainfall was 95mm recorded in Niufo'ou on the 16th.
- Highest temperature was 34.1°C recorded at Nomuka on the 2nd.

Table 1. Rainfall totals from last 6 months, July – December 2023 (mm)

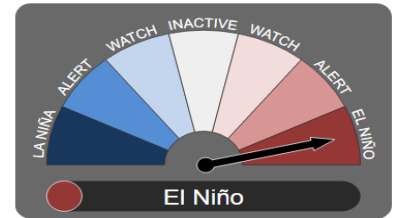
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Niufo'ou	232.2	153.2	6.7	69.5	89.5	211.5
Niuatoputapu	106.0	169.0	20.6	84.0	65.5	138.5
Vava'u	130.0	307.6	36.0	13.4	39.5	108.5
Ha'apai	99.5	109.8	32.9	11.2	80.0	63.1
Fua'amotu	60.9	77.4	26.5	18.9	177.0	75.3
Nuku'alofa	56.5	72.5	15.5	17.0	135.5	44.0
'Eua	49.6	110.0	50.5	19.5	159.0	98.5
	Below average		Average (usual)		Above average	

During October and October to December period, extreme drought occurred across the country (Table 1).

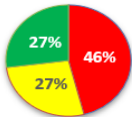
Rainfall Outlook for February to April 2024

ENSO Status

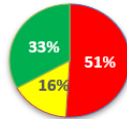
The El Niño event continues in the Pacific but has passed its peak.



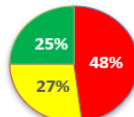
Model forecasts indicate the warmth of sea surface temperatures (SSTs) has reached its peak, with SSTs expected to remain above El Niño thresholds into March, April, May 2024. Some atmospheric indicators have weakened over the past three weeks, and the SOI is currently neutral. The typical drying influence of El Niño on Tonga's climate usually reduces during summer, as seen in Table 1.



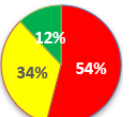
Niufo'ou:
720mm to 938mm



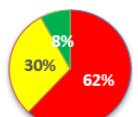
Niuatoputapu:
686 mm to 839 mm



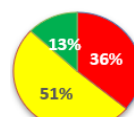
Vava'u:
717 mm to 957 mm



Ha'apai:
546mm to 726m



'Eua:
483mm to 702mm



Tongatapu:
554mm to 736mm

Below average

Average (usual)

Above average

Table 2: Rainfall Outlook: February to April 2024

	Rainfall Outlook	Probability % Below normal mm	Probability % Normal mm	Probability % Above normal mm
Niufo'ou	Below normal	46% (<720)	27% (720 - 938)	27% (>938)
Niuatoputapu	Below normal	51% (<686)	16% (686– 839)	33% (> 839)
Vava'u	Below normal	48% (<717)	27% (717 - 957)	25% (>957)
Ha'apai	Below normal	54% (<546)	34% (546 - 726)	12% (>726)
'Eua	Below normal	37% (<483)	30% (483 - 702)	8% (>702)
Tongatapu	Below normal	36% (<554)	51% (554– 736)	13% (>736)

The next Climate update will be issued second week of February 2024 or earlier

Disclaimer:

This summary is prepared as soon as possible following the end of the month, once climate data is received from recording stations around Tonga. Delays in data collection, communication and processing occasionally arise. While every effort is made to verify observational data, the Tonga Meteorological Service makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of, and you should not rely on, any information contained in this report. Despite our best efforts, TMS makes no warranties that the information in this publication is free of numerical errors. TMS disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason. This information should be used as a guidance only. For further information about this forecast should be directed to the Director of the Tonga Meteorological Service, at P.O. Box 1380, Nuku'alofa. Or email at metstaff@mef.gov.to Tel: (676) 0800638/ 7400062 or our website; <http://www.mef.gov.to> for more information.