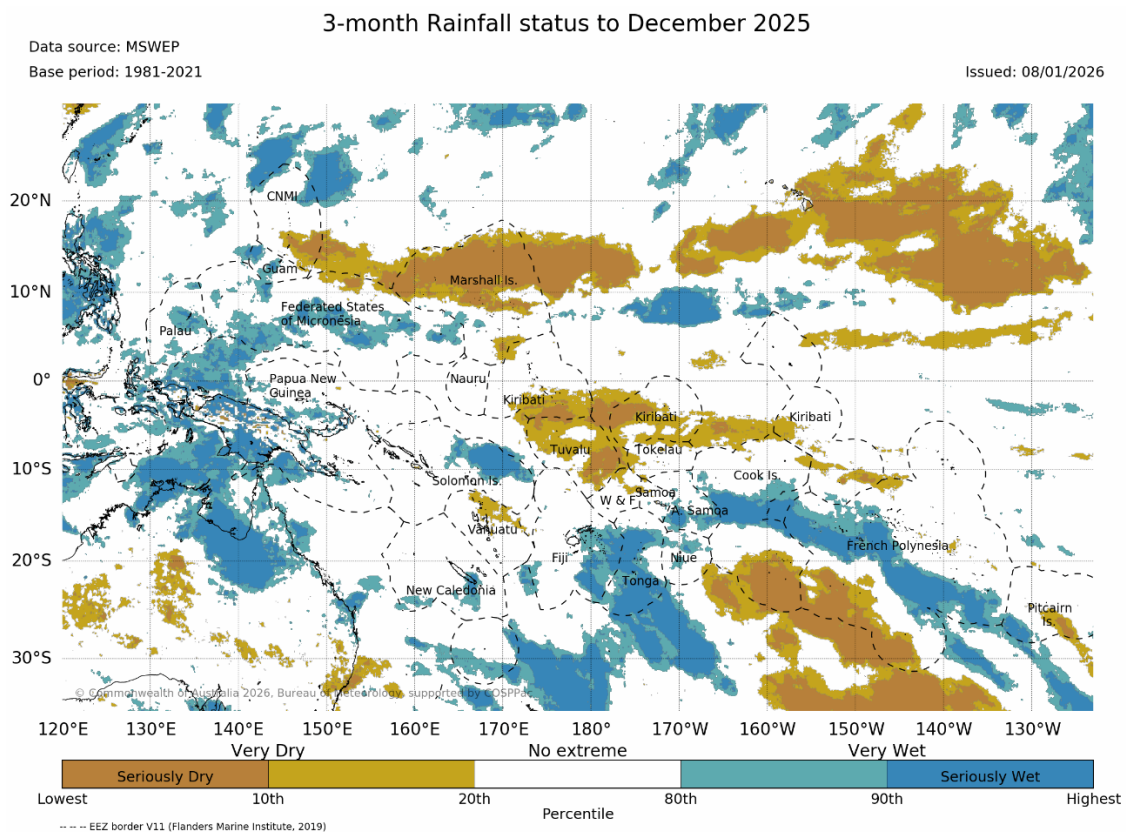


El Niño-Southern Oscillation Status: as of 31 December 2025

La Niña continues in the tropical Pacific. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is expected to remain neutral until at least the end of autumn 2026. The IOD is typically inactive from December to April. The Bureau's model indicates that SSTs in the tropical Pacific are likely to return to a neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) state in late summer, consistent with most international models. Neutral conditions are favoured through to at least late autumn. Some models suggest the possibility of El Niño development from June. However, data from past ENSO events shows predictability beyond autumn is low at this time of year.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 December 2025



The 3-month rainfall status for October to December 2025 was Very Wet or Seriously Wet over central Palau, northern CNMI, Guam, and most of FSM in the northern Pacific. Very Wet or Seriously Wet areas were also observed over most of PNG mainland, northern Solomon Is. EEZ, parts of southern New Caledonia, eastern Fiji EEZ, Tonga, parts of Samoa, American Samoa, Niue, central Cook Islands, and central French Polynesia.

The rainfall status was Very Dry or Seriously Dry for October to December 2025 over southern CNMI and northern and southern RMI in the northern Pacific. Very Dry or Seriously Dry areas were also observed over Kiribati (southern Gilbert, Phoenix, and parts of Line Islands), northern Vanuatu, Tuvalu, southern Cook Islands, southern French Polynesia, and parts of Pitcairn Islands in the southern Pacific.

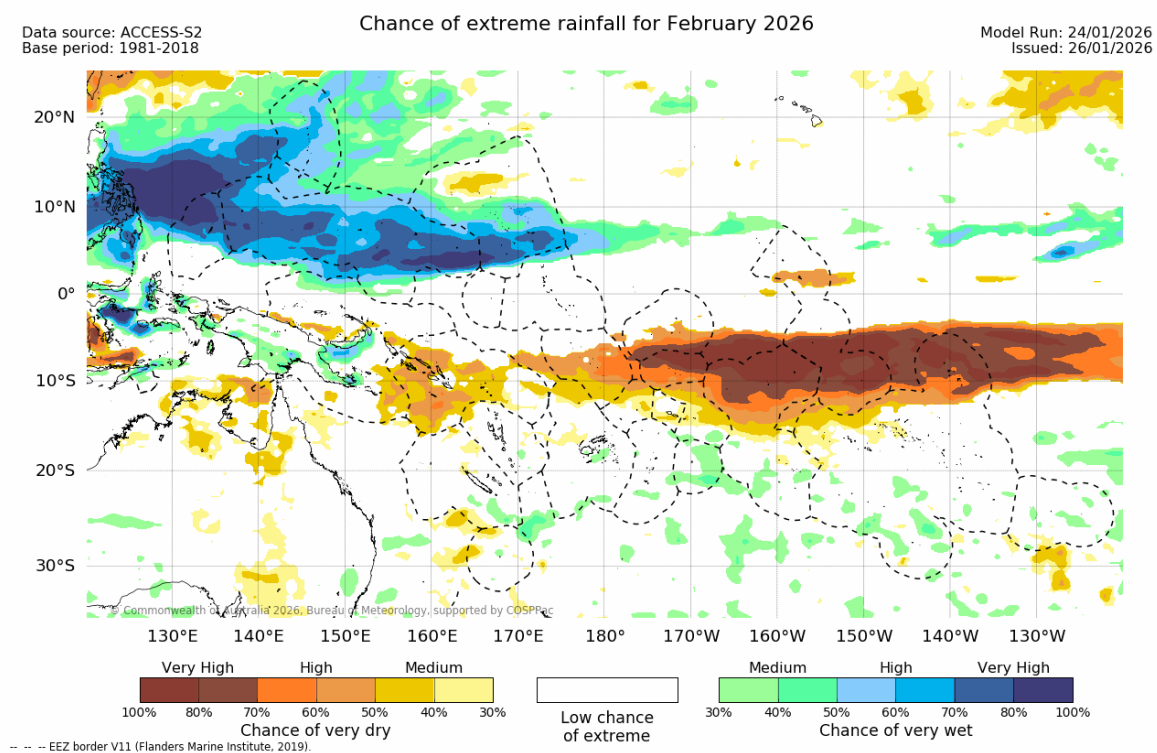
The regional maps are available via https://access-s.climate.cloud/files/project/EAR_watch/pacific/

Three-month total rainfall is typically used for monitoring grasslands, shallow rooted plants and small water body (e.g. small water tanks, streams) moisture deficits. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology and soil type.

Rainfall Status

- Estimates of moisture/water stress are based on recent rainfall compared with historical observations using the Percentile (Decile) Index.
- Definitions: "Very Dry" = rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and season, "Very Wet" = rainfall in the highest 20% for that location and season, "Seriously Dry" = rainfall in the lowest 10% of the historical record for that location and season, "Seriously Wet" = rainfall in the highest 10% for that location and season.

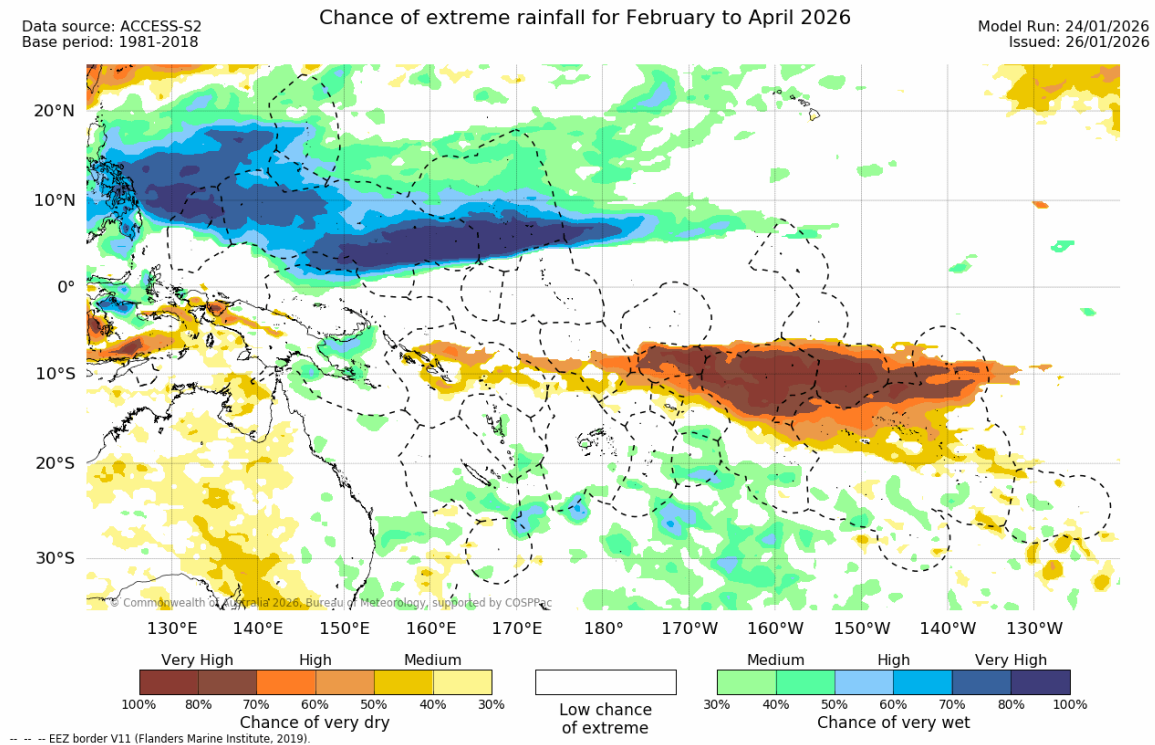
Monthly Rainfall Watch: February 2026



For February 2026, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) over Palau, FSM, CNMI, Guam, and central RMI in the northern Pacific. There is also medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category over parts of PNG mainland and Islands, and patches over Fiji, southern Tonga, southern Cook Is., southern French Polynesia, and Pitcairn Is., in the southern Pacific.

There is a medium to very high chance that rainfall will be in the Very Dry category (lowest quintile, which includes the Seriously Dry category) over parts of northern RMI in the northern Pacific. There is also a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry category over Solomon Is., Kiribati (southern Phoenix and Line Is.), Tuvalu, parts of Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, Tokelau, American Samoa, northern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia in the southern Pacific.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: February – April 2026



For February to April 2026, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) in a band stretching eastwards over Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM, and RMI in the northern Pacific. There is also another band of medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Wet category (highest quintile, which includes the Seriously Wet category) over parts of PNG Is., parts of central and southern Vanuatu, parts of southern New Caledonia, southern Tonga, Niue, parts of southern parts of Cook Is., and patches over southern French Polynesia and Pitcairn Islands in the southern Pacific.

In contrast, there is a medium to very high chance of rainfall in the Very Dry category (lowest quintile, which includes the Seriously Dry category) in a band stretching southeastwards from Solomon Is., southern Tuvalu, Tokelau, parts of Samoa and northern American Samoa, northern Cook Is., Kiribati (southern Line Is.), and northern French Polynesia in the southern Pacific.

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Watch

- Information provided has been interpreted on a divisional scale where possible as Pacific Island Countries can experience a high range of rainfall variability within a country. It is possible to have forecasts which simultaneously favour above and below normal rainfall in different parts of the one country.
- Definitions: "Chance of Very Dry" = percent chance of rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and season, "Chance of Very Wet" = percent chance of rainfall in the highest 20% for that location and season. Medium, High and Very High refer to the percent probability level where Very High has the highest confidence and represents the range 70% and above.
- Local Met Services should be contacted for detailed information and outlooks. This product is not to be distributed to the public or other organisations.