



Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac)

Regional Early Action Rainfall Watch

Seasonal Rainfall Watch: July– September 2020

Alert Level



Alert Level	Divisions with <u>Below Normal Rainfall</u> favoured in the coming 3 months	Alert Level	Divisions with <u>Above Normal Rainfall</u> favoured in the coming 3 months
Light Brown	Vanuatu (N), Fiji (W)	Light Blue	Cook Is. (N)
Medium Brown	PNG (M, S), Vanuatu (S)	Medium Blue	Kiribati (W), Tuvalu (All)
Dark Brown		Dark Blue	

List of Divisions:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Is. (Northern – N) | <input type="checkbox"/> FSM (Kosrae – K) | <input type="checkbox"/> PNG (Highlands – H) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Is. (Southern – S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kiribati (Western Is. – W) | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiji (Western Div. – W) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiribati (Central Is. – C) | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Is. (Western Region – W) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji (Central Div. – C) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiribati (Eastern Is. – E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Is. (Central Region – C) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji (Eastern Div. – E) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Is. | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Is. (Eastern Region – E) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji (Northern Div. – N) | <input type="checkbox"/> Niue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuvalu (Northern – N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji (Rotuma – R) | <input type="checkbox"/> Palau | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuvalu (Southern – S) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FSM (Yap – Y) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PNG (Momase Region – M) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vanuatu (Northern Region – N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FSM (Chuuk – C) | <input type="checkbox"/> PNG (New Guinea Is. – Is.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vanuatu (Southern Region – S) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FSM (Pohnpei – P) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PNG (Southern Region – S) | |

No alert for this region

Outlook unavailable for this region

Rating Scale: Below Normal and Above Normal

Forecast Confidence	Tercile Forecast Probabilities (%)					Forecast Confidence	Tercile Forecast Probabilities (%)				
	39-44	45-50	51-54	55-59	60+		39-44	45-50	51-54	55-59	60+
Low	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Low	Light Blue	Light Blue	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue
Low-Medium	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Low-Medium	Light Blue	Light Blue	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue
Medium	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Medium	Light Blue	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Medium-High	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Medium-High	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
High	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	High	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Very High	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Dark Brown	Very High	Medium Blue	Medium Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue

E.g. If a region has a forecast probability for **above normal** rainfall of **45%** [17/38/45 – below normal/normal/above normal] with a **Medium-High** Confidence, it would give a **Mid-Blue** Alert Rating. Similarly if a region has a forecast probability for **below normal** rainfall of **45%** [45/38/17 – below normal/normal/above normal] with a **Medium-High** Confidence, it would give a **Mid-Brown** Alert Rating.

Rainfall Status: as of 31 May 2020

Alert Level	3-month period
Seriously wet (90%)	PNG (S), Vanuatu (N), Fiji (W, C, E), Niue
Near or wetter than normal	Palau, FSM (K, P), Marshall Is., PNG (M, H), Solomon Is. (W, C), Vanuatu (S), Kiribati (W, C), Tuvalu (N), Cook Is (S)
Warning (25%)	FSM (Y), Solomon Is. (E), Fiji (N, R), Kiribati (E), Cook Is (N)
Seriously dry (10%)	PNG (Is.), Tuvalu (S), Samoa
Severely dry (5%)	
Status not available	FSM (C)

List of Divisions:

Cook Is. (Northern – N)	FSM (Kosrae – K)	PNG (Highlands – H)
Cook Is. (Southern – S)	Kiribati (Western Is. – W)	Samoa
Fiji (Western Division – W)	Kiribati (Central Is. – C)	Solomon Is. (Western Region – W)
Fiji (Central Division – C)	Kiribati (Eastern Is. – E)	Solomon Is. (Central Region – C)
Fiji (Eastern Division – E)	Marshall Is.	Solomon Is. (Eastern Region – E)
Fiji (Northern Division – N)	Niue	Tuvalu (Northern Region – N)
Fiji (Rotuma – R)	Palau	Tuvalu (Southern Region – S)
FSM (Yap – Y)	PNG (Momase Region – M)	Vanuatu (Northern Region – N)
FSM (Chuuk – C)	PNG (New Guinea Is. – Is.)	Vanuatu (Southern Region – S)
FSM (Pohnpei – P)	PNG (Southern Region – S)	

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. A division is listed once at the highest station alert within that division.

Seasonal Rainfall Watch

- Information provided gives an indication of predicted total rainfall over the next three months, not how intense the rain may be in any one event, nor how it may vary from month to month.
- Information provided has been given on a divisional scale as Pacific Island Countries can experience a high range of rainfall variability within country. It is possible to have forecasts which simultaneously favour above and below normal rainfall in different parts of the one country.
- Starting at 39%, the alert levels indicate increasing chances of either below or above normal rainfall, as defined below. A measure of confidence, based on historical model performance, also plays a role in the rating level.
- The alerts are based on the highest station probabilities within a country or division.
- Definitions: "Below Normal Rainfall" = rainfall total below the 33rd percentile for that location and season;
"Above Normal Rainfall" = rainfall total above the 67th percentile for that location and season.
- Local Met Services should be contacted for detailed information and outlooks. This product is not to be distributed to the public or other organisations.



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



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