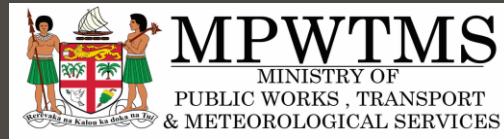


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FIJI CLIMATE OUTLOOK

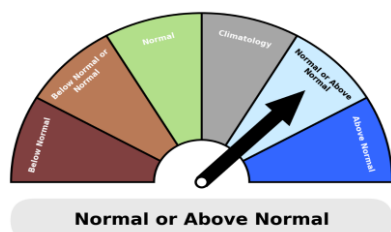
MAY 2023;

MAY TO JULY 2023;

AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023

Fiji Meteorological Service

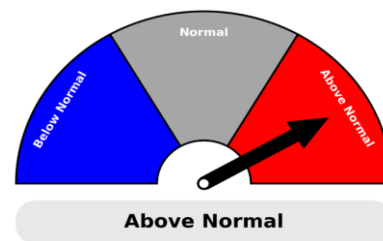
HIGHLIGHTS



Rainfall Outlook



ENSO Outlook

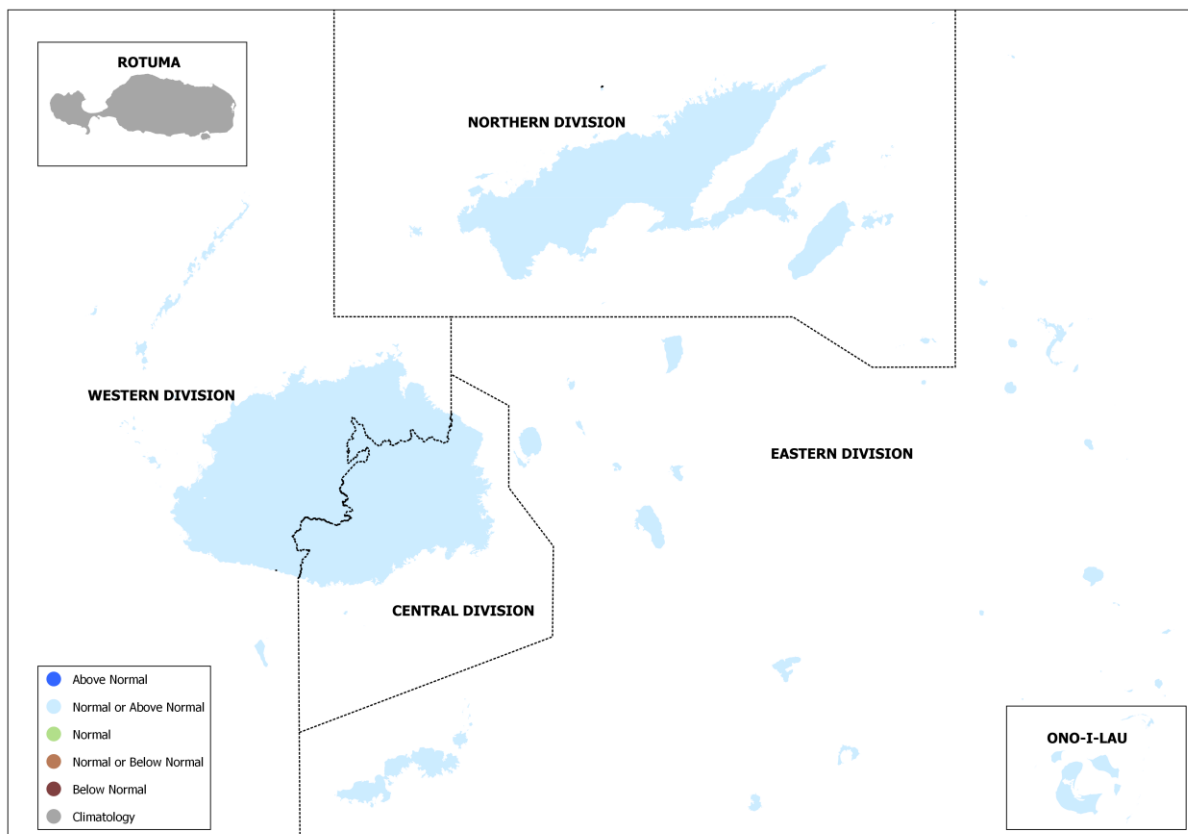


Air Temperature

- During May 2023, *normal or above normal* rainfall is likely across the Fiji Group. There is little guidance for Rotuma with almost equal chances of *below normal, near normal and above normal* rainfall.
- For May to July period, *near normal* rainfall is likely for the Western and Central Divisions, while *normal or above normal* rainfall is likely for the Northern and Eastern Divisions. *Near normal or above normal* rainfall is likely for Rotuma.
- During August to October 2023 period, *near normal or below normal* rainfall is likely for the Fiji Group.
- The air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across the country during May, and as well as the May to July period.
- El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral state, which is neither El Niño nor La Niña, but climate indicators in the tropical Pacific Ocean are now indicating early stages of development of an El Niño event.
- Climate models favour development of an El Niño event during the May to July 2023 period. Consequently, an El Niño Watch is in place.
- Fiji usually experiences *below normal* rainfall during an El Niño event, but the influence of the past La Niña event may continue to have an impact on Fiji's climate for a few more months due to the lag in the atmosphere to oceanic changes.
- The 2022-23 tropical cyclone season ends at the end of April. However, out of season tropical cyclones cannot be ruled out.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

MAY 2023



Western Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

Central Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

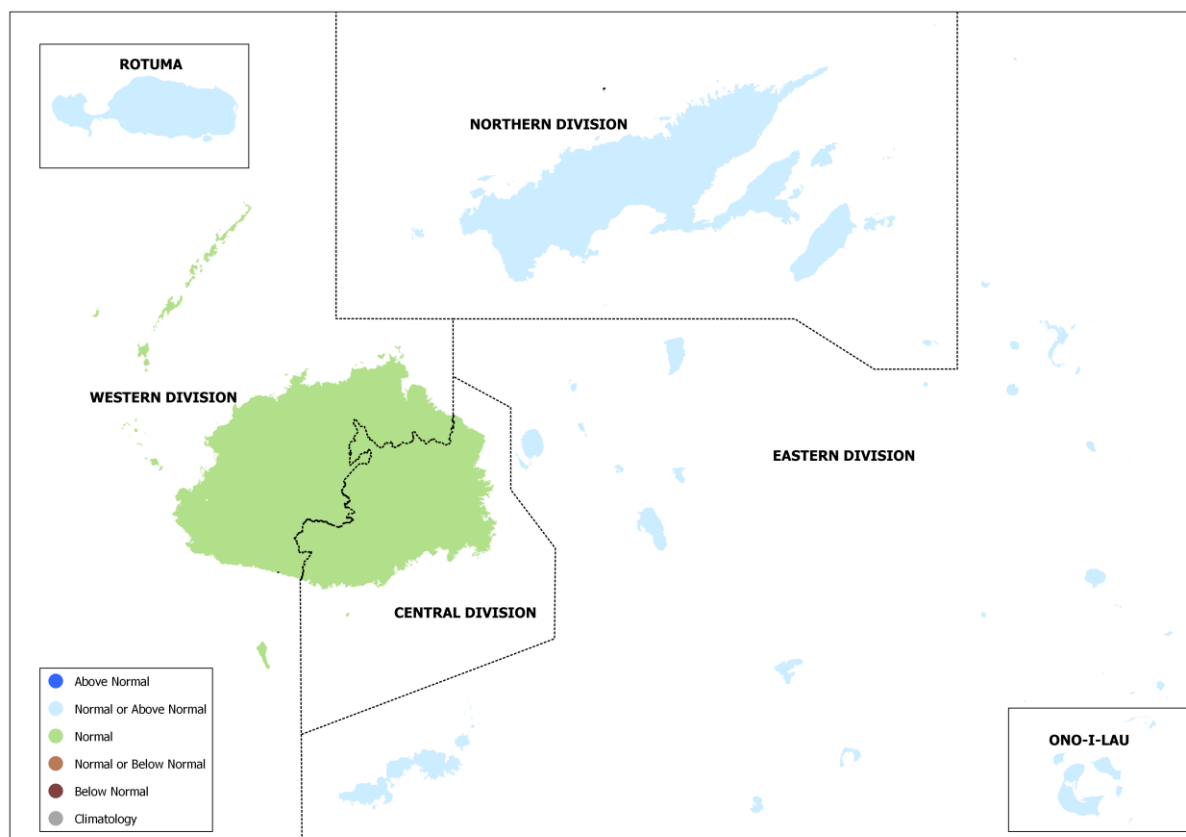
Northern Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

Eastern Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

Rotuma: Almost equal chances of *below normal*, *normal* and *above normal* rainfall

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

MAY TO JULY 2023



Western Division: *Near normal* rainfall

Central Division: *Near normal* rainfall

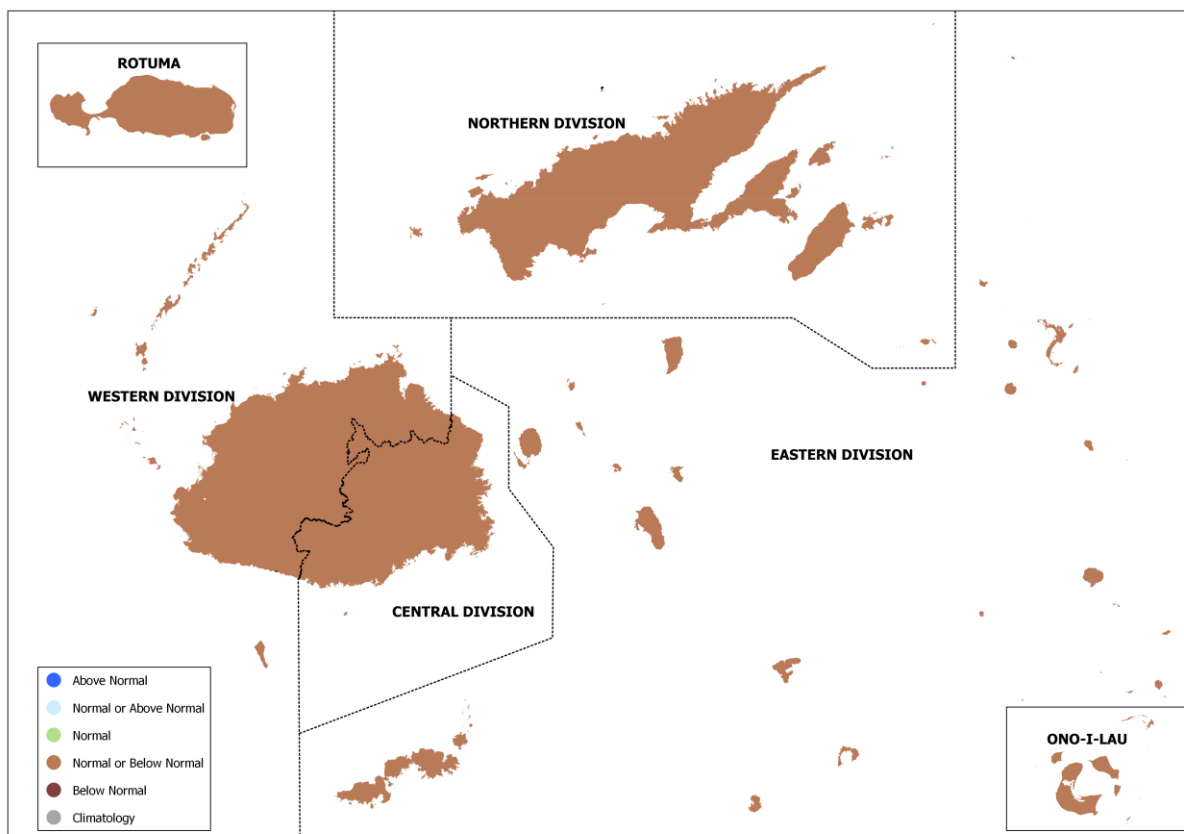
Northern Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

Eastern Division: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

Rotuma: *Normal or above normal* rainfall

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023



Western Division: *Normal or below normal* rainfall

Central Division: *Normal or below normal* rainfall

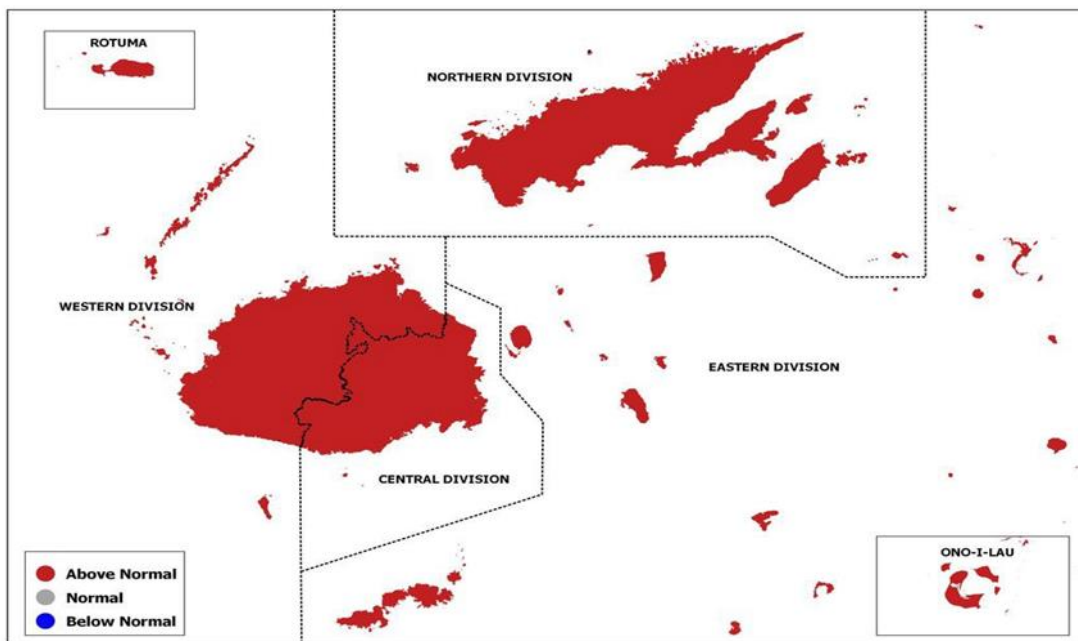
Northern Division: *Normal or below normal* rainfall

Eastern Division: *Normal or below normal* rainfall

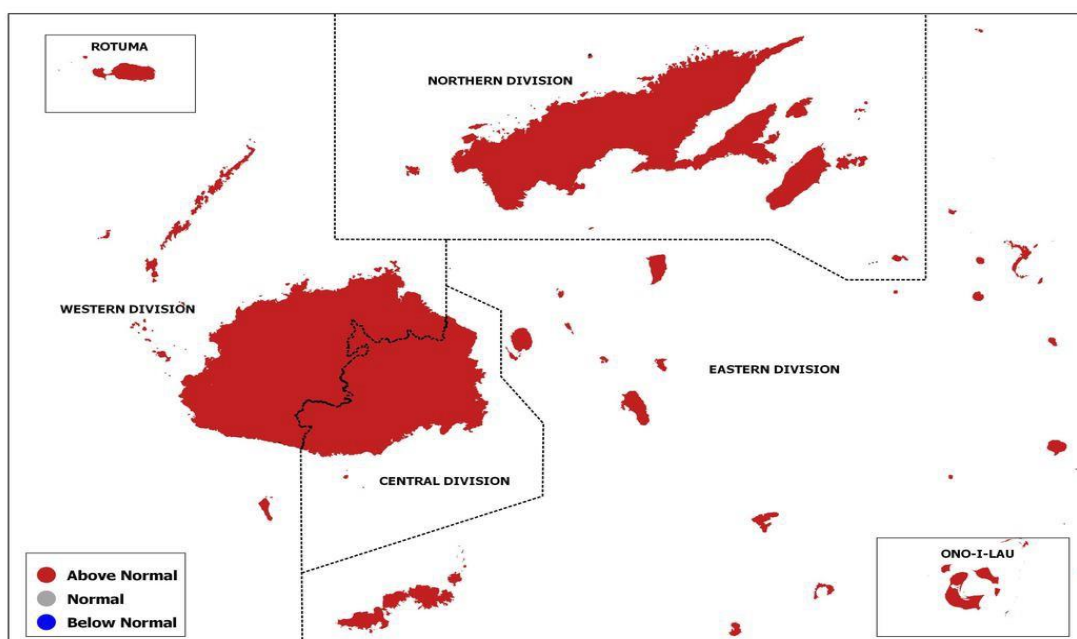
Rotuma: *Normal or below normal* rainfall

AIR TEMPERATURE OUTLOOKS

MAY 2023

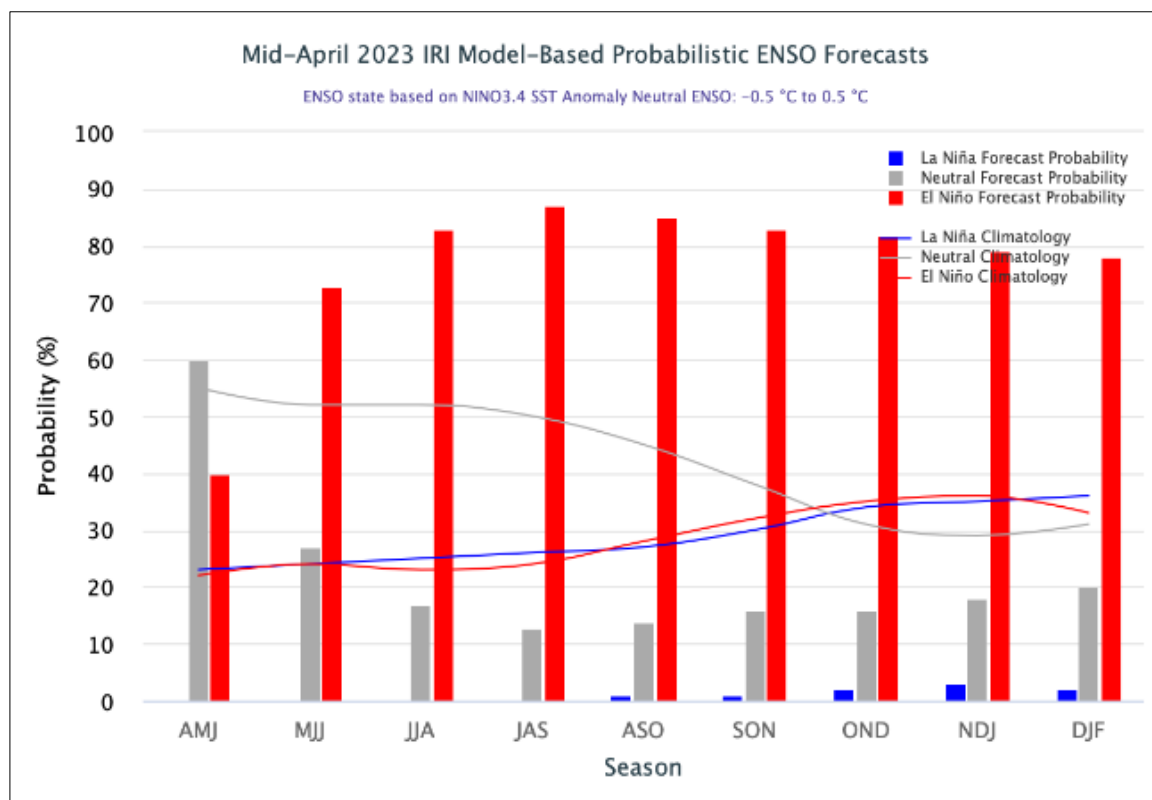


MAY TO JULY 2023



Above normal air temperatures are likely over the Fiji Group during May 2023, and as well as the May to July 2023 season.

EL-NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)



Source: [International Research Institute for Climate and Society](#)

El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral state, which is neither El-Niño nor La Niña. However, climate indicators in the tropical Pacific Ocean are now favouring development of an El Nino event.

Climate models indicate that development of an El Niño event is likely during the May to July 2023 period. Consequently, an El Nino Watch is in place.

Fiji usually experiences *below normal* rainfall during an El Niño event, but the influence of the past La Niña event may continue to have an impact on Fiji’s climate for a few more months due to the lag in the atmosphere to oceanic changes.

Climate (Rainfall/Air Temperature) Outlook

Above normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the highest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Near normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the middle third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Below normal – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the lowest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

Climatology – means that there are equal chances of receiving below normal, normal and above normal rainfall.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is the principal driver of the year-to-year variability of Fiji's climate. There are two extreme phases of this phenomenon, **El Niño** and **La Niña**.

El Niño or La Niña events are a natural part of the global climate system and usually recur after every 2 to 7 years. It normally develops during the period April to June, attains peak intensity between December to February and decays between April to June period the following year. While most events last for a year, some have persisted for up to 2 years. It should be also noted that no two El Niño or La Niña events are the same. Different events have different impacts, but most exhibit some common climate characteristics.

Usually there is a lag effect on Fiji's climate with ENSO events, that is, once an El Niño or La Niña event is established in the tropical Pacific, it may take 2-6 months before its impact is seen on Fiji. Similarly, once an event finishes, it can take 2-6 months for climate to normalise.

El Niño events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell. The relationship and level of rainfall suppression is greater in the Dry Zone than in the Wet Zone. It is the suppression of rainfall during the Cool/Dry Season (May to October) that is normally of most concern. A reduction in Cool/Dry Season rainfall in the Dry Zone results in little or no rainfall until the next Wet Season. While usually the strength of an ENSO event is proportional to its impact on Fiji, at times weak event can also have a significant impact.

La Niña events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season (November to April).

When ENSO is neutral, that is, neither El Niño nor La Niña, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.

Lag effects – means that there is a delay in a change of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

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