

RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR TONGA FOR Dec09 - Feb 2010

El Niño conditions exist in the equatorial Pacific. Many dynamical climate models project the continuation of El Niño through 2009 and into 2010.

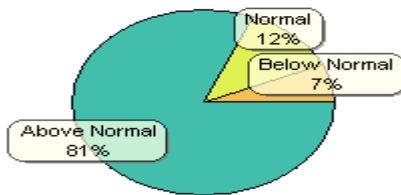
Niuafo'ou and Vava'u is currently in drought. A drought warning is now current for Ha'apai.

The rainfall totals for October and the outlooks for the next three months continue to reflect El Nino type conditions. Rainfall has been below normal across the country in October, Ha'apai recorded 7.7mm, Vava'u 29.4mm, Niuafo'ou 20.6mm, and Fua'amotu 48.3mm. It is the beginning of the Wet season (Nov-Apr) and it is also the cyclone season therefore fluctuations of rainfall distribution should be expected throughout.

Niuafo'ou

Above Normal >924.0mm
Normal 691.7 - 924.1mm
Below Normal <691.7mm

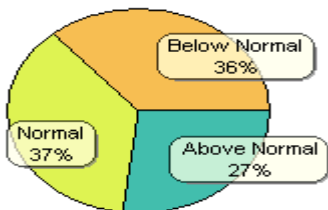
The model generated outlook is providing a strong signal for **above normal** rainfall.



Niuaotoputapu

Above Normal >857.0mm
Normal 647.0mm-857.0mm
Below Normal <647.0mm

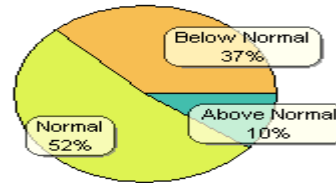
The model generated outlook is providing a signal for **below to normal** rainfall.



Vava'u

Above Normal >883.0mm
Normal 606.0mm–883.0mm
Below Normal <606.0mm

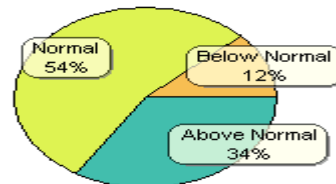
The model generated outlook is providing a strong signal for rainfall to be **normal**.



Ha'apai

Above Normal >678.7mm
Normal 431.0mm– 678.7mm
Below Normal <431.0mm

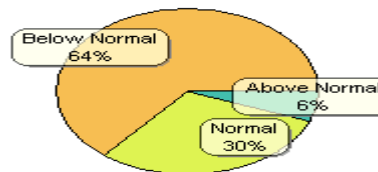
The model generated outlook is providing a strong signal for rainfall to be **normal**.



Tongatapu

Above Normal >714.3mm
Normal 429.3mm-714.3mm
Below Normal <429.3mm

The model generated outlook is providing a strong signal for **below normal** rainfall.



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 does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analysis and rainfall predictions presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this summary and its contents. This information should be used as a guidance only. All requests for data and for further information about this forecast should be directed to the Director of the Tonga Meteorological Service, at P.O. Box 845, Nuku'alofa. Or email at fnt_met@met.gov, Tel: (676) 35