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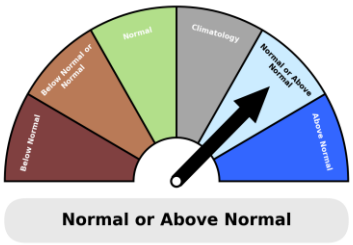
MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC WORKS, METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
AND TRANSPORT

FIJI CLIMATE OUTLOOK

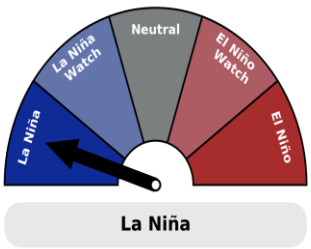
MARCH 2026;
MARCH TO MAY 2026;
JUNE TO AUGUST 2026

Fiji Meteorological Service

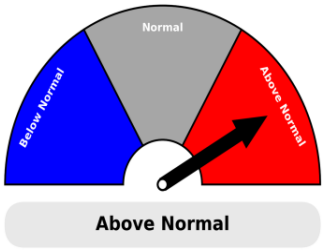
HIGHLIGHTS



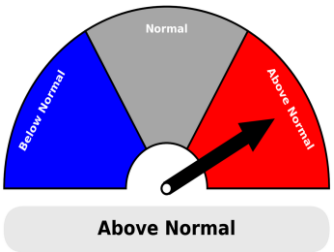
Rainfall Outlook



ENSO Outlook



Max Temperature Outlook

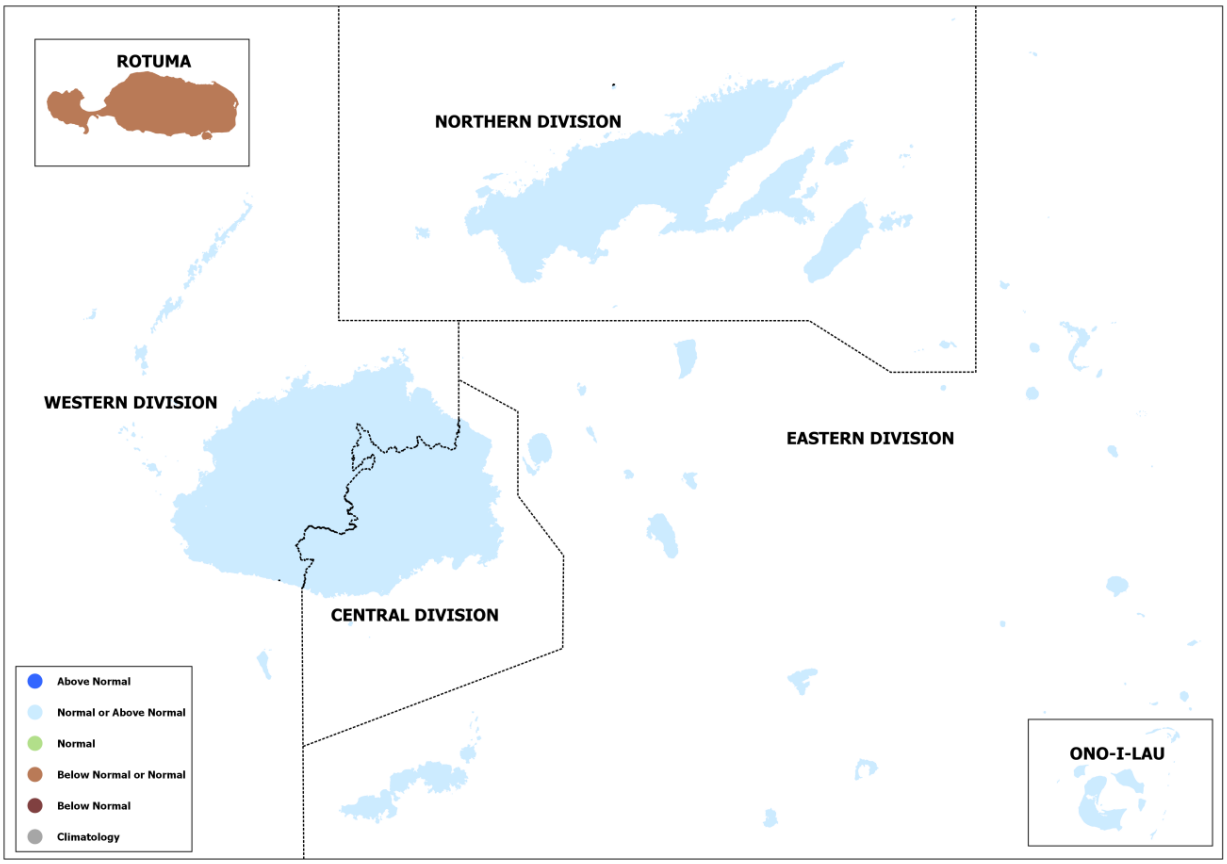


Min Temperature Outlook

- A weakening La Niña event persists within the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- Most global climate models favour a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during the March to May 2026 period.
- In March, rainfall across the Fiji Group is likely to be *normal* or *above normal*, while Rotuma is more likely to see *normal* or *below* normal rainfall.
- For temperatures, both maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be above normal across the Fiji Group during March.
- On rainfall for the March to May period, *normal* or *above normal* rainfall is expected across most of the Fiji Group, while Rotuma is more likely to receive *normal* or *below normal* rainfall.
- On temperatures for the March to May 2026 period, both maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be above normal across the Fiji Group.
- For the June to August 2026 period, *normal* or *below normal* rainfall is likely across the Fiji Group, including Rotuma.
- On tropical cyclones, Fiji is likely to experience 1-2 tropical cyclones in the current rainfall season.
- Notably, development of a tropical disturbance or depression, can result in *above normal* rainfall, during the above mentioned periods.
- During neutral ENSO conditions, Fiji generally experiences average rainfall. However, local weather systems can still cause variations, especially during the current Wet Season.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

MARCH 2026



Western Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Central Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

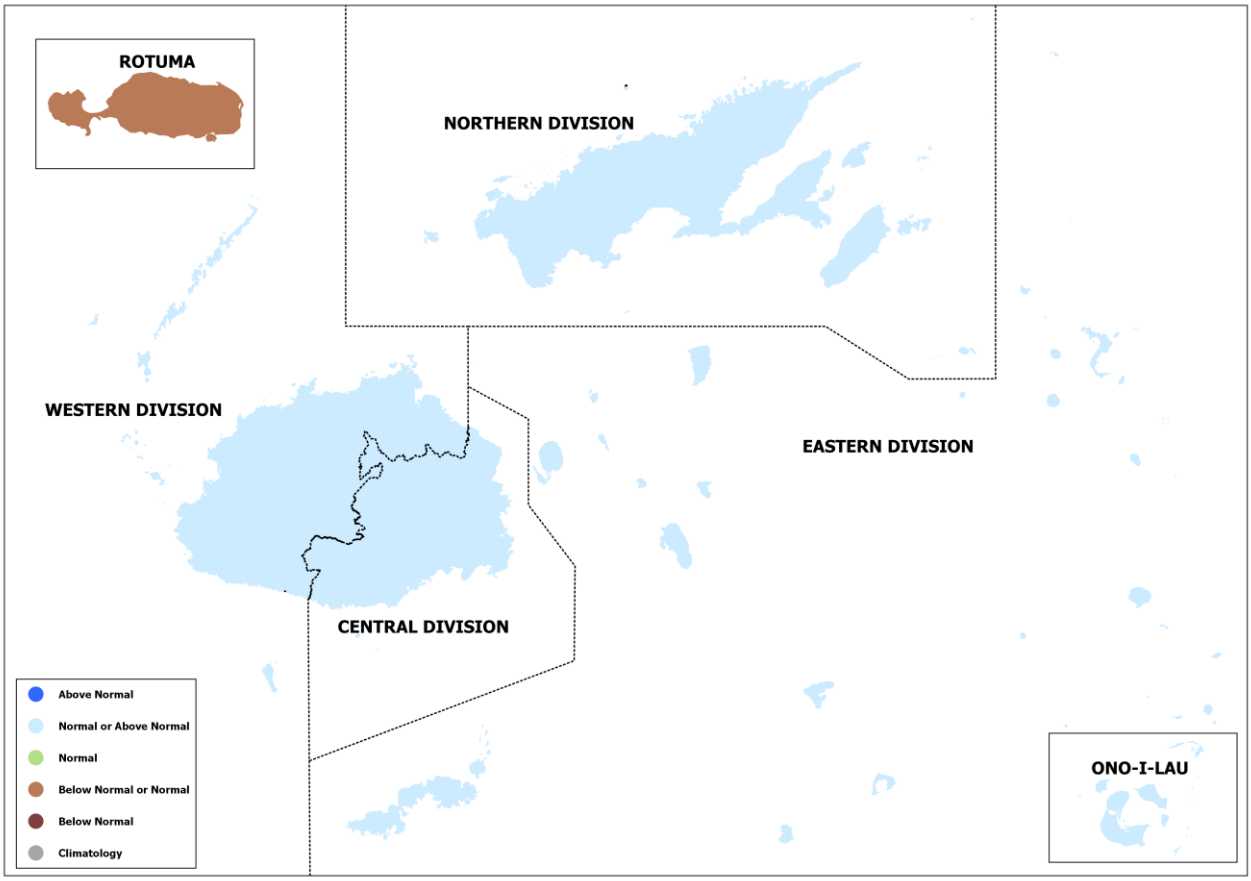
Northern Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Eastern Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Rotuma: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

MARCH TO MAY 2026



Western Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Central Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

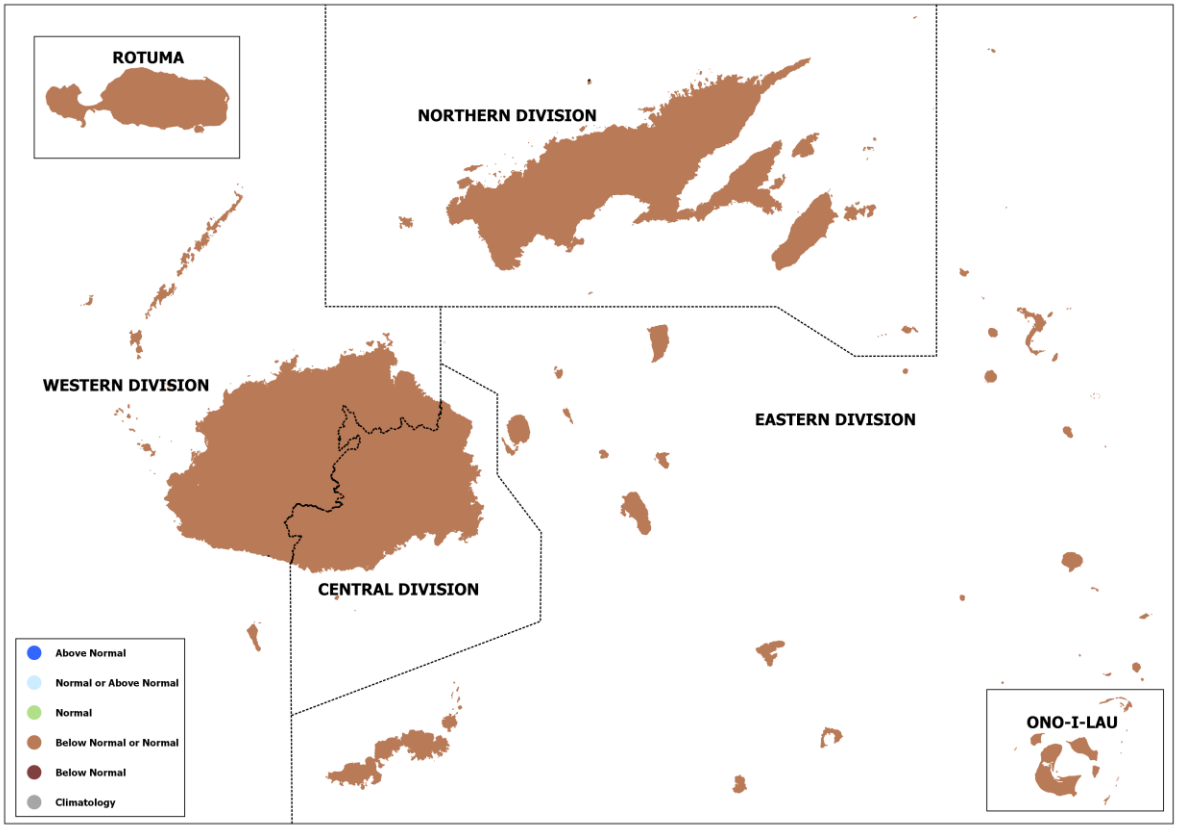
Northern Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Eastern Division: *Normal or above normal rainfall*

Rotuma: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

JUNE TO AUGUST 2026



Western Division: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

Central Division: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

Northern Division: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

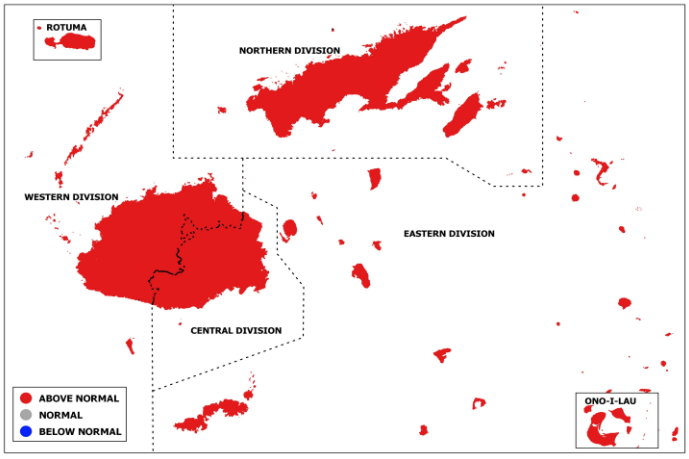
Eastern Division: *Normal or below normall rainfall*

Rotuma: *Normal or below normal rainfall*

AIR TEMPERATURE

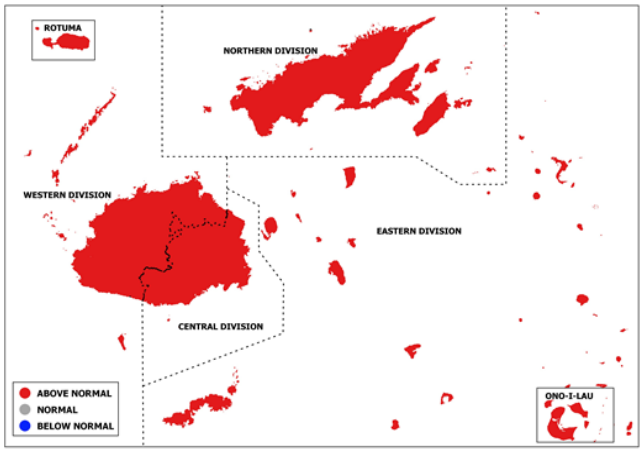
MARCH 2026

Maximum Temperature



Maximum temperature is likely to be *above normal* across the Fiji Group.

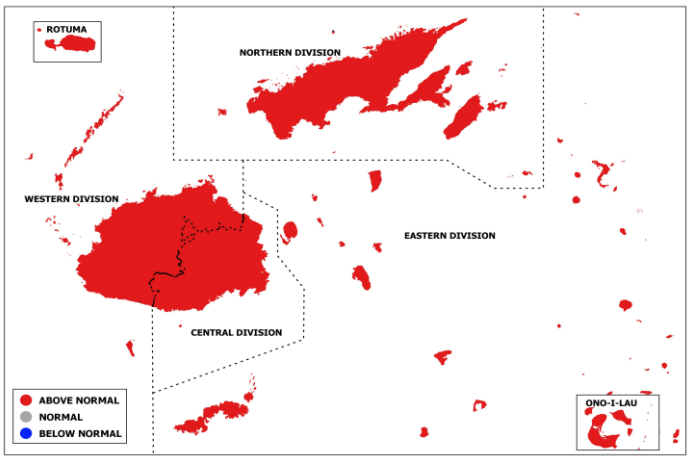
Minimum Temperature



Minimum temperature is likely to be *above normal* across the Fiji Group.

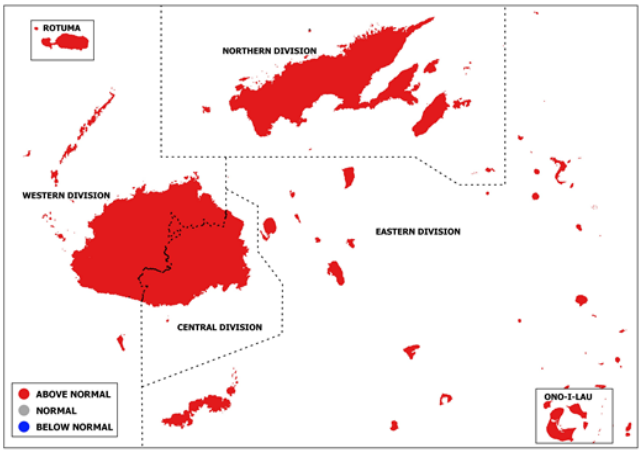
MARCH TO MAY 2026

Maximum Temperature



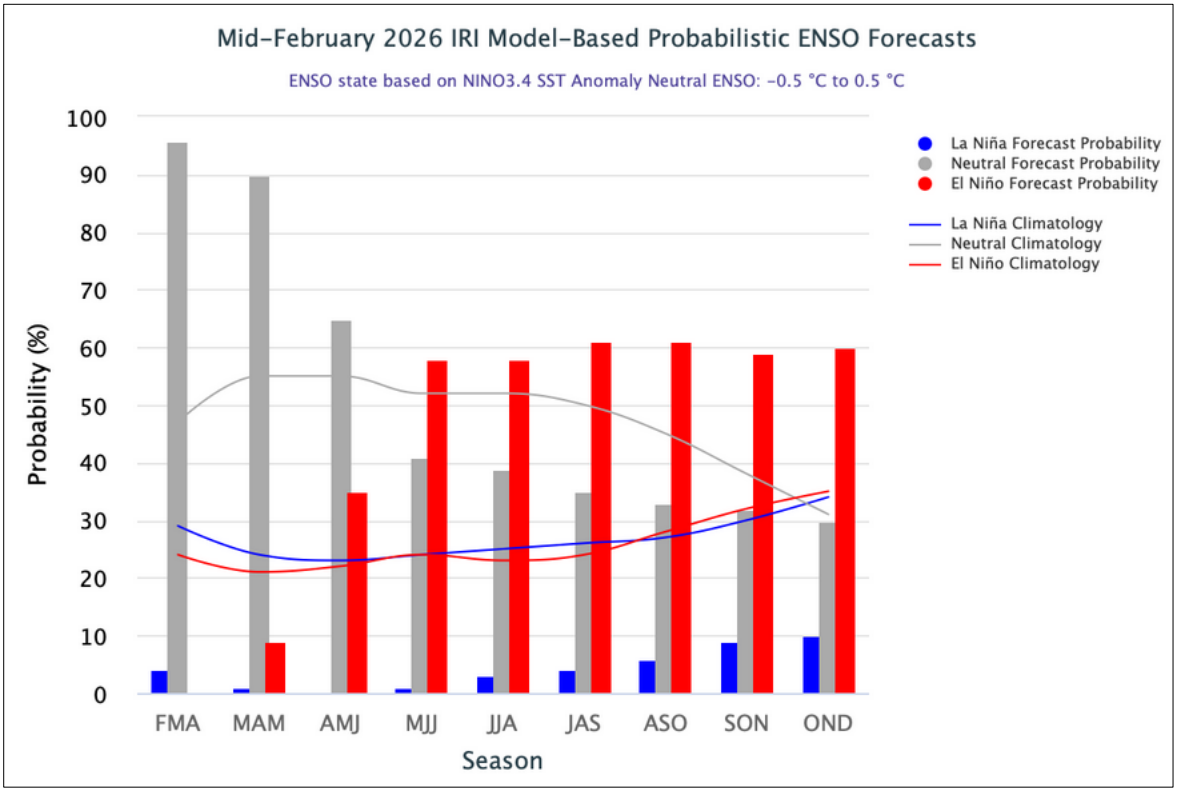
Maximum temperature is likely to be *above normal* across the Fiji Group.

Minimum Temperature



Minimum temperature is likely to be *above normal* across the Fiji Group.

EL-NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)



Source: International Research Institute for Climate and Society

A weak La Niña has been present in the tropical Pacific but is now weakening.

Sea surface temperatures and some atmospheric indicators remain consistent with weak La Niña conditions, while warmer sub-surface waters across much of the Pacific indicate a gradual decay of the event. Most global climate models favour a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during March to May 2026, with neutral conditions likely to persist in the near term.

During ENSO-neutral conditions, Fiji often sees near-normal rainfall overall, but day-to-day and weekly rainfall can still vary due to local weather systems, particularly during the current Wet Season.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 almost equal chances of receiving below normal, normal and above normal rainfall. Outlook does not favour one extreme; neither below normal nor above normal.

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

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