# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY**

**State Department for Environment & Climate Change**

**KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

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**Ref No: KMD/FCST/05-2026/SO/02** **Issue Date: 30th May 2026**

## OUTLOOK THE JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2026 SEASON AND REVIEW OF THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 "LONG-RAINS" SEASON

## 1.0 SUMMARY

### 1.1 Outlook for the June-July-August 2026 Season

*The outlook indicates that near-average to below-average rainfall is likely to occur in the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and Northwestern Kenya. The Coast is expected to receive near-average to above-average rainfall. The Highlands East of the Rift Valley are likely to experience light rains. The South-eastern Lowlands and Northeastern Kenya are expected to be generally sunny and dry.*

*Mean temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over most parts of the country. However, cool and cloudy conditions (with occasional fog) are expected in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley as well as in some parts of the South-eastern Lowlands, the Rift Valley and North-eastern Kenya (Marsabit County).*

*Strong southerly/south-easterly/easterly winds with speeds exceeding 25 knots (12.86 m/s) are expected over some parts of the Coast, the South-eastern Lowlands, North-eastern and North-western Kenya.*

### 1.2 Review of the March-April-May 2026 "Long-Rains" Season

*An analysis of the March-April-May 2026 rainfall season reveals that most parts of the country received near-average to above average rainfall.*

*Mean temperatures were generally warmer than average.*

## 2.0 RAINFALL FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2026

### 2.1 June-July-August Rainfall Climatology

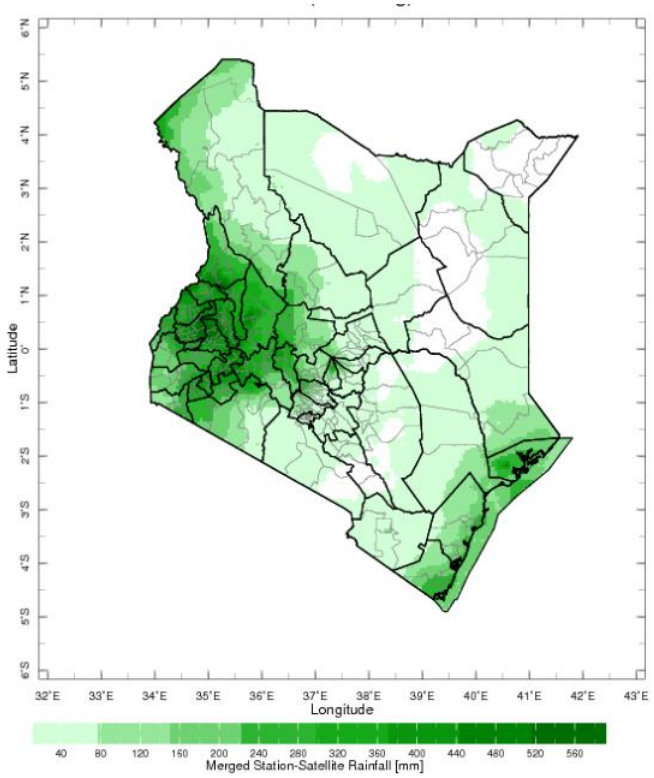


*Figure 1: June-July-August Rainfall Climatology (1991-2020)*

June-July-August is not a major rainfall season in Kenya. Rainfall is mainly received in the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the Coast and Northwestern Kenya. The rainfall generally continues from the March-April-May season.

Most parts of the country are generally dry in June-July-August (Figure 1) due to subsidence from the southeast monsoon. However, the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley, the Coast and Northwestern Kenya continue to receive rainfall because of local moisture sources (Lake Victoria & Indian Ocean), topographic uplift, Congo air inflow, and jet-induced convergence that sustain convection.

The Highlands East of the Rift Valley also receive light rainfall as moist monsoon winds flow over their mountainous terrain.

### 2.2 Rainfall Forecast for June-July-August 2026

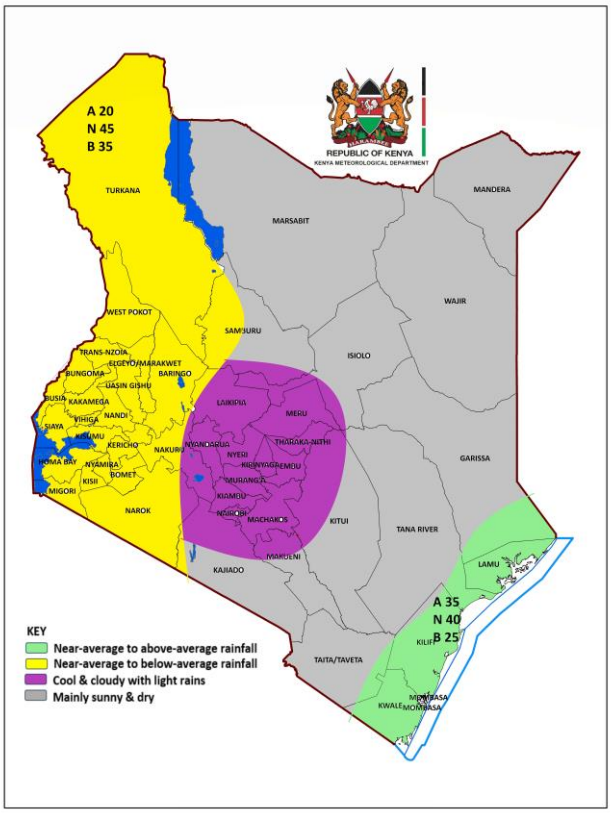


*Figure 2: June-July-August 2026 Rainfall Forecast*

The outlook indicates that near-average to below-average rainfall is likely to occur in the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and Northwestern Kenya. The Coast is expected to receive near-average to above-average rainfall (Figure 2).

The Highlands East of the Rift Valley are likely to experience light rains. The South-eastern Lowlands and Northeastern Kenya are expected to be generally sunny and dry.

## 2.3 Detailed Regional Rainfall Forecast for June-July-August 2026

*2.3.1 The Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin and the Rift Valley (Nandi, Kakamega, Vihiga, Bungoma, Siaya, Busia, Baringo, Nakuru, Trans-Nzoia, Uasin-Gishu, Elgeyo-Marakwet, West-Pokot, Kisii, Nyamira, Kericho, Bomet, Kisumu, Homabay, Migori and Narok Counties):*

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to below-average. Intermittent dry spells are expected throughout the season.

*2.3.2 North-western Kenya (Turkana and Samburu Counties):*

Sunny and dry conditions are expected in this region. However, near-average to below-average rainfall may occur over a few areas.

*2.3.3 The Highlands East of the Rift Valley (Nyandarua, Laikipia, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Kiambu, Meru, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Nairobi Counties):*

Light rainfall and fog is expected in this region.

*2.3.4 North-eastern Kenya (Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Isiolo Counties):*

Sunny and dry conditions are expected in this region. However, light rains and fog may occur over high-altitude areas.

*2.3.5 The South-eastern lowlands (Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta Counties as well as the inland parts of Tana-River County):*

Sunny and dry conditions are expected in this region. However, light rains and fog may occur over high-altitude areas.

*2.3.6 The Coast (Mombasa, Kilifi, Lamu and Kwale Counties as well as the Tana Delta):*

Rainfall is likely to be near-average to above-average. Intermittent dry spells are expected throughout the season.

# 3.0 TEMPERATURE FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2026

## 3.1 June-July-August Temperature Climatology

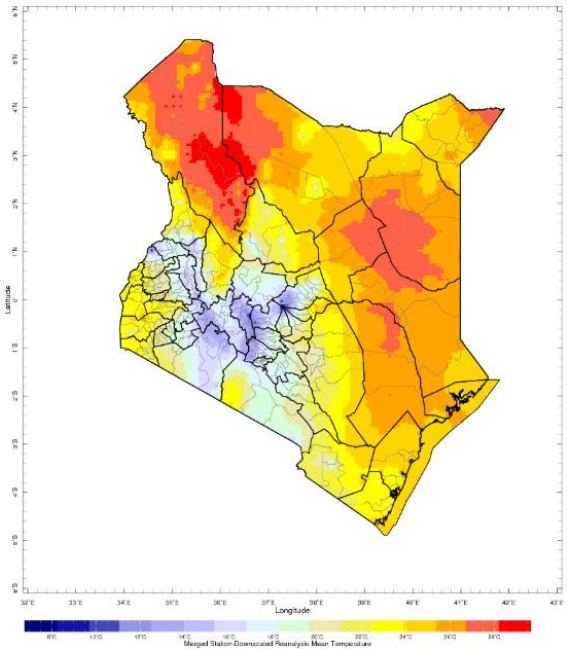


*Figure 3: June-July-August Mean Temperature Climatology (1991-2020)*

During the June–July–August season, Kenya experiences its coolest conditions of the year, with mean temperatures typically ranging from about 16°C in the Highlands East of the Rift Valley to 30°C in North-western Kenya (Figure 3).

These cooler temperatures result from the dominance of the southeast monsoon, which brings relatively cool air from the Indian Ocean; widespread cloud cover that reduces solar heating; and the influence of Southern Hemisphere winter air masses.

In addition, mountainous terrain in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley cause further cooling in these regions.

## 3.2 Temperature Forecast for June-July-August 2026

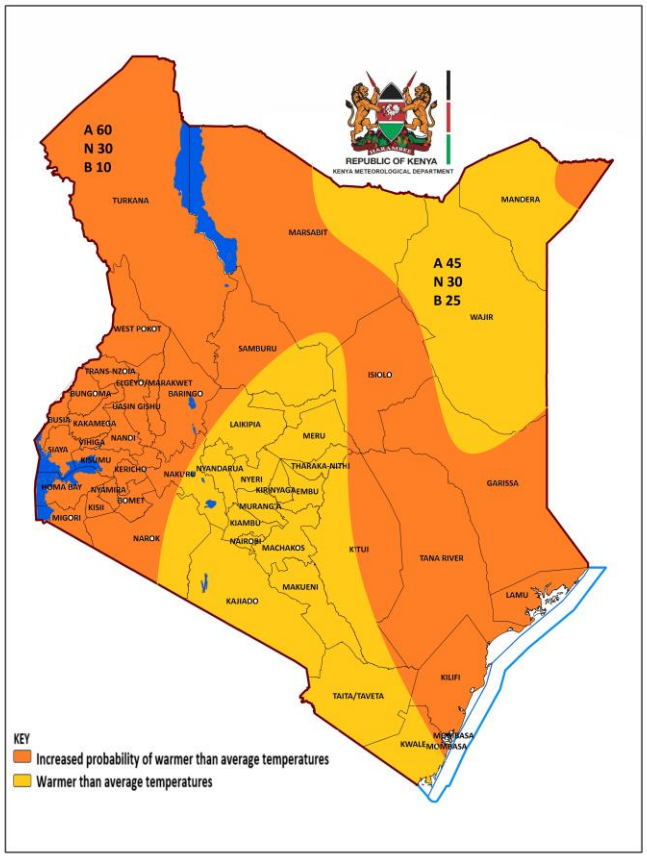


*Figure 4: June-July-August 2026 Temperature Forecast*

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole country, with increased probabilities over the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, Lake Victoria Basin, the Coast, the North-western and North-eastern Kenya (Figure 4).

Cool and cloudy conditions (with occasional fog) are expected in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley as well as some parts of the South-eastern Lowlands, the Rift Valley and North-eastern Kenya (Marsabit County).

## 4.0 WINDS FORECAST FOR JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2026

Strong southerly/south-easterly/easterly winds with speeds exceeding 25 knots (12.86 m/s) are expected over some parts of the Coast, the South-eastern Lowlands, North-eastern and North-western Kenya.

The winds are a result of the interaction of large-scale monsoon circulation (cross-equatorial flow and Somali Low-level Jetstream) with regional topography (especially the Turkana channel), which accelerates and maintains low-level wind maxima across these regions.

## 5.0 POTENTIAL SECTORAL IMPACTS DURING THE JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2026 SEASON

### 5.1 Agriculture

Near-average to below-average rainfall in the Highlands West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley and North-western Kenya are expected to sustain agricultural production following the near-average to above-average rainfall received in March to May. The Coast is likely to benefit from near-average to above-average rainfall that is expected to provide moisture for the growth of crops. Cool and cloudy conditions in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley as well as some parts of the South-eastern Lowlands and the Rift Valley may delay crop maturity. Strong winds in the eastern parts of the country may physically damage crops and increase evapotranspiration.

### 5.2 Water Resources Management

Near-average to below-average rainfall in major catchment areas such as the Lake Victoria Basin and Rift Valley may lower river flows, groundwater recharge and reservoir levels. In contrast, near-average to above-average rainfall in the Coast may temporarily improve local water availability. Expected cloud cover and fog may reduce evaporation rates, slightly moderating water

losses in highland areas. Dry conditions expected in the South-eastern Lowlands, North-eastern and North-western Kenya are likely to lead to water-stress.

### 5.3 Transport and Infrastructure

The strong winds that are expected in the Coast, the South-eastern Lowlands, North-eastern and North-western Kenya may disrupt marine transport and damage infrastructure such as roofs and power lines. Fog is likely to reduce visibility at the airports and on roads that traverse highland areas, increasing the risk of accidents, diversions and delays.

### 5.4 Health

Cold conditions in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley as well as some parts of the South-eastern Lowlands and the Rift Valley may increase cases of respiratory illnesses such as influenza and pneumonia. In arid and semi-arid regions that are expected to remain dry, dust exposure driven by strong winds may aggravate respiratory problems and eye infections.

### 5.5 Energy

Near-average to below-average rainfall in key catchment areas such as the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley, the Lake Victoria Basin, the Rift Valley may reduce inflows into hydropower reservoirs, potentially lowering electricity generation capacity. Strong winds in areas with wind farms may temporarily enhance wind energy generation potential. Conversely, expected cloud cover in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley may hamper solar energy generation.

## 6.0 REVIEW OF THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 "LONG-RAINS" SEASON

### 6.1 Review of March-April-May 2026 Rainfall Performance

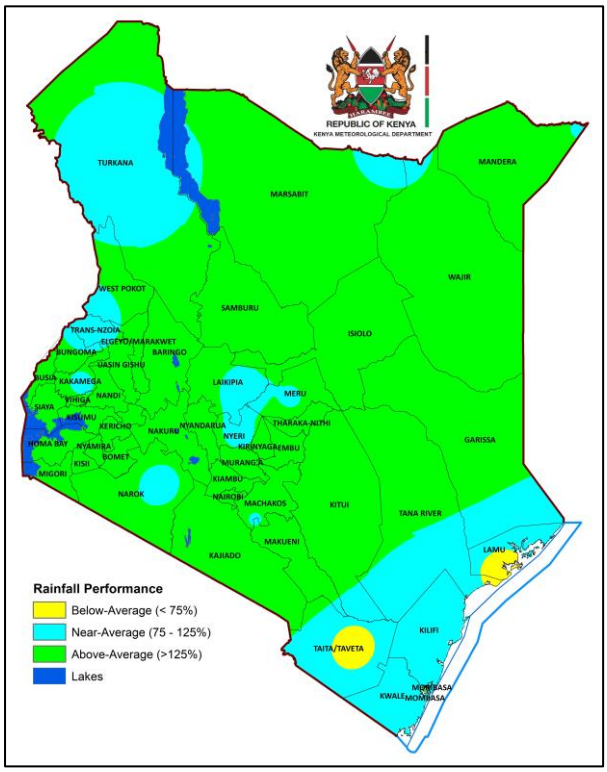


*Figure 5: MAM 2026 Performance as a percentage of MAM LTMs*

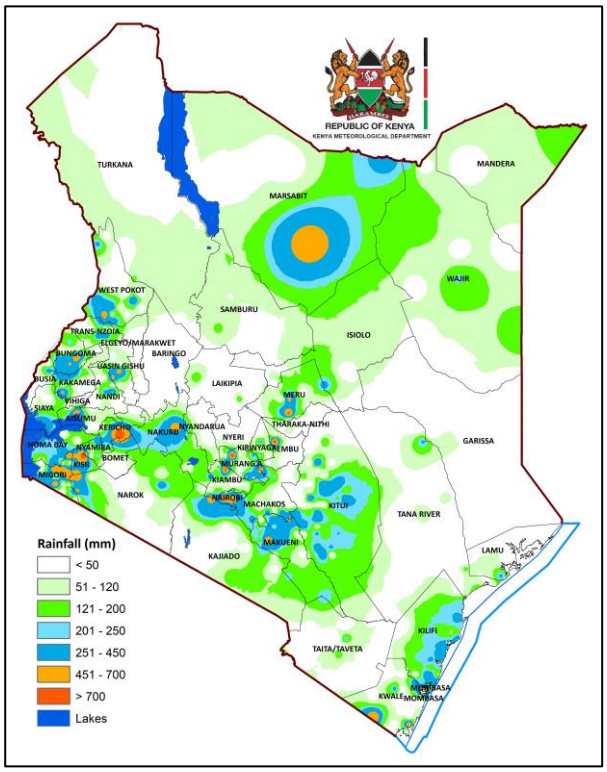


*Figure 6: March-April-May 2026 Rainfall Totals*

An analysis of the March-April-May 2026 rainfall season reveals that most parts of the country received near-average to above average rainfall (Figures 5). Garissa Meteorological Station recorded 219.7% of its MAM LTM while Lamu and Voi Meteorological Stations achieved 61.9% and

57.4% respectively. The season began early (in February) due to the influence of the Madden Julien Oscillation. Rainfall distribution was fair to good in March and April but poor over much of the country in May.

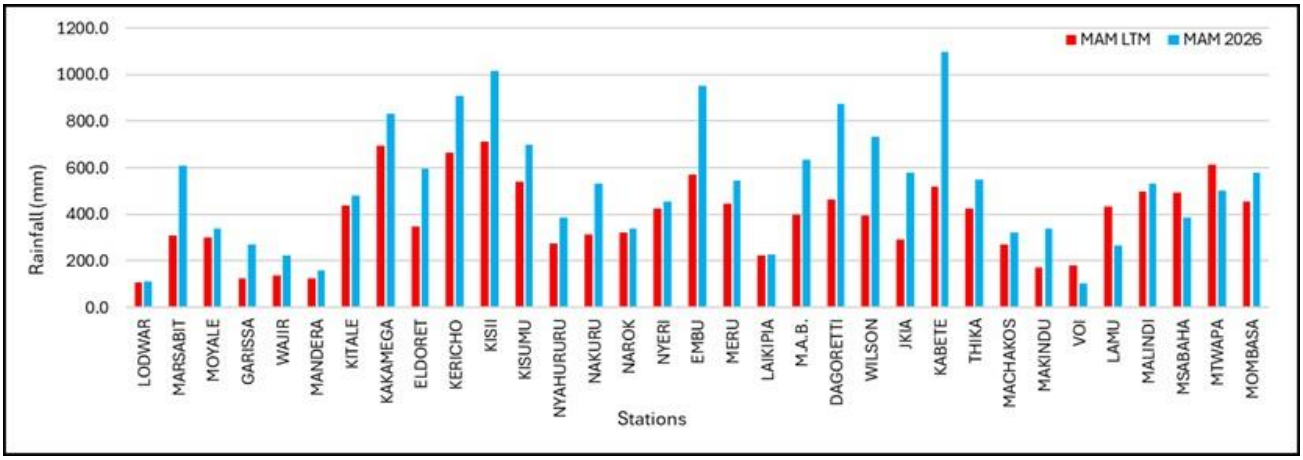


*Figure 7: March-April-May 2026 Rainfall Totals against March-April-May LTMs*

The highest MAM rainfall total (1127.5mm) was recorded at Ndaka-ini Rainfall Station in Murang'a County. Marsabit Meteorological Station recorded the highest amount of rainfall within 24-hours: 232.4mm on 25th April 2026.

Figure 7 compares the total rainfall amounts recorded in MAM 2026 (Blue bars) to MAM LTMs (Red bars). From this figure, several stations in the Highlands East and West of the Rift Valley significantly exceeded their MAM LTMs.

## 6.2 Review of March-April-May 2026 Mean Temperatures

Mean temperatures were warmer than average in most parts of the country. However, North-eastern Kenya was generally cooler-than-average (Figure 8).

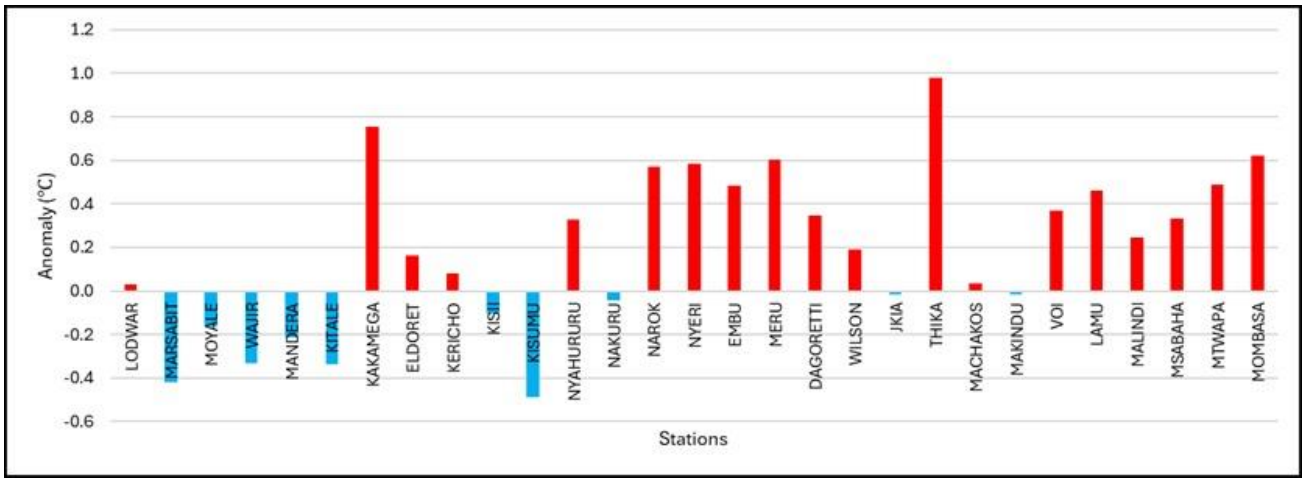


*Figure 8: March-April-May 2026 Mean Temperature Anomalies*

**N.B: This outlook should be used together with the 24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, monthly and special forecasts as well as regular updates/advisories issued by this Department. County specific weekly forecasts, monthly and seasonal outlooks are available from the offices of respective County Directors of Meteorological Services.**

Edward M. Muriuki

**Ag. DIRECTOR, KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

## APPENDIX I: INTERPRETATION OF TERMS USED

| Term | Rainfall Amount (24 hrs.) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Below normal/average | < 75% of the LTM | Depressed rainfall. |
| Normal/average | 75% to 125% of the LTM | Near average rainfall. |
| Above normal/average | >125% of the LTM | Enhanced rainfall. |
| LTM | | Long term mean |

| Term | Rainfall Amount (24 hrs.) | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Light | < 5 mm | Gentle rain, drizzle. |
| Moderate | 5–20 mm | Steady, noticeable rain. |
| Heavy | 21–50 mm | Intense rain, possible thunder. |
| Very Heavy | > 50 mm | Prolonged rain, high intensity. |

| Term | Area Affected | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Few places | < 33% | Rain in a small portion of the region. |
| Several places | 33% to 66% | Rain in multiple but not most parts of the region. |
| Most places | > 66% | Rain in nearly all parts of the region. |

| Term | Area Affected | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Isolated | Less than 25% | Very few areas affected. |
| Scattered | 25–50% | Several, but not most, areas affected. |
| Numerous | 51–70% | Many areas affected. |
| Widespread | Over 70% | Almost all areas affected. |

| Term | Time Coverage (%) | Meaning |
|---|---|---|
| Occasional | Less than 25% | Happens rarely or a few times. |
| Intermittent | 25% – 50% | Starts and stops, comes and goes. |
| Frequent | 51% – 75% | Occurs regularly. |
| Very Frequent / Common | More than 75% | Happens almost all the time. |

| Term | Probability of Occurrence | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Possible | 10–30% | There is low confidence. |
| Chance of/ May | 31–50% | There is moderate confidence. |
| Likely | 51–75% | The event is more probable than not. |
| Expected | 76–90% | There is high confidence. |
| Very Likely | 91–99% | There is very high confidence. Almost certain. |
| Certain | 100% | The event is guaranteed to occur. |