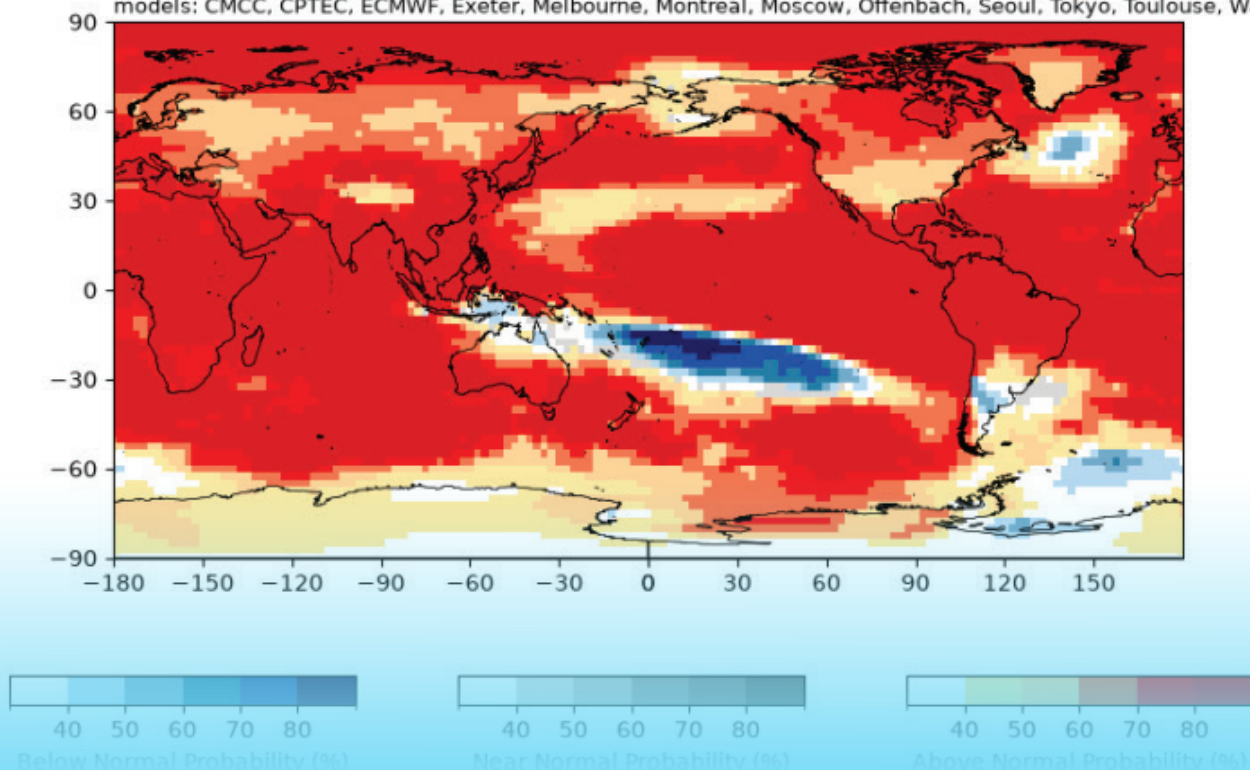


Temperature forecast: SON 2026 (IC: August 2026)

models: CMCC, CPTEC, ECMWF, Exeter, Melbourne, Montreal, Moscow, Offenbach, Seoul, Tokyo, Toulouse, Washing



Seasonal temperature outlook for September–November 2026, based on multi-model forecasts issued in August. SOURCE: WMO.

El Niño set to become very strong, raising risks of extreme weather into 2027

Forecasts from WMO's Global Producing Centres indicate an "exceptionally high likelihood of nearly 100 percent" that El Niño will persist through to February 2027. This is the first time that a WMO El Niño/La Niña Update has been so unequivocal, reflecting the strong agreement within WMO's extensive network.

Fuelled by exceptionally warm ocean conditions across the tropical Pacific, El Niño is expected to strengthen further during the coming months to

a very strong intensity before peaking towards the end of this year, with climate impacts continuing well into 2027.

"El Niño is being supersized before our eyes. The science leaves no room for doubt: the planet is in uncharted waters, and those waters are heating up. Sea surface temperatures are rising, temperatures keep climbing, and the world is in the danger zone of extreme weather. The race now is between rising risks and our commitment to take climate action and protect people. We must win that race," said UN Secretary-General

António Guterres

"El Niño in Spanish means boy child – but it has the potential to deliver a massive blow to communities and economies across the world. We are already seeing disruption and devastation from droughts and floods and we expect these impacts to increase as El Niño intensifies," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

"This exceptional El Niño demands exceptional preparation and response. Never before in the 50-year history of the World Meteorological Organization have we launched such

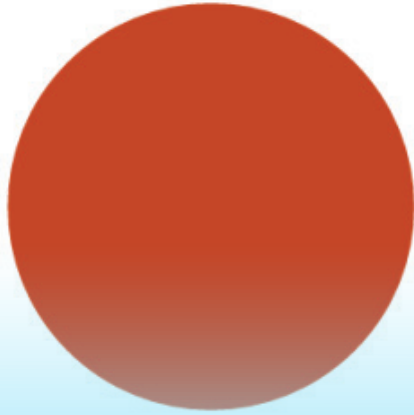




WMO El Niño/La Niña Update

AUGUST 2026

ESTIMATED ENSO PROBABILITIES FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2026



- ~ 100% El Niño
- ~ 0% ENSO-Neutral
- ~ 0% La Niña

- El Niño is firmly established and strengthening.
- Forecasts indicate a near-100 % probability that El Niño will persist through September-November 2026 and December 2026-February 2027, with further strengthening forecast before peaking towards the end of 2026.
- Confidence in the outlook is high, supported by strong oceanic and atmospheric signals and close agreement among seasonal prediction systems, indicating that El Niño will persist at least into early 2027.
- ENSO-neutral conditions have a negligible probability, with no indication of a return to La Niña over the outlook period.
- Significant climate impacts are possible worldwide, but their magnitude and location will vary by region and cannot be determined by the strength of the El Niño event alone.

Information on ENSO should be combined with other regionally and locally relevant factors in order to anticipate its effects on regional climates.

Estimated ENSO probabilities for September–November 2026 WMO's August update reports a near-100% likelihood that El Niño persists through September–November 2026. SOURCE: WMO EL NIÑO/LA NIÑA UPDATE, AUGUST 2026.



a major mobilisation with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services who are on the frontline of delivering the forecasts and services to save lives and livelihoods,” she said.

“WMO is committed to working closely with partners across the United Nations and humanitarian system to provide the climate intelligence and insights needed to support disaster management and climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, energy and water resources. We have no time to lose.”

Sea surface temperatures across the central-eastern equatorial Pacific, the region at the heart of El Niño, are already well above average – one of the tell-tale signs of El Niño – and are continuing to rise.

The widely used Niño 3.4 index, which measures sea surface temperature anomalies in central-eastern equatorial Pacific has strengthened markedly from an average +1.5 °C above normal during May-July 2026 and +2.0 °C above normal in July. Weekly values subsequently increased further



Exceptionally warm tropical Pacific waters are driving the strengthening El Niño. PHOTO CREDIT: WMO.

between late July and mid-August, ranging from approximately +2.2 °C to +2.6 °C above average, indicating continued intensification.

Even more exceptional warmth is present below the ocean surface. In some areas, subsurface ocean temperatures were more than 8°C above average during July and early August.

Together, the surface and subsurface ocean conditions provide strong support for continued El Niño

conditions and the potential for further strengthening during the coming months, the Update says.

Confidence in the outlook is high. Strong and mutually reinforcing oceanic and atmospheric signals, together with close agreement among seasonal prediction systems indicate that El Niño will persist at least into early 2027.

El Niño and La Niña are among the most powerful naturally occurring influences.