කාලගුණ විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව
வளிமண்டலவியல் திணைக்களம்
Department of Meteorology

TP : 011 2686686
Fax : 011 2691443
E-mail : metnmc@gmail.com
Web : www.meteo.gov.lk

No SF-2025-01-R

Seasonal, Monthly and weekly Rainfall Forecasts for January-March 2025

Issued on 03rd January 2024 by Seasonal Forecasting Division of the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka.

This consensus Climate Outlook for January - March 2025 season over Sri Lanka has been developed through an expert assessment of the prevailing global climate conditions influencing the South Asian climate and seasonal forecasts from different climate models around the world. ENSO-neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near-to-below-average in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. La Niña is most likely to emerge in November-January (59% chance) and with a transition to ENSO-neutral most likely by March-May 2025. (source-CPC-NOAA). However, according to the forecast from, The BoM Australia 's model forecasts that SSTs in the central tropical Pacific will remain in the ENSO-neutral range throughout the forecast period to April 2025, despite briefly dipping below the La Niña threshold in January. Careful consideration is also given to other regional and global factors as well as the intraseasonal variability of the region that can affect the rainfall and temperature patterns over the country.

Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for January–March 2025 (JFM)

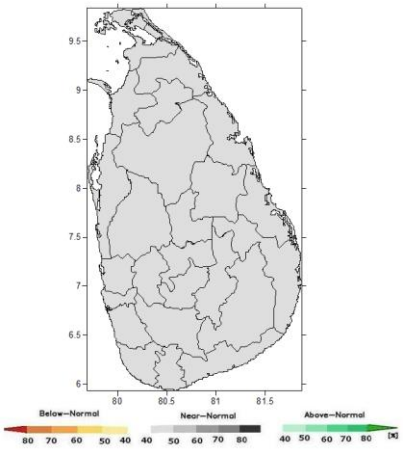


Fig 1: Consensus Probabilistic Monthly rainfall forecast for JFM 2025

There is a possibility for near normal rainfall over most parts of the country during JFM 2025 as a whole (Fig.01).

Development of the synoptic scale systems such as lows, depressions and cyclones are also possible during the months. If so, rainfall can increase.

Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for January, February and March 2025

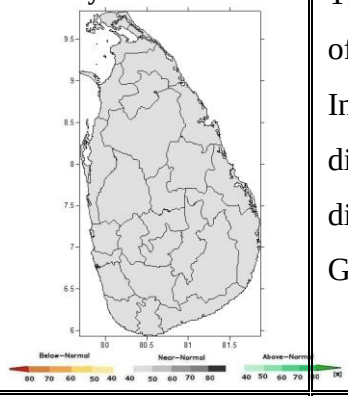
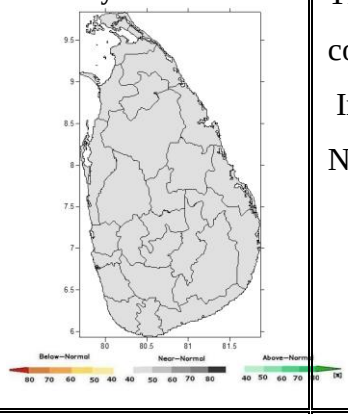
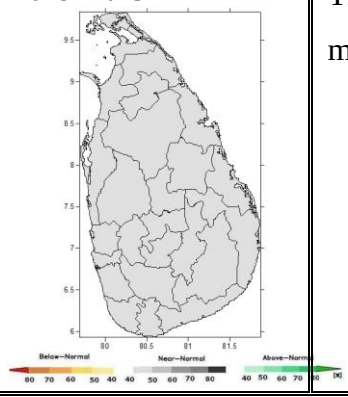
Month	Rainfall forecast
January 2025 	There is a higher chance of having near normal rainfalls over most parts of the country. In addition to that, there is a possibility for developing atmospheric disturbances, such as low-pressure areas, depressions and wavy type disturbances during the month. If so, rainfall can be increased. Ground frost is also possible during the month in Nuwara Eliya district.
February 2025 	There is a possibility for near normal rainfall over most parts of the country during the month of February 2025. In addition to that ground frost is also possible during the month in Nuwara Eliya district
March 2025 	There is a possibility for near normal rainfall over most parts during the month of March 2025.

Fig 2. Monthly rainfall forecasts for January, February and March 2025

(District wise normal (mean) rainfall values are indicated in annex -1)

The predictability is also limited due to strong day-to-day atmospheric variability caused by the passage of the synoptic scale systems such as lows and depressions. Intraseasonal Oscillations such as Madden Julian Oscillations (MJO) is also another atmospheric phenomenon which can't be underestimated.

Weekly Rainfall forecasts for the month of January 2025

Weekly Rainfall anomaly

Source –NCMRWF
Updated on 03rd Jan 2025

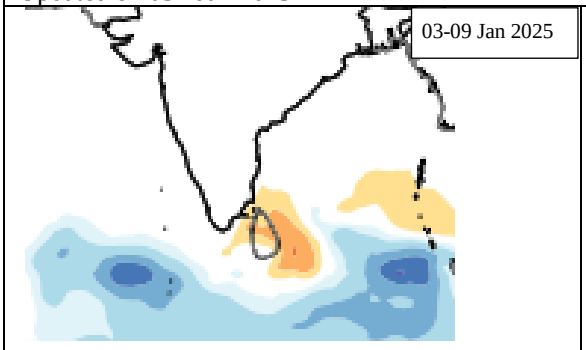
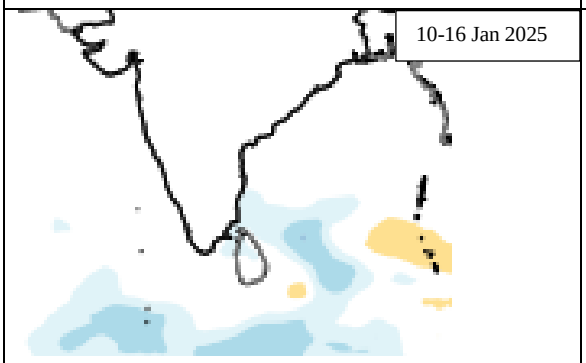
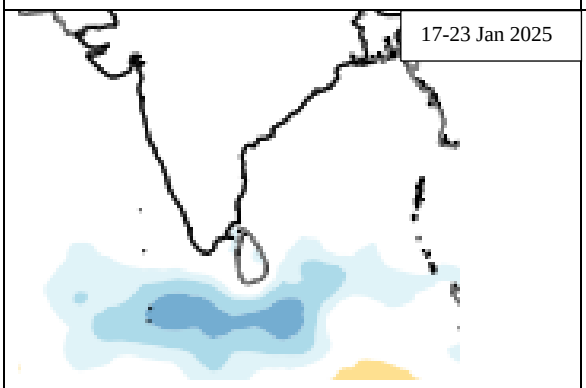
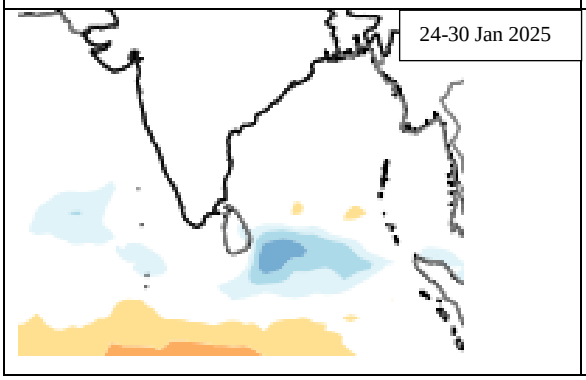
 03-09 Jan 2025	• Below normal rainfall are possible over Northern, Northcentral, North Western, Central, Uva and Eastern provinces and near normal rainfall are expected elsewhere.
 10-16 Jan 2025	• Above normal rainfall are expected over some areas of Northern, Northcentral and Northwestern provinces while near normal rainfall expected over remaining areas of the country.
 17-23 Jan 2025	• Near normal rainfall are expected over most parts of the country.
 24-30 Jan 2025	• Near normal rainfall are expected over most parts of the country.

Fig 3: Weekly rainfall forecast for January 2025

Attention is needed for following areas

- More attention for the instructions and advisories issued by authorized agencies particularly related to extreme weather.
- There is a possibility for developing low pressure systems, depressions and wavy type disturbances during the season.

Annex-1

District wise mean (30 years (1981-2010) of average) rainfalls during the months of January, February and March

District	Average rainfall-January (mm)	Average rainfall-February(mm)	Average rainfall-March(mm)
Colombo	103.7	86.4	135.2
Kalutara	143.5	114.5	178.7
Galle	134.5	109.2	166.6
Matara	114.3	109.4	146.0
Hambantota	81.7	54.8	73.5
Ampara	233.8	113.3	72.6
Batticaloa	209.4	115.0	64.2
Trincomalee	133.7	72.7	53.3
Mullaithivu	92.2	60.8	39.2
Jaffna	73.1	35.7	23.3
Killinochchi	82.5	51.0	30.0
Mannar	62.0	51.1	47.3
Puttalam	52.4	42.0	64.7
Gampaha	68.7	67.7	118.4
Kegalle	96.4	87.0	171.7
Ratnapura	129.4	121.9	203.1
Monaragala	149.9	83.9	101.0
Badulla	242.8	116.4	122.8
Pollonnaruwa	171.7	97.1	69.5
Vavuniya	87.3	54.3	44.5
Anuradapura	94.0	58.0	61.4
Kurunegala	67.2	50.0	90.3
Matale	233.7	115.7	97.4
Kandy	185.9	93.6	107.0
Nuwaraeliya	158.2	87.5	121.4

Table 01: 30-year Average (1981-2010) district wise rainfalls during the months of December, January and February

Table 01 shows the mean (30-year Average (1981-2010)) rainfalls during the months of December, January and February in each district.