



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL SEASONAL CLIMATE UPDATE

TARGET SEASON: February-March-April 2021

Issued: 22 January 2021



Canada



HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL
CENTRE OF RUSSIA



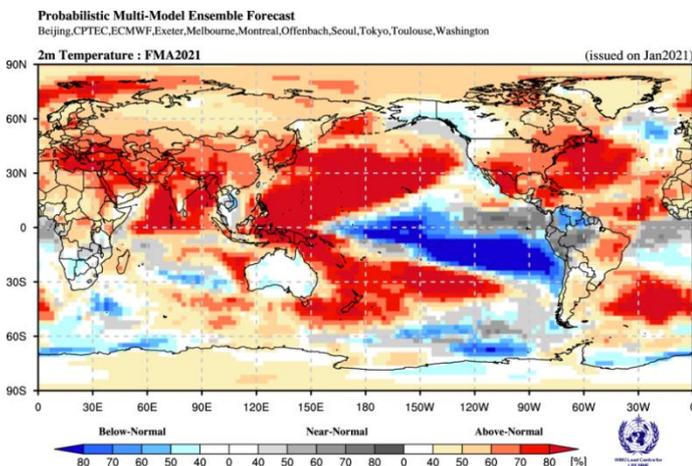
Summary

Observed sea surface temperatures anomalies in the east-central tropical Pacific remained in a La Niña condition during October-December 2020. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) was in a near neutral condition. The below-normal sea surface temperatures in the Niño 3.4 and Niño 3 regions, both of which are often used to characterize ENSO conditions, are predicted to weaken but remain in La Niña conditions during February-April 2021. Sea surface temperature anomalies in other ocean basins are generally predicted to be in above normal conditions.

Other than few small pockets of below-normal land temperatures, above-normal land temperatures are expected to dominate everywhere for February-April 2021. The expected air temperatures over land are strongest in western, central and eastern Asia and over the southern half of North America, where temperatures are most likely to be above-normal. Above-normal temperatures are also likely over much of the northern high latitudes (except over north-western North America). Below-normal temperatures are predicted for the north-western part of South America. There is a higher chance that the southern, central and eastern parts of South America will be above-normal. The equatorial and northern regions of Africa are also predicted to be above-normal, but elsewhere in Africa south of the equator and over Australia there is no clear signal.

The expected La Niña conditions are reflected in the rainfall forecasts for February-April 2021, which indicate many of the typical (canonical) La Niña impacts. These canonical impacts include increased chances of unusually wet conditions over much of the maritime continent, Australia, the upper half of North America, and northern South America, islands in Melanesia plus dry conditions over parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, sub-tropical latitudes of North America, islands in Polynesia and some parts of south-eastern South America. Probabilities for below-normal rainfall are also increased over much of western and central Asia, and along about 30°N in the East Asia. Regions of Central Africa near the Gulf of Guinea is also predicted to be below-normal. There is increased probability of above-normal rainfall (possibly as snow) over much of the Northern Hemisphere north of about 45°N. There is a weak enhancement in probability for above-normal rainfall over southern Africa.

Surface Air Temperature, FMA 2021



Precipitation, FMA 2021

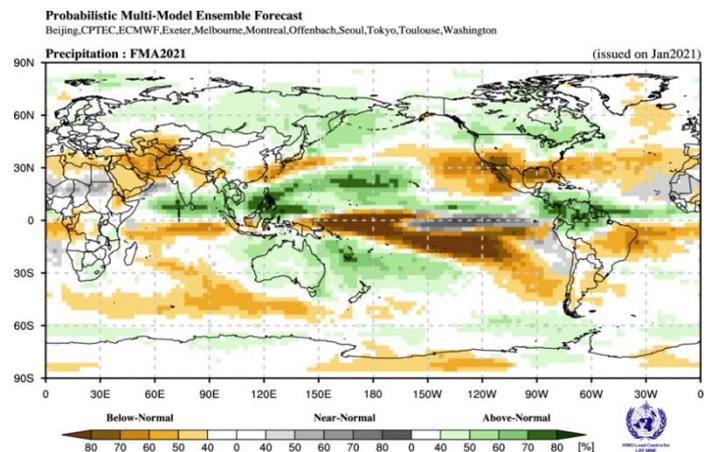


Figure 1. Probabilistic forecasts of surface air temperature and precipitation for the season February-March-April 2021. The tercile category with the highest forecast probability is indicated by shaded areas. The most likely category for below-normal, above-normal and near-normal is depicted in blue, red and grey shadings respectively for temperature, and orange, green and grey shadings respectively for precipitation. White areas indicate equal chances for all categories in both cases. The baseline period is 1993-2009.

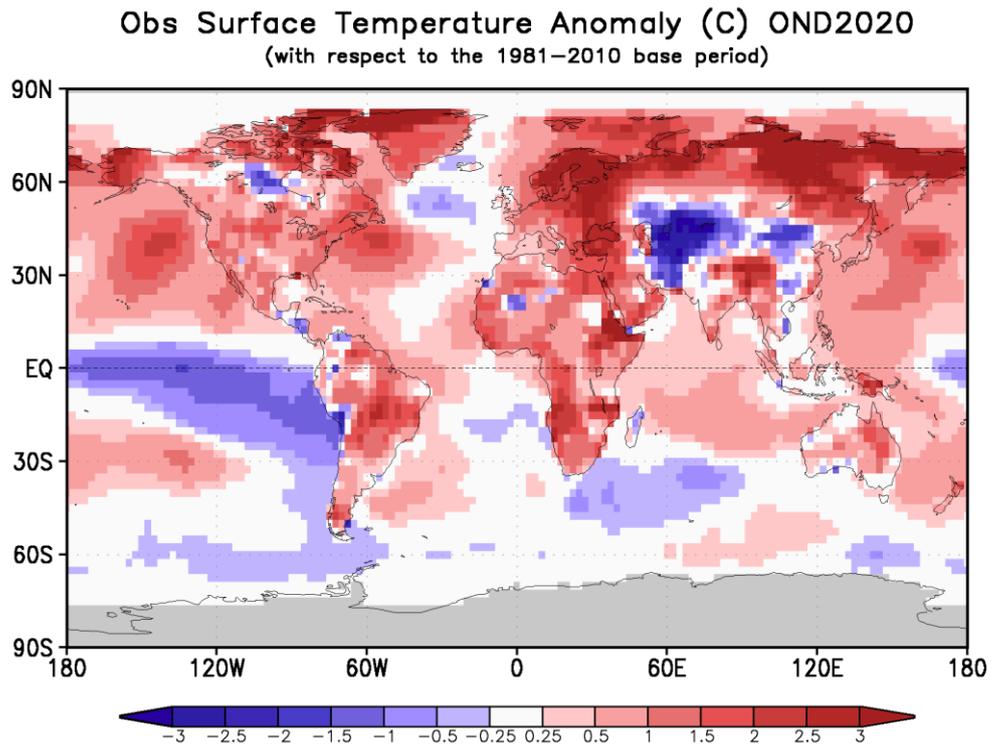


Figure 2. Observed October–November–December 2020 near-surface temperature anomalies relative to 1981–2010. (Source: U.S. [Climate Prediction Center](#)).

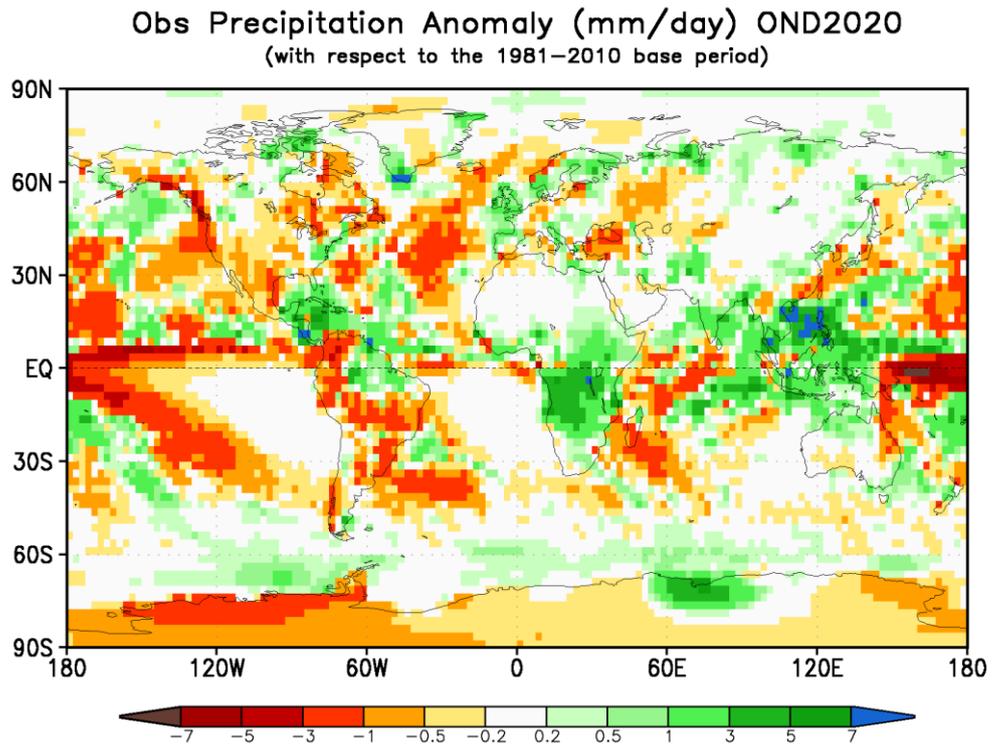


Figure 3. Observed precipitation anomalies for October-November-December 2020, relative to 1981-2010 base period (top). (Source: U.S. [Climate Prediction Center](#)).