

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued its August forecast for the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Forecasters within the U.S. governmental agency are forecasting **10-17 named storms, 5-9 hurricanes and 2-4 major (Category 3+) hurricanes** during the season. This includes the two storms (Andrea and Barry) which already occurred and is a slight increase from the initial projection released in May.

NOAA's report indicates that there are multiple main factors for the Atlantic hurricane season forecast, which suggests slightly above-normal activity:

- Statistical and dynamical models forecasting that ENSO-neutral conditions (meaning no El Niño or La Niña) will persist through the peak development months in August, September, and October
- Sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean's Main Development Region (MDR) are forecast to remain near or slightly above average during the peak of the season
- Competing atmospheric conditions: The eastern MDR and western Africa continue to show conditions similar to what has historically resulted in above-average hurricane seasons; while the western MDR has shown anomalously strong vertical wind shear and sinking motion in connection with El Niño. However, since El Niño has now dissipated, wind shear should be less of an inhibitor for cyclogenesis.

NOAA provides the following probabilities for the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season: 45 percent chance of an above-normal season, a 35 percent chance of a near-normal season, and a 25 percent chance of a below-normal season.

As always, it is critical to be aware of the inherent risks with any developing tropical cyclone and its potential threat to land. It only takes one storm to completely alter the perception of a season.

The Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) Index is a measure used by NOAA to express the activity of individual tropical cyclones and entire tropical cyclone seasons. The index uses an approximation of the energy used by a tropical system over its lifetime and is calculated every six-hour period. A season's ACE is the sum of each storm's accumulated energy and takes into account the number, strength and duration of all tropical storms in a season.

The tables on the next page show the NOAA forecast(s). The full reports are available at the Climate Prediction Center's website.

Atlantic: <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>

Eastern Pacific: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Epac_hurr/Epac_hurricane.html

NOAA Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season Forecast (June 1 – November 30)

Forecast Parameter	Average Year (1981-2010)	2019 (May 2019)	2019 (August 2019)
Named Storms	12	9-15	10-17
Hurricanes	6	4-8	5-9
Major Hurricanes	3	2-4	2-4
ACE Range (Median)	71.4-120%	65-140%	85-165%
Chance for an Above-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	30%	45%
Chance for a Near-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	40%	35%
Chance for a Below-Normal Hurricane Season	33%	30%	20%

Source: NOAA

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