El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion

Issued by Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS

12 November 2026

ENSO Alert System Status: El Niño Advisory

Synopsis

El Niño continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January–March 2027 (remaining greater than a 79% chance).

Discussion

Compared to last month, El Niño strengthened as sea surface temperature anomalies exceeded 4.0°C, extending farther westward across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean [Fig. 1]. The Niño indices increased, reaching +2.5°C in Niño-3.4, +3.6°C in Niño-3, and +4.4°C in Niño-1+2 [Fig. 2]. The equatorial subsurface temperature index (average from 180°-100°W) remained significantly

above average [Fig. 3], associated with a deeper-than-average thermocline and anomalies exceeding +10.0°C at depth in the eastern Pacific Ocean [Fig. 4]. Low-level westerly and upper-level easterly wind anomalies extended from the western to the east-central equatorial Pacific. Convection and rainfall remained enhanced from the central to the eastern Pacific, while suppressed conditions persisted over Indonesia [Fig. 5]. The traditional and equatorial Southern Oscillation indices were consistently negative. Collectively, the coupled ocean-atmosphere system reflected the ongoing evolution of El Niño.

The CPC Official ENSO outlook, which synthesizes multiple models from North America and abroad, indicates El Niño will continue to strengthen before beginning to weaken in early 2027 [Figs. 6-7-8]. Chances for a historic event exceeding previous El Niños dating back to 1950 (+2.5°C or more for a 3-month RONI value) are now ~60% for the October-December and November-January periods, remaining at better than even odds. Even with a very strong El Niño, the chances of experiencing impacts consistent with El Niño are higher, though not guaranteed (see CPC outlooks for probabilities of seasonal anomalies). In summary, El Niño continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January-March 2027 (remaining greater than a 79% chance).

This discussion is a consolidated effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA's National Weather Service, and their funded institutions. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are updated weekly on the Climate Prediction Center web site (El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions). A probabilistic strength forecast is available here. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 10 December 2026.

To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message to: ncep.list.enso-update@noaa.gov.

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