



Climate Summary

May 2017

METEOROLOGY DIVISION

Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications

Climate in brief.

May was unusually wetter than normal with Tropical cyclone Ella affecting the country with strong winds and high rainfall. Higher mean sea level pressure than normal across the country with the easterly winds predominating.

Warmer than average temperatures were experienced across the country. The average temperature in May was 25.9°C which was 0.8°C above average from Tonga's 6 station).

Highest maximum temperature was 33.1°C recorded in Niuafu'ou on the 1st which was also the hottest May on record throughout the country. The lowest minimum temperature was 17.0°C in Nuku'alofa on the 26th.

A rainfall record set in May in Niuatoputapu where the highest May total rainfall ever recorded in the country with 622.2mm. The same station also recorded the highest 24hrs rainfall ever recorded with 156.6mm.

Summary of Temperatures (°C)

Table 1. Summary of 2017 Temperatures

Stations	Mean Maximum Temp	Mean Minimum Temp	2017 Mean Temperature °C	Average (Normal) Temperature (1981-2010) °C	Departure from normal °C
Niuafu'ou	30.5	22.6	26.5	26.8	-0.3
Niuatoputapu	29.6	24.6	27.1	26.9	+0.2
Vava'u	28.1	22.9	25.5	24.8	+0.7
Ha'apai	28.3	24.1	26.2	24.6	+1.6
Fua'amotu	27.6	21.8	24.8	23.6	+1.2
Nuku'alofa	28.4	22.3	25.4	24.0	+1.4

Table 2. Summary of Temperatures

Stations	May 2017 Temperature °C		May Temperature from start of record °C	
	Highest Maximum	Lowest Minimum	Highest Maximum	Lowest Minimum
Niuafo'ou 1974-2017	33.1	21.4	33.1	19.0
Niuaotoputapu (1958-2017)	33.0	21.5	33.0	18.5
Vava'u. (1951-2017)	29.8	17.6	32.1	13.2
Ha'apai (1961-2017)	30	21.5	31.9	15.5
Fua'amotu (1980-2017)	30.8	17.6	30.8	10.6
Nuku'alofa (1949-2017)	30.5	17.0	30.9	12.6

SUMMARY OF RAINFALL 2017**Table 3. Summary of May rainfall 2017**

Stations	May 2017 Total Rainfall (mm)	Normal (1981- 2010) (mm)	% Normal	Highest May rainfall from start of record (mm)	Number of day with rain	Highest 1-Day Rainfall (mm)	Highest 1- Day Rainfall From start of record (mm)
Niuafo'ou	217	172.3	125	445.0	21	33.6	161.5
Niuaotoputapu	622.2	149.5	416	347.0	26	156	120.0
Vava'u	342.8	173.4	197	425.0	20	139.1	144.7
Ha'apai	356.9	112.0	318	436.9	16	183.6	274.3
Fua'amotu	253	154.1	164	572.0	18	132.4	211.8
Nuku'alofa	232.2	115.3	201	341.7	15	130	152.0