

TONGA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE



Monthly Climate Summary

April 2018 Climate Summary:

Issued: 16 May 2018

Climate in brief.

Tropical cyclone season 2017/2018 ended on the 30th April 2018. A total of Rainfall was very high in Tongatapu and Ha'apai. All stations recorded above average rainfall except Niuafou'u which was just below average. (Refer to table 3 below). Most of the rainfall occurred in the first week which was caused by the passing of the tropical cyclones Josie and Keni. Heavy rain and strong winds during Keni caused flooding in Tongatapu and damage to 'Eua hospital. The average temperature was 25.8°C which was 0.6°C cooler than average. Highest maximum temperature was 33.0°C in Niuafou'u and the lowest minimum temperature was 15.2°C in Fua'amotu on the 15th. Refer Table 2.

Table 1. Near-record or record high or low annual average temperature departures for April 2018

Station	Mean air Temperature °C	Departure from normal °C	Year records began	Comments
Mean temperature				
Niuafou'u	n/a	n/a	1971	n/a
Niuatoputapu	26.9	-0.6	1958	6 th lowest
Vava'u	25.4	-1.2	1949	9 th lowest
Ha'apai	26.0	0	1961	10 th lowest
Fua'amotu	25.2	-0.1	1980	9 th lowest
Nuku'alofa	25.6	-0.2	1949	8 th lowest
Mean maximum temperature				
Niuafou'u	30.4	-0.1	1971	10 th lowest
Niuatoputapu	30.0	-0.8	1949	9 th lowest
Vava'u	28.3	-1.1	1957	2 nd lowest
Ha'apai	28.1	-1.0	1962	3 rd highest
Fua'amotu	28.0	-0.4	1980	8 th lowest
Nuku'alofa	28.4	-0.5	1949	11 th highest
Mean minimum temperature				
Niuafou'u	n/a	n/a	1971	n/a
Niuatoputapu	23.8	-0.4	1950	12 th lowest
Vava'u	22.6	-0.4	1959	15 th lowest
Ha'apai	23.9	0	1961	13 th highest
Fua'amotu	22.4	+0.2	1980	11 th highest
Nuku'alofa	22.8	+0.1	1949	14 th highest

Table 2. Near-record or record high or low annual temperature extremes for April 2018

Stations	Temperature °C	Date of occurrence	Year records began	Comments
Highest extreme maximum temperatures				
Niuafoóu	33.0	26 th	1971	5 th highest
Niuaotoputapu	31.5	1 st	1958	5 th lowest
Vava'u	30.1	1 st	1957	4 th lowest
Ha'apai	29.5	2 nd	1961	4 th lowest
Fua'amotu	30.5	22 nd	1980	10 th lowest
Nuku'alofa	30.5	6 th	1949	10 th lowest
Lowest extreme minimum temperatures				
Niuafoóu	n/a		1971	n/a
Niuaotoputapu	21.0	28 th	1958	6 th lowest
Vava'u	19.5	26 th	1957	low
Ha'apai	22.5	4 th	1961	7 th highest
Fua'amotu	15.2	15 th	1980	2 nd lowest
Nuku'alofa	19.0	13 th	1949	14 th highest

Table 3: Record of rainfall totals for April 2018

Stations	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Niuafoóu	222.7	89	1971	Below normal
Niuaotoputapu	275.1	115	1947	Above normal
Vava'u	331.3	125	1947	13 th highest
Ha'apai	432.1	203	1947	4 th highest
Fua'amotu	519.5	288	1980	2 nd highest
Nuku'alofa	443.8	272	1945	4 th highest

Table 4: Record or near-record high extreme 1-day rainfall totals that occurred in April 2018.

Stations	1-day extreme rainfall (mm)	Date	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Niuafoóu	51.0	21 st	1971	21 st lowest
Niuaotoputapu	122.1	8 th	1950	8 th highest
Vava'u	78.6	20 th	1995	11 th highest
Ha'apai	96.8	6 th	1953	12 th highest
Fua'amotu	175.0	2 nd	1981	highest
Nuku'alofa	149.2	2 nd	1982	3 rd highest