

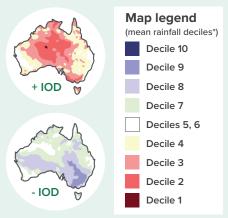
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Note: For visualisation this graph uses averages by calendar year of the IOD and the SOI indecies. There are large seasonal changes in both of these indecies that are not shown through this graph. The averages remove some extreme readings that would be taken into account when calling an IOD or ENSO.



Fast facts SOI, EL Niño, La Niña and IOD

- The Southern Oscilation Index gives an indication of the development and intensity of El Niño or La Niña events in the Pacific Ocean. The SOI is calculated using the pressure differences between Tahiti and Darwin.
- El Niño is the negative phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation. It is associated with warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. El Niño conditions generally result in below average rainfall for El Niño much of eastern Australia
- La Niña is the positive phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation. It is associated with cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. La Niña conditions generally result in above average rainfall La Niña over much of Australia.
- The Indian Ocean Diapol Index measures ocean temperature between the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean. A positive IOD typically results in less rainfall than average across much of southern and eastern Australia, and a negative IOD typically results in more rainfall than average over those parts of Australia.



*Winter/spring mean rainfall deciles calculated over historic event years



Map legend

(Annual rainfall deciles)

Highest on record

- Very much above average
- Above average
- Average

Below average

- Very much below average
- Lowest on record

Source: MLA, Australian Bureau of Statistics. Australian Bureau of Meteorology (map images created from BOM's gridded climate data)