ENSO Transition Forecast

La Niña Weakening Toward Neutral Conditions

WMO Global Producing Centres • February 2026

TRANSITION UNDERWAY

Weak La Niña conditions are fading as tropical Pacific indicators shift toward ENSO-neutral state

CONTEXT

Sea surface temperatures and atmospheric patterns in mid-February 2026 show clear weakening of La Niña influence across the tropical Pacific basin

March-May 2026 Probabilities

60%	30%	10%
ENSO-NEUTRAL	LA NIÑA CONTINUES	EL NIÑO DEVELOPS
dominant	declining	emerging

Forecast Uncertainty

Condition	Probability	Confidence
ENSO-Neutral	60%	Moderate
La Niña	30%	High
El Niño	10%	Low

Substantial uncertainty exists across model forecasts and ensemble members

Critical Consequences of ENSO Transitions

- Extreme weather events increase mortality rates during transitions
- Crop failures displace millions from agricultural regions
- Food prices surge beyond reach of vulnerable populations

- Farmers face crop planning chaos with uncertain conditions
- Coastal communities prepare for intensified storm systems
- Agricultural systems destabilize across global food networks

FORECAST LIMITATIONS

ENSO is not the only climate driver. Regional seasonal outlooks must assess multiple atmospheric and oceanic factors beyond El Niño/La Niña patterns.

Sources

- WMO Global Producing Centres El Niño/La Niña Update, February 2026
- WMO Climate into the 21st Century (2003)
- https://wmo.int/publication-series/el-ninola-nina-updates