

MONTHLY RAINFALL SUMMARY



HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

- Nine of thirteen (13) parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- No parish recorded meteorological drought conditions.
- Near-normal to above-normal rainfall is forecast for February to April 2022.
- Near-normal temperatures are expected for the next three months.

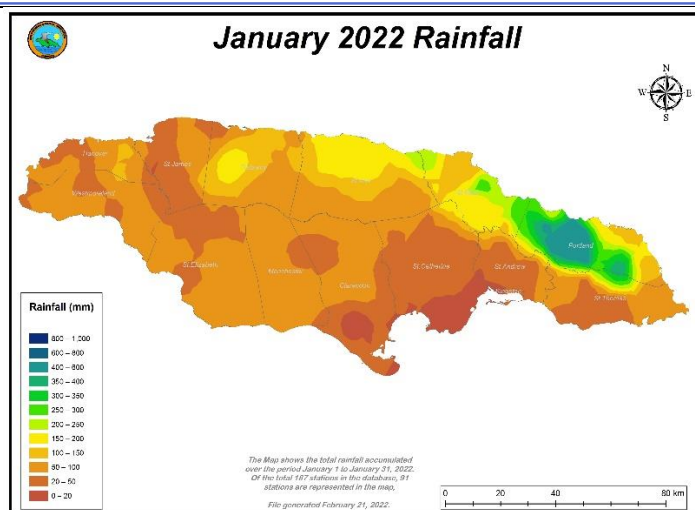


Fig.1. Distribution of Jamaica's Rainfall for January 2022

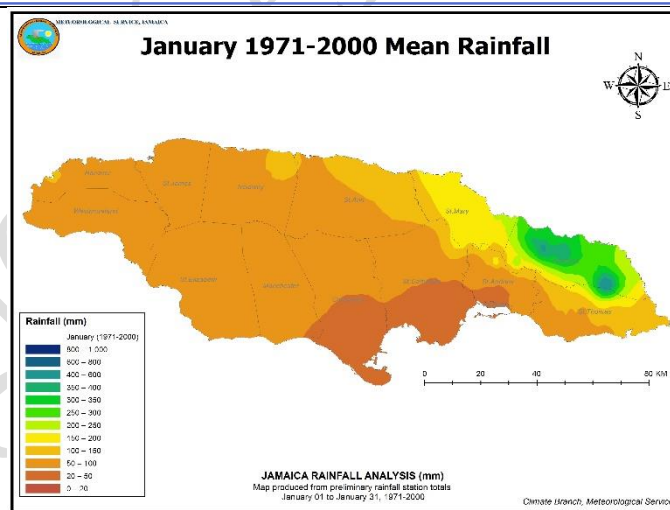
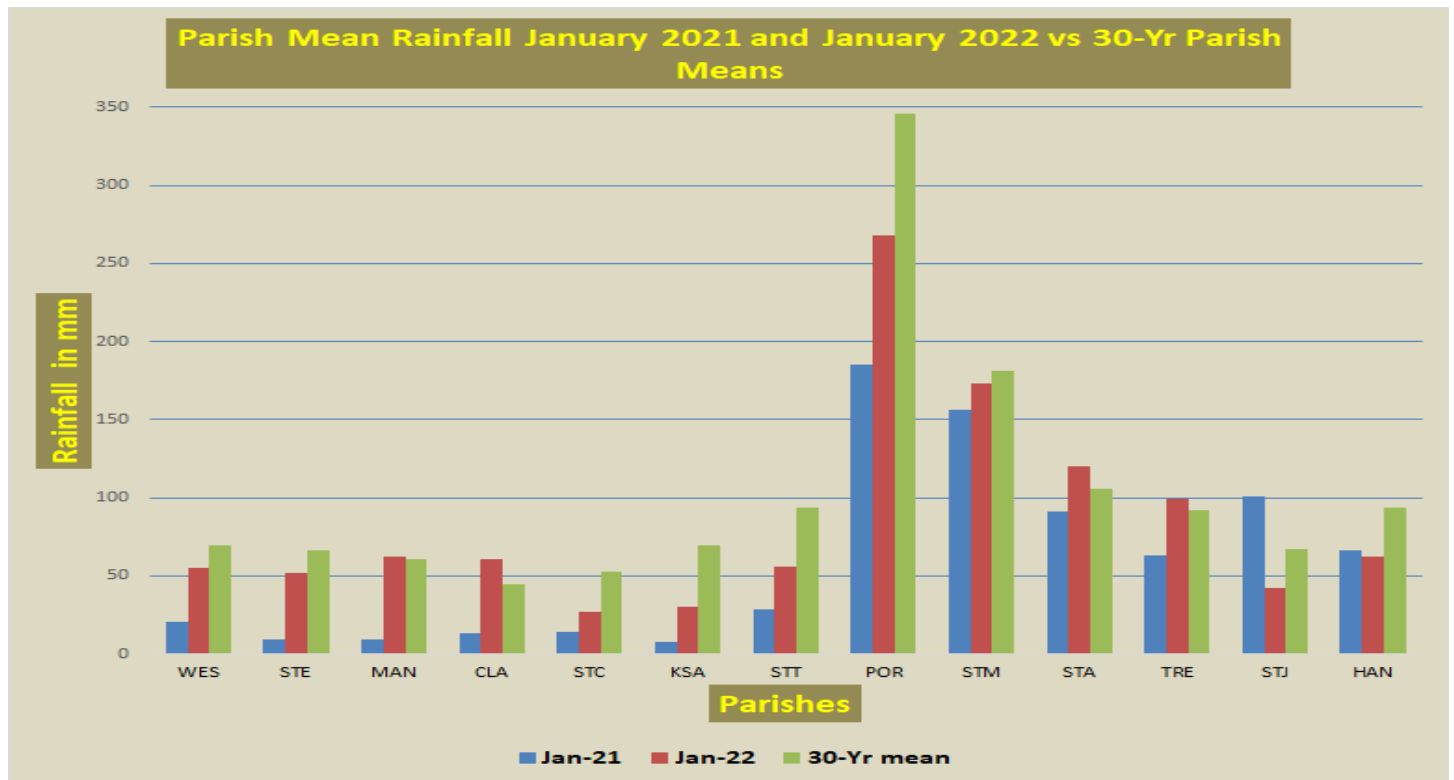


Fig.2. Mean Island Rainfall for January

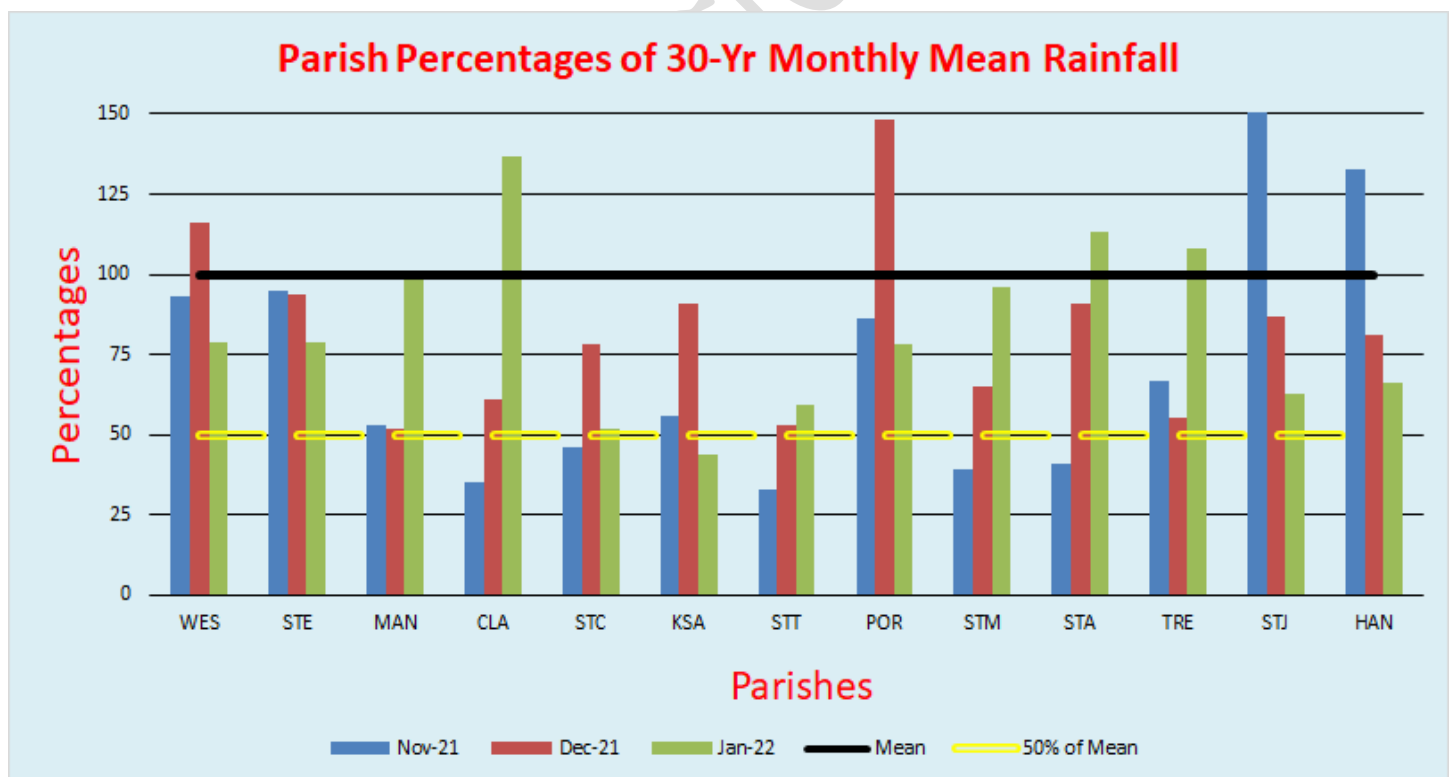
JANUARY RAINFALL SUMMARY

For January 2022, nine of 13 parishes recorded below-normal (<100%) rainfall amounts, with one of these parishes receiving less than one-half (50%) of its respective 30-year (1971-2000) monthly mean. Four parishes therefore, received 100% or more of their normal rainfall. In general, Jamaica received 85 mm of rainfall or 26 mm more than it did in January 2021. For the December/January bi-monthly period, eleven of 13 parishes recorded increases in their SPI values while, two parishes recorded decreases. Eight parishes recorded negative SPI values and therefore, experienced varying levels of dryness, with rankings ranging from near-normal (dry) to abnormally dry. Five parishes recorded positive SPI values and were therefore, experiencing wet conditions, with rankings ranging from near-normal (wet) to moderately wet. No parish experienced meteorological drought conditions in the current December/January bi-monthly period.

Graph of Parish Mean Rainfall and Comparison with 30-Yr Averages

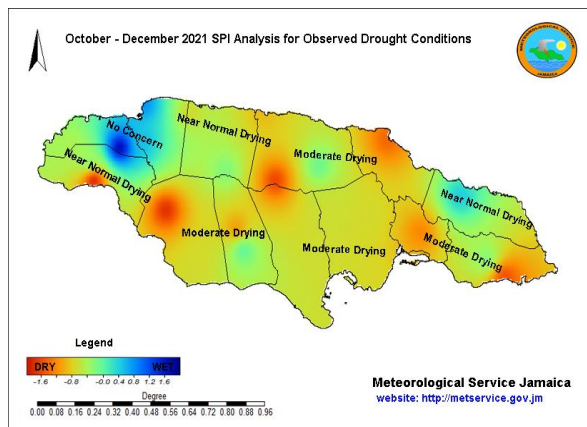


Graph of Parish Mean Rainfall Percentages



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Drought (SPI) Discussion:



Analyses of the December/January parish SPI values indicated that, eleven of thirteen parishes recorded increases in their SPI values while, two parishes recorded decreases.

Clarendon recorded the largest increase in SPI value with +1.15, followed by St. Mary with +1.00, Manchester with +0.82 and St. Ann with +0.73, being the top four parishes to do so. Meanwhile, St. James recorded the largest decrease in SPI value with -1.38,

followed by Hanover -0.97, the second parish to record a decrease.

Eight of thirteen parishes experienced varying levels of dryness, ranging from near-normal (dry) to abnormally dry, with the other five parishes experiencing varying levels of wetness ranging from near-normal (wet) to moderately wet.

Clarendon which recorded the largest increase in SPI value also, recorded an upward movement of 3 severity classes, the most by any parish. Meanwhile, St. Mary, Manchester, St. Ann and Trelawny did likewise by 2 severity classes and St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA) and St. Thomas by 1 severity class each.

St. James recorded the largest decrease in SPI value, as well as recorded a downward movement of 3 severity classes, the most by any parish, with Hanover doing likewise by 2 severity classes. Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Portland experienced no changes in severity classes although, they experienced marginal increases in their SPI values.

Clarendon experienced a reversal in conditions from moderately dry to near-normal (wet), while the converse occurred in St. James with conditions moving from moderately wet to near-normal (dry).

Conditions were not as dry in four other parishes; namely St. Mary, Manchester, St. Ann and Trelawny which all experienced changes in conditions from moderately dry to near-normal (dry). The converse occurred in Hanover however, where conditions were not as wet moving from extremely wet to moderately wet.

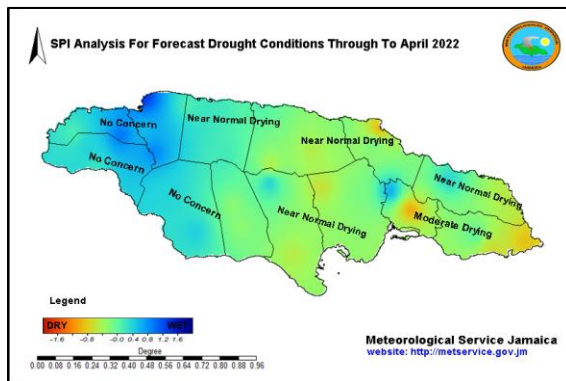
Despite the below-normal rainfall that was received no parish experienced meteorological drought conditions during the December/January bi-monthly period.

Hanover recorded the highest SPI value of 0.85 while, St. Thomas recorded the lowest SPI value of -0.62.

[Parish Drought \(SPI\) for October 2021 to January 2022 and Drought Severity Classes \(click here to view\)](#)

Precipitation and Temperature Outlook

February to April 2022



The forecast for the upcoming three months of February to April, indicates that rainfall amounts are likely to be near-normal to above-normal for Jamaica, during the remainder of the dry season (February and March) and into the start (April) of the early wet season.

Based on the projections (map insert), varying levels of dryness could continue in mainly in eastern and central parishes. Moderate drying is expected in sections of KSA and St. Thomas. Meanwhile, near-normal drying is expected in most other parishes except in the west where, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth could experience mild levels of wetness.

The above-normal rainfall received in January in Trelawny, St. Ann, Clarendon and Manchester ensured that these parishes were above drought conditions during the current bi-monthly period; as also were St. Mary, St. Thomas and St. Catherine, despite these parishes receiving below-normal rainfall in January. This was a welcome situation in many farming communities. Since there are two (2) more months (February and March) remaining in the dry season, agricultural interests should continue to use Irrigation and soil moisture retention techniques until rainfall in sufficient qualities are received.

The temperatures over the next three months are expected to be near-normal with conditions expected to be tolerable. Cooler than normal temperatures can still be expected on those occasions when cold fronts move across the island and especially at nights.

As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor conditions across the island, the prudent use of water in is still being recommended for stakeholders.

CONTACT US:

Meteorological Service, Jamaica

65 ¾ Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10

Telephone: 876-929-3700 / 876-929-3706

Email: request2@metservice.gov.jm