

2016: What the Experts are Saying

For 2016, many of the main signals that forecasters monitor point to a below-normal Atlantic basin hurricane season, but they caution that the ultimate outcome may depend on how the [end of the current El Niño](#) pattern plays out.

The Tropical Meteorology Project based its four predictions for 2016 on the strength of the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation (AMO) or Atlantic thermohaline circulation (THC) and the phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), all of which are discussed in its [December report](#), if you are interested in learning more about the technical side of their predictions. Technical speak aside, what's important to understand is how forecast numbers add up in comparison to Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) averages over the years, since ACE averages are a reliable indicator for the amount of tropical cyclone activity that can be expected in a given season. For 2016, the Tropical Meteorology Project has projected the following as being the [most probable scenarios](#):

Chance	AMO/THC impact	El Niño Impact	ACE	Likely number of storms, according to ACE averages
25%	Above average	None	~170	14-17 named storms, 9-11 hurricanes, 4-5 major hurricanes
35%	Above average	Some	~120	12-15 named storms, 6-8 hurricanes, 2-3 major hurricanes
20%	Below average	None	~80	8-11 named storms, 3-5 hurricanes, 1-2 major hurricanes
20%	Below average	Some	~50	5-7 named storms, 2-3 hurricanes, 0-1 major hurricane

To bring the forecasts closer to home, it's also helpful to look at the probability of individual states being hit by hurricanes. For 2016, the Tropical Meteorology Project has calculated state-by-state climatological probabilities as follows:

State	Hurricane	Major hurricane
Texas	33%	12%
Louisiana	30%	12%
Mississippi	11%	4%
Alabama	16%	3%
Florida	51%	21%
Georgia	11%	1%
South Carolina	17%	4%
North Carolina	28%	8%
Virginia	6%	1%
Maryland	1%	<1%
Delaware	1%	<1%
New Jersey	1%	<1%
New York	8%	3%
Connecticut	7%	2%
Rhode Island	6%	3%
Massachusetts	7%	2%
New Hampshire	1%	<1%
Maine	4%	<1%

2016 Hurricane Names

Alex
Bonnie
Colin
Danielle
Earl
Fiona
Gaston
Hermine
Igor
Julia
Karl
Lisa
Matthew
Nicole
Otto
Paula
Richard
Shary
Tomas
Virginie
Walter