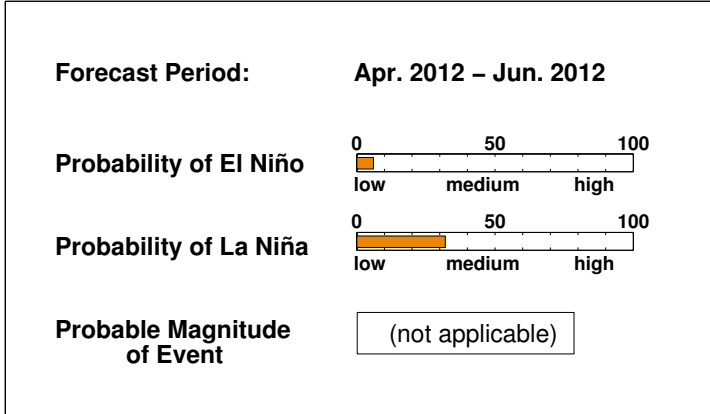


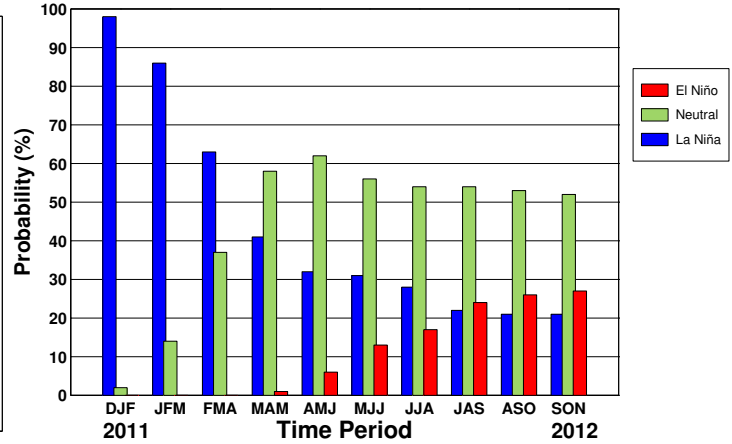
ENSO QUICK LOOK December 15, 2011 A monthly summary of the status of El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO"

A majority of the ENSO prediction models call for a weak or moderate strength La Niña to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2011-2012, and begin gradually weakening after peaking during the December-January period.

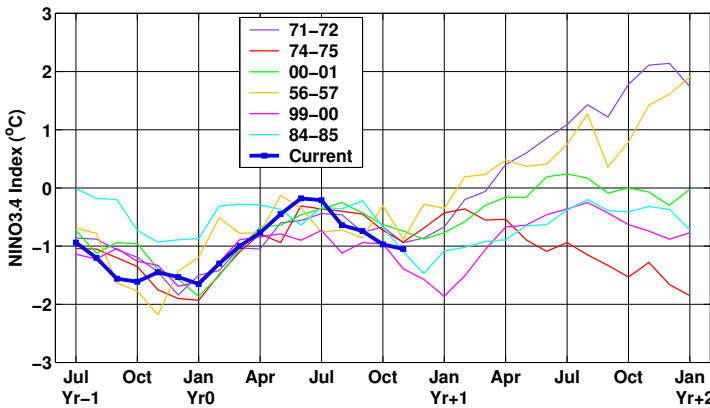
Current ENSO Forecast Summary¹



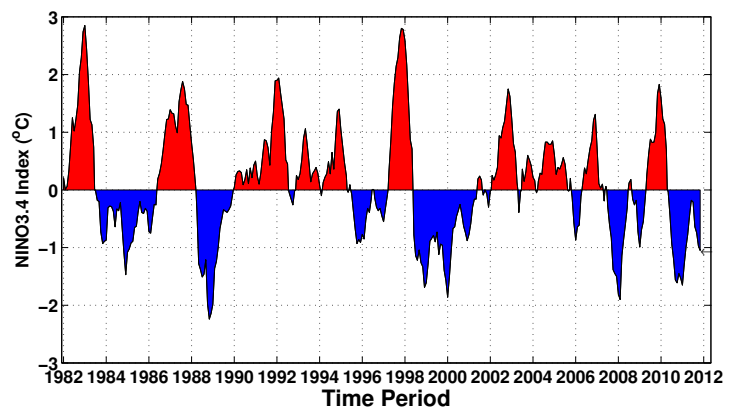
IRI/CPC Probabilistic ENSO Forecast²



Current Condition vs. Similar Conditions²



Historical Sea Surface Temperature Index²



Historically Speaking

El Niño and La Niña events tend to develop during the period Apr-Jun and they:

- *Tend to reach their maximum strength during Dec-Feb*
- *Typically persist for 9-12 months, though occasionally persisting for up to 2 years*
- *Typically recur every 2 to 7 years*

¹Probability of an El Niño refers to the likelihood of a sustained (that is, over several seasons) warming across a broad region of the eastern and central tropical Pacific, not just along coastal South America.

²Based on sea surface temperature departures from the long-term average over the "NINO3.4" region (120-170W, 5S-5N).