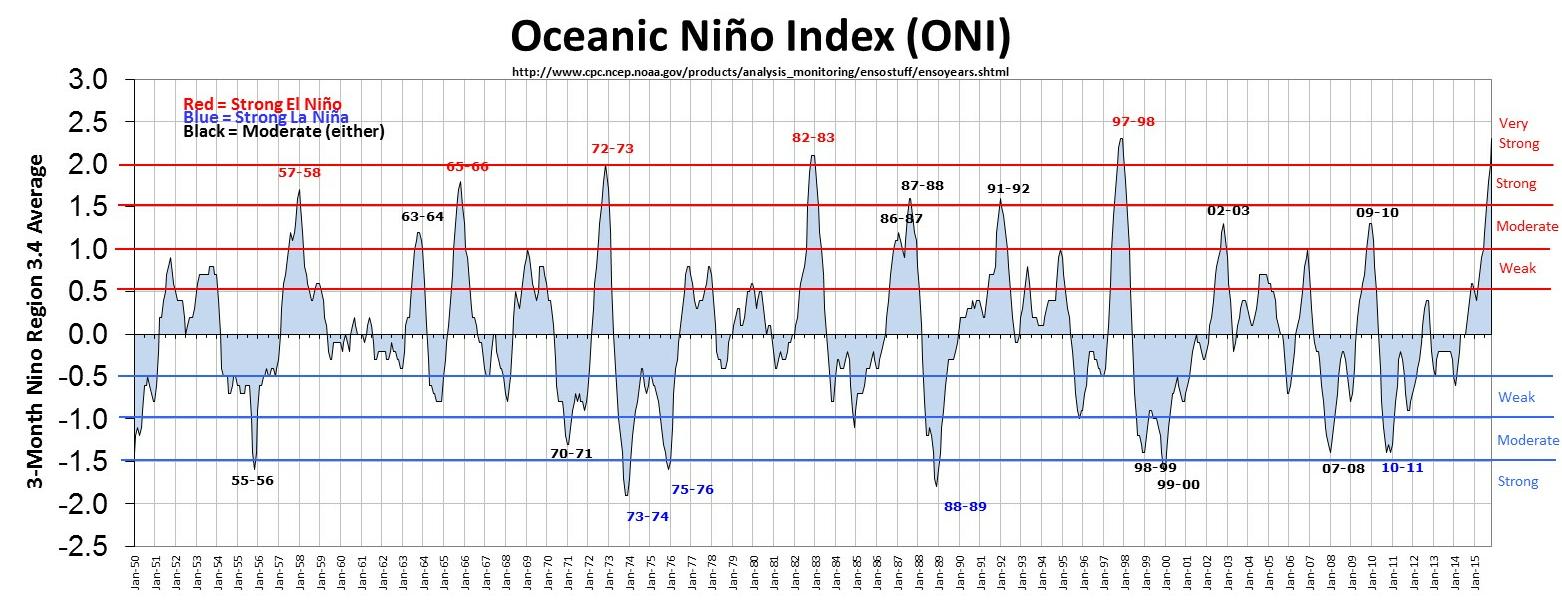
**El Niño and La Niña Years and Intensities**  
Based on Oceanic Ni**ño Index (ONI)**[**Jan Null, CCM**](mailto:jnull@ggweather.com)  
Updated January 4, 2016

[](http://ggweather.com/enso/2007/ggwx01.jpg)

The [Oceanic Niño Index](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ensoyears.shtml) (ONI) has become the de-facto standard that NOAA uses for identifying El Niño (warm) and La Niña (cool) events in the tropical Pacific.  It is the running 3-month mean SST anomaly for the Niño 3.4 region (i.e., [5oN-5oS, 120o-170oW](http://ggweather.com/enso/enso_regions.jpg)).  Events are defined as 5 consecutive overlapping 3-month periods at or above the +0.5o anomaly for warm (El Niño) events and at or below the -0.5 anomaly for cold (La Niña) events.  The threshold is further broken down into Weak (with a 0.5 to 0.9 SST anomaly), Moderate (1.0 to 1.4), Strong (1.5 to 1.9) and Very Strong (≥ 2.0) events.  For the purpose of this report for an event to be categorized as weak, moderate, strong or very strong it must have equaled or exceeded the threshold for at least 3 consecutive overlapping 3-month periods. [***\* Important note: This list was changed in July 2015 to reflect the use of*** [***ERSSTv4***](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/marineocean-data/extended-reconstructed-sea-surface-temperature-ersst-v4) ***by CPC in the calculation of Sea Surface Temperatures (SST). Consequently the events (below) marked with an asterisk were shifted down one category.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **El Niño** | | | | **La Niña** | | |
| Weak | Mod | Strong | Very Strong | Weak | Mod | Strong |
| 1951-52\* | 1963-64 | 1957-58 | 1982-83 | 1950-51 | 1955-56 | 1973-74 |
| 1952-53 | 1986-87 | 1965-66 | 1997-98 | 1954-55 | 1970-71 | 1975-76 |
| 1953-54 | 1987-88\* | 1972-73 |  | 1964-65 | 1998-99 | 1988-89 |
| 1958-59 | 1991-92 |  |  | 1967-68\* | 1999-00\* |  |
| 1968-69\* | 2002-03 |  |  | 1971-72 | 2007-08 |  |
| 1969-70 | 2009-10 |  |  | 1974-75 | 2010-11\* |  |
| 1976-77 |  |  |  | 1983-84 |  |  |
| 1977-78 |  |  |  | 1984-85 |  |  |
| 1979-80\* |  |  |  | 1995-96 |  |  |
| 1994-95\* |  |  |  | 2000-01 |  |  |
| 2004-05 |  |  |  | 2011-12 |  |  |
| 2006-07 |  |  |  |  |  |  |



**Running 3-Month Mean ONI values**[**http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis\_monitoring/ensostuff/ensoyears.shtml**](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ensoyears.shtml) **WE=Weak El Niño, ME=Moderate El Niño, SE=Strong El Niño, VSE=Very Strong El Niño  
WL=Weak La Niña, ML=Moderate La Niña, SL=Strong La Niña**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ENSO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type | Season | | | JJA | JAS | ASO | SON | OND | NDJ | DJF | JFM | FMA | MAM | AMJ | MJJ |
| WL | 1950 | - | 1951 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.6 | -0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| WE\* | 1951 | - | 1952 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| WE | 1952 | - | 1953 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| WE | 1953 | - | 1954 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| WL | 1954 | - | 1955 | -0.5 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.6 |
| ML | 1955 | - | 1956 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -1.0 | -1.4 | -1.6 | -1.4 | -0.9 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.4 |
| \* | 1956 | - | 1957 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| SE | 1957 | - | 1958 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| WE | 1958 | - | 1959 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
|  | 1959 | - | 1960 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
|  | 1960 | - | 1961 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
|  | 1961 | - | 1962 | 0.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
|  | 1962 | - | 1963 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| ME | 1963 | - | 1964 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.1 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.6 |
| WL | 1964 | - | 1965 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| SE | 1965 | - | 1966 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
|  | 1966 | - | 1967 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.2 | 0.0 |
| WL\* | 1967 | - | 1968 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.5 | -0.1 | 0.2 |
| WE\* | 1968 | - | 1969 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| WE | 1969 | - | 1970 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| ML | 1970 | - | 1971 | -0.6 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.9 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.3 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -0.8 | -0.7 |
| WL | 1971 | - | 1972 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.9 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.4 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| SE | 1972 | - | 1973 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -0.8 |
| SL | 1973 | - | 1974 | -1.0 | -1.2 | -1.4 | -1.7 | -1.9 | -1.9 | -1.7 | -1.5 | -1.2 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.8 |
| WL | 1974 | - | 1975 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.8 |
| SL | 1975 | - | 1976 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.5 | -1.6 | -1.5 | -1.1 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| WE | 1976 | - | 1977 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| WE | 1977 | - | 1978 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
|  | 1978 | - | 1979 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| WE\* | 1979 | - | 1980 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
|  | 1980 | - | 1981 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
|  | 1981 | - | 1982 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| VSE | 1982 | - | 1983 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.7 |
| WL | 1983 | - | 1984 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| WL | 1984 | - | 1985 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.9 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.6 |
|  | 1985 | - | 1986 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| ME | 1986 | - | 1987 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 |
| ME\* | 1987 | - | 1988 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.1 | -0.3 | -0.8 | -1.2 |
| SL | 1988 | - | 1989 | -1.2 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.4 | -1.7 | -1.8 | -1.6 | -1.4 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -0.6 | -0.4 |
|  | 1989 | - | 1990 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
|  | 1990 | - | 1991 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| ME | 1991 | - | 1992 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
|  | 1992 | - | 1993 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
|  | 1993 | - | 1994 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| WE\* | 1994 | - | 1995 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0 |
| WL | 1995 | - | 1996 | -0.2 | -0.5 | -0.7 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
|  | 1996 | - | 1997 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| VSE | 1997 | - | 1998 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.5 | -0.1 |
| ML | 1998 | - | 1999 | -0.7 | -1.0 | -1.2 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.4 | -1.2 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -1.0 |
| ML\* | 1999 | - | 2000 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.4 | -1.6 | -1.6 | -1.4 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.7 |
| WL | 2000 | - | 2001 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
|  | 2001 | - | 2002 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 |
| ME | 2002 | - | 2003 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
|  | 2003 | - | 2004 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| WE | 2004 | - | 2005 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| \* | 2005 | - | 2006 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.4 | -0.7 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| WE | 2006 | - | 2007 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| ML | 2007 | - | 2008 | -0.3 | -0.6 | -0.8 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.3 | -1.1 | -0.9 | -0.7 | -0.5 |
| \* | 2008 | - | 2009 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.5 | -0.7 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| ME | 2009 | - | 2010 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| ML\* | 2010 | - | 2011 | -0.8 | -1.1 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.3 | -1.4 | -1.3 | -1.1 | -0.8 | -0.6 | -0.3 | -0.2 |
| WL | 2011 | - | 2012 | -0.3 | -0.5 | -0.7 | -0.9 | -0.9 | -0.8 | -0.7 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
|  | 2012 | - | 2013 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | -0.2 | -0.4 | -0.5 | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
|  | 2013 | - | 2014 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| \* | 2014 | - | 2015 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | **0.5** | **0.7** | **0.9** | **1.0** |
| VSE | 2015 | - | 2016 | **1.2** | **1.5** | **1.8** | **2.0** | **2.3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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