



# July Forecast Update for Atlantic Hurricane Activity in 2003

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## Forecast Summary

**TSR anticipates the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season will see activity 5-10% above the 10-year climate norm and 40-50% above the 30-year climate norm.**

The TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) early July forecast update for Atlantic hurricane activity in 2003 continues to anticipate an above average activity season. The forecast spans the period from 1st June to 30th November 2003 and employs data through to the end of June 2003. TSR's two predictors are the forecast July-September 2003 trade wind speed over the Caribbean and tropical North Atlantic, and the forecast August-September 2003 sea surface temperature in the tropical North Atlantic. At present TSR anticipates both predictors to have a moderate enhancing effect on activity. Appendices give the TSR predictions from previous months and compares these to forecasts issued by other groups.

## Atlantic ACE Index and System Numbers in 2003

		ACE Index	Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast ( $\pm$ FE)	2003	122 ( $\pm$ 39)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)	7.2 ( $\pm$ 1.4)	12.7 ( $\pm$ 2.5)
10yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1993-2002	114 ( $\pm$ 67)	3.0 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	6.9 ( $\pm$ 2.9)	12.1 ( $\pm$ 3.6)
30yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1973-2002	84 ( $\pm$ 52)	2.1 ( $\pm$ 1.4)	5.7 ( $\pm$ 2.4)	9.8 ( $\pm$ 3.4)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1988-2002	59%	37%	51%	47%

- Key: ACE Index = Accumulated Cyclone Energy Index = Sum of the Squares of 6-hourly Maximum Sustained Wind Speeds (in units of knots) for all Systems while they are at least Tropical Storm Strength.  
ACE Unit =  $\times 10^4$  knots<sup>2</sup>.
- Intense Hurricane = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 95Kts = Hurricane Category 3 to 5.  
Hurricane = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 63Kts = Hurricane Category 1 to 5.  
Tropical Storm = 1 Minute Sustained Wind > 33Kts.  
SD = Standard Deviation.  
FE (Forecast Error) = Standard Deviation of Errors in Replicated Real Time Forecasts 1993-2002.  
Forecast Skill = Percentage Improvement in Mean Square Error over Running 10-year Prior Climate Norm from Replicated Real Time Forecasts 1988-2002.

There is an 83% probability that the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season ACE Index will be above the 30-year average.

## ACE Index & Numbers Forming in the MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico in 2003

		ACE Index	Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast ( $\pm$ FE)	2003	105 ( $\pm$ 41)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)	5.5 ( $\pm$ 1.6)	9.4 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
10yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1993-2002	97 ( $\pm$ 68)	3.0 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	5.2 ( $\pm$ 2.9)	8.8 ( $\pm$ 3.6)
30yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1973-2002	63 ( $\pm$ 55)	1.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)	3.8 ( $\pm$ 2.5)	6.5 ( $\pm$ 3.6)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1988-2002	58%	44%	61%	65%

The Atlantic hurricane Main Development Region (MDR) is the region 10°N - 20°N, 20°W - 60°W between the Cape Verde Islands and the Caribbean. A storm is defined as having formed within this region if it reached at least tropical depression status while in the area.

There is an 85% probability that the MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico ACE Index will exceed the 30-year average in 2003.

### USA Landfalling ACE Index and Numbers in 2003

		ACE Index	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast ( $\pm$ FE)	2003	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.2)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.9)	3.7 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
Average ( $\pm$ SD)	1993-2002	2.3 ( $\pm$ 1.6)	1.2 ( $\pm$ 1.2)	3.8 ( $\pm$ 2.1)
Average ( $\pm$ SD)	1973-2002	1.8 ( $\pm$ 1.7)	1.2 ( $\pm$ 1.3)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 2.0)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1988-2002	33%	32%	21%

Key: ACE Index = Accumulated Cyclone Energy Index = Sum of the Squares of hourly Maximum Sustained Wind Speeds (in units of knots) for all Systems while they are at least Tropical Storm Strength and over the USA Mainland (reduced by a factor of 6).  
ACE Unit =  $\times 10^4$  knots<sup>2</sup>.

Landfall Strike Category = Maximum 1 Minute Sustained Wind of Storm Coming Within 30km of Land.

USA Mainland = Brownsville (Texas) to Maine.

USA landfalling intense hurricanes are not forecast since we have no skill at any lead.

### Caribbean Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers in 2003

		Intense Hurricanes	Hurricanes	Tropical Storms
TSR Forecast ( $\pm$ FE)	2003	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)
10yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1993-2002	0.3 ( $\pm$ 0.5)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	1.5 ( $\pm$ 1.0)
30yr Climate Norm ( $\pm$ SD)	1973-2002	0.2 ( $\pm$ 0.4)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	1.1 ( $\pm$ 1.0)
Forecast Skill at this Lead	1988-2002	33%	38%	41%

Key: Landfall Strike Category = Maximum 1 Minute Sustained Wind of Storm Coming Within 30km of Land.

Lesser Antilles = Island Arc from Anguilla to Trinidad Inclusive.

### Key Predictors for 2003

The key factors behind the TSR forecast for an above-average hurricane season in 2003 are the anticipated moderate enhancing effect of July-September forecast 925mb U(east/west)-winds over the Caribbean Sea and tropical North Atlantic region (7.5°N - 17.5°N, 30°W - 100°W), and of August-September forecast sea surface temperature for the Atlantic MDR (10°N - 20°N, 20°W - 60°W). The current forecast anomalies (1973-2002 climatology) for these predictors are  $0.51 \pm 0.46$  ms<sup>-1</sup> (up from  $0.44 \pm 0.46$  ms<sup>-1</sup> last month) and  $0.15 \pm 0.14$ °C (up from  $0.05 \pm 0.17$ °C last month) respectively. The corresponding forecast skills for these predictors at this lead are 69% and 77%.

### Further Information

Further information on the TSR forecast methodology, the TSR simulated real-time forecast skill as a function of lead time, and on TSR in general, may be obtained either from the TSR web site (tropicalstormrisk.com) or from the 'Extended Range Forecast for Atlantic Hurricane Activity in 2002' document issued on the 23rd November 2001. The TSR next monthly forecast update for the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season will be issued on the 5th August 2003.

## Appendix - Predictions from Previous Months

### 1. Atlantic ACE Index and System Numbers

<b>Atlantic ACE Index and System Numbers 2003</b>					
		ACE Index	Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1993-2002)		114 ( $\pm$ 67)	12.1 ( $\pm$ 3.6)	6.9 ( $\pm$ 2.9)	3.0 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1973-2002)		84 ( $\pm$ 52)	9.8 ( $\pm$ 3.4)	5.7 ( $\pm$ 2.4)	2.1 ( $\pm$ 1.4)
TSR Forecasts ( $\pm$ FE)	4 Jul 2003	122 ( $\pm$ 39)	12.7 ( $\pm$ 2.5)	7.2 ( $\pm$ 1.4)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)
	10 Jun 2003	115 ( $\pm$ 35)	12.2 ( $\pm$ 2.2)	6.8 ( $\pm$ 1.6)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.4)
	6 May 2003	118 ( $\pm$ 45)	12.4 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	7.0 ( $\pm$ 2.0)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.5)
	11 Apr 2003	97 ( $\pm$ 58)	11.1 ( $\pm$ 2.9)	6.1 ( $\pm$ 2.4)	2.4 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	5 Mar 2003	123 ( $\pm$ 62)	12.7 ( $\pm$ 3.5)	7.1 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
	5 Feb 2003	133 ( $\pm$ 63)	13.3 ( $\pm$ 3.3)	7.6 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	3.1 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	7 Jan 2003	116 ( $\pm$ 65)	12.3 ( $\pm$ 3.4)	6.9 ( $\pm$ 2.8)	2.7 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	16 Dec 2002	-	12.4 ( $\pm$ 3.5)	7.0 ( $\pm$ 2.8)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
Gray Forecasts	30 May 2003		14	8	3
	4 Apr 2003		12	8	3
	6 Dec 2002		12	8	3
NOAA Forecast	19 May 2003	110-180	11-15	6-8	2-4
Meteorological Institute, Cuba Forecast	2 May 2003	-	10	6	-

### 2. MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico ACE Index and Numbers

<b>MDR, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico ACE Index and Numbers 2003</b>					
		ACE Index	Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1993-2002)		97 ( $\pm$ 68)	8.8 ( $\pm$ 3.6)	5.2 ( $\pm$ 2.9)	3.0 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1973-2002)		63 ( $\pm$ 55)	6.5 ( $\pm$ 3.6)	3.8 ( $\pm$ 2.5)	1.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)
TSR Forecasts ( $\pm$ FE)	4 Jul 2003	105 ( $\pm$ 41)	9.4 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	5.5 ( $\pm$ 1.6)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)
	10 Jun 2003	98 ( $\pm$ 35)	8.9 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	5.1 ( $\pm$ 1.4)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.4)
	5 May 2003	100 ( $\pm$ 45)	9.1 ( $\pm$ 2.4)	5.3 ( $\pm$ 1.8)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.5)
	11 Apr 2003	79 ( $\pm$ 58)	7.8 ( $\pm$ 3.0)	4.4 ( $\pm$ 2.4)	2.4 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	5 Mar 2003	106 ( $\pm$ 63)	9.4 ( $\pm$ 3.4)	5.4 ( $\pm$ 2.6)	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.9)
	5 Feb 2003	116 ( $\pm$ 64)	10.0 ( $\pm$ 3.4)	5.9 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	3.1 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	7 Jan 2003	99 ( $\pm$ 66)	9.0 ( $\pm$ 3.5)	5.2 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	2.7 ( $\pm$ 1.8)
	16 Dec 2002	-	9.2 ( $\pm$ 3.5)	5.3 ( $\pm$ 2.7)	3.0 ( $\pm$ 1.7)

### 3. US Landfalling ACE Index and Numbers

<b>US Landfalling ACE Index and Numbers 2003</b>				
		ACE Index	Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1993-2002)		2.7 ( $\pm$ 1.7)	3.8 ( $\pm$ 2.1)	1.2 ( $\pm$ 1.2)
Average Number ( $\pm$ SD) (1973-2002)		1.8 ( $\pm$ 1.7)	2.8 ( $\pm$ 2.0)	1.2 ( $\pm$ 1.3)
TSR Forecasts ( $\pm$ FE)	4 Jul 2003	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.2)	3.7 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.9)
	10 Jun 2003	2.7 ( $\pm$ 1.2)	3.6 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.6 ( $\pm$ 0.9)
	6 May 2003	2.8 ( $\pm$ 1.3)	3.6 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 1.0)
	11 Apr 2003	2.2 ( $\pm$ 1.5)	3.2 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.4 ( $\pm$ 1.1)
	5 Mar 2003	2.9 ( $\pm$ 1.5)	3.7 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 1.1)
	5 Feb 2003	1.8 ( $\pm$ 1.7)	3.9 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.8 ( $\pm$ 1.1)
	7 Jan 2003	-	3.6 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.6 ( $\pm$ 1.1)
	16 Dec 2002	-	3.6 ( $\pm$ 1.9)	1.7 ( $\pm$ 1.1)

### 4. Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers

<b>Lesser Antilles Landfalling Numbers 2003</b>				
		Named Tropical Storms	Hurricanes	Intense Hurricanes
Average Number (SD) (1993-2002)		1.6 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.3 ( $\pm$ 0.5)
Average Number (SD) (1973-2002)		1.1 ( $\pm$ 1.0)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	0.2 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
TSR Forecasts ( $\pm$ FE)	4 Jul 2003	1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	10 Jun 2003	1.6 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.6)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	6 May 2003	1.6 ( $\pm$ 0.9)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.7)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	11 Apr 2003	1.4 ( $\pm$ 1.0)	0.6 ( $\pm$ 0.7)	0.3 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	5 Mar 2003	1.7 ( $\pm$ 1.0)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	5 Feb 2003	1.8 ( $\pm$ 1.0)	0.8 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	7 Jan 2003	1.6 ( $\pm$ 1.0)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)
	16 Dec 2002	1.7 ( $\pm$ 0.8)	0.7 ( $\pm$ 0.7)	0.4 ( $\pm$ 0.4)

Please note that the ACE indices shown above (climate norm and forecast values) have all changed from those issued previously. This follows the removal of a bias and the use now of the latest corrected HURDAT Atlantic hurricane re-analysis dataset.

