REVIEW OF THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON 2024

DECEMBER 2024







Executive Summary

- The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane season was above average in terms of activity, but not as intense as initial forecasts
- Warm Sea Surface Temperatures and a shift away from El Niño produced a number of strong storms, but competing factors such as Saharan dust acted to inhibit development
- > Total of 11 hurricanes, of which 5 became Category 3+
- Estimated hurricane insurance industry losses for 2024 expected to be approx. USD 30 - 50bn
- > The majority of insured losses from natural catastrophes in 2024 will not be from hurricanes, but from secondary perils (wildfires, tornadoes, floods, etc.), which will exceed USD 50bn - Twelve Capital focuses on peak perils



Driving factors for hurricane formation in the 2024 season

While there are many processes and physical phenomena that influence the formation of hurricanes, the following were identified as key drivers in 2024:

- Surface **Temperatures** Sea (WSST): In general, the warmer the water the more energy there is to form and sustain hurricanes. Figure 1 shows this water temperature for the 2024 season and, similar to 2023, it was above recent climatology. During the peak of the season in September, it fell below the all-time high of 2023. The high temperature was a key reason why there was above average hurricane formation this year, and why we phenomena such as intensification".
- El Niño and La Niña: A naturally occurring and cyclical phenomenon driven by water temperatures off of the west coast of South America. The warmer or cooler they are, the more they affect the trade winds that cross the USA, creating more (or less) wind shear

- and steering currents. In 2024, El Niño weakened to a neutral state during the peak of the season, reducing the winds that inhibit hurricane formation and the winds that help to push hurricanes away from the coast.
- **Saharan Dust:** A little harder to predict and account for, but given the early season conditions, driven by the warm sea surface temperatures and the move towards a La Niña, these have been responsible for a reduction in hurricane formation. Dust from Sahara blows into the waters off of Western Africa in the so-called "Main Development Region", drying out the air and making it harder for hurricanes to form. Stronger than expected Saharan dust was a key reason for fewer hurricanes forming.

The 2024 season in numbers

There were 18 named storms, 11 of which reached hurricane strength and five of which intensified into major hurricanes (Category 3+). Five storms made landfall in the US, two of which were major hurricanes. Please refer to Table 1 below summarising the predicted and actual numbers.



Hurricane Beryl became the earliest Category 5 hurricane on record in the Atlantic. Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm, becoming the 14th most powerful hurricane to hit the US since records began. Hurricane

Milton rapidly intensified from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in 24 hours, at one point becoming the fifth most intense Atlantic hurricane on record, but fortunately weakened before making landfall.

— 1991-2020 **-** · 1982-2010 **—** 2024 25 - 2023 2022 2021 24 2020 2019 Temperature (°C) 2018 23 2017 2016 22 2015 2014 2013 21 2012 2011 2010 20 2009 2008 2007 19 2006 2005 18 **▲ 1/3** ▼ Jan Feb Mar Apr Jul May Jun Aug Sep

Figure 1: Daily sea surface temperature, North Atlantic (0-60°N, 0-80°W)

Source: https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/. As at 25 November 2024.

Table 1: 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season - Prediction vs Actual

Forecaster	Named storms	Hurricanes	Major hurricanes	ACE ¹
NOAA	17 – 24	8 – 13	4 – 7	_
Colorado State University	23	12	6	230
Tropical Storm Risk	24	12	6	230
Accuweather	20 - 25	8 – 12	4 – 7	175 – 225
Weatherbell	25 - 30	14 – 16	6 – 8	200 - 240
UK Met Office	22	12	4	212
The Weather Company	24	11	6	_
NC State University	15 – 20	10 – 12	3 – 4	_
ECMWF	23	13	_	240
Artemis Average forecast	23	12	5	
2024 Hurricane Season Actuals	18	11	5	160
1950 – 2023 long-term average	12	6	3	106
1981 – 2010 median	12	6	3	106
1991 – 2020 NOAA average	14	7	3	123
2014 - 2023 recent average	16	7	3	121

Source: https://www.artemis.bm/2024-atlantic-hurricane-season/. As at 25 November 2024.

ECMWF: European Centre for Mid-range Weather Forecasts, NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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¹ Accumulated cyclone energy.





El Niño/La Niña into 2025

Sometimes referred to as the ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) cycle, it is a naturally occurring phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean where waters are warmer than normal (El Niño) or cooler than normal (La Niña). Their frequency is not regular, but their duration and periodicity are predictable or regular. A typical

El Niño lasts 9-12 months, and a typical La Niña lasts 1-3 years (although it is possible for these conditions to last shorter/longer). They usually form in March-June, peak in December-April and then weaken in May-July.

Within +/- 0.5 degrees it is often referred to as the "neutral state", with the ONI (Oceanic Niño Index) having to go above or below this threshold to then be called El Niño or La Niña.

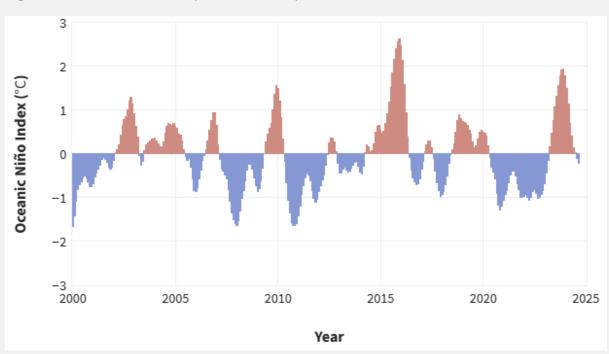


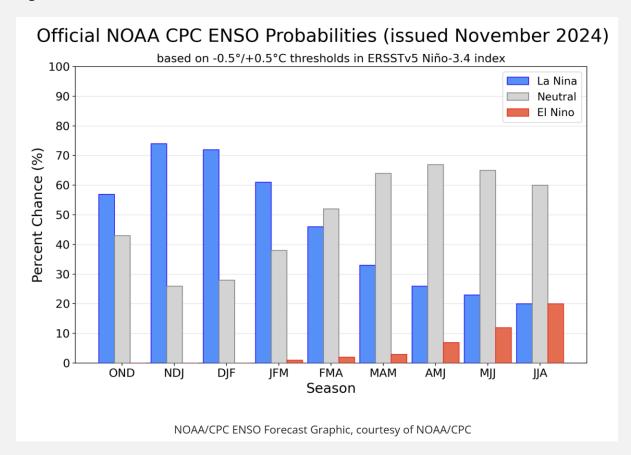
Figure 2: Oceanic Niño Index (2000 to Present)

Source: https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-variability-oceanic-nino-index As at 27 November 2024

It is difficult to predict what will happen with the ONI during the 2025 hurricane season, but given that we have entered a neutral phase, it is likely that we will remain neutral or move into La Niña during the first few months of 2025, with a clearer picture emerging from the second quarter of 2025. The latest longer term forecasts from NOAA indicate that we are likely to be in a neutral state, possibly moving into an El Niño.



Figure 3: NOAA forecast on ENSO



Source: https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/?enso_tab=enso-cpc_plume. As at 27 Nov 2024.

Figure 4: ENSO probabilities

Season	La Niña	Neutral	El Niño
OND	57	43	0
NDJ	74	26	0
DJF	72	28	0
JFM	61	38	1
FMA	46	52	2
MAM	33	64	3
AMJ	26	67	7
MJJ	23	65	12
JJA	20	60	20

 $Source: \underline{https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/?enso_tab=enso-cpc_plume}. As at 27 Nov 2024.$



This latest forecast from NOAA shows that a La Niña is expected, but there is uncertainty about when and how strong it will be, with even a 60% chance that it will be a "neutral" phase during the peak of the season.



Notable Events in 2024

Although the season was less active than expected, it was not without a number of notable events.

Major Hurricane Beryl

Beryl was a strong start to the season, forming in late June/early July and becoming the earliest ever Category 5 hurricane, fuelled by very warm waters. Its path took it very close to Jamaica and into Mexico before weakening in the Gulf of Mexico and dissipating. The "near miss" of Jamaica meant that it came very close to triggering an IBRD Cat Bond covering Jamaica, but the central pressure of the storm and its track were outside the parametric trigger conditions.



Figure 5: Hurricane Beryl path and parametric contracts

Source: Twelve Capital / NHC. As at 27 November 2024.

Major Hurricane Helene

Helen made landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida as a Category 4 storm, causing coastal damage due to significant storm surge. Fortunately, it did not hit a densely populated area and the wind damage was not too severe, but the problem with Helene was the amount of rainfall it dumped on northern Florida, Georgia

and South Carolina as it moved inland. Much of the damage from Helene is due to precipitation, including flooding, and the economic losses are expected to be significantly higher than the insured losses due to the lack of flood insurance in some of the most affected areas.



Recorded rainfall for last 7 days

1 2 3 5 10+ inches

Minneapolis

Missler

Detroit

R. 10MA Change

OHTO

UB. Act.

New York

NJ.

Varieria Beach

Helene

Fri. at 5 p.m:

OKLA.

Austin

Houston

Houston

Missl.

ALA.

Tanga

Miami

Figure 6: Hurricane Helene rainfall map

Source: Wikipedia / NOAA / NASA. As at 27 November 2024.

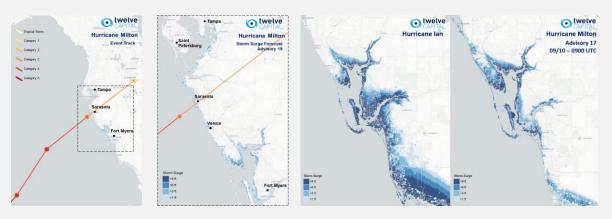
Major Hurricane Milton

Milton made landfall in Florida about two weeks after Helene, but further south in Sarasota. While in the Gulf, Milton gained strength, but as it approached the west coast of Florida, it began to weaken and made landfall as a Category 3

storm. Given the location of landfall, it has been compared to lan, but we are seeing a number of differences between the events, most notably in the strength and amount of storm surge. Milton is likely to be a much smaller insurance event than lan.



Figure 7: Hurricane Milton vs Hurricane Ian (2022)



Source: Twelve Capital / NOAA. As at 27 November 2024.

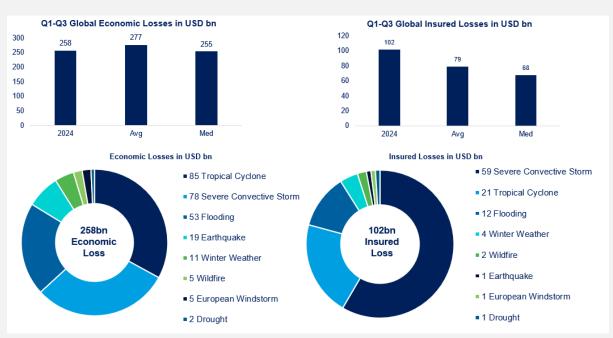


Secondary Perils in 2024

In 2024, there were not only hurricanes but, as always, other catastrophic events, a significant proportion of which were "secondary" or "nonpeak" in nature.

Although the report only covers Q1-Q3, we can see that 2024 is another year of significant severe convective storm events (tornadoes and hail), which will cause over USD 50bn in insured losses.

Figure 8: Q1-Q3 2024 report into insurance losses



Source: Aon Q3 Global Catastrophe Recap. October 2024.

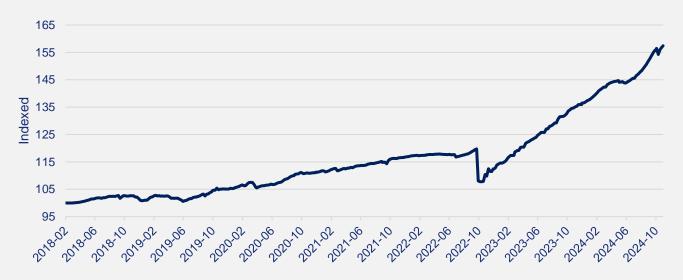




Impact on the Cat Bond Market

Year to date, 2024 has seen minimal losses in the Cat Bond market. The high level of severe convective storm activity resulted in aggregate erosion for a number of Cat Bonds, leaving them more exposed during the hurricane season. Given the current level of industry losses from the major events affecting the US, the current level of losses in the Cat Bond market is likely to be minimal.

Figure 9: Development of the Swiss Re Cat Bond Index



Source: Bloomberg, Twelve Capital. As at 31 October 2024. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. Swiss Re Cat Global Bond Index – The index calculated by Swiss Re Capital Markets, is a market value-weighted basket of natural cat bonds tracked by Swiss Re Capital Markets, calculated on a weekly basis.



Summary

While the conditions were ripe for a very active hurricane season, we have again seen that catastrophe losses are ultimately a stochastic process and nothing is a given. There were a number of strong hurricanes that made landfall, but as they did not directly hit major metropolitan areas, the impact on the reinsurance and Cat Bond markets is likely to be muted.

While hurricanes have been the focus of our attention, it is important to remember that secondary perils remain very active with another year of heavy tornado and hail losses, in what may be a "new normal" for this peril.

Looking ahead to 2025, very early indications seem to point to neutral or possibly El Niño conditions at the peak of the season, but it remains to be seen how warm Atlantic waters will remain.



Key risk associated with investments in Cat Bonds include

Concentration in one industry risk: When a portfolio is reliant on one industry or market segment (i.e., insurance industry), this creates concentration risk. Thus, it increases the likelihood that a single impact can have a big effect.

Event risk: Should an insured event occur and the defined threshold values be exceeded, then the value of a specific ILS instrument may decrease to the extent of a total loss.

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