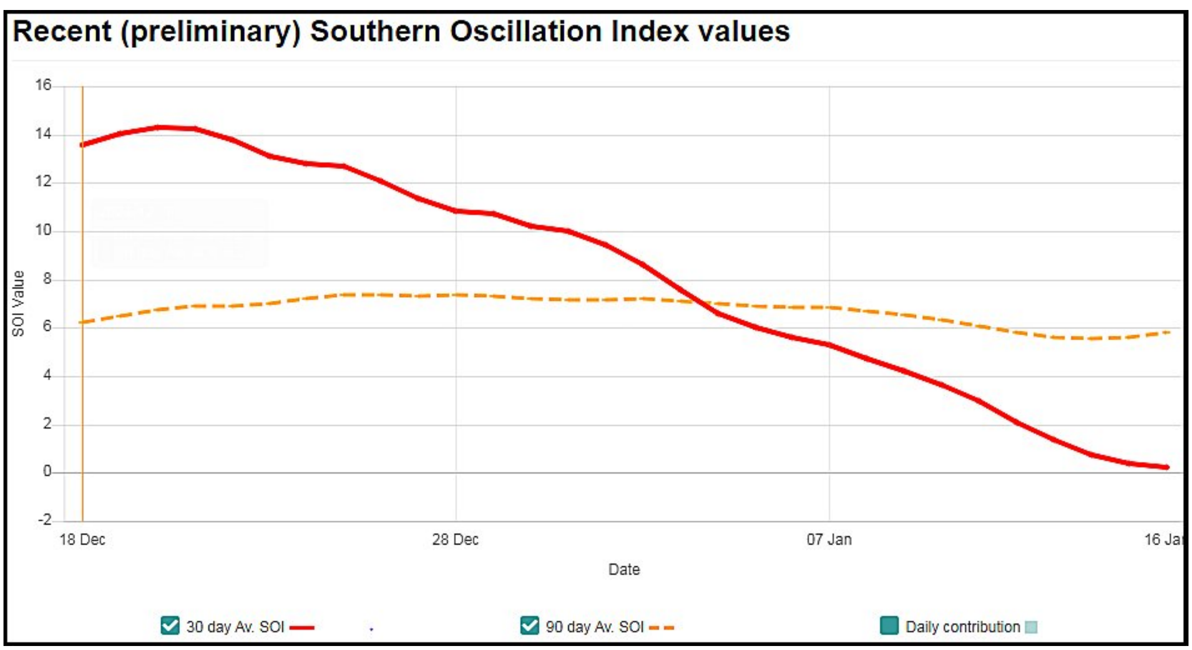
Argentina Weather May Dry Down Again In Early February

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 16 (World Weather Inc.) – Strong easterly trade winds across the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean from the second half of November through most of December was largely responsible for greater ocean surface cooling in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean recently. The change took several weeks, but as the ocean's surface cooled La Nina began to evolve. ***Conditions recently have been less supportive of such dominating La Nina conditions which is why Argentina rain potentials have risen for the next ten days and there will be timely rain in Uruguay, southern Brazil and parts of Paraguay as well. A robust Madden Julian Oscillation event over Africa today will move swiftly to the east over the next couple of weeks and may eventually bring new support for La Nina.***

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has finally completed its recent decline that began around December 20 when the index peaked around +14.30 on the Australian scale. The index today was +0.24. The index decline resulted from a decline in atmospheric conditions supporting La Nina; however, the index is expected to swing higher again in late January setting the stage for another round of better support for La Nina which may suppress rainfall in Argentina and neighboring areas once again.

Be cautious here. The La Nina bias remains in place, but conditions have changed enough to allow weakness in the upper air wind flow to support opportunities for rain. The resulting precipitation may still be erratic and lighter than usual, but conditions are no longer supportive of absolute dryness and hot temperatures. Those conditions may return later in February.



Short term perturbations in the SOI cannot be used to predict rainfall in any area around the world, but long term trends like that shown above do help forecast in the medium range time period.

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