

Brazil Coffee (Robusta)

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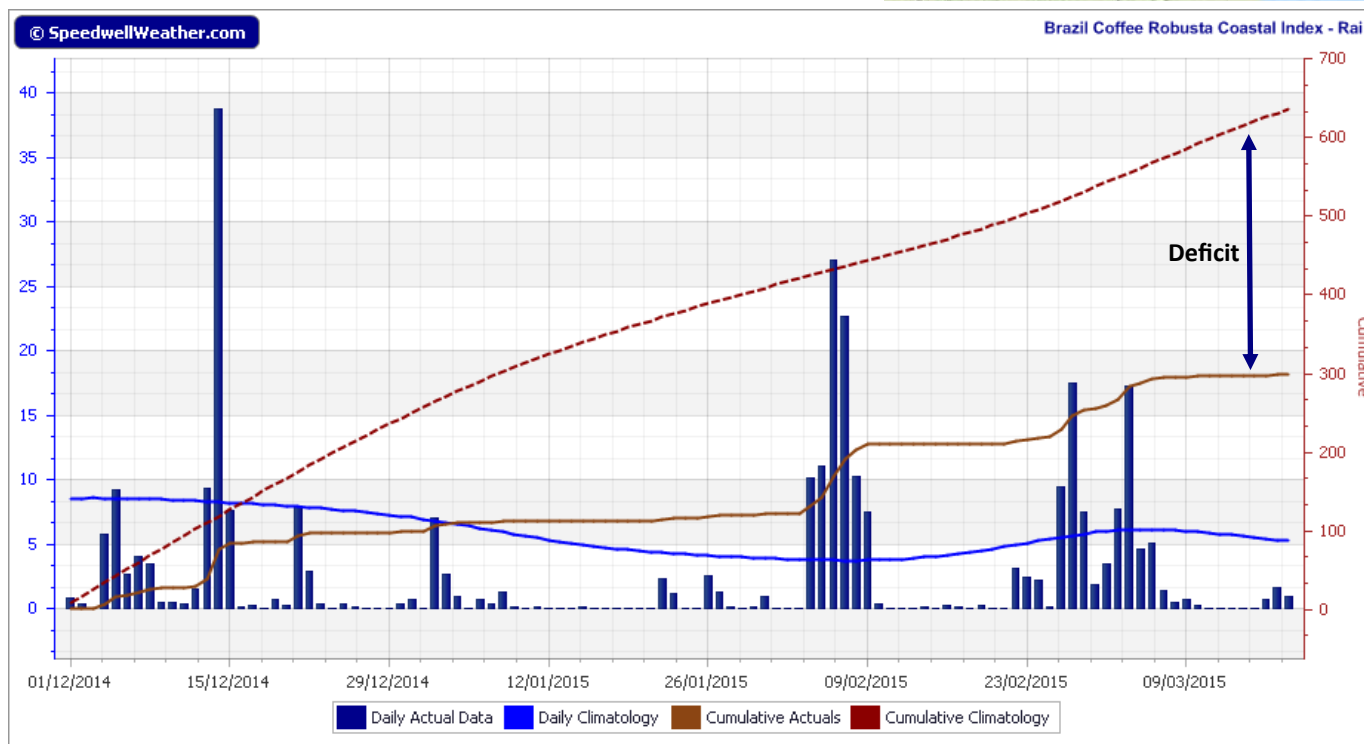
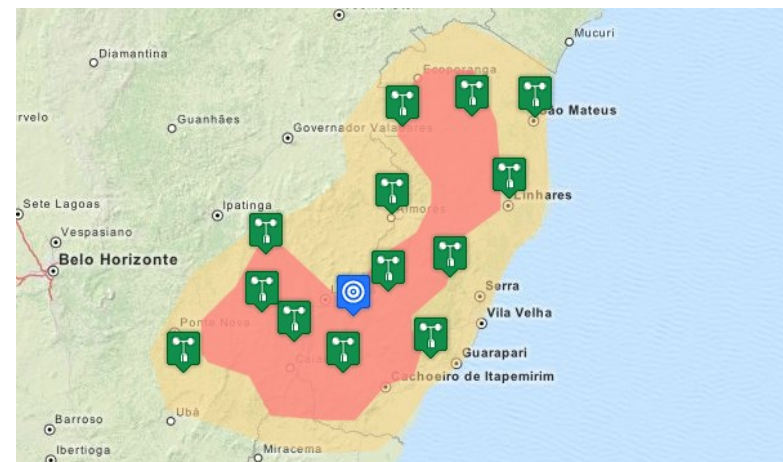
Summary: Prolonged dryness impacts crop
Level: Medium
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Since December, Brazil's main Robusta coffee growing region focused in the coastal state of Espirito Santo and far eastern Minas Gerais, has seen very dry conditions. In the chart below, cumulative rainfall over this period is shown to be less than half of the climatological normal, around 300mm versus 640mm. While areas further to the west where the Arabica variety is grown have seen much wetter conditions recently, the Robusta area has not been as fortunate. Last week Procafe, a Brazilian coffee research foundation, announced that the upcoming Robusta harvest would tally 10.3-11.1 million bags versus 13 million in 2014, a potential drop of over 20%. The organization went on to state that the drought damaged the Robusta crop significantly, and it would be the biggest uncertainly moving forward. The Espirito Santo area received some scattered showers yesterday, and the ECMWF and GFS forecasts show continued chances for showers into early next week. However, this rain may be too late to help the crop.



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Map above shows major (red) and minor (yellow) Robusta growing regions; green markers are stations in Robusta Coastal Index