

Green | Weather & Science

El Niños Cause Trillions in Lost Economic Growth, Study Shows

New research in *Science* shows that estimated losses in gross domestic product caused by the weather phenomenon are a hundred times higher than previously thought.

By Eric Roston

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The paper, by Dartmouth Earth system scientists Christopher Callahan and Justin Mankin and published today in the journal *Science*, comes at an auspicious time. The US Climate Prediction Center earlier this month raised odds beyond 90% that an El Niño weather pattern will form later this year. These episodes, which occur

The new analysis uses a model that combines economic growth and climate variability from 1960 to 2019 and compares GDP growth around the world before and after El Niño events. The output suggests a “persistent” impact on countries’ economic growth, especially in Peru, where the dynamic was first discovered, and around the tropics. They found that a powerful episode in 1997 and 1998 set world GDP back \$5.7 trillion and a 1982/1983 El Niño reduced growth by \$4.1 trillion.