

Press Release by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate on the Occasion of World Meteorological Day - March 23, 2011

The Theme This Year is "Powering Our Future with Weather, Climate and Water"

Every year on March 23, the 189 members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day around a chosen theme. This year, the theme is "Powering our future with weather, climate and water".

In Palestine, this day is celebrated by those working in the field of meteorology, primarily the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate established in 1994. During 1998 and 1999, the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate become an observer in the World Meteorological Organization and a member in the Arab Organization of Meteorology in the League of Arab States.

Meteorological statistics form one of the most important parts of the environmental statistics collected by PCBS from administrative records.

This press release focuses on meteorological phenomena in the Palestinian Territory during 2011 as follows:

Rainfall Below Yearly Average in 2011

During 2011, the amount of rainfall ranged between 608.3 mm in Nablus station and 99.0 mm in Jericho. The yearly average rainfall in Nablus station was 660 and in Jericho station was 166 mm.

Rainfall quantities in 2011 and yearly average in West Bank stations

Station	Quantity of rainfall (mm) 2011	Yearly Average	Percentage
Ramallah	526.1	615	85.5
Nablus	608.3	660	91.4
Jenin	459.3	468	92.2
Jericho	99.0	166	59.6
Hebron	357.5	596	60.0

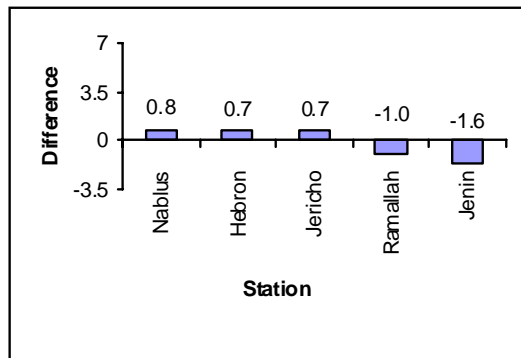
Rainfall quantities during the rainy season 2011/2012 up to 18/03/2012 in some West Bank stations

Station	Quantity of rainfall (mm)	Yearly Average	Percentage
Ramallah	833.0	615	135.4
Nablus	744.7	660	112.8
Jenin	453.9	468	97.0
Jericho	128.8	166	77.6
Hebron	603.3	596	101.2

High Temperatures in 2011 Compared with Yearly Average

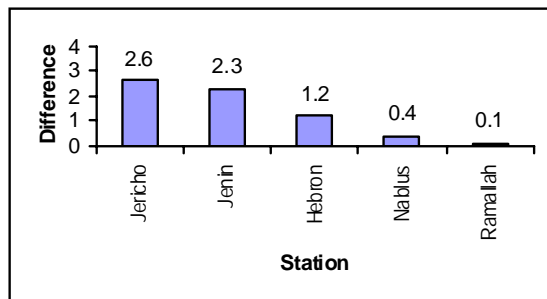
Data on maximum and minimum air temperatures for 2011 showed differences in maximum temperatures from the yearly average. This difference was about -1.6 °C in Jenin station and 0.8 °C in Nablus station.

Differences in maximum air temperature during 2011 (°C) from the yearly average in some West Bank stations



In addition, there were differences in minimum temperatures during 2011 from the yearly average. This difference was about 0.1 °C in Ramallah station and 2.6 °C in Jericho station.

Differences in minimum air temperature (°C) from the yearly average in some West Bank stations, 2011



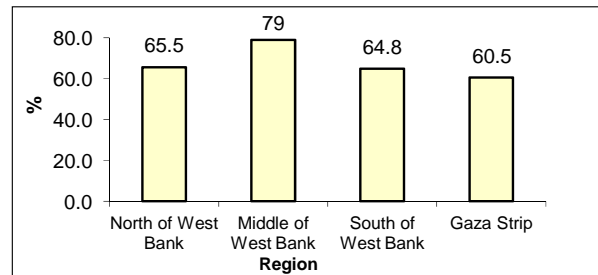
Average Hours of Sun Shine Less Than Previous Year

During 2011, the average hours of sunshine ranged between 8.7 hours per day in Ramallah station, 8.2 hours per day in Hebron station, and 9.1 hours per day in Ramallah station in 2010.

Two-Thirds of Households Have Solar Heater System

66% of households in the Palestinian Territory had solar energy heaters in July 2011 compared to 66.7% in July 2010.

Percentage of households in the Palestinian Territory using solar heater by region, July 2011



Diversity of Climatic Regions in Palestine

Palestine is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean and has a diverse climate despite its small size, including regions of moderate climate, tropical climate, desert and semi-desert.

For more information, please contact: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Ramallah, Palestine.

Tel: (+970/972) 2 2982700
 Fax: (+970/972) 2 2982710
 Toll free: 1800300300
 E-mail: diwan@pcbs.gov.ps
 web-Site: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

Palestinian Meteorological Department Ramallah, Palestine.

Tel: (+970/972) 2 2403104
 Fax: (+970/972) 2 2403103
 web-Site: <http://www.pmd.ps>