



The weather in Germany in 2011

Weather in 2011: one of the five warmest years in Germany since 1881

Offenbach, 29 December 2011 – In 2011, the average temperature in Germany was 9.6 degrees Celsius (°C), which puts the ending year among the five warmest years since 1881. At 7.8°C, the previous year was significantly cooler. The record temperature is still 9.9°C, recorded in 2000. When it comes to sunshine, 2011 even takes a podium position: in Germany only 2003 and 1959 saw more sunshine, as the initial analysis by the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) of data from its around 2,000 weather stations shows.

In Germany, 2011 started with the rapid thaw of the large volumes of snow, which had fallen in December 2010, causing a large number of rivers to be in flood. Spring saw an unusually large number of high pressure areas over Central Europe, bringing an impressive record for sunshine, the second-highest average temperature since the start of nationwide measurements in 1881 and the lowest precipitation since 1893. Many rivers, which were in flood in January, were now carrying extremely low levels of water. Weather conditions changed at the start of summer and low-pressure systems began to dominate. This brought the dry period to an end and caused torrential rain in parts of the north and east in particular. The changeable weather prevailed into September. This was followed by an exceptionally beautiful Indian summer and then the driest November since records began. December, in contrast, was very wet, stormy and not much like winter.

Eleven out of twelve months in 2011 were too warm: only July was too cool.

According to the international reference values for 1961 to 1990, at an average of 9.6 degrees Celsius (°C) the temperature in 2011 was 1.4 degrees over the long-term average of 8.2°C. Compared to the reference period 1981-2010, the temperature deviated by plus 0.7 degrees. Following on from 1934, 1994, 2000 and 2007, this just puts 2011 among the five warmest years since temperatures started to be recorded nationwide in Germany in 1881. Apart from July, which was slightly too cold, all months in 2011 were too warm. As was the case in 2007 and 2009, the exceptionally warm April particularly stood out. The DWD recorded the highest temperature of 36.7°C on 22 August in Rheinfelden am Hochrhein. The coldest night was on 23 January in Oberstdorf, where a temperature of -20.1°C was recorded.

With an average of 718 litres of precipitation per square metre (l/m²), rainfall in 2011 was nine per cent below the long-term average of 789 l/m². Although pre-

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precipitation on the Zugspitze was 13 percent below the long-term average, it was once again the wettest place in Germany in 2011, registering 1750 l/m². In the lowlands, top spot was taken by Oy-Mittelberg-Petersthal in the Allgäu with 1595 l/m². Rostock-Warnemünde saw impressive amounts of summer rain, recording the enormous figure of 632 l/m², which was clearly higher than the usual annual precipitation of 589 l/m² for that area. On 22 July, this station also recorded the highest daily figure for the year at 111.4 l/m². Dachwig north-west of Erfurt saw the least amount of rain in 2011 at only 381 l/m².

Deutschland basked in the sunshine in 2011 – Third place in the record list

According to the DWD, 2011 was – with 1,824 hours – the third sunniest year since measurements were first taken in 1951. The only years with more hours of sunshine were 2003 (2,014 hours) and 1959 (1,982 hours). Leutkirch-Herlazhofen in the Württemberg part of the Allgäu region took top position with 2,177 hours of sunshine. The least sunny place was Bremervörde to the west of Hamburg with 1,522 hours.

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