

The weather in Germany in November 2011
The driest month since records began in 1881

Offenbach, 29 November 2011 – In November 2011, the weather in Germany was extremely mild but most of all the driest on record and for most parts an extremely sunny month. A large number of measuring stations did not record one single drop of rain. The mountains, in particular, enjoyed plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures as a result of the high atmospheric pressure, which remained over central Europe for some weeks. In contrast, the weather in lowland areas was often misty, overcast and cold. It was not until the end of the month that a storm depression over Scandinavia came from the north to end the stable high pressure system, as the initial analysis by the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) of data from its around 2,000 weather stations shows.

Especially in the western part of Germany and on the mountains the weather was very mild. Compared to the international reference values for 1961 to 1990, at 4.5 degrees Celsius (°C) November in Germany was around 0.5 degrees warmer; compared to the comparative period 1981 to 2010, the temperature was 0.1 degree warmer. It was considerably more pleasant in the western half of the country than in the east and south east. The positive temperature differences mainly observed in the mountains resulted from the high atmospheric pressure over central Europe and the resulting inversion weather. In some cases, this has caused considerable differences in temperature: in the mountains, it was often warm and sunny but the weather in the valleys was misty, overcast and cold. Consequently, some of the measuring stations at higher altitudes recorded new record temperatures for November, with the warmest place in Germany being Kiefersfelden, where a temperature of 24.4°C was recorded on 5 November. Compared to this, a large number of measuring stations in valleys recorded negative temperature deviations. The lowest November temperature measured in Germany was -9.1°C at Reit im Winkl on 25 November.

Driest month since records began

With around 3 litres per square metre (l/m²) in November 2011, the mean rainfall total for Germany remained unprecedentedly below the target of 66 l/m². Since records began in 1881, there has never been such a dry November and it would appear that there has also been no other comparable month. This month's figure was even less than the lowest rainfall ever recorded of 3.65 l/m², measured in April 1893. Some stations did not record one single drop of rain throughout the whole month. The only areas that saw appreciable amounts of precipitation were the Saarland and northern and central Germany. Schleswig saw the most rain, registering 18 l/m². The continuing drought caused many river levels to fall to record lows and snow in the Bavarian Alps was scarce. At the same time, there was a greater risk of forest fires.

Above all, lots of sun in the mountains set new records

In Germany, the average of 95 sunshine hours for November 2011 was 75 per cent more than the normal 53 hours. Central Germany and parts of southern Germany were particularly sunny, although the north did not enjoy such fine weather. Some of the mountain stations, in particular, set new records for the month of November. For instance, Schmücke in the Thuringian Forest recorded 156 hours of sunshine, almost four times as much as the long-term normal of 43 hours. At 164 hours, Chemnitz enjoyed the most sunshine, whereas the resort of Schönhagen on the Baltic coast was the least sunny place, recording approx. 31 hours of sunshine.

