

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY
CY-1418 NICOSIA

13 February 2024

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

THE WEATHER IN JANUARY 2024

General Weather Conditions: In January the weather was warm and concerning the precipitation amounts near normal levels. Unstable weather conditions prevailed for almost the entire month; during the periods 1-5, 8-19 and 21-31 and caused rain, local thunderstorms, gale force winds, hail and snowfall in the highlands and semi-mountains. The average temperature was about 2.3 °C above normal and the average rainfall was 105.8mm or 103% of normal.

Severe Weather conditions: On the 10th and 17th of the month, heavy rain caused flooding roads in Limassol, Ormidia and Xylofagou. On the 22nd and 23rd of the month, heavy rain and thunderstorms with hail affected the whole island, causing a lot of damage like flooding in roads, houses and premises mainly in the non-occupied Famagusta area. The rain and hail caused damage to grain and potato crops in the area of Famagusta, which was the epicenter of the floods. In Ayia Napa, a tornado cut down trees and swept away shelters. Electricity supply was cut in areas of Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta. On the 25th a tornado was observed in Aglantzia with no damage reported and on the 26th and 30th of the month a waterspout was observed off Akrotiri and Protaras respectively. On the 29th-31st of the month, the barometric system "Avgi" affected the whole island, leaving a lot of damage due to floods and hail. Some houses and roads were flooded in areas of Nicosia, Larnaca and non-occupied Famagusta, where the most intense phenomena occurred. The torrential rains and thunderstorms destroyed the potato crops from Paralimni to Kokkinochoria. A tornado in Paralimni destroyed greenhouses with crops, solar water heaters and water tanks.

According to reports from the occupied territories, on the 29th-31st of the month, prolonged torrential precipitation, intense thunderstorms, intense hail and gale force winds mostly affected the area from Kyrenia westwards to Kormakitis, as well as Mesaoria and Famagusta, causing unprecedented flooding, and landslides. These severe weather events caused damage to houses and other properties, problems to the electricity supply and extensive damage and problems to the road network (roads were submerged-destroyed, a bridge collapsed). Large areas of cultivated fields were also flooded. Two human lives were lost, while others were put at risk as they were trapped in the flooded roads. Losses were also recorded in animals and fodder. In Kyrenia, a road "froze" due to the hail, while other roads experienced local frost due to the heavy hail. In Kyrenia, 92.6 mm of rain was recorded in just one day, on the 29th, while in Ag. Irini station, not far from Kormakitis, 51.2mm was recorded on the 30th of the month.

Precipitation (normal period: 1961-1990): According to preliminary estimates the area average precipitation in January was 105.8mm i.e 103% of normal. Monthly precipitation generally varied between 63% (Palaichori) and 256% (Frenaros) of normal.

Snowfall occurred on the 10th, 12th-15th, 25th-26th (Troodos), 28th (Agros) and 28th-31st (Amiantos, Troodos) of the month.

Hail occurred on the 10th (Alethriko), 22nd, 23rd (Xylofagou, Avgorou, Liopetri, Frenaros), 26th (Gourri, Palaichori), 27th (Pedoulas, Moutoulas, Prodromos), on the 29th (Tala, Ag. Neophytos) and on the 30th-31st (Kyrenia, Famagusta - Nicosia roads, Prastio - Gaidoura crossroads, Prastio Lefkoniko) of the month.

The cumulative area average precipitation during the period October 2023-January 2024 was about 238.9mm, i.e 81% of normal. The cumulative precipitation varied between 53% (Xylytymvou) and 124% (Athiainou) of normal.

Temperature (normal period: 1981-2010): The mean air temperature for the month was about 2.3°C above normal. The mean daily temperatures were below normal during the periods 10-31 of the month, whereas the rest of the month mean daily temperatures were above or around normal. Maximum temperatures exceeded 16°C at Athalassa and Larnaka Airport in 24 and 26 occasions respectively. In Paphos they exceeded 17°C in 24 occasions. At Prodromos they exceeded 6°C in 20 occasions. Most

stations recorded their highest maximum temperature during the period 2, 5, 20 and 22 of the month and their lowest minimum temperature on the 27, 29 and 31 of the month.

Air and ground frost occurred in 6 cases in the mountainous areas, while in the semi-mountainous areas 3 cases of air frost were recorded. There was no frost inland and in the coastal areas.

The 5-day averages of air temperature and their deviations from normal at various places are shown in Table 1 and the extreme temperatures are shown in Table 2.

JANUARY 2024

FIVE - DAY TEMPERATURES AND DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL (° C)

Preliminary Data

Table 1

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM									
STATION	ATHALASSA		LARNAKA AIRPORT		PAFOS AIRPORT		PRODROMOS		MEAN DEV.
DATES	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	
1--5	21	5	22	5	20	3	10	3	4
6--10	21	5	22	5	20	3	10	3	4
11--15	16	1	18	1	18	0	5	-2	0
16--20	20	4	20	4	19	2	9	2	3
21--25	18	3	20	3	20	4	9	3	3
26-31	14	-1	16	-1	16	-1	4	-3	-1
MONTH	18.2	2.7	19.5	2.7	18.9	1.8	7.5	1.1	2.1

MEAN DAILY MINIMUM									
STATION	ATHALASSA		LARNAKA AIRPORT		PAFOS AIRPORT		PRODROMOS		MEAN DEV.
DATES	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	ACTUAL	DEV.	
1--5	8	2	12	4	14	4	5	3	3
6--10	8	2	11	3	13	4	4	3	3
11--15	6	1	9	2	11	3	1	0	1
16--20	9	3	12	4	12	4	4	3	4
21--25	9	4	11	4	13	5	4	4	4
26-31	5	0	7	0	8	0	-2	-2	0
MONTH	7.4	2.0	10.3	2.8	11.5	3.2	2.4	1.8	2.5

Normal Period For Temperature = 1981 - 2010

Table 2

EXTREME TEMPERATURES								
STATION	ATHALASSA		LARNAKA AIRPORT		PAFOS AIRPORT		PRODROMOS	
TEMPERAT.	(°C)	DATE	(°C)	DATE	(°C)	DATE	(°C)	DATE
HIGHEST MAXIMUM	22.1	20	24.0	5	22.2	22	12.7	2
LOWEST MINIMUM	3.0	31	5.8	31	5.7	27	-2.4	29