

Seasonal weather forecast for the months of

February, March and April 2016

General over view of the weather expected to prevail during February, March and April.

The weather for the following period consists of a part (**February**) of the traditional winter, where the most of the annual accumulated precipitation is climatologically expected, while in the period in focus normal temperatures (both maximum and minimum) are significantly lower than the other months of the year and the first two months (**March** and **April**) of the traditional Spring, which is also a part of the period of forecast. During the period the frequency of baroclinic depressions affecting the area is at its most resulting in higher accumulated precipitation amounts. From the climatological data kept by the Department of Meteorology **February** results in 11 snow days with the 1990 **February** resulting in 16 days and **February** 1981 resulting in 189cm of new snow. During **March** 8 days of fresh snow are climatologically expected while during 1987 **March** resulted in 21 snow days with 205cm of fresh snow and a 30cm fresh snow in a single snow event. **April** is not a snow month, although a mean of 2 days is recorded. **April** 1984 recorded 6 snow days and on **April** 1992 a total depth of 70cm was recorded.

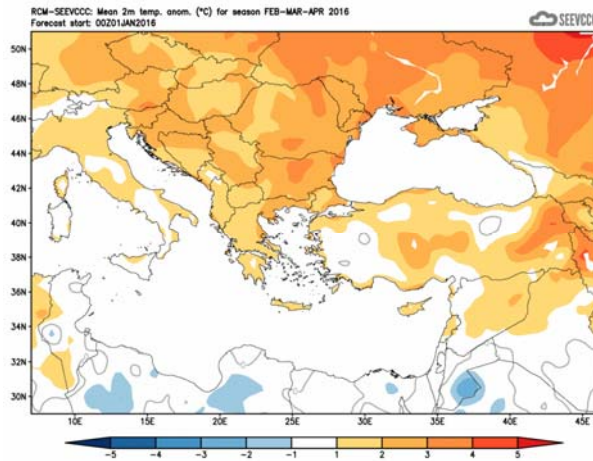
It is significant to be mentioned that dust events are frequent during the last two months of the period, as a result of strong Saharan depressions, and that March and April may be considered as months with increased thunderstorms activity mainly over the mountains and inland due to temperature increase.

Seasonal forecast for the next three months

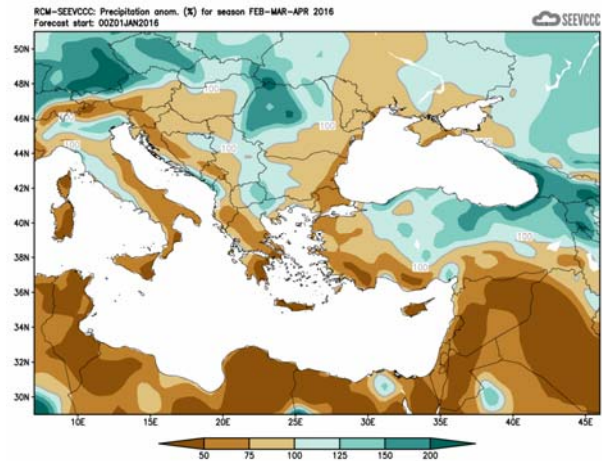
Regarding the seasonal forecast for the period of the last winter season month (**February**) and the first two spring season months (**March** and **April**), the temperature is expected to be generally above normal by 1 to 2°C. The amount of the accumulated precipitation is disappointing especially if examined in relation to the low accumulated precipitation heights of the former winter months (over which accumulated precipitation was also disappointing). The accumulated precipitation will be over the greater part of the island significantly below (less than 50% of normal) normal and only over the extreme western coastal zone ranging from 50% to 75% of normal.

Similar characteristics are also applicable for the surrounding area.

Bearing in mind the models suggestion (the results of which are presented in graphical form in the charts low) and also the long climatology of the area of Cyprus during **February** days with snow and cold outbreaks cannot be excluded while also isolated high accumulations may be recorded during the period.

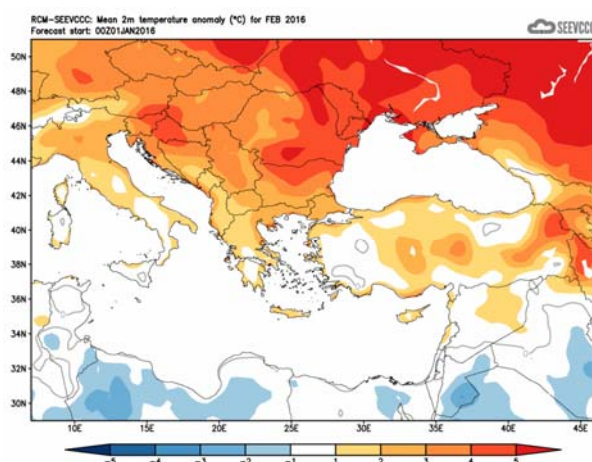


Divergence of temperature from normal from the mean seasonal temperature (°C) for February, March and April

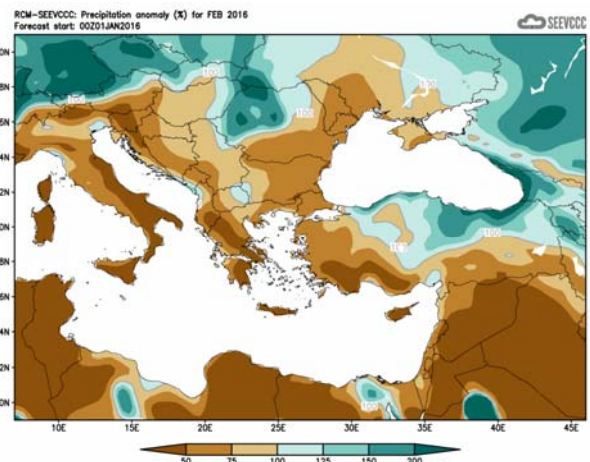


Percentage (%) of the mean seasonal accumulated precipitation compared to the mean normal for February, March and April

The seasonal forecast for **February** suggests a warmer and drier than normal month. **February** will be warmer than normal by 1°C to 2°C, while the accumulated precipitation is again disappointing since the forecast suggests a mainly dry month with accumulation ranging only up to 50% and only on the narrow western coastal zone slightly higher, up to 75% of normal. The above temperature and accumulated precipitation characteristics apply also for the surrounding area.

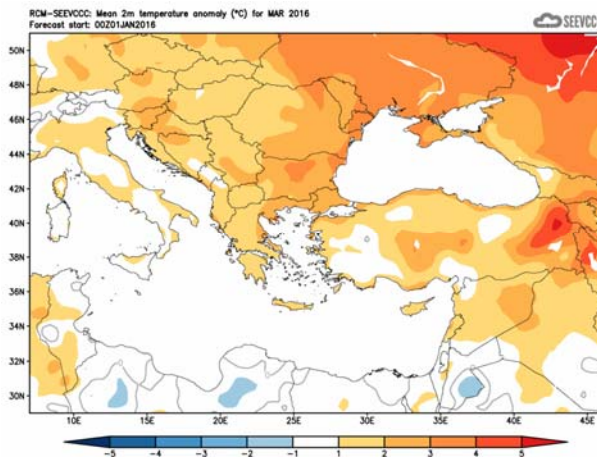


Divergence of the mean monthly temperature (°C) from normal during February

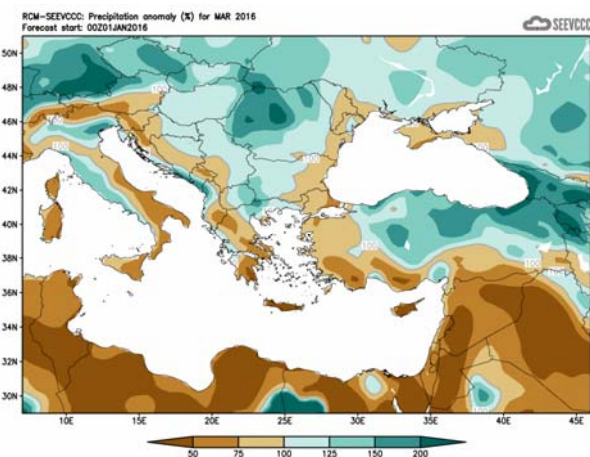


Percentage of the mean monthly precipitation (%) compared with the normal of February

The seasonal forecast for **March** is almost similar to the one of the previous month suggesting that **March** will be warmer than normal by 1°C to 2°C. The accumulated precipitation of **March** is again disappointing since the forecast suggests that over the greater part of the island the accumulated precipitation will not exceed 50% and it will reach normal over the narrow western coastal zone. The above temperature and accumulated precipitation characteristics apply also for great parts of the surrounding area.

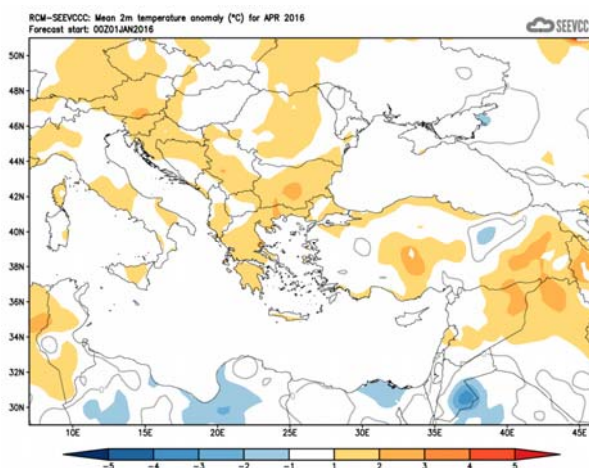


Divergence of the mean monthly temperature (°C) from normal during March

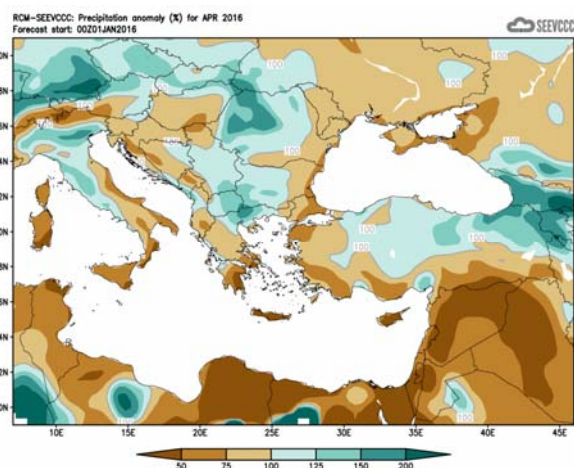


Percentage of the mean monthly precipitation (%) compared with the normal of March

The seasonal forecast for **April** is it concerns temperature, suggests a normal month while the accumulated precipitation is suggested to be again significantly lower than months normal. An exception for the accumulated precipitation is only the western and northern narrow coastal zone where the precipitation is expected to be normal. The above temperature mainly and accumulated precipitation characteristics apply also for the surrounding area.



Divergence of the mean monthly temperature (°C) from normal during April



Percentage of the mean monthly precipitation (%) compared with the normal of April

Normal values of temperature (mean maximum and mean minimum) and accumulated precipitation for February, March and April 2016

The normal values of mean maximum, mean minimum temperature and accumulated precipitation are presented below for sample stations, concerning the three months the period of forecast is covering, in order to gain a better view of the normal seasonal climate. The temperatures, both maximum and minimum, of **February** are the lowest climatological temperatures of the period while **February's** accumulated precipitation has the greater value of the period, as a result of the increased frequency of reoccurrence/redeveloping of depressions over the area of the east Mediterranean. During **March** a transitional month from winter to summer an increase of mean maximum and mean minimum temperature is noted with a simultaneous drop of the accumulated precipitation over all sample stations. A further temperature increase and accumulated precipitation significant decline is observed during **April**.

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION NORMAL VALUES FOR THE PERIOD 1981-2010									
Area Name	MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)			MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)			MEAN MONTHLY TOTAL PRECIPITATION (mm)		
	Feb	Mar	Apr	Feb	Mar	Apr	Feb	Mar	Apr
NORTH COAST	16.3	18.3	21.6	7.3	8.3	10.8	68.5	45.7	21.8
WEST COAST*	17.1	18.6	21.5	8.1	8.9	11.5	59.8	34.4	15.2
MOUNTAINOUS AREAS	6.7	10.4	15.5	0.5	2.8	6.6	128.7	92.1	47.2
INLAND*	16.0	19.2	24.4	5.3	6.9	10.4	44.5	31.9	19.1
SOUTH COAST	17.0	19.3	22.7	7.1	8.6	11.8	50.3	35.8	14.2
EAST COAST**	16.5	19.1	23.2	6.3	7.8	10.9	50.7	35.2	19.7

* West Coast and Inland Values cover the period 1983-2010

** East Coast Temperature Values cover the period 1981-2007

Evaluation of January seasonal forecast for the area of Cyprus

The seasonal forecast for **January** was suggesting that temperature would be normal to slightly above normal (by 1°C to 2°C) over the coastal zone. The accumulated precipitation of **January** was again disappointing since the forecast suggested a mainly dry month with accumulation ranging only from 50% to 75% of normal, except the western part where the accumulation would range almost up to normal. Low accumulations were characterizing all the surrounding area.

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION PROVISIONAL DATA FOR JANUARY 2016

St. No.	Station Name	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)	Normal Value (1981-2010)	Difference from Normal Value	Highest Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature (°C)	Normal Value (1981-2010)	Difference from Normal Value	Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature (°C)	Monthly Total Precipitation (mm)	Normal Value (1981-2010)	Difference from Normal Value
41	POLIS CHRYSOCHOUS	17.6	16.3	1.3	25.2	7.8	7.6	0.2	0.8	95.5	85.3	10.2
82*	PAFOS (AIRPORT)	16.9	17.1	-0.2	21.5	9.1	8.3	0.8	0.9	79.2	78.8	0.4
225	PRODROMOS (C.F.C.)	4.4	6.3	-1.9	10.5	-2.2	0.7	-2.9	-9.7	178.2	150.0	28.2
666*	ATHALASSA (RADIOSONDE)	15.0	15.5	-0.5	22.2	5.3	5.4	-0.1	-2.0	23.2	48.8	-25.6
731	LARNAKA (AIRPORT)	16.0	16.8	-0.8	20.7	7.1	7.5	-0.4	0.6	51.9	73.7	-21.8
800**	ACHNA (DASAKI)	14.9	16.3	-1.4	19.4	5.0	6.6	-1.6	-2.4	39.6	67.3	-27.7

* Pafos' and Athalassa's Station Normal Values cover the period 1983-2010

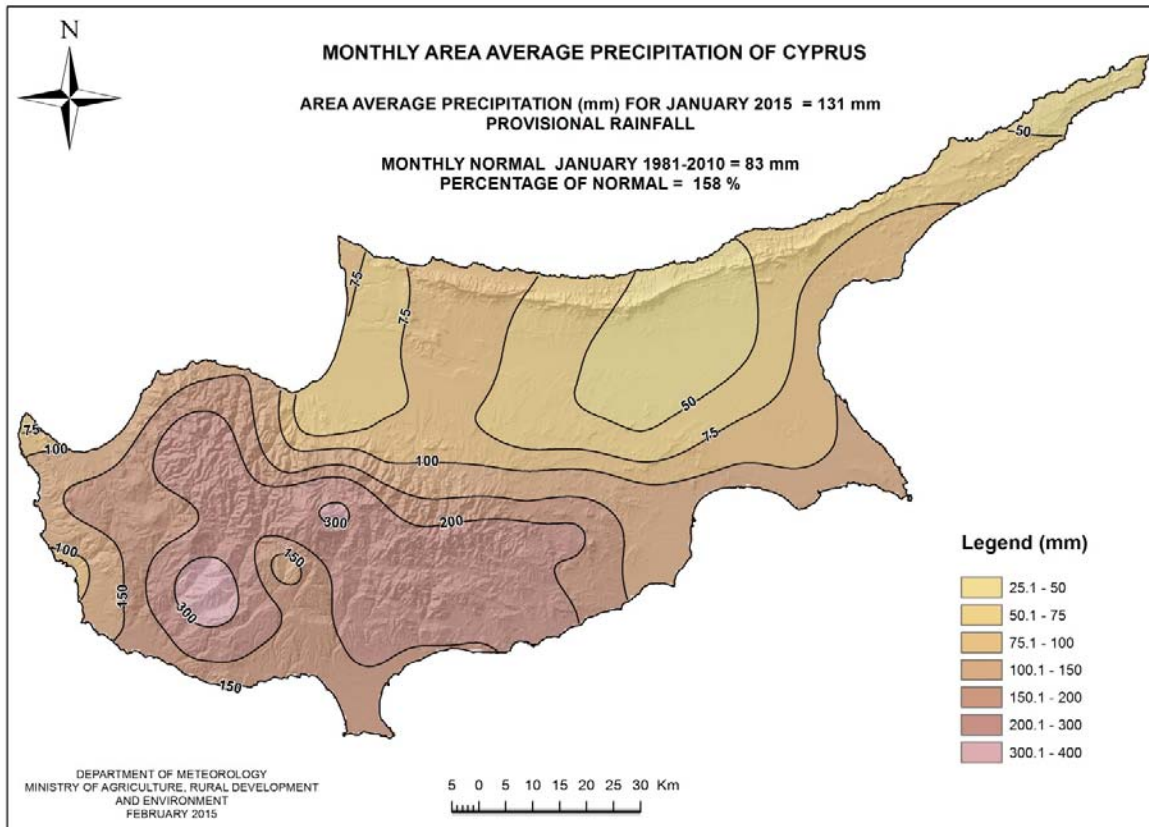
** Achna's Temperature Normal Values cover the period 1981-2007

= VALUES FROM AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION

From the data recorded it seems that the model performed moderately, mainly due to the divergence of temperature from the models suggestion. **January** was rather colder than warmer as the model suggested. Extreme high temperatures were of course recorded as for example over the northern coasts were an absolute maximum of 25.2°C was recorded (with the normal being 16.3°C) or over the mountainous station of Prodromos were an absolute month maximum of 10.5°C was also recorded (with the stations normal being 6.3°C). Extreme low temperatures were also recorded as for example the absolute minimum of -9.7°C over Prodromos while the normal is only 0.7°C, or the minimum of the eastern coasts were a minimum of -2.4°C was recorded with the normal being 6.6°C.

As regards the accumulated precipitation **January** recorded inland and over the southern and eastern coasts accumulated precipitation well below normal but above to well above normal over all other areas. In general January closed with the good score of mean area average 131 mm or 158% of months normal.

For the purpose of better visualization of **January** accumulated precipitation, a chart of Cyprus with the total preliminary accumulated precipitation is presented.



A Cyprus chart with the normal (period 1981 to 2010) accumulated precipitation for the month of **January** is also presented.

