

5 Sivan 5785
03 June 2025

Monthly Weather Conditions - May 2025

Overview

May was warmer than average, and precipitation was recorded during an event that delivered exceptionally intense rainfall in the eastern sector of the country.

Several heatwave episodes transpired during the month, generally brief yet two were extreme; during one of them the highest May temperature values in decades were registered in northern Israel. Conversely, intervals with near-average or even below-average temperatures also occurred, so the month concluded as warmer than normal, though not dramatically so, and in some areas the nocturnal temperatures remained close to the climatological mean. Nevertheless, spring 2025 (March-May) ranks fourth warmest since the start of measurements, as April was also warmer than average and March significantly so.

Rain fell chiefly during the early-month event, with particularly conspicuous totals in the east and south. At several stations more than 20 mm were gauged, and at Nahal Arugot over 40 mm were measured, deposited at anomalously high intensities. In these areas and in several others, the monthly precipitation exceeded the May norm, yet this did not alter the seasonal picture: the 2024/25 rainy season ends considerably drier than average, and in some districts the deficit is unprecedented in the record.

Temperatures and Weather during the Month

Daytime warmth dominated: maximum temperatures stood 1-1.5 °C above the 1991-2020 mean in the mountains and northern valleys and about 1 °C above normal along the coastal plain and in the south (Table 1). Minimum temperatures were near or marginally above average (by up to 0.5 °C), and in the northern highlands by 0.5-1 °C. The month alternated between pronouncedly warm periods and episodes with near or below-normal readings (Figures 1, 2).

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ת.ד. 25 ב'תשפ"ה, 50250

דוא"ל: ims@ims.gov.il

1-6 May: Unseasonably Cool; Rain Event

This was the coolest portion of the month, with significant sub-average temperatures. On 4–5 May the principal rainfall episode occurred; maximum temperatures in the highlands reached only 19–20 °C, about 5–6 °C below average. On 6 May minimum temperatures plummeted to unusual May values: 10 °C in the northern valleys, 11–12 °C on the coastal plain, and at Ein HaHoresh a mere 7 °C, the lowest May minimum there since 2007. At Merom Golan 2.5 °C was recorded (and at the nearby Ministry of Agriculture station at Lo'a Avital the temperature even went below 1 °C).

7-13 May: Warmer than Usual; Heat in the Mountains and Inlands

Warming set in on 7 May. Between 8 and 11 May heatwave conditions prevailed in the mountains and interior: 38–40 °C in the eastern valleys and Arava, 35–37 °C in the northern Negev and northern valleys, and 32–34 °C in the mountains. Along the coastal strip 29–31 °C were logged. Cooling ensued on 12 May, but temperatures rebounded on the 13th, peaking at 33–35 °C in the coastal plain and Judean Lowlands.

14-18 May: Sharp Cooling, then Extreme Heatwave

A pronounced drop on 14 May ushered in below-average temperatures, persisting on the 15th. A substantial warm-up followed on the 16th, and on 17 May an intense nationwide heatwave struck: 40–43 °C in the coastal plain, Lowlands and northern Negev; 42–44 °C in the northern valleys and Jordan Valley; 43–45 °C in the southern Arava; and 37–39 °C in the central mountains. At several northern stations the highest May values in decades were observed. ([For details, see separate review.](#)) A considerable cooldown arrived next day, though conditions remained warmer than usual.

19-24 May: Cooler than average, then Warming Inlands

The cooling trend continued on 19 May and lasted through the 22nd. Thereafter, the mountains and interior reheated, producing above-normal conditions, whereas the coastal plain hovered around the seasonal norm.

25-27 May: Significantly Warmer than Average and a Heatwave

A warm-up began on 25 May; on the 26th temperatures soared, inaugurating another severe heatwave across the country: 35–37 °C on the coastal plain and in the mountains; 38–40 °C in the Lowlands, northern Negev and northern valleys; and 40–43 °C in the Jordan Valley and Arava. This constituted the fourth severe heatwave within roughly a month, an exceptional frequency, typically encountered only once a decade. ([Further discussion appears in a separate review.](#))

28-31 May: Slightly Cool, Ending with Warmth

A marked cooldown followed the heatwave on 27 May and persisted through the 30th. On 31 May the air mass warmed again, yielding above-average temperatures.

Table 1: Temperatures* in May 2025 (°C) Compared to Average

	Station	May 2025		Difference from Average 1991-2020	
		Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum
Coastal plain and Lowlands	Haifa (Technion)	26.8	17.7	+1.4	+0.5
	En HaHoresh	28.0	13.6	+0.8	-0.6
	Bet Dagan	28.7	16.9	+1.1	+0.5
	Negba	28.8	15.6	+0.7	+0.2
Northern Mountains	Elon	28.4	16.5	+1.3	+0.1
	Merom Golan Picman	26.6	10.3	+1.9	+0.1
	Avne Eitan	29.8	14.5	+1.1	+0.5
	Zefat Har Kena'an	26.6	15.3	+1.7	+0.5
	Deir Hanna	29.2	18.2	+0.9	+1.0
	Tavor	31.6	16.4	+1.5	+0.5
Northern Valleys	Afula, Nir HaEmek	31.4	15.0	+1.3	+0.7
	Kefar Blum	33.0	14.9	+1.6	-0.1
	Zemah	34.0	17.3	+1.1	+0.2
	Eden Farm	34.1	17.9	+1.3	+0.5
Central Mountains	Qarne Shomron	28.5	16.1	+1.1	+0.3
	Jerusalem	27.8	16.4	+1.6	+0.2
	Beit Jamal	29.7	17.0	+0.4	+0.3
	Rosh Zurim	25.6	14.5	+1.6	+0.3
Negev	Besor	29.3	15.7	+0.9	+0.1
	Arad	30.3	15.3	+1.1	+0.4
	Beer Sheva	31.4	16.9	+0.8	+0.9
	Sede Boqer	29.7	14.6	+0.4	+0.3
The Arava	Sedom	36.4	25.8	+1.2	+0.2
	Hazeva	35.6	21.1	+0.4	0.0
	Yotvata	35.1	20.0	+0.2	+0.2
	Eilat	36.2	22.9	+0.1	+0.2

Table 2: Extreme Temperatures in May 2025 (°C) Compared to the Past

	May 2025				Extreme Values since Measurements Began				Station operation years
	Extreme Maximum		Extreme Minimum		Extreme Maximum		Extreme Minimum		
	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	
Bet Dagan	41.5	17/5/25	11.5	6/5/25	45.6	21/05/1970	5.6	01/05/1963	2025-1962
Negba	41.2	17/5/25	11.1	16/5/25	46.5	21/05/1970	6.0	07/05/1965	2025-1950
Zefat Har Kena'an	35.8	17/5/25	10.9	5/5/25	38.1	23/05/1995	5.7	07/05/1965	2025-1939
Jerusalem*	38.1	17/5/25	12.3	5/5/25	39.6	11/05/1941	7.6	03/05/1990	2025-1867
Beer Sheva**	42.9	17/5/25	13.6	16/5/25	44.8	21/05/1970	4.5	02/05/1932	2025-1922
Eilat	45.5	17/5/25	17.1	5/5/25	46.0	15/05/2016	12.1	13/05/2006	2025-1949

* Jerusalem: Central 2025-1950, Talbiya 1949-1948, Palace Hotel 1947-1935, American Colony 1935-1927, Mount of Olives 1926-1918, German Colony 1915-1895, English Hospital (Ha-Nevi'im St.) 1913-1898, English Hospital (Old City) 1915-1867

** Be'er Sheva – University 2025, Be'er Sheva – Negev Institute 2025-1957, Be'er Sheva 1957-1922

Figure 1: Daily Minimum and Maximum Temperatures in Jerusalem in May 2025 Versus the Multi-Year Average

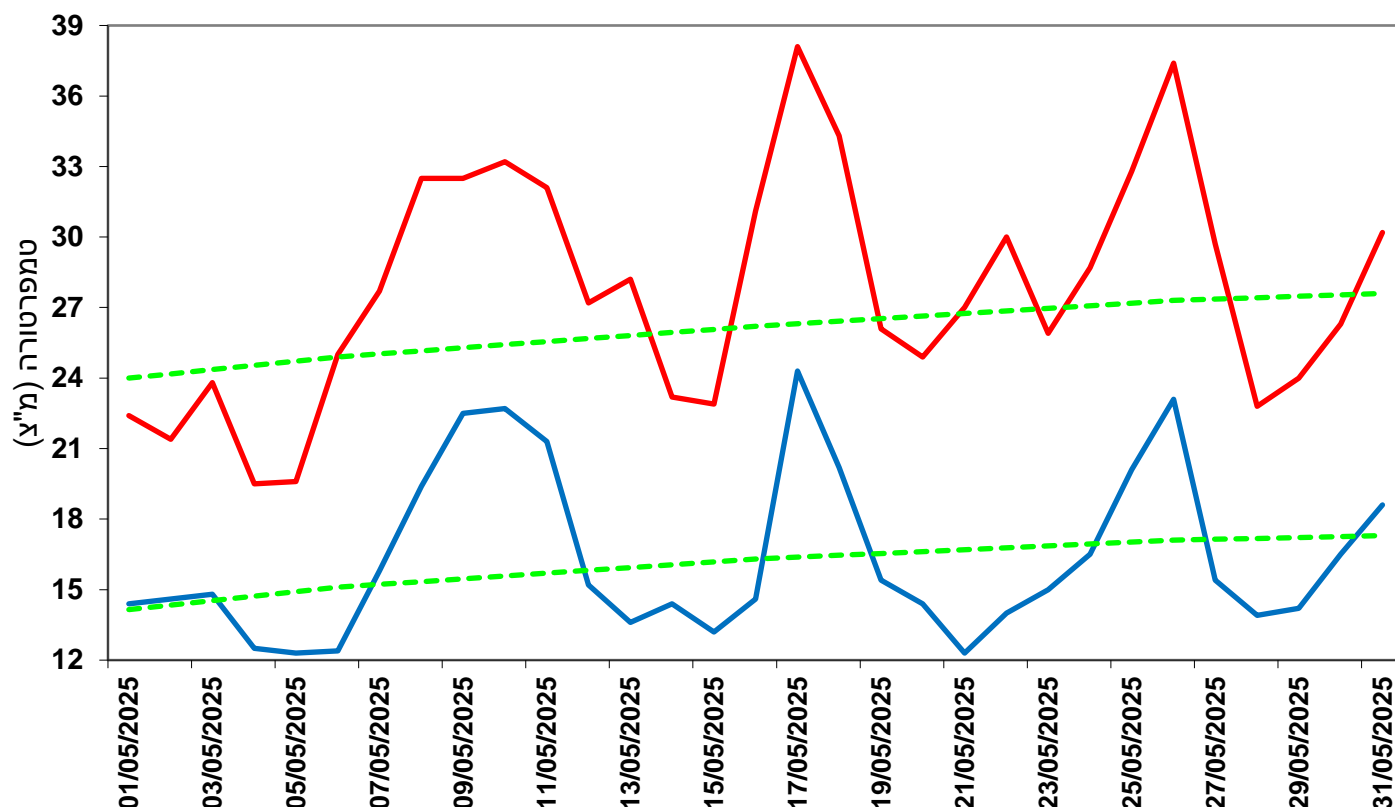
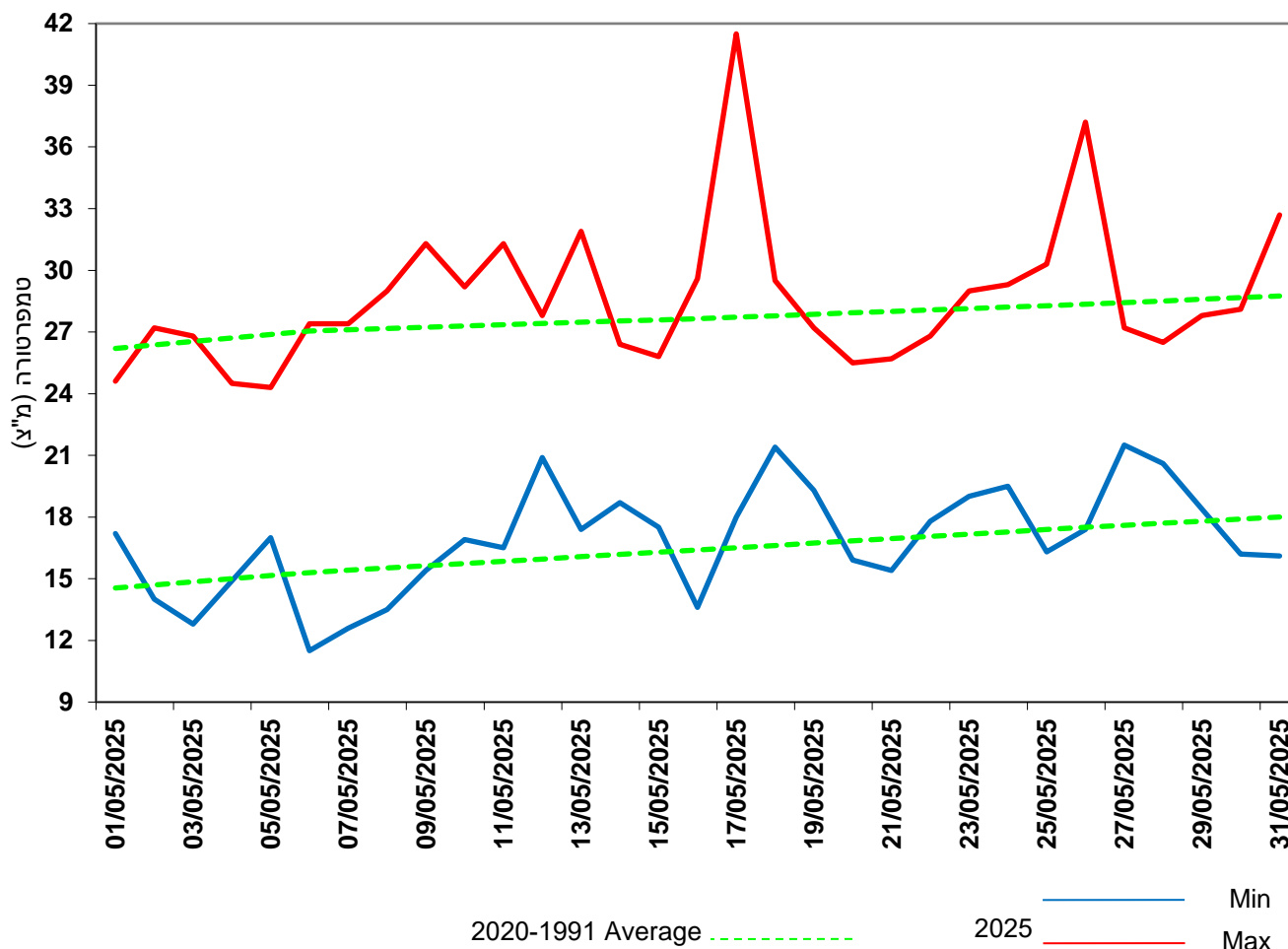


Figure 2: Daily Minimum and Maximum Temperatures in Beit Dagan in May 2025 Versus the Multi-Year Average



Comparison with the historical record for May and for Spring 2025

May 2025 was warmer than usual, but only moderately; within the spatial observational series maintained since 1950 it ranks 15th. As illustrated in Figure 3, the three preceding Mays (2022 – 2024) proved less warm than the current May, whereas the five Mays before them (2017 – 2021) registered higher temperatures. The warmest May on record occurred in 2003.

Spring 2025 (March – May) exceeded the long-term mean by more than 1 °C and, in historical comparison, occupies fourth place (Figure 4). It is preceded by the springs of 2018 which are the warmest, and by 2016 and 2010. The elevated ranking of Spring 2025 stems from the fact that all three of its months were warmer than average, with March displaying particularly pronounced warmth.

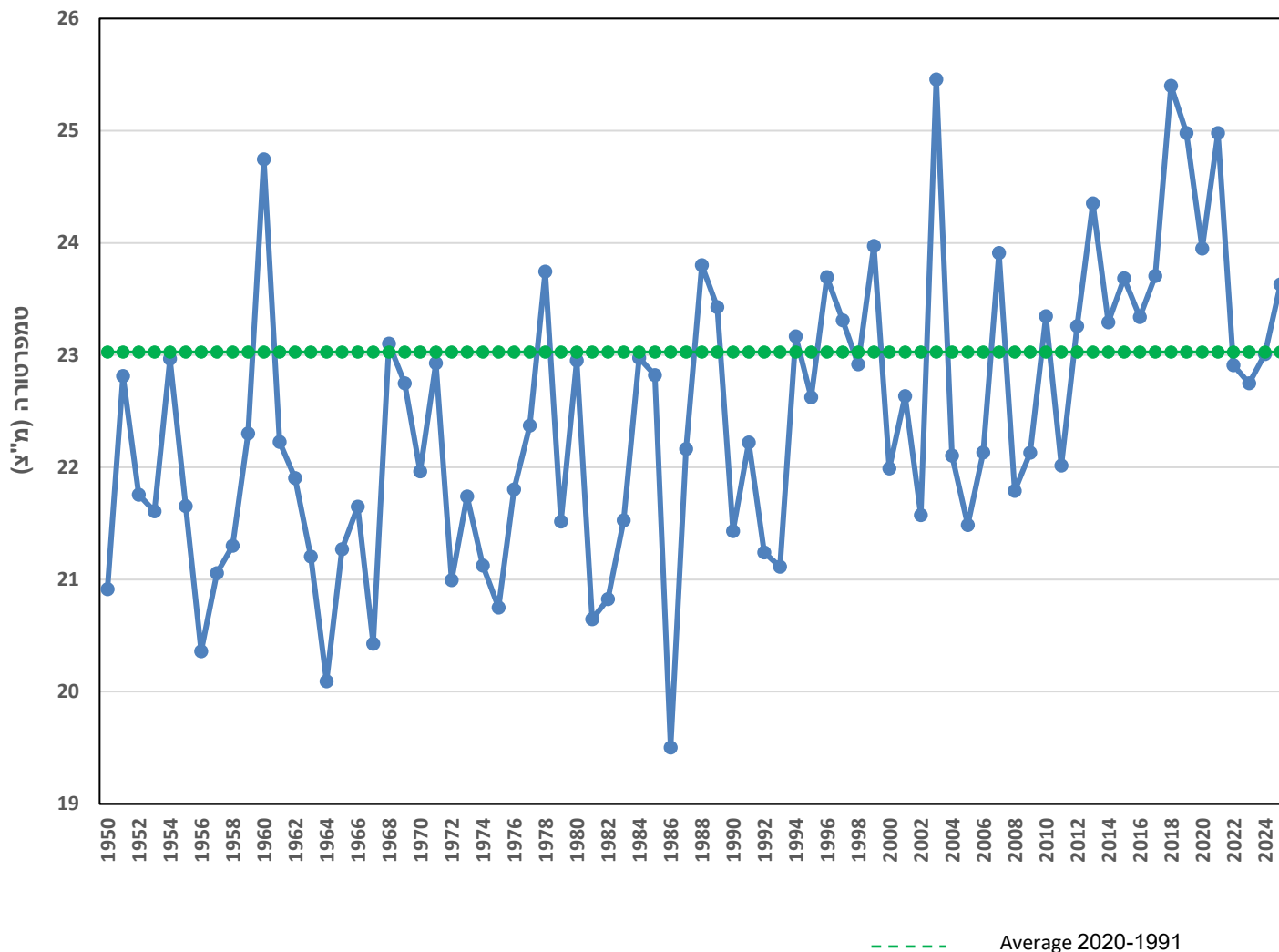
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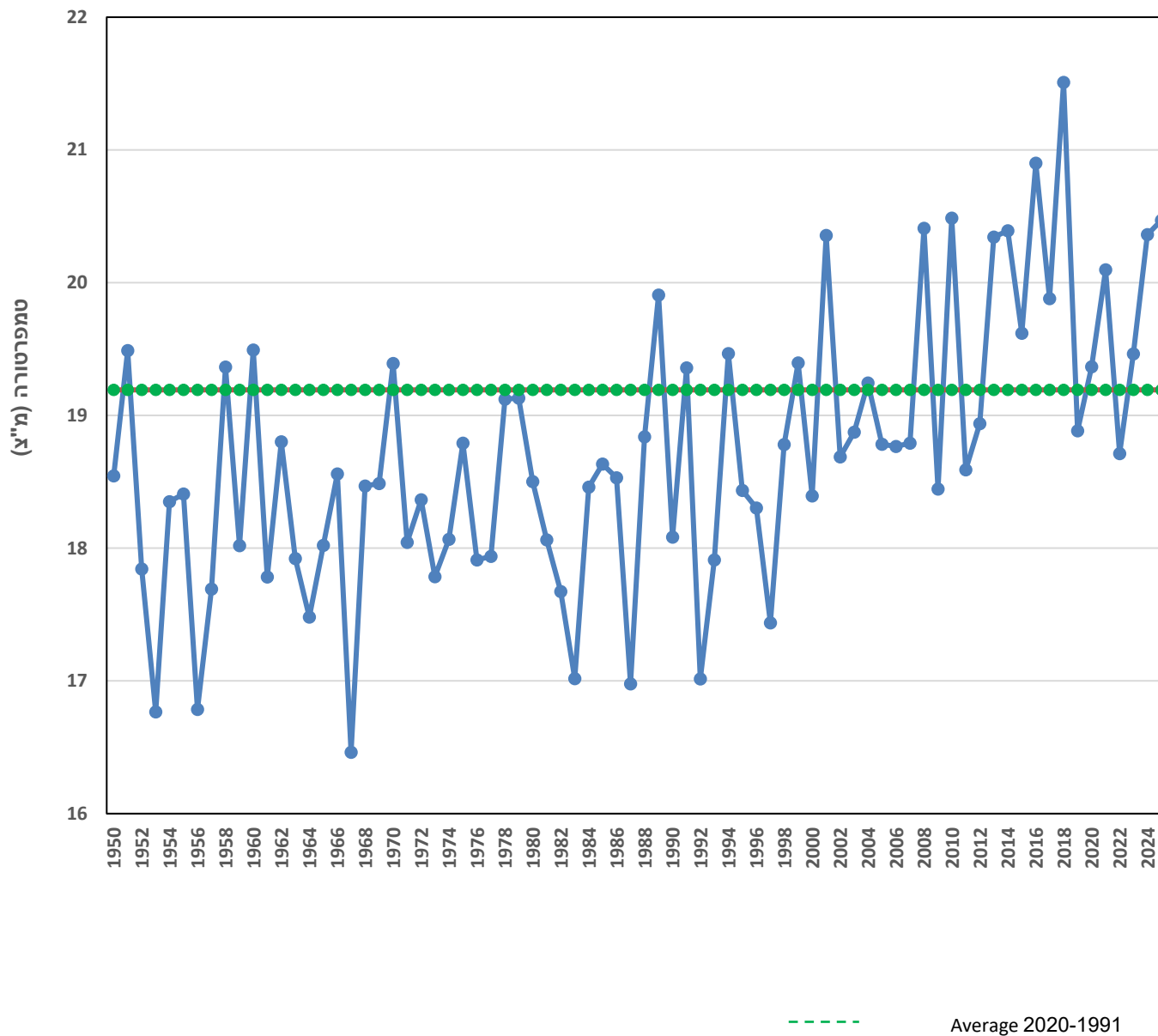
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Figure 3: Average Daily Temperature in Israel from May 1950 to 2025*



* To represent the territory of Israel, five representative stations with data dating back to 1950 were selected. The trend of the averages at these stations resembles the trend of the averages in a larger and more diverse sample of stations.

Figure 4: Average Daily Temperature in Israel in Spring (March to May) from 1950 to 2025*



Rainfall in May 2025

In May, precipitation totals were generally below the climatological mean, yet several areas recorded amounts above average. In the Zikhron Ya'akov region 12–14 mm were measured, compared with an average of roughly 5 mm; Bet Dagan registered 13 mm, and Kefar Chabad accumulated 21 mm (the mean is 3 mm). Several stations on the southern coastal plain also logged relatively substantial quantities (Negba 9 mm, Erez 7 mm), while about 10 mm were observed in the Binyamin area. The most notable and exceptional totals occurred in the east and south of the country: Yotvata received 18 mm, Paran 20 mm, and Nahal Arugot no less than 41 mm.

Almost the entire monthly rainfall was associated with an anomalous event on 4 May. In the southern sector, rain persisted from the afternoon into the evening, focusing on several centres such as Dimona, Yotvata, the Menuha–Paran junction, Holot Halutsa, northeast of Makhtesh Ramon, and the Ein Gedi area. The precipitation arrived at high intensities and, in Dimona, was accompanied by heavy hail. The most striking rates were recorded near Nahal Arugot, where 41 mm fell within one hour—31 mm in ten minutes and 18 mm in just five minutes. Such intensities are extraordinary (an average return period exceeding 100 years) and approach the record values for the south of the country. Further particulars are provided in a [separate event review](#).

During the evening of 4 May the rainfall in the south subsided, and overnight a few millimetres (locally somewhat more) were gauged at various stations in the north and centre of Israel. A further precipitation episode occurred on 13 May, but it was limited in scope, delivering up to 1 mm, chiefly in the northern districts.

Table 3: Rainfall Amounts in May 2025 Compared to the Multi-Year Monthly Average*

Area	Station	Rainfall Amount in May 2025 (mm)	Multi-year Average for May (mm)*
Coastal Plain and Lowlands	Rosh Haniqra	0.5	14
	Nahariyya	1.6	8
	Evron	3.3	8
	Acre	3.1	7
	Haifa (Port)	0	6
	Haifa Technion	0.3	6
	Yagur	0	7
	Daliyat al-Karmel	0	5
	En Hashofet	0	7
	Ma'ayan Zvi	14.4	7
	Zichron Yaakov	12	6
	Amikam	2	5
	Gilad	1.2	6
	Nahal Taninim	1.8	5
	Binyamina	2	5
	En HaHoresh	0	4
	Ahituv	0.3	5
	Kadima	0.9	5
	Tel Yitzhak	0	5
	Kefar Hess	0.9	5
	Nir Eliyyahu	0	5
	Kefar	0	3
	Hakfar Hayarok	0	3
	Nahshonim	0.2	5
	Kefar Ma'as	0	4
	Tel Aviv Coast	0.6	2
	Mikve Yisrael	1	2
	Bet Dagan	12.9	3
	Ben Gurion	1.2	4
	Rishon Lezion	2.5	3
	Nezer Sereni	0.9	3
	Rehovot	2.4	2
	Nir Galim	1.5	3
	Qevuzat Yavne	3.4	3
	Be'er Toviyya	2.2	3
	Nizanim	2.7	3
	Negba	9.3	4
	Ashkelon	0	3
	Erez	7	3
	Yakhini	2.1	3
	Be'eri	1.8	2
	Magen	0.8	1
	Besor	0	1
Northern Mountains	Nimrod Fortress	1.3	14
	Merom Golan	5.1	11
	Gamla	3.2	8
	Kefar Giladi	0.7	10
	Elon	5.3	14
	Kabri	1	8
	Meron	1	11

Table 3 (cont.): Rainfall Amounts in May 2025 Compared to the Multi-Year Average for the Month*

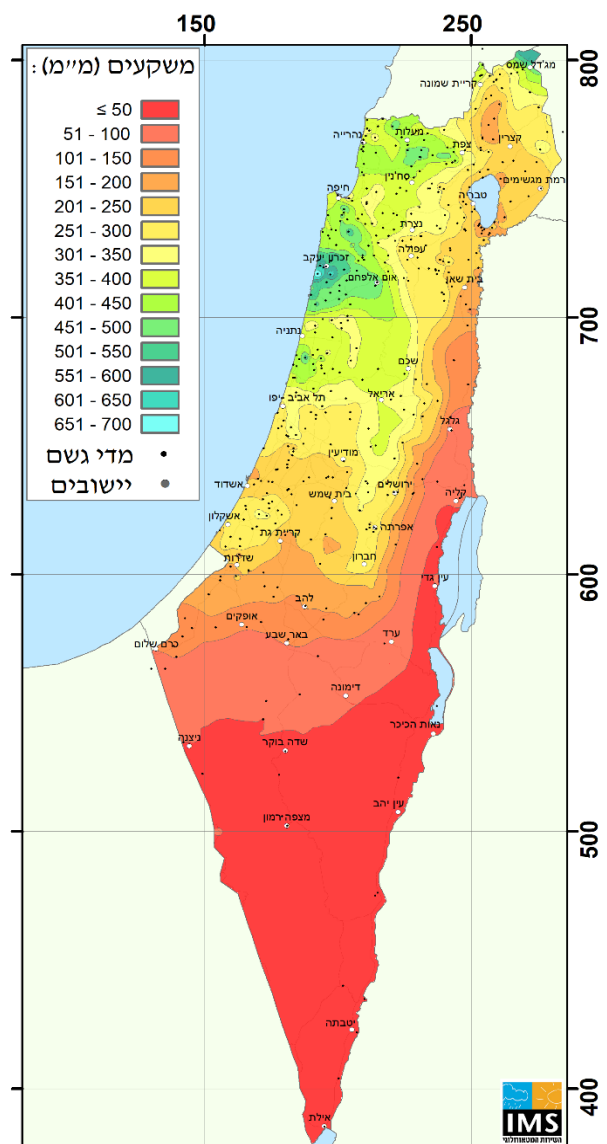
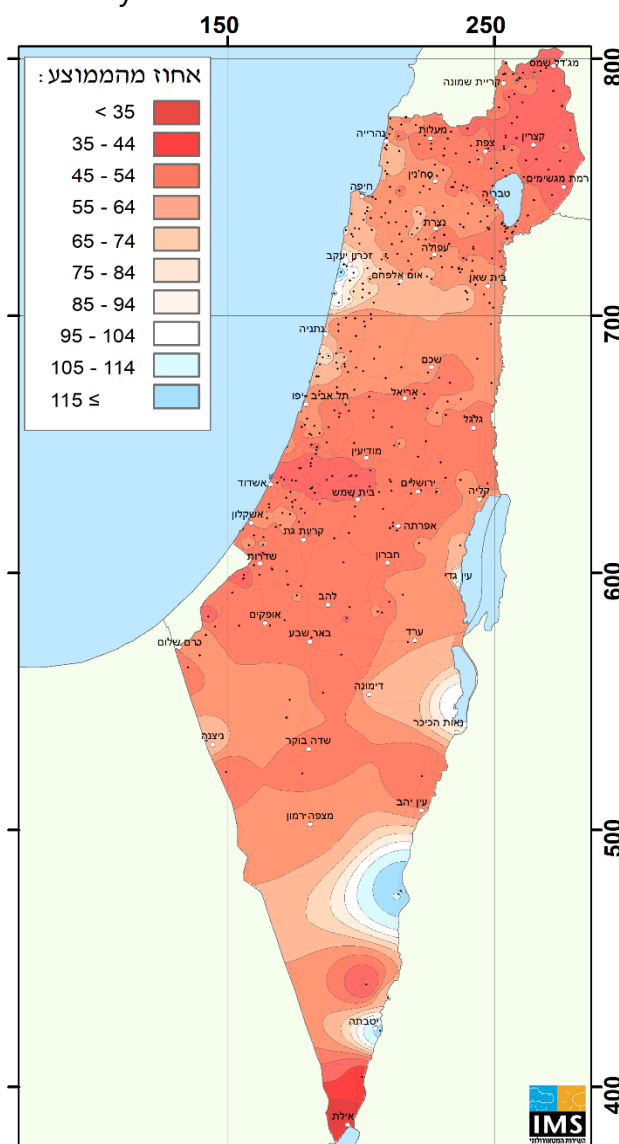
Area	Station	Rainfall Amount in May 2025 (mm)	Multi-year Average for May (mm)*
	Zefat	0.5	10
	Har Kenaan		
	Harashim	4.2	17
	Karmiel	0.7	12
	Eshhar	0.7	11
	Deir Hanna	0.2	10
	Yodfat	1.5	8
	Lavi	0.3	6
	Alon HaGalil	1	6
	Nazareth	0	7
Northern Valleys	Newe Ya'ar	0	7
	Afula Nir	0	4
	Nir David	0	4
	Banias	1.3	10
	Dafna	2.9	8
	Kefar Blum	0.2	7
	Ayelet HaShahar	0.1	7
	Ginosar	0	7
	Zemah	0.1	5
	Sede Eliyyahu	0	5
Central Mountains	Ma'ale Gilboa	0	6
	Kedumim	6.2	7
	Har Beracha	2.5	8
	Itamar	0	5
	Qarne Shomron	5	7
	Eli	0.1	6
	Shilo	0	5
	Talmon	11.5	6
	Har Harsha	9.7	9
	Psagot	2.2	7
	Mevo Horon	0	5
	Latrun	0.5	6
	Zova	0.2	6
	Jerusalem	0	7
	Ma'ale Adumim	0	3
	Beit Jamal	1	7
	Tzur Hadassah	1	7
	Rosh Zurim	0.4	7
Negev**	Arad	0	
	Beer Sheva	5.9	
	Sede Boqer	0	
	Mizpe Ramon	1.2	
	Neot Smadar	0.5	
Jordan Valley** and the Arava	Gilgal	2	
	Sedom	0	
	Hazeva	0	
	Paran	20.7	
	Yotvata	17.8	
	Timna (Ramon Airport)	2.4	
	Eilat	2.1	

* The multi-year average refers to the years 1991 to 2020. For stations that weren't operational during this entire period, the averages are adjusted to these years.

** In arid regions, there's no reference to multi-year monthly or partial-season averages due to the low averages and irregular rainfall patterns in these areas.

Rainfall Totals Since the Start of the Season

May's rainfall did not materially alter the precipitation picture (apart from a handful of sites in the far south), and the 2024/25 wet season remains exceptionally drier than average (Maps 1–2 and Table 4). The sharpest shortfall is evident in the north-east of the country, the Central Highlands, the Judean Lowlands and the Negev. In the Upper Galilee, Hula Valley, Lake Kinneret basin, Judean Mountains and northern Negev only about 40–50 % of the annual mean has accumulated. Over the Golan Heights and in the Rehovot–Ashdod corridor merely 35–40 % of the norm has been recorded. The central and southern coastal plain has received just 50–60 %, while the Lower Galilee, Jezreel Valley, Samaria and the northern coastal plain have registered roughly 50–65 % of the climatological average. From the Carmel range down to northern Sharon some 70–90 % of normal rainfall has been measured, and in the Zikhron Ya'aqov–Hadera sector the running totals even exceed the mean. Likewise, several stations in the Arava and along the Dead Sea have surpassed the seasonal norm, notably those that collected substantial amounts during May.



Map 2: Percentage of Rainfall from the Beginning of the Season until the end of May 2025 Compared to the Multi-Year Average for the Entire Season (%)

Map 1: Rainfall Amount from the Beginning of the Season until the end of May 2025 (mm)

Table 4: Rainfall Amounts from the Beginning of the Season to Date Compared to the Average*

Station	Cumulative amount from the beginning of the season until the end of May (mm)	Multi-year average* for the entire season (mm)	% of the average for the entire season
Rosh Hanigra	358	613	58%
Nahariyya	369	615	60%
Evron	437	626	70%
Akko	413	586	70%
Haifa (Port)	376	566	66%
Haifa	491	671	73%
Yagur	385	709	54%
Daliyat al	519	796	65%
En Hashofet	424	661	64%
Ma'ayan Zvi	626	603	104%
Zichron	531	574	92%
Amikam	519	635	82%
Gilad	493	654	75%
Nahal Taninim	690	532	130%
Binyamina	516	573	90%
En HaHoresh	370	576	64%
Ahituv	345	572	60%
Kadima	382	618	62%
Tel Yitzhak	518	572	91%
Kefar Hess	410	615	67%
Nir Eliyyahu	387	614	63%
Kefar	395	534	74%
Hakfar	333	557	60%
Nahshonim	267	553	48%
Kefar Ma'ash	276	572	48%
Tel Aviv Coast	265	443	60%
Mikve Yisrael	298	522	57%
Bet Dagan	334	541	62%
Ben Gurion	274	541	51%
Rishon Lezion	292	511	57%
Nezer Sereni	286	581	49%
Rehovot	234	536	44%
Nir Galim	197	504	39%
Qevuzat	194	526	37%
Beer Tuvia	271	538	50%
Nizanim	265	505	53%
Negba	287	500	57%
Ashkelon	244	455	54%
Erez	217	443	49%
Yakhini	203	451	45%
Be'eri	169	359	47%
Magen	114	255	45%
Besor	128	215	59%
Nimrod	358	816	44%
Merom Golan	293	811	36%
Gamla	237	578	41%
Kefar Giladi	373	757	49%
Elon	458	805	57%
Kabri	334	666	50%
Meron	393	881	45%

Table 4 (Cont.): Rainfall Amounts from the Beginning of the Season to Date Compared to the

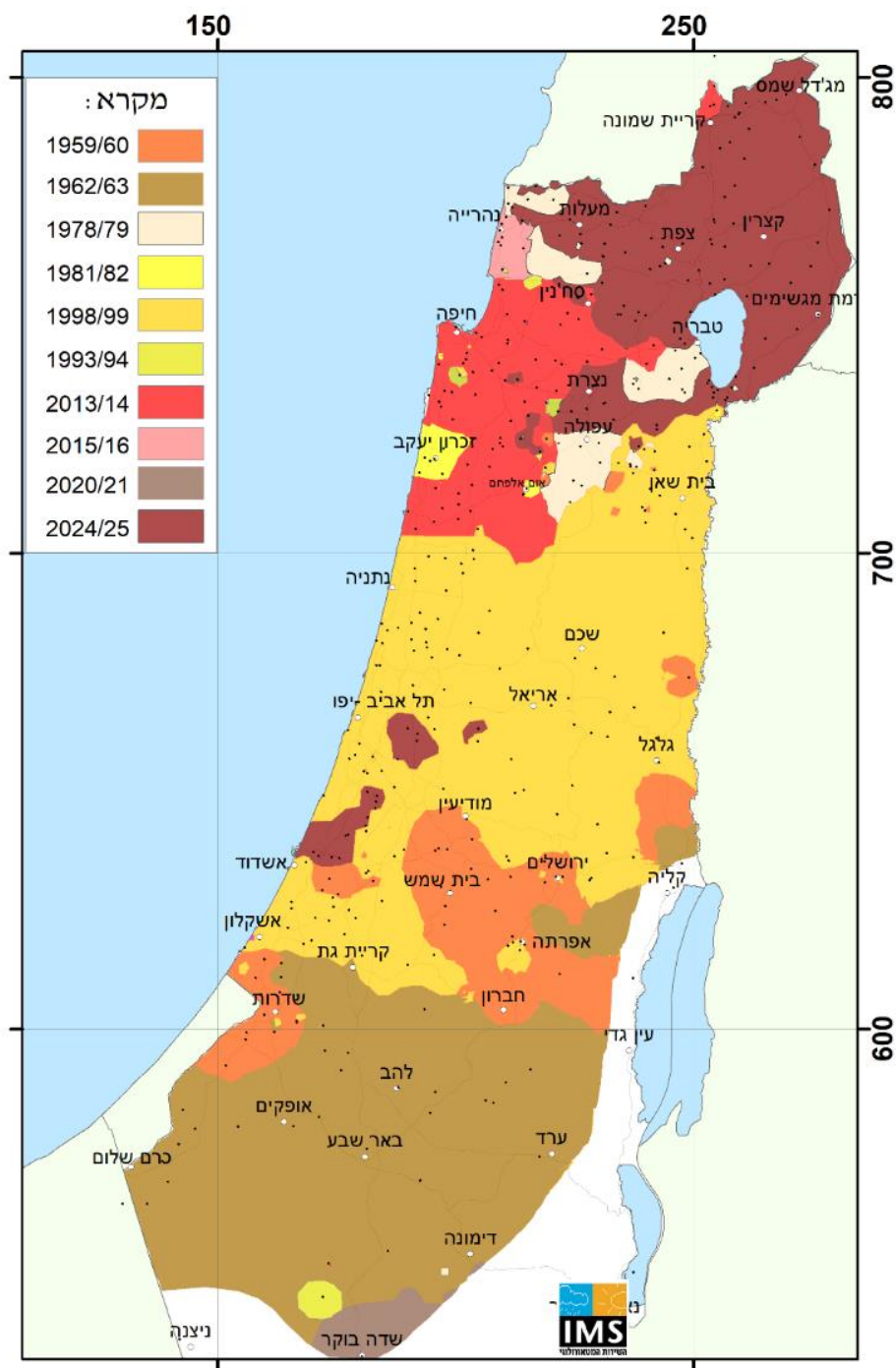
Station	Cumulative amount from the beginning of the season until the end of May (mm)	Multi-year average* for the entire season (mm)	% of the average for the entire season
Zefat Har Kenaan	301	688	44%
Harashim	481	988	49%
Karmiel	442	685	64%
Eshhar	396	635	62%
Deir Hana	327	616	53%
Yodfat	387	668	58%
Lavi	286	509	56%
Alon HaGalil	384	593	65%
Nazareth	345	592	58%
Newe Ya'ar	368	584	63%
Afula Nir	283	450	63%
Nir David	240	388	62%
Banias	311	690	45%
Dafna	274	615	44%
Kefar Blum	224	507	44%
Ayelet	198	486	41%
Ginosar	236	447	53%
Zemah	193	384	50%
Sede	160	278	58%
Ma'ale	267	402	66%
Kedumim	381	642	59%
Har Bracha	367	627	58%
Qarne	287	589	49%
Itamar	379	636	59%
Eli	332	631	53%
Shilo	325	522	62%
Talmon	343	648	53%
Har Harsha	375	668	56%
Psagot	338	694	49%
Mevo Horon	241	549	44%
Latrun	234	519	45%
Zova	322	656	49%
Jerusalem	265	522	51%
Ma'ale Adumim	153	276	56%
Beit Jamal	232	506	46%
Tzur	303	636	48%
Rosh Zurim	244	558	44%
Arad	80	135	59%
Beer Sheva	105	192	54%
Sede Boqer	39	87	45%
Mizpe	44	70	62%
Neot	11	30	35%
Gilgal	89	171	52%
Sedom	40	39	103%
Hazeva	18	39	45%
Paran	37	34	110%
Yotvata	31	27	116%
Timna	7	25	29%
Eilat	3	22	15%

Exceptionality of the Rainfall Deficit

The rainfall shortfall during the 2024/25 season is anomalous and, in several regions, outright unprecedented. The deficit is especially pronounced in the north-eastern part of the country, the Eastern Galilee, the Hula Valley, and the Golan Heights where the present hydrological year ranks as the driest since measurements began more than seventy years ago. This circumstance is evident in Map 3, which portrays, for each sector of Israel, the driest season recorded since 1952/53. The map further reveals that the 2024/25 season likewise constitutes the driest on record in the Ashdod–Rehovot corridor and in the zone east of Tel Aviv.

A limited area in the far north still registers 2013/14 as its driest season, while parts of the Western Galilee, the Jezreel Valley, and the Lower Galilee retain 1978/79 as their record minimum. Across the central region, the exceptional dryness of 1998/99 stands out, whereas in Jerusalem and the Judean Lowlands the severe deficit of 1959/60 remains pre-eminent. In the south, the 1962/63 season generally emerges as the driest on record.

From the perspective of the spatial mean precipitation over the country's non-desert regions, only the 1998/99 season has been marginally drier during the past century, while the 1950/51 season exhibits rainfall totals comparable to those observed in the current hydrological year.



Map 3: The Driest Rainy Season Since 1952/53