

25 Nisan 5785
23 April 2025

Severe heatwave, 22–23 April 2025

Over the past two days a severe heatwave has prevailed in our region. Today, air temperatures climbed to around 40°C and higher across the coastal plain and the Negev. In the Arava, readings of about 45°C shattered the April temperature record.

Temperatures and weather during the event

Yesterday (22 April) a marked warming was recorded on the coastal plain, in the lowlands and in the northern valleys temperatures of 36–38 °C were observed; in the Negev and the Jordan Valley 38–40°C were registered; and in the central and northern Arava 42–44 °C were logged.

Today (23 April) additional warming ensued and the heatwave reached its peak over the centre and south of the country. On the coastal plain, in the lowlands, the Negev and the Jordan Valley 40–41 °C were measured; in the Arava 42–45 °C were recorded; and in the central highlands 33–35 °C prevailed. Relative humidity plunged below 10% in many areas.

In northern Israel (north of the Jezreel Valley-Haifa line) temperatures on 23 April eased relative to the previous day: in the Upper Galilee and northern Golan Heights 29–30 °C were noted, while in the Hula Valley, the Sea of Galilee basin and the southern Golan 32–34 °C persisted.

By afternoon the heatwave began to subside as winds veered westerly and intensified. Gusts exceeding 50 km/h were clocked, inducing a pronounced cooling, first along the coast and subsequently farther inland.

Because of these atmospheric conditions, large wildfires erupted in the Lowlands and the Jerusalem area, prompting road closures, suspension of rail services and the evacuation of several communities.

Exceptional aspects of the event

At two Arava stations new April temperature records were established: 44.9 °C at H̄azeva (previous record 44.2°C in 1994) and 44.4 °C at Paran (previous record 44.3°C in 2008).

It should also be noted that temperatures above 40°C are uncommon on the coastal plain and in the lowlands in April; until recently they occurred only once every 10–15 years (1957, 1970, 1979, 1994, 2008). In recent years, however, such extremes have become more frequent, being documented in 2021, 2024 and again in the current year.

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דוא"ל:

Maximum temperatures* (°C) on 22 and 23 April 2025

Station	Maximum temperature (°C) 22 Apr 2025	Maximum temperature (°C) 23 Apr 2025
Haifa (Technion)	34.0	34.3
En Carmel	35.4	35.0
En HaHoresh	35.8	39.3
Bet Dagan	36.5	40.5
Hafez Hayim	37.5	41.3
Qevuzat Yavne	36.5	40.3
Negba	38.5	41.9
Dorot	38.8	41.0
Tavor	37.1	32.1
Avne Eitan	34.8	31.9
Jerusalem	32.6	34.8
Beit Jamal	36.1	38.8
Newe Ya'ar	36.7	31.5
Afula Nir HaEmek	37.0	32.4
Netiv HaLamed-Heh	38.3	39.8
Kefar Blum	36.9	31.8
Zemah	39.0	34.0
Besor	39.7	42.1
Beer Sheva	38.8	39.6
Sede Boqer	38.0	38.6
Sede Eliyyahu	38.7	35.1
Gilgal	40.1	39.5
Sedom	39.7	39.5
Hazeva	44.2	44.9
Paran	42.9	44.4
Yotvata	37.8	42.6
Eilat	35.0	40.1