State of Israel
Ministry of Transport
Israel Meteorological Service

11 Tevet 5786
31 December 2025

Initial Review of 2025

Overview

The year 2025 was 1.1°C warmer than the average (1991–2020). Compared to the past, it ranks fifth in the measurement series since 1950 and was less hot than 2024. During the year, there was a large number of unusual and extreme weather events, some of which broke historical records, such as the Sharav events that broke records in April and May, the summer heatwaves (during one of which 49.7°C was measured at Gilgal), the breaking of high minimum temperature records, the daily rainfall record in September, rain events with unusual intensities in November and December, and more (Table 1).

Temperatures

The year 2025 was warmer than average, as has been the case in most years since the end of the last century and especially since 2010. This is part of a significant warming trend since the mid-90s. Except for 2022, all of the last 14 years were warmer than the average of the 1991–2020 reference period and were warmer by a large margin than the average of the 1961–1990 reference period (Figure 1). 2025 is ranked fifth, but with only a small difference from most of the years ranked above it (2018, 2023, and 2024), and only 2010 was significantly warmer. The remaining years were less hot. Except for February, which was colder than usual, most months of the year were warmer than average, some considerably so, such as January, March, August, and November, which was the hottest since measurements began. Summer 2025 was significantly warmer than average, though less hot than Summer 2024, which was the hottest. The first part of autumn was comfortable, however, its continuation (the last part of October and most of November) was considerably warmer than average, and the autumnal cooling was felt only at the beginning of December.

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ת.ד. 25 בית דגן, 50250
פקס. 03-9604065
דוא"ל: ims@ims.gov.il

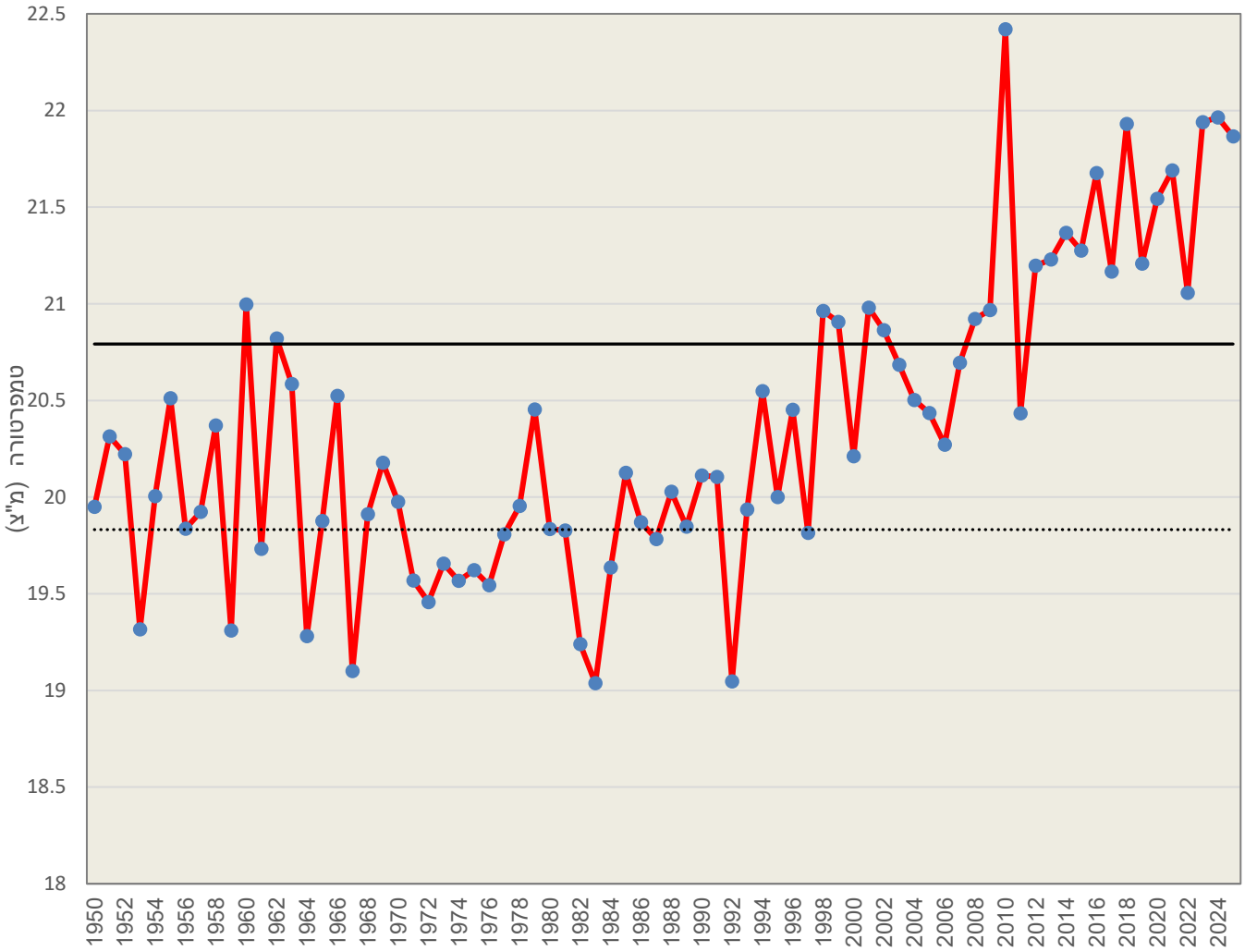

Figure 1: Average* Temperature in Israel 1950–2025

——— **Average of 1991 to 2020**

····· **Average of 1961 to 1990**

*To represent the area of Israel, 24 stations across the country with homogeneous data since 1950 were selected.

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פקס. 03-9604065 דוא"ל: ims@ims.gov.il

Precipitation

During the months of January through April, rainfall amounts were below average; January was particularly notable, ranking as one of the driest since record-keeping began. This followed the first part of the 2024/25 rainy season, which was also characterized by a rainfall deficit, resulting in the season ending as extremely dry compared to the average, and in some regions, unprecedentedly so.

The first part of the 2025/26 rainy season began with a rainfall deficit continuing until mid-November, although significant rains fell in the north during September, and the national daily rainfall record was broken in the Nahariya area. From mid-November through the end of 2025, there were several rain events characterized by extreme rainfall intensities.

December featured a prolonged rainy spell that included the "Byron" storm system, followed by several additional rain events. Consequently, by the end of the month, cumulative rainfall amounts exceeded the average for the corresponding period—markedly so in the south of the country—whereas the northeastern part of the country remained in deficit.

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פקס. 03-9604065
דוא"ל: ims@ims.gov.il

Notable Weather Events and Episodes in 2025

- **Extremely Warm and Dry January** – January was considerably warmer than average, a fact notably evident during daytime hours with temperatures 3°C to 4°C above the average. There were no days with particularly high temperatures during the month; rather, it was characterized by an anomalous abundance of clear days with slight day-to-day fluctuations. In the series of spatial measurements since 1950, January 2025 ranks second in daily temperature (the combined day and night temperature), with only January 2010 being warmer.

  January was also notable for a scarcity of rainfall – in most regions of the country, less than 20% of the average fell, making it, on a nationwide level, one of the three driest Januaries since the commencement of measurements (along with January 2014 and 1955). In the north of the country, only a few millimeters fell, and in this region, January 2025 was the driest since measurements began (in Allone HaBashan, only non-measurable drizzle was recorded).

- **Wintry February with the "Coral" Cold Spell** – In contrast to the spring-like January, February was wintry in character, with low temperatures and an abundance of cloud cover and rainy days. It was colder than average (by 1.5°C to 2.5°C) and, historically, the coldest since February 2003. During the latter part of the month, the "Coral" cold spell prevailed, during which minimum temperatures of -6°C to -4°C were recorded in the northern Golan Heights, -2°C to -1°C in the Upper Galilee and southern Golan, and -1°C to 0°C in the Judean Mountains. February was characterized by a high number of rainy days: 12 to 14 rainy days compared to the average of 9 to 12. Nevertheless, rainfall amounts were below average.

- **March with an Anomalous Heatwave and Flooding Event in the South** – March was warmer than average by more than 2°C, ranking sixth in the historical record. A heatwave prevailed from the 12th to the 18th of the month, with temperatures exceeding 30°C on most days (7°C to 12°C above average). The duration of this sequence of hot days was anomalous for the season; similar sequences occurred only in 2010 and 2004. In Eilat, a new record for March was set at 37.9°C. Rainfall amounts in March were below average, with the exception of the Negev and the Judean Desert, which were the focal point of a precipitation event on the 6th and 7th of the month. 10 to 25 mm of rain fell in the Negev and Arava, and 28 mm in Sedom, resulting in flash floods in numerous stream channels.

- **Two Extreme Sharav (Heatwave) Events in April with Major Wildfires** – April was warmer than average, notably featuring two days of heavy Sharav accompanied by major wildfires. On the 23rd of the month, temperatures of 40°C to 41°C were recorded in the Shephelah (Lowlands) and the central and southern Coastal Plain, and 42°C to 45°C in the Jordan Valley and the Arava. Temperature records for April were broken in Hatzeva (44.9°C) and Paran (44.4°C). Due to the heat and aridity, large wildfires broke out in the Shephelah and the Jerusalem area, leading to road closures and the evacuation of settlements.

  On April 30th, a heavy Sharav prevailed with temperatures of 37°C to 39°C. During the morning hours, a fire reignited in the Eshtaol Forest. It spread rapidly due to strong winds, leading to the evacuation of numerous communities in the Jerusalem Mountains and Shephelah regions, road blockages, and the cancellation of official ceremonies, including the Independence Day ceremony. In total, nearly 20,000 dunams were burnt.

- **Anomalous Rainfall Intensities in the South and Two Additional Extreme Sharav Events in May** – On May 4th, heavy rains fell in the south of the country. Concentrated in several focal points in the Negev and the Dead Sea area, the rain fell at high intensities; in the Dimona area, it was accompanied by heavy hail. In the Nahal Arugot area, 41 mm of rain fell within one hour, 31 mm of which fell in ten minutes—anomalous intensities with an average return period of over 100 years, very close to peak intensity values for the south of the country. Consequently, heavy damage was caused to the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, which was closed for several months and subsequently reopened only partially.

  On the 17th of the month, a heavy Sharav prevailed with temperatures exceeding 40°C in most parts of the country, excluding the mountains. Several stations in the north recorded the highest values for the month in decades. On the 25th, another day of heavy Sharav prevailed nationwide; this was the fourth heavy Sharav event within a period of approximately one month. Such a frequency of separate heavy Sharav events during the spring is exceptional, occurring on average once per decade.

- **A Very Dry 2024/25 Season** – The 2024/25 rainy season concluded as a year of extreme drought. In terms of spatial average, approximately 55% of the average precipitation accumulated in the non-desert regions of the country, marking this as one of the driest rainy seasons since records began. Historically, only the 1998/99 season was drier, while the 1950/51 season was comparable. The most significant precipitation deficit occurred in the Northern Mountains, the Hula Valley, and the Shephelah, where rainfall amounts reached approximately 40% to 45% of the average; in Mount Hermon and the Northern Golan Heights, amounts dropped to 35%–40%, unprecedented quantities in these regions since measurements commenced approximately 100 years ago.

Throughout nearly the entire Golan Heights, the previous negative record was exceeded by more than 50 mm. All months from October through May (excluding December) were drier than average, occasionally to a considerable degree. The primary winter months (December, January, and February) were, on the whole, warmer than the average by approximately 0.5°C.

- **A Severe and Prolonged Heatwave in July**

  Following a June that was warmer than average but devoid of exceptional events, the first part of July was relatively moderate. In contrast, the second half of the month was considerably warmer than normal. From the 16th to the 18th of the month, exceptionally hot and dry conditions prevailed in the Shephelah and the Inner Coastal Plain, with temperatures approaching 40°C and relative humidity dropping below 20%. From the 22nd to the 28th, a heatwave prevailed for approximately one week; at its peak, temperatures of 40°C to 43°C were recorded in the Negev and the Northern Valleys, and 44°C to 46°C in the Jordan Valley and the Arava, with an extreme value of 47.4°C recorded in Sedom. Sultry conditions prevailed along the Coastal Plain.

- **A Very Hot August with an Anomalous Heatwave and Maximum (49.7°C) and Minimum (37.1°C) Temperature Records** – August was considerably warmer than average (by 1°C to 2°C); historically, it ranks third, following August 2010 and 2015. An extreme and prolonged heatwave prevailed from the 8th to the 14th of the month, with temperatures 7°C to 10°C above average in the mountains and inland regions, and 4°C to 5°C above average along the Coastal Plain. At the peak of the heatwave, temperatures of 45°C to 48°C (and even higher) were recorded in the Jordan Valley and the Arava; 46°C to 47°C were measured in the Hula Valley, 43°C to 45°C near the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), 40°C to 42°C in the Negev and the mountains, and 36°C to 37°C in the Shephelah and the Coastal Plain. Nighttime temperatures were also exceptionally high.

Minimum temperatures in the Coastal Plain ranged from 27°C to 29°C, in the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea region from 33°C to 36°C, and in the mountains of the North and Center from 30°C to 31°C.

Records were broken during the heatwave: A maximum temperature of 49.7°C was measured at Gilgal; this constitutes a record value for this station and the second-highest value recorded nationwide since the establishment of the State (the highest value since the establishment of the State—49.9°C—was measured in Sedom in July 2019). In Sedom, the national record for a high minimum temperature was broken with a value of 37.1°C, whereas the previous record was 36.5°C, set in September 2015.

- **Daily Rainfall and Precipitation Intensity Records in September** – September passed mostly without noteworthy meteorological events; however, on the 25th of the month, anomalous rainfall quantities occurred in the northern region of the country. Precipitation fell predominantly during the morning hours. In stations within the Nahariya region, over 130 mm were recorded (Regba 144 mm, Evron 135 mm); in the Acre region, approximately 80 to 100 mm accumulated, and in the Zevulun Valley, 40 to 60 mm. The rainfall quantities in the Nahariya region are exceptionally anomalous for September, surpassing by a significant margin the nationwide daily record for this month—96 mm, recorded in the Gush Etzion region in September 1932. Rainfall intensities during the event were also anomalous; the entire precipitation event in the Nahariya region concluded within 3 to 4 hours, with the majority (exceeding 100 mm) accumulating within merely two hours. Within a timeframe of 90 minutes, nearly 100 mm fell, and over 70 mm fell within one hour. These rainfall intensities are extreme, with an average recurrence period rarer than 1 in 100 years.

- **October: Precipitation Deficit, Cool in the First Part, and Warm in the Final Third** – October was characterized by scant rainfall, though not to an exceptional degree. The first half of the month (and extending slightly beyond) was relatively cool; however, the final third of the month was warmer than normal and included *sharav* (heatwave) days.

- **An Exceptionally Warm November with Unprecedented Rainfall Intensities in Two Events** – November was 3°C to 5°C warmer than the average; within the spatial measurement series existing since 1950, this ranks as the warmest November regarding daily temperatures. The majority of days in the month were warmer than normal, and two prolonged heatwaves prevailed: one at the beginning of the month and the second after mid-month. During both heatwaves, temperature records were broken relative to the time of year. During the heatwave prevailing from the 1st to the 5th of the month, temperatures exceeding 30°C were measured in most parts of the country, occasionally exceeding 35°C. In several regions (the Shephelah, Carmel, and Central Mountains), November temperature records were broken (38.3°C in Gat, 35.1°C in Karnei Shomron, et al.). The second heatwave occurred from the 18th to the 24th; at its peak (the 21st–22nd), temperatures of 33°C to 36°C were measured in the Central and Southern Coastal Plain and the Shephelah, 27°C to 28°C in the Central Mountains, and 32°C to 35°C in the Eastern Valleys. In numerous stations nationwide, maximum temperature records were broken for the last decade (ten-day period) of November. Anomalous rainfall intensities occurred during two precipitation events. On the early morning of the 14th, 65 mm fell in Ashkelon within one hour, of which 54 mm fell in 45 minutes and 42 mm in 30 minutes—intensities unprecedented in this region. During a brief but intense event on the 24th–25th, extreme rainfall intensities were measured in the Elah Valley and Samaria: at Netiv HaLamed-He, 28 mm were measured in ten minutes and 35 mm in 15 minutes—intensities unprecedented in this region.

At the station in Ariel, 112 mm were measured within four hours, of which 48 mm fell in two hours, 45 mm in one hour, and 40 mm in 30 minutes. These rainfall intensities broke the station's record for the last 30 years.

- **A Rainy December with a Flood Event in the South and System "Byron"** – December was rainier than average and included several significant precipitation events. On December 6th, rainfall occurred across the country; quantities were particularly notable in the Arava, where 25 to 40 mm were measured at some stations. Precipitation fell with high intensity, occasionally accompanied by hail. Strong flows and flash floods occurred in many streams, resulting in the closure of main roads in the area for many hours. From the 7th to the 12th of the month, the "Byron" rain system passed through our region, yielding large rainfall quantities reaching 150 to 200 mm and more. Precipitation fell partly at high intensities; consequently, strong flows and flash floods occurred in the Judean Desert streams and in the tributaries of the Lachish, Shikma, and Besor streams. Urban flooding also occurred, primarily in Yavne and Ashkelon.
  On the 23rd of the month, around noon, approximately 40 mm of rain fell in the Netanya area within one hour, causing flooding in the city. Milder flooding due to intense rains occurred on the same day in Ashdod.
  During several events throughout the month, as well as in November, the Northern Negev and the Besor region were the focal point of precipitation; consequently, since the beginning of the season, over 80% of the annual average has accumulated in these areas.

Table 1: Records for 2025

Parameter	Value	Location and Time
Highest daily maximum temperature	49.7°C	Gilgal (13.08.2025)
Lowest daily minimum temperature	-6.0°C	Merom Golan (26.02.2025)
Lowest daily maximum temperature	2.4°C	Rosh Zurim (24.02.2025)
Highest daily minimum temperature	37.1°C	Sedom (14.08.2025)
Highest average monthly maximum temperature	42.8°C	Sedom (July)
Lowest average monthly maximum temperature	9.9°C	Zefat (February)
Lowest average monthly minimum temperature	-0.7°C	Merom Golan (February)
Highest average monthly minimum temperature	32.3°C	Sedom (August)
Highest monthly precipitation amount*	298 mm	Nahal Me'arot Reserve (December)
Highest number of monthly rainy days (>0.1 mm)	17	Several stations in Northern Israel (February)
Highest daily rainfall	146 mm	Neve Tzuf (24.11.25)
Highest 10-minute rainfall	24 mm	Kfar Hasidim (25.11.25)
Highest 30-minute rainfall	54 mm	Kfar Hasidim (25.11.25)
Highest 1-hour rainfall	72 mm	Nahariyya(25.11.25)
Highest 2-hour rainfall	107 mm	Shavei Zion (25.11.25)
Highest 3-hour rainfall	117 mm	Shavei Zion (25.11.25)
Highest 4-hour rainfall	126 mm	Shavei Zion (25.11.25)
Highest 6-hour rainfall	130 mm	Shavei Zion (25.11.25)

*Changes to the precipitation amount—and even the identity of the station with the highest monthly rainfall—are possible, as any rain falling until tomorrow (1.1.26) at 08:00 will be counted as part of December's rainfall.