State of Israel
Ministry of Transport
Israel Meteorological Service

30 August 2026

Rainfall Event Summary 29 to 31 August 2026

General

Following the exceptional rainfall event in mid-August, another rainfall event affected the region at the end of the month, bringing several millimetres of rain to northern and central Israel. In most areas, totals did not exceed 2–4 mm, but 8 mm was measured in Tel Aviv and 5 mm in Samaria. The event as a whole was not exceptional for the summer months, although the totals in Tel Aviv and Samaria were unusual for this period. In addition, two rainfall events during the summer months, one of them with double-digit totals, are rare.

Rainfall Development and Totals

From the evening of 29 August to the morning of 30 August, mainly light, local rain fell in various parts of northern and central Israel. Totals at the wettest locations reached about 2–4 mm, and a trace of rain even fell at Nir Yitzhak in southern Israel. Rain ceased during the morning, but rain clouds moved into the Netanya–Hadera area during the late afternoon and evening and subsequently reached Samaria. Overnight on 30–31 August, rain fell on the central Coastal Plain, mainly around Tel Aviv. Another band of rain crossed the area on the morning of 31 August. Totals were relatively substantial for summer, reaching 8 mm at Tel Aviv's Ironi 14 station and 5 mm at Har Bracha in Samaria.

Exceptional Nature of the Event

The event was exceptional locally. In the Tel Aviv area, only one previous August event had produced comparable totals, on 31 August 1974. A total of 5 mm on the Samarian ridge is also rare in August; the few previous rainfall events there had produced 1–2 mm.

Nevertheless, the event was not exceptional nationally, and similar or more substantial summer rainfall events have occurred in the past. In the preceding decade alone, three more substantial events occurred, on 24 July 2021, 21 August 2022 and 28 August 2023. The event of 15–16 August 2026, about two weeks earlier, also caused flooding in Jerusalem and flash floods in several Judean Desert streams. Two rainfall events in the same summer, with double-digit totals in one of them, as in the mid-month event, are rare. During the core summer months of the preceding 70 years, this had occurred only in July 1957, August 1971 and July 1995.

Reasons for Differences Between Model Forecasts and Rainfall in Israel

Several days before the event, models forecast an intense and rare rainfall event, but the rainfall that ultimately occurred in Israel was not exceptional nationally. The discrepancy was associated with an upper-level low that reached the northeastern Mediterranean and was unprecedented for the season. The low brought exceptionally cold air into the middle troposphere, at an altitude of 5–6 km. Together with near-average surface temperatures, this was expected to produce instability highly uncharacteristic of summer, not only in Syria and Lebanon but also in northern and central Israel. As the forecasts evolved, however, the centre of the upper-level low shifted slightly northwards. This also changed the surface-pressure pattern, the location of air convergence and the areas where the instability could support convective development. In practice, the exceptional instability produced well-developed convective clouds over Syria and parts of Lebanon, but not over Israel.

Convective clouds developed over Iskenderun Bay, western Syria and northern Lebanon, producing many tens of millimetres of rain within a few hours, with 50 mm or more recorded

at numerous locations. The rain was accompanied by thunderstorms and caused runoff and urban flooding. Heavy hail was also reported. The deep convective clouds did not reach southern Lebanon or Israel, where rain fell from relatively shallow clouds typical of other summer rainfall events.

Exceptional Winds and Waves in Israel

On the fringes of the exceptional low, winds in Israel on 29 and 30 August were relatively strong for summer. Some mountain stations recorded sustained winds of about 50 km/h and gusts of about 70 km/h: 72 km/h at Maale Gilboa, 69 km/h at Itamar and 68 km/h at Zefat Har Kenaan. Although not unprecedented, these values are rare in summer, particularly given the relatively widespread occurrence of maximum gusts of 50 km/h or more.

Winds on the slopes of the Judean Hills and around the Dead Sea were as strong as those in the mountains farther west. Sedom recorded a maximum gust of 68 km/h, an unprecedented August value since the automatic anemometer was installed there about 25 years earlier.

Relatively strong winds also prevailed on the coast, generating high waves. Significant wave height reached about 2 m, and maximum wave heights reached about 3 m or more. The continuous automatic record, available since 2003, contains one August event with comparable or higher waves, in 2011. Including July adds six events, one of which also occurred this summer, on 25 July.

Temperatures Measured under the Influence of the Exceptional System

Strong winds on the slopes of the Judean Hills and around the Dead Sea caused rapid warming of descending air. As a result, Sedom recorded its highest temperature of the month, 44.8°C, on 29 August. Hazeva likewise recorded its highest temperature of the month that day, at 43.7°C.

Westerly winds continued overnight on 29–30 August, keeping temperatures relatively high by preventing radiative cooling and transporting air from the warm sea inland. Temperatures were therefore above average, particularly in the inland parts of the Coastal Plain, which tend to cool on summer nights with light winds.

In the mountains, by contrast, minimum temperatures fell below 20°C. Particularly low temperatures associated with the upper-level low were recorded at the Hermon station near the upper cable-car terminal. Only 8°C was measured there overnight on 29–30 August, a value not recorded in August since the automatic station was established 20 years earlier.