



May 2024

May 2024 was significantly warmer and wetter in Germany than the long-term monthly averages of the international climatological reference period 1961-1990. The sun shone on average. With May 2024, 20 months in a row have now been warmer than the long-term average 1961-1990 since October 2022. Throughout Germany, temperatures were above the monthly averages of the reference period 1961-1990, with deviations in the north being the highest, sometimes over 4 K, and falling to anomalies below +2 K towards the south. Several low-pressure areas over Western and Central Europe led to very unstable and dynamic weather conditions, which often caused storm-like precipitation. These led to flooding in Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate at Whitsun. Here, in some regions, three times the amount of precipitation fell in the reference period 1961-1990. In large parts of western and southern Germany, too, double the amount of rain fell. Only in eastern Brandenburg was the rainfall target not met. At the end of the month, there was also widespread heavy rainfall in southern Germany, which caused the first floods on many rivers. This continued into the following month and caused severe flooding and dam breaks, causing widespread traffic disruptions, extensive damage to buildings and agriculture, and even costing human lives.

The regional average temperature for Germany was 15.1 °C. This is 1.9 K more than the long-term average of the climate normal period 1991-2020 and 2.9 K more than the reference period 1961-1990. This makes May 2024 the second warmest since 1901 and the third warmest since 1881, together with 1931.

The average monthly rainfall in Germany was 117.8 mm. This is 48.2 mm or 69.2% more than the average for the period 1991-2020 and 46.7 mm or 65.7% more than in the reference period 1961-1990. May 2023 was thus the third wettest May after 2013 and 2007 in Germany since 1901 and also since 1881.

The regional average sunshine duration was 215.3 hours. That is 2.8 hours or 1.3% more than in the comparable period 1991-2020 and 13.7 hours or 6.8% more than the average for the years 1961-1990. This makes May 2024 the 36th sunniest May since 1951, in the middle of the May months.

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The German Weather Service is a federal authority within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry for Digital Affairs and Transport.

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