

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate Issues a Press Release on the Occasion of World Meteorological Day, March 23, 2011

The theme of this year is " Climate for you"

Each year, on March 23, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its 189 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day around a chosen theme. This year the theme is "Climate for you".

Palestine, as in the rest of the world, are celebrating this day by those working in the field of meteorology. Mainly they are in the Palestinian Meteorological Directorate, which was established in the year 1994. During the years 1998 and 1999, the Palestinian Meteorological directorate become a member as observer of the World Meteorological Organization and a member in the Arab Organization of Meteorology in the League of Arab States.

Meteorological statistics form one of the most important parts of the environmental statistics that the PCBS collect from the administrative records.

The press release focuses on the manifestations of the climate change in the Palestinian Territory during the year 2010 as follows:

The amount of rainfall still under the yearly average.

The amount of rainfall ranged between 509 mm in Nablus Station and 124 mm in Jericho during the year 2010. While the yearly average of rainfall in Nablus station was 660, and in Jericho station was 166 mm.

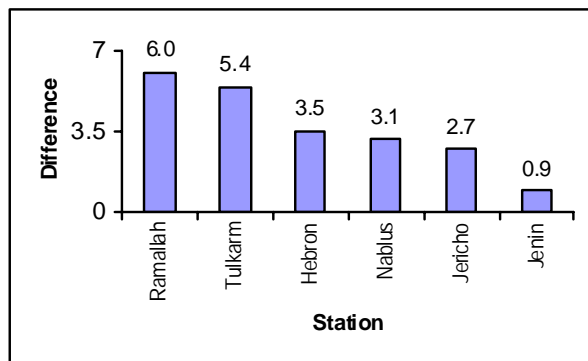
Rainfall quantities in 2010 and yearly average in some West Bank stations

Percentage	Yearly Average	Quantity of rainfall (mm) 2010	Station
81.6	615	502.1	Ramallah
77.1	660	508.6	Nablus
71.9	468	336.5	Jenin
74.8	166	124.2	Jericho
66.1	596	393.7	Hebron
65.1	602	391.9	Tulkarem
70.8	518	366.7	Bethlehem

High temperatures for the year 2010 compared with the yearly average

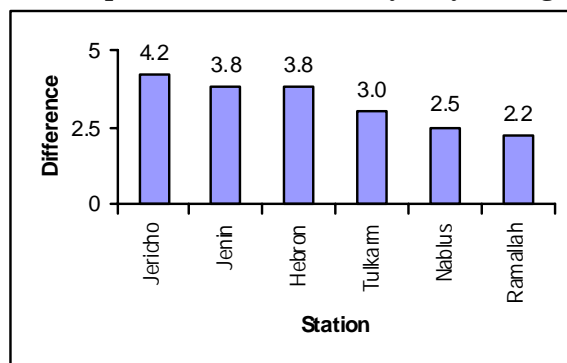
Tracking the data of air maximum and minimum temperatures for the year 2010, it was found that there was difference between maximum temperatures during 2010 from the yearly average, this difference was about 0.9 °C in Jenin Station and 6.0 °C in Ramallah Station temperatures.

The difference in maximum air temperature during 2010 (°C) from the yearly average in some West Bank stations



Beside the difference in 2010 air maximum temperatures, it was found that there was difference between minimum temperatures during 2010 from the yearly average, this difference was about 2.2 °C in Ramallah Station and 4.2 °C in Jericho Station temperatures.

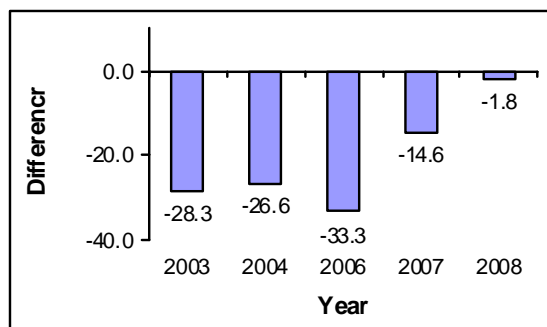
The difference in minimum air temperature (°C) from the yearly average in some West Bank stations



Land Use Changes specially agricultural patterns

The changes in the use of cultivated lands in the Palestinian Territory had decreased 33 km² during the year 2006 than it was in 2000. the area of cultivated land during 2000 was 1,515 km², while during 2006 this area is decreased to 1,482 km². This decreasing areas of cultivated lands is attributed to the decreasing in the amounts of rainfall and increasing the climate temperatures.

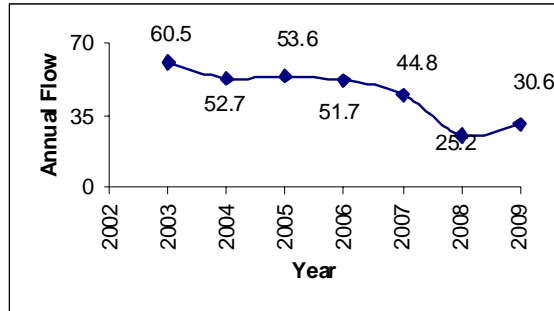
Changes in the use of cultivated lands (km²) in the Palestinian Territory (2003-2008)



Reduction of the annual flow of spring water

The amount of the annual flow of spring water during year 2003 was about 60.5 million m³/year, then it was decreased to 30.6 million m³/year in 2009, which is due to the decrease in quantities of rainfall and thus decrease the amount of water feeding to these springs.

The annual flow of spring water (million m³/year)



The diversity of climatic regions in Palestine

It is worth to mention that Palestine is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestine is characterized by the diversity of its climatic Territory despite its small size; it is affiliated to the Mediterranean region, moderate, and the tropical climate and desert climate and semi-desert.