

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Issues a Press Release on the Occasion of World Meteorological Day, March 23, 2009

The greatest amount of rainfall during the rainy season of 2008/2009 until March 15, 2009, was 587.6 mm in Nablus Station.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a press release on the occasion of World Meteorological Day, March 23. The press release focuses on the main statistical data of the most important meteorological indicators in the Palestinian Territory, based on the administrative records from the Palestinian Meteorological Authority. It provides basic statistical aspects of meteorology, including rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, evaporation, solar radiation and pressure.

The greatest amount of rainfall was in Nablus and the least was in Jericho.

The amount of rainfall ranged between 587.6 mm in Nablus Station and 109.2 mm in Jericho Station in the rainy season of 2008/2009 until March 15, 2009. The time series data indicate that the annual mean rainfall was between 48.7 mm in Jericho Station in 1999, and 942.7 mm in Nablus Station in 2003.

The lowest air temperature was recorded in Hebron Station and the highest in Jericho Station.

The time series data show that the annual mean air temperature over the period 1975-2007 was between 14.5° C degrees in Hebron Station, and 24.0° C in Jericho Station. The annual mean air temperature for 2008 ranged between 16.9° C in Hebron Station and 24.2° C in Jericho Station.

The main findings of the time series indicate that the annual mean maximum air temperature over the period 1975-2007 was between 18.2° C in Hebron Station, and 30.6° C in Jericho Station. The annual mean maximum air temperature reached 21.2° C in Hebron Station and 31.0° C in Jericho Station in 2008.

The data of 2008 indicates that the lowest value for the monthly mean maximum air temperature was 8.5° C in Ramallah Station in January, while the highest value for the monthly mean maximum air temperature was 39.7° C in Jericho Station in August.

The main findings of the time series indicate that the annual mean minimum air temperature over the period 1975-2007 was between 11.2° C in Hebron Station and 17.9° C in Jericho Station. While the annual mean minimum air temperature ranged between 12.8° C in Hebron Station and 17.9° C in Jericho Station in 2008.

The data of 2008 indicates that the lowest monthly mean minimum air temperature was 2.8° C in Hebron Station in January, while the highest monthly mean minimum air temperature was 26.4° C in Jericho Station in August.

Ramallah has the highest annual mean relative humidity and Jericho has the lowest.

The data indicate that the annual mean relative humidity in 2008 was between 50% in Jericho Station and 69% in Ramallah Station. The data of 2008 indicates that the annual mean relative

humidity decreased in June to 40% in Jericho Station, and increased in October to 84% in Ramallah Station.

The lowest amount of water evaporation was in Nablus and the highest was in Jericho.

The data indicate that the annual mean evaporation in 2008 was between 1,815.6 mm in Nablus Station and 2,276.4 mm in Jericho Station. The data of 2008 indicates that the annual mean quantity of evaporation decreased in January to 50.5 mm in Hebron Station, and increased in July to 308.9 mm in Jericho Station.

The Palestinian Territory is one of the most ancient regions in the Middle East; it is located in the northern temperate zone of the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The Palestinian Territory climate is affected by three factors:

- a) The mountain range extending from the North to the South and parallel to the coast;
- b) The Sinai and North African Desert;
- c) The Jordinian-Syrian Desert.

The weather in the Palestinian Territory classified into 3 types:

1. Mediterranean Sea weather: The annual average temperature is about 22° C, and the annual average rainfall is 400-500 ml.
2. Semi-desert weather: The annual average temperature is about 18° C, and the annual average rainfall is 200-350 ml.
3. Desert weather: The annual average temperature is about 22° C, and the annual average rainfall is about 200 ml.