

News Release



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Special Observances

World Meteorological Day

On the occasion of World Meteorological Day celebrated yearly on 23 March, the NSO is releasing a set of climatic data relating to Malta. The main climatic parameters presented here are: Wind speed; Temperature; Sunshine and Rainfall. The year under review is 2005; that said, this release also includes a perspective on the past fifteen years up to and including 2005.

The highest mean wind speed in 2005 was recorded at 10.3 knots in February while the lowest was recorded in June and again, in October, at 6.5 knots. The highest mean wind speed in fifteen years was recorded at 9.9 knots - in April. Chart 1 indicates that in 2005, lower wind speeds were experienced in March, June, October, November and December when compared to the 15-year mean for the same months. By contrast, mean wind speed in August 2005 was 2 knots higher than the 15-year August mean.

Temperature in Malta generally peaks in August with a mean of 27.5 degrees Celsius and is lowest in February with a mean of 12.4 degrees Celsius. With regard to 2005, the highest mean temperature - 26.7 degrees Celsius - was recorded in July while the February mean temperature conformed to the general rule, being the lowest recorded of all the months in the year. That said, at 10.6 degrees Celsius, it was 1.8 degrees lower than the 15-year mean for this month.

In the past fifteen years, mean bright sunshine duration ranged from 5.1 hours in January and December to 11.8 hours in July. With reference to 2005, July adhered almost perfectly to this pattern. However, December experienced slightly less bright sunshine hours than the 15-year mean, while January experienced more.

The importance of rainfall to Malta cannot be overstated since, amongst other things, it replenishes precious groundwater. Yet the pattern of precipitation in the islands is rather erratic as can be seen from an analysis of rainfall these past fifteen years. In this period, annual precipitation ranged from a high of 907.73 mm in 2003 to a low of 233.15 mm five years earlier, in 1998. Rainfall in 2005 fell somewhere in between these two recorded levels - 505.8 mm. The highest monthly mean was recorded in the last month of the year - 147.2 mm while hot July experienced a *traċċa*, or a very small amount. At 94.0 mm, rainfall in October 2005 far surpassed 55.8 mm, the 15-year mean for this month. The same applies to February 2005 which saw a precipitation of 82.6 mm against a 15-year February mean of 53.6 mm ■

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Table 1. Wind speed 2005

knots

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005 mean	8.4	10.3	7.9	9.4	8.4	6.5	7.5	8.3	7.1	6.5	6.7	7.8
15-year mean	8.8	9.5	9.2	9.9	8.5	7.7	7.1	6.3	7.3	7.4	8.3	9.3

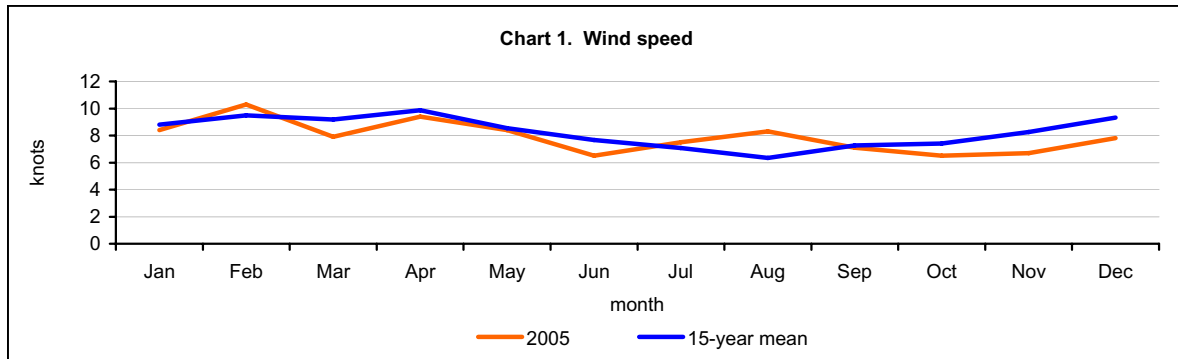


Table 2. Temperature

degrees Celsius

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005 mean	11.1	10.6	13.4	15.5	20.1	23.7	26.7	25.4	24.3	21.3	17.9	14.1
15-year mean	12.7	12.4	14.1	16.1	19.8	24.1	26.6	27.5	24.8	20.7	16.7	13.2

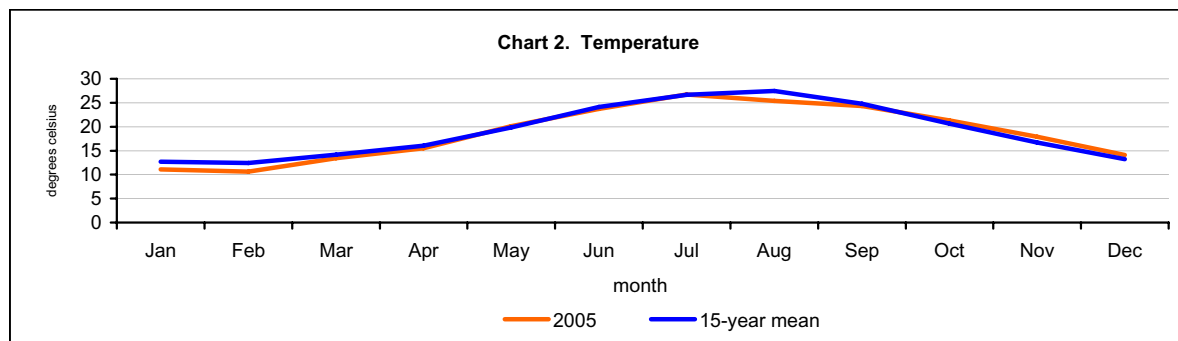


Table 3. Bright sunshine duration

hours

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005 mean	6.4	6.2	7.3	7.7	10.5	9.2	11.7	9.8	8.5	6.9	6.6	4.9
15-year mean	5.1	6.6	7.3	8.4	9.7	11.0	11.8	10.8	8.4	6.8	6.1	5.1

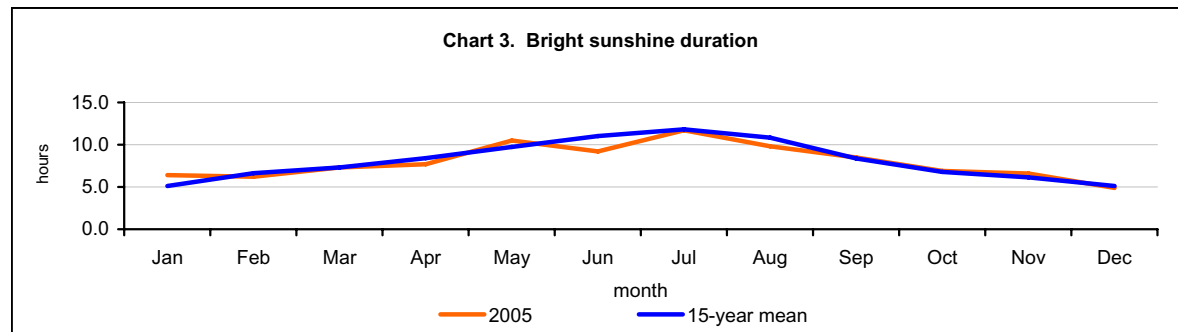


Table 4. Rainfall

Month	millimetres											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005 mean	36.2	82.6	7.8	15.2	1.2	0.4	0.0	20.8	39.0	94.0	61.2	147.2
15-year mean	76.1	53.6	24.0	20.9	8.8	1.8	0.1	8.6	53.9	55.8	79.6	83.0

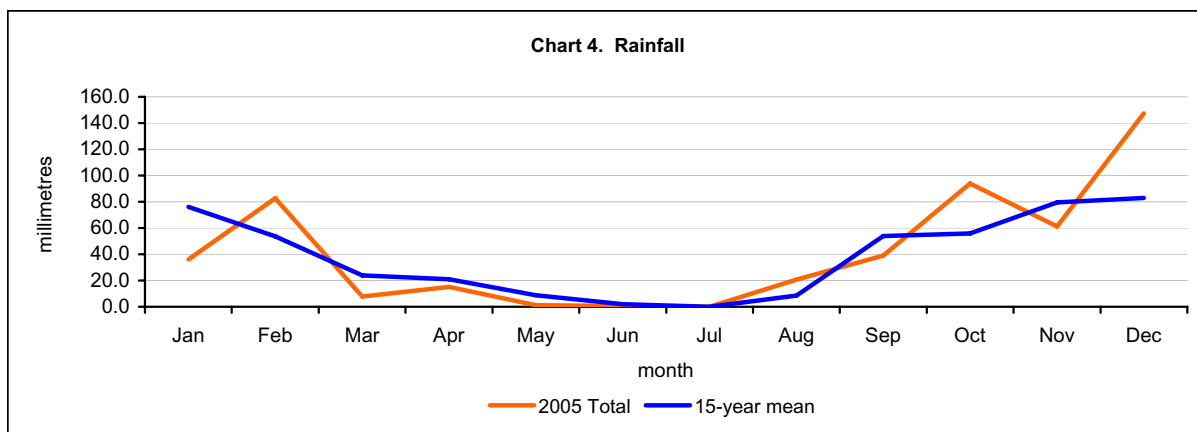
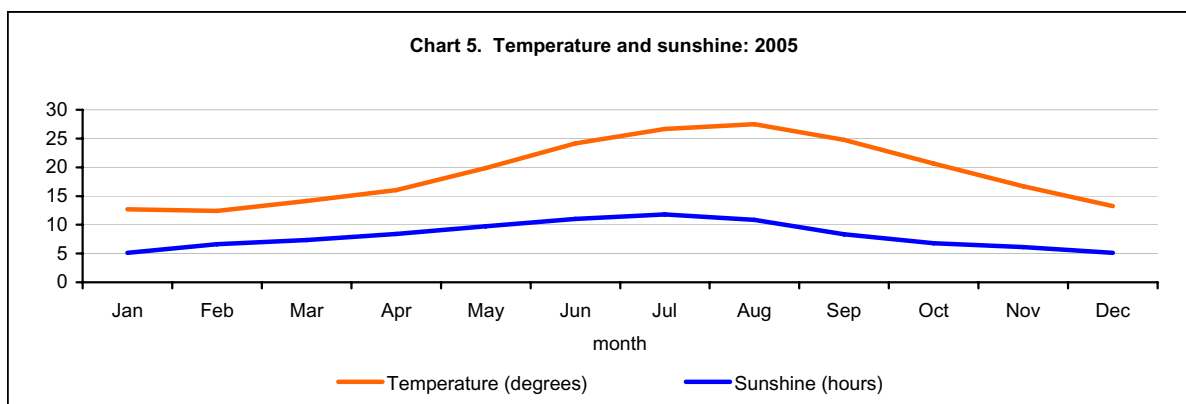


Table 5. Temperature and sunshine in Malta: 2005

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (degrees)	12.7	12.4	14.1	16.1	19.8	24.1	26.6	27.5	24.8	20.7	16.7	13.2
Sunshine (hours)	5.1	6.6	7.3	8.4	9.7	11.0	11.8	10.8	8.4	6.8	6.1	5.1



Methodological Notes

1. The 15-year mean is equivalent to an average of the mean values throughout the past 15 years up to and including 2005.
2. The data contained in this release are not normally subject to revision.
3. Parameters are monitored at the Meteorological Office.
4. Monthly wind speed and temperature values relating to 2005 represent the mean for each month. Rainfall and bright sunshine hours for 2005 represent totals for each month.