



DATASET DESCRIPTION

Daily precipitation observations for Germany

Version: v24.3

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Dataset-ID: urn:wmo:md:de-dwd-cdc:obsgermany-climate-daily-more_precip

Dataset-URL: https://opendata.dwd.de/climate_environment/CDC/observations_germany/climate/daily/more_precip/recent/

Dataset-URL: https://opendata.dwd.de/climate_environment/CDC/observations_germany/climate/daily/more_precip/historical/

ABSTRACT

These data originate from the stations of the DWD and legally as well as qualitatively equal partner network stations. Extensive station metadata, such as station relocations, instrument changes, reference time changes, algorithm changes or operator information are included.

The dataset is divided into a versioned part with completed quality check, in the directory `./historical/`. And a part for which the quality check has not yet been completed, in the directory `./recent/`.

The folder `./timeseries_overview/` contains information about long time series.

POINT OF CONTACT

Deutscher Wetterdienst
CDC - Vertrieb Klima und Umwelt
Frankfurter Strasse 135
63067 Offenbach
Tel: + 49 (0) 69 8062-4400
Fax: + 49 (0) 69 8062-4499
E-Mail: klima.vertrieb@dwd.de

DATASET DESCRIPTION

Parameter	snow depth, precipitation height, height of newly fallen snow, form of precipitation, precipitation parameters, kind of precipitation
Unit(s)	mm, cm
Statistical processing	daily value, time series, daily sum
Temporal coverage	1827-01-01 -- ...
Spatial coverage	stations in Germany
Projection	WGS 84 (EPSG:4326)
Format description	obsgermany-climate-daily-more_precip-recent : In the folder <code>recent/</code> for each station a zip-archive is provided. The zip-archive contains the data and meta information about the station, instruments and algorithms. The naming schema of the zip-archives is: <code>*_{product_code}_{station_id}_akt.zip</code>
Format description	obsgermany-climate-daily-more_precip-historical : In the folder <code>recent/</code> for each station a zip-archive is provided. The zip-archive contains the data and meta information about the station, instruments and algorithms. The naming schema of the zip-archives is: <code>*_{product_code}_{station_id}_{begin_date}_{end_date}_hist.zip</code>

application schema		csv dialect description				
delimiter	line terminator	header	quote char			
;	\\r\\n	true	"			
csv content description		column name	description	uom	type	format
	STATIONS_ID	DWD Station ID			VARCHAR2	
	MESS_DATUM	reference date for the measurement			NUMBER	YYYYMMDD
	QN_6	the code of the quality level reflects the quality control procedure applied for the data			NUMBER	numerical code
	RS	daily precipitation height		mm	NUMBER	9990.0
	RSF	precipitation form		numerical code	NUMBER	
	SH_TAG	height of snow pack		cm	NUMBER	9990
	NSH_TAG	fresh snow depth		cm	NUMBER	9990

Quality Information The QUALITAETS_NIVEAU (QN) shows the quality control procedure applied for a data report (of several parameters) for a certain reporting time.

Data before and including 1980 can reach as best quality check level QN=5. Data after 1980 can reach QN=10 as best quality check level.

QN = 1 : only formal control;
 QN = 2 : controlled with individually defined criteria;
 QN = 3 : automatic control and correction;
 QN = 5 : historic, subjective procedures;
 QN = 7 : second control done, before correction;
 QN = 8 : quality control outside ROUTINE;
 QN = 9 : not all parameters corrected;
 QN = 10 : quality control finished, all corrections finished.

The QUALITAETS_BYTE (QB) denotes whether the value was objected to and/or corrected.

QB = 0 : denotes not flagged,
 QB = 1 : had no objections (either checked and not objected, or not checked and not objected, this can be interpreted only when considering QN);
 QB = 2 : corrected;
 QB = 3 : confirmed with objection rejected;
 QB = 4 : added or calculated;
 QB = 5 : objected;
 QB = 6 : only formally checked;
 QB = 7 : formal objection;
 QB = -999 : quality flag does not exist.

DATA ORIGIN

The data are taken from the station measuring networks of Deutscher Wetterdienst as well as its predecessor organisations. The dataset is regularly updated with recent as well as with recovered historical data. From 1997 onwards, the data have been imported operationally into the central specialist database and archived, see Behrendt et al., 2011, and Kaspar et al., 2013. Note that when going back to historical times, guidelines on observation procedure, instruments and observation times were issued by the authority in charge (see, e.g., Freydank, 2014), and might be incompletely recorded in the metadata. As explained in Kaspar et al., 2013 in the early years numerous meteorological agencies were active in the area of today's Germany. After establishment of the der International Meteorological Organization (IMO) in 1873, the various standards were gradually harmonized, resulting in a single standard 1936. After 1945, the standards in East and West Germany developed differently, and were harmonized again after re-unification in 1990. Between the end of the nineties and 2009 many stations were changed from manual to automated.

RESOURCE MAINTENANCE

In the directory recent/ the data files are updated daily. On a rolling basis, the data of the last 500 days - up to yesterday - are exchanged. Quality control has not yet been completed for these data, so there may always be changes in the values.

In the directory historical/ the data files are updated annually. Quality control has been completed for this data, so that the values for the version are constant. During the annual version change, both corrections and historical additions are incorporated.

VALIDATION AND UNCERTAINTY ESTIMATE

The quality control (see Spengler, 2002) of this data is not completed yet. Various levels of quality control (see Kaspar et al., 2013) are in progress.

UNCERTAINTIES

The stations are nowadays selected and operated according to WMO guidelines. Though these guidelines aim at minimizing possible local effects, still some applications of certain parameters may require the consideration of local and regional effects.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

For any data analysis, the metadata available in the *.zip files should be taken into account.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For extending the time series into the past, see subdirectories ../historical/. When data from both directories "historical" and "recent" are used together, the difference in the quality control procedure should be considered. For the long term stability consider the uncertainties explained in the data set descriptions within subdirectories /historical/.

LITERATURE

[Behrendt, J., et al.: Beschreibung der Datenbasis des NKDZ, Version 3.5, Offenbach, 15.02.2011.](#)

[DWD Vorschriften und Betriebsunterlagen Nr. 2 \(VuB 2\), Wetterschlüsselhandbuch Band D, Nov 2013.](#)

[DWD Vorschriften und Betriebsunterlagen Nr. 3 \(VuB 3\), Beobachterhandbuch \(BHB\) für Wettermeldestellen des synoptisch-klimatologischen Mess- und Beobachtungsnetzes, März 2014a.](#)

[DWD Vorschriften und Betriebsunterlagen Nr. 3 \(VuB 3\), Technikerhandbuch \(THB\) für Wettermeldestellen des synoptisch-klimatologischen Mess- und Beobachtungsnetzes, März 2014b.](#)

[Kaspar, F., et al.: Monitoring of climate change in Germany – data, products and services of Germany's National Climate Data Centre. Adv. Sci. Res., 10, doi:10.5194/asr-10-99-2013, 99–106, 2013.](#)

[Spengler, R.: The new Quality Control- and Monitoring System of the Deutscher Wetterdienst. Proceedings of the WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation, Bratislava, 2002.](#)

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REVISION HISTORY

This document is maintained by Deutscher Wetterdienst, Climate Data Center (CDC) - Betrieb, last edited at 2024-06-05.