

DATA SET DESCRIPTION

Annual sum of monthly precipitation grids over Germany

Version v1.0

Cite data set as: DWD Climate Data Center (CDC): Annual sum of monthly precipitation grids over Germany, version v1.0.

INTENT OF THE DATASET

This describes the freely available data of the DWD Climate Data Center. Grids are derived from DWD stations and legally and qualitatively equivalent partner stations in Germany run for climatological and climate related applications, considering the climatology.

POINT OF CONTACT

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DATA DESCRIPTION

Spatial coverage	Germany
Temporal coverage	01.01.1958 - last year
Spatial resolution	1 km x 1 km
Temporal resolution	annual
Projection	3-degree Gauss-Kruger zone 3, Ellipsoid Bessel, Datum Potsdam (central point Rauenberg), EPSG:31467, see http://spatialreference.org/ref/epsg/31467/ . To define the spatial projection in GIS, the file https://opendata.dwd.de/climate_environment/CDC/help/gk3.prj can be used. Help is given on importing into ESRI ArcGIS in https://opendata.dwd.de/climate_environment/CDC/help/Hilfe_Gauss-Krueger-Raster2GIS.pdf .
Format(s)	The file in ESRI-ascii-grid-format has in the header the coordinates for the lower left grid cell, including the definition of its center [XLLCENTER],[YLLCENTER] or its corner [XLLCORNER],[YLLCORNER]. It contains a table of 654 x 866 numbers. Each row goes from West to East. The first row is the northernmost one (654 values with 4 digits). Missing values are marked with -999.
Parameters	Annual sum of precipitation height in mm.
Uncertainties	Uncertainties are caused by the interpolation method, and erroneous or missing observations. When comparing grid fields for different years, it should be considered that the measurement network has changed over time.

DATA ORIGIN

The grids are based on the DWD station data [Kaspar et al., 2013]. The annual grid is the sum of the twelve monthly grids.

VALIDATION AND UNCERTAINTY ESTIMATE

The given resolution of 1 km x 1 km is the resolution of the employed digital height model. The gridded data miss processes relevant for local climate which are not covered by observations of the station network or cannot be reproduced by the gridding method explained above. The actual information density depends on the station network. The quality of the maps was checked by withholding 10 % pf station data in the gridding procedure, and comparing the results. The mean error in 10-year grids are 17% of the monthly sum of precipitation, see Maier und Müller-Westermeier, 2010.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS

The grids are visualized from the year 2000 onwards at the DWD website <http://www.dwd.de/DE/leistungen/klimakartendeutschland/klimakartendeutschland.html>.

REFERENCES

Kaspar et al.: Monitoring of climate change in Germany – data, products and services of Germany's National Climate Data Centre. *Adv. Sci. Res.*, 10, 99–106, 2013.

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Müller-Westermeier, G., Walter, A., Dittmann, E.: Klimaatlas Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Teil 1-4, Selbstverlag des Deutschen Wetterdienstes, Offenbach am Main, 2005.

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WMO No 49, Technical Regulations, Basic Documents No. 2, Volume I, General Meteorological Standards and Recommended Practices, ISBN 978-92-63-10049-8, 2011 edition, updated in 2012.

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REVISION HISTORY

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