

Report of National Meteorological Administration (Bucharest, Romania) Winter 2011-2012

Below normal winter temperatures have been recorded in a large part of the country with the exception of Northwestern and central regions where the thermal anomalies were generally normal (figure 1). Winter precipitation amounts were normal and above normal in almost all Romanian regions (figure 2). In the first part of the winter (from December to late January) above normal temperature prevailed over Romania. The February extremely cold episode which imprints its characteristics over the whole winter was accompanied by abundant snowfall. Strong winds blew snow causing problems in Romanian villages especially in Southeastern and Eastern regions of the country.

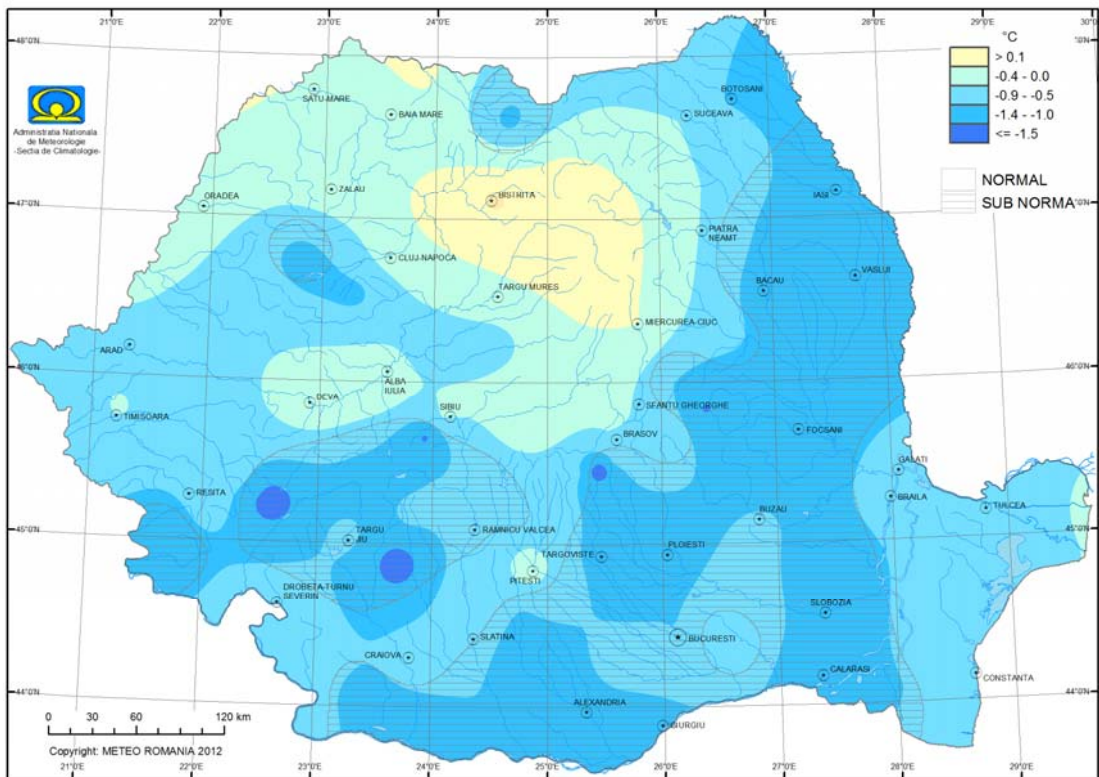


Figure 1. Temperature anomalies (shaded, in ° C) for the winter 2011-2012 over Romania (reference interval 1961-1990). Hatched areas illustrate below normal temperatures.

The SEECOF-4 outlook for temperature was satisfactory. However, the winter precipitation outlook for Romania stated higher probability for below normal terciles and the observed precipitation terciles were above normal over large part of the Romanian territory (figure 2).

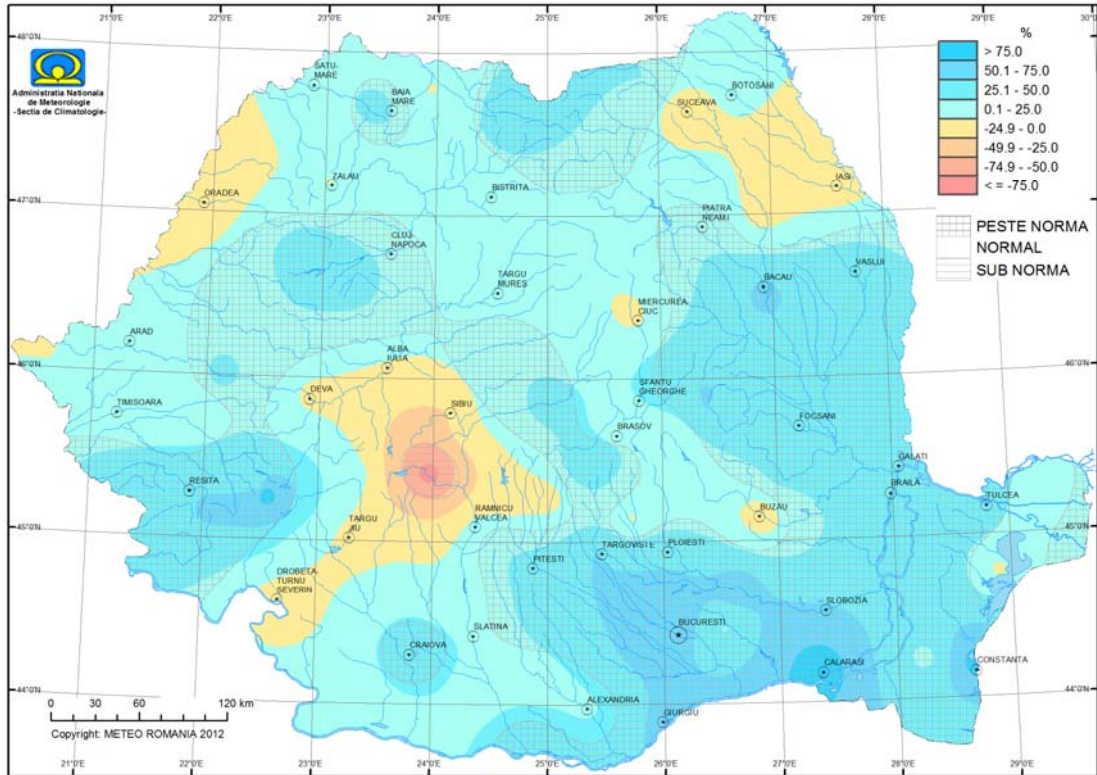


Figure 2. Precipitation anomalies (shaded, in mm) for the winter 2011-2012 over Romania (reference interval 1961-1990). Crossed areas illustrate above normal precipitation and hatched ones illustrate below normal precipitation.

The subjective perception among outlook users has been that the winter was a very severe one, even though from the climatological point of view it was not in the top of most severe winters in Romania: the first 7 weeks of the winter had even milder conditions than normal for that time of the year.