

Assessment of the winter season 2012-2013 in Moldova

Winter season 2012-2013 in Moldova was generally normal in terms of temperature and with heavy rainfall.

The average temperature for the season was $-0.5..-3.3^{\circ}\text{C}$, basically within the limits of normal (to the 1971-2000 and 1961-1990 reference periods). (Fig.1).

The absolute minimum of the air temperature throughout the season was -23°C (December), which indicates an average winter once in 3 years. The absolute maximum has reached $+14^{\circ}\text{C}$ (December).

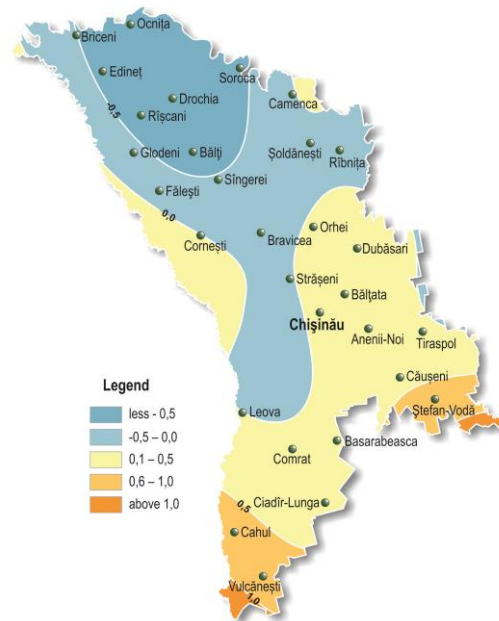


Fig.1. Mean Temperature Anomalies, $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (to the 1971-2000 reference period)

The rainfall amount over the season was basically 125-240 mm (160-270% of the norm, to the 1971-2000 reference period *or* 130-220% to the 1961-1990 reference period), which are reported on average once in 20-30 years (Fig.2).

The largest amount of precipitation fell in December. Their sum this month was 75-145 mm (200-450% of the norm), which in 85% of the country was reported for the first time during the whole period of observations.

There were also mentioned elemental hydrometeorological phenomena as heavy snowfalls with the amount of precipitation up to 20-37 mm for 12 hours (December, January) and blizzard (December). The heavy snowfall, partially accompanied by blizzards, caused the formation of drifts on the roads, which have created extremely unfavorable conditions for road traffic.

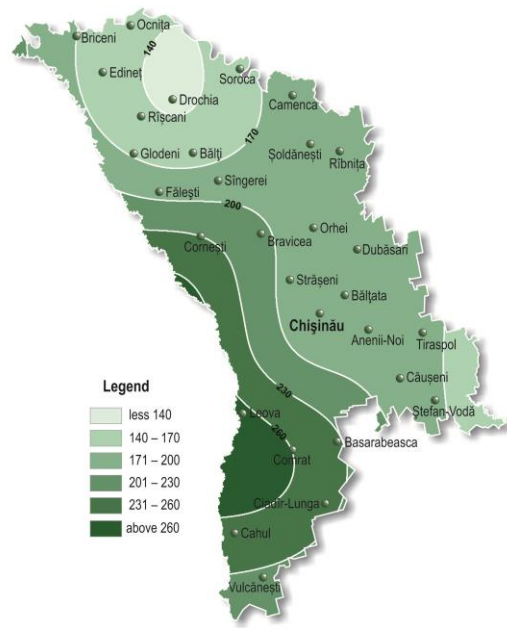


Fig.2. Mean Precipitation Anomalies, % (to the 1971-2000 reference periods)