

LODZ CLIMATE

Yearly average: **8 °C** (temperature; variability: 6-10 °C) **575 mm** (precipitation; variability 360-820 mm).

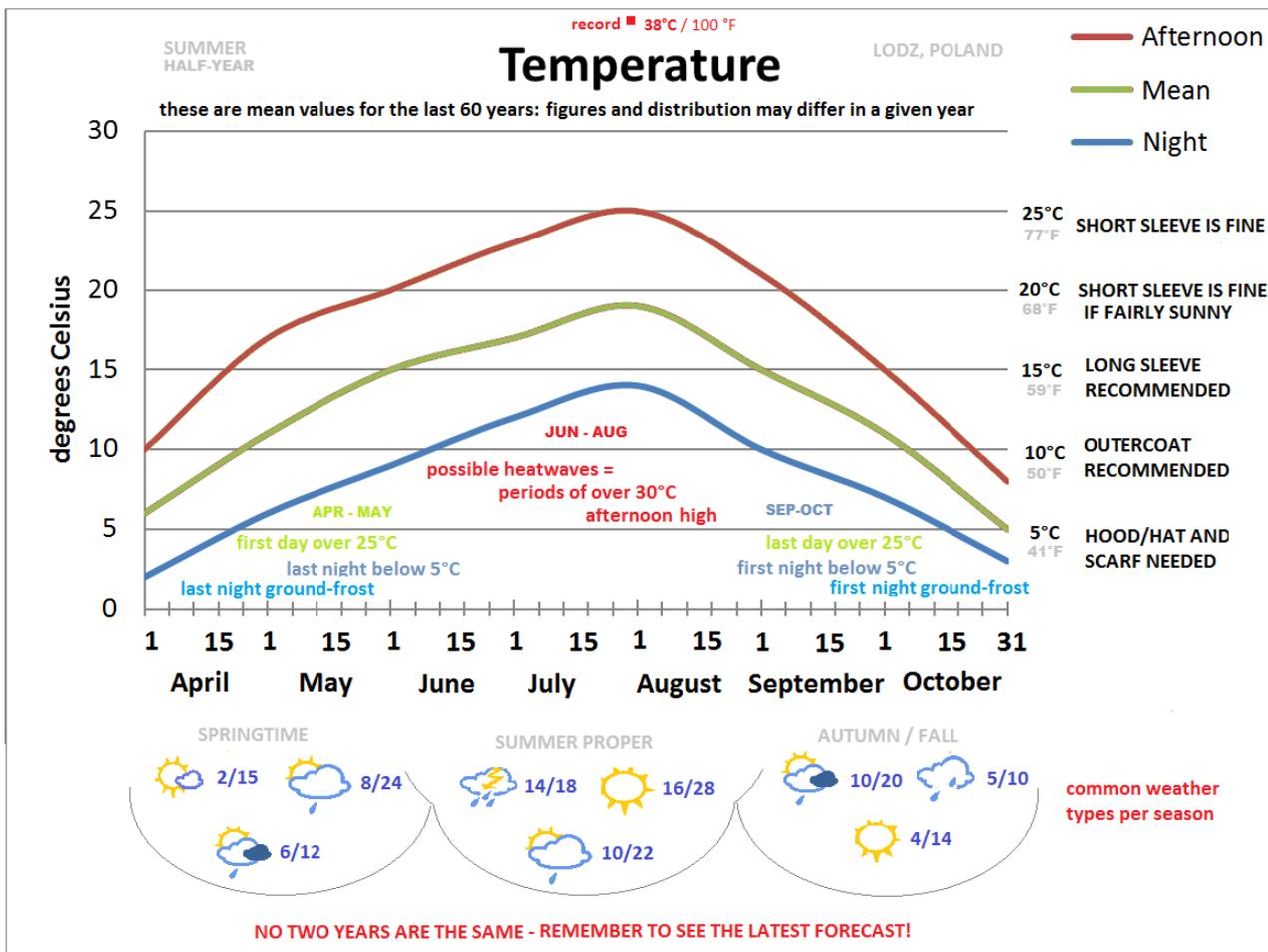
Koepfen climate classification: **Dfb** (humid continental). Traces of **Cfb** (oceanic) climate visible in some years. Most precipitation in summer months (May - September). USDA Plant Hardiness Zone: **6b**

Cities in Europe with similar climate:

Prague, Czech Republic; **L'viv**, Ukraine; **Graz**, Austria; **Hanover**, Germany; **Kaliningrad**, Russia;

Cities outside Europe with similar climate: **Toronto**, Canada; **Rochester**, NY, USA;

WARMER MONTHS: APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER



SUMMER

Temperature

Warm season with **daily mean temperature of 15 °C or more** (this figure is an average of different times of night and day). According to meteorologists, **Summer in Poland includes June, July and August.**

However, we observed that, in some years, such conditions may extend over parts of May and/or September, as well as some days or weeks of the summer proper can be somewhat colder than the norm. Also, in parts of Spring and Fall, you can enjoy summer-like weather for short periods. The graph above

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shows the broader time frame of the summer half-year, or when plant life is vivid, that is between April and October. Note that overnight cold hits (e.g. ground-frost), while occasional in April and October, do not ever occur in the summer proper, that is June through August. The warmest part of the summer is, on the average, late July and early August, with afternoon high around 25 ° C and late night low of 15 ° C.

Warm days with daytime high over 30 ° C are possible between late April and mid-September.

Heatwaves (when daytime heat over 30 ° C is sustainable for 3 days or more) may occur from June through August. Coldest summer month recorded: June 1923 (12 ° C), hottest: July 2006 (23 ° C).

Time frame

Average start date: 2 June

Average end date: 4 September

Average temperature of the warmest month: +18,5°C (July)

Average number of days when max. temperature exceeds +25 ° C: **42** (per year)

Earliest such day recorded: 7 April

Latest such day recorded: 11 October

Heatwaves (defined as three or more consecutive days when max. temperature exceeds +30 ° C) occur in Lodz approximately every second summer (22 times, 1951-2005).

Highest temperature recorded: +38 ° C (1 Aug 1994)

Rainfalls, thunderstorms, hailstorms

Over 37% of all rainfalls occur in the three summer months, June through August. However, they have relatively low frequency. This means that rainfalls tend to be heavier(denser) in summer than in other seasons.

Summer months are known for occasional thunderstorms (average 15 out of 22 instances yearly). Spring and early summer is when you may expect hailstorms (56% of all instances between April and June). It should be noted, however, that in the Lodz region, thunderstorms (22 instances a year) and hailstorms (about 2 instances a year) are relatively infrequent and of weak intensity.

Anomalies: whirlwind, overnight cold

Whirlwinds, such as (mini-)tornadoes, were never recorded in Lodz city itself. They are only very rarely found in the Lodz region, that is once or twice in 10 years' time. They are more likely in warmer months (May through August) and they typically come in the wake of a thunderstorm. It should be noted that tornadoes in Poland, if they ever occur, tend to be small-range.

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Summer in Lodz is free from winter-like phenomena, but **overnight drops in temperature below 5 ° C are sometimes recorded before mid-June and after mid-August**. Note that some winter-like phenomena may occur, for a short time, just outside summer proper, in spring and fall; **a few cases of overnight frost were recorded as late as late May and as early as mid-September**. Intense overnight frost, sometimes with snow cover, is possible in early April and late October, recorded approximately once in 10 years' time.

Nature

The summer is green and flowery in Lodz. Most trees get leaves between mid-April and early May. They grow full-sized before June marking the start of summer proper. Between March and August, different kinds of pollen are commonly found in the air. From September on, tree leaves start yellowing and falling: this process accelerates and peaks in October. For farmers and gardeners, the major harvest time is from mid-July to late August, and the time from July to October is when fruits like pears and apples ripe.

Summer is also the season when wild animals may show up with their offspring. You can occasionally see them in the suburbs, e.g. Łagiewniki forest and some streets at its edge. Unless a wildlife warden, please do not approach, or try and pet or feed them. You are probably not ready for that. They are not, either.

Summer months are the ones with most sunshine hours. This is partly due to longer daylight hours. In June or July, at 9pm (21:00) it is still bright enough to read a book outside. However, from August on, the day shortens quickly with as early as 6pm (18:00) being the sunset time by mid-October.

Practical information

Lodz summer is generally mild and temperate. Compared to the British summer, it is more prone to lengthy heatwaves. But, compared to more continental climates, it may seem rather moist and unstable. Weather warnings, if they appear, pertain to heat (or drought in the farmland) and heavy rains. **In some years, heatwaves can be tiring, because many Polish houses lack air conditioning**. At other times, cool and rainy weather makes you change to spring/autumn clothing for a few days. **Though Lodz is safe from floods, you may expect brief (2-3 hrs) traffic issues once or twice each summer, when some streets get drain flooded after rain**. If you are going to spend the summer break in Lodz, take a pocket umbrella, two sets of clothing (short- and long-sleeve), and think about a table fan. If you come here **in September or October, be careful for warm weather is unstable** at this time of the year: it does not last long and it can turn to cold and rain on the very next day: do not forget long trousers and a waterproof outdoor coat.

Forecast (links):

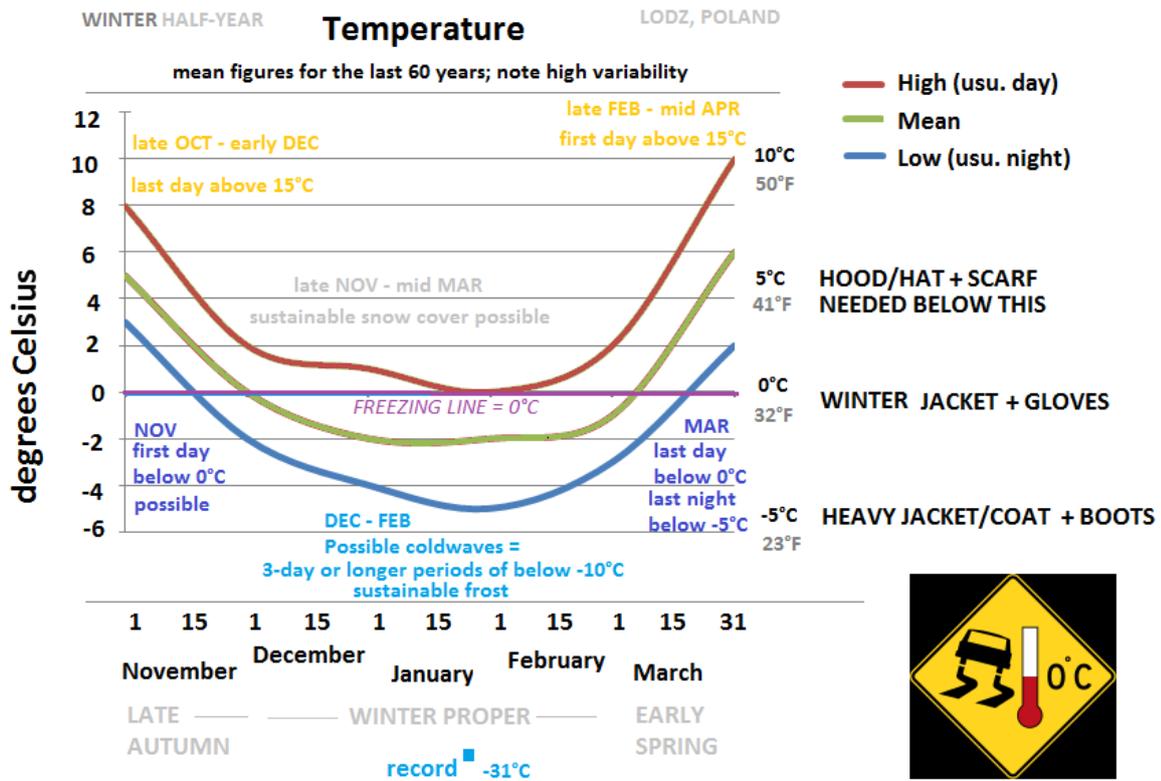
[POGODYNKA](#)

[METEOPROG](#)

[RP5 LODZ \(AIRPORT\)](#)

[WETTERZENTRALE \(EUROPE\)](#)

COLDER MONTHS (average below 7 ° C): NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH



NOTE THAT WINTERTIME WARNINGS, I.E. OVERNIGHT FROST, BLACK ICE, OR SNOWSTORMS MAY APPEAR AT ABOUT ANY TIME, NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH: KEEP THE WINTER PRECAUTIONS AND DO NOT EXPECT WARM WEATHER TO SUSTAIN FOR LONG

check the latest forecast!

WINTER

Temperature

Cold season when plants stop growing, normally with daily mean temperature of 0 ° C or less. According to meteorologists, Winter in Poland includes December, January and February, and it often comes with snowfalls and frost. Such conditions may extend over (parts of) November and/or March. In some years, the winter is warmer than the 0 ° C daily mean, but too cold for the vegetation of plants – this usually means it is cloudy, rainy and windy, but with just occasional snowfalls or frost. Short periods of winter-like weather may also occur in late autumn and/or early spring. On the average, from mid-November till mid-March, maximum temperature (usually day high) is between 0 and 5 ° C, while minimum temperature (usually night low) tends to be below 0 degrees. It is, however, only between December and February that sustainable cold waves below -10 ° C (for more than 3 days) may occur, with most likelihood in mid- to late January. Such periods may last up to eight consecutive days. This should not be confused with sustainable, or permanent frost (below 0 ° C) whose periods may last considerably longer. Because of Lodz’s location, winter is much more variable than summer in terms of weather conditions. Coldest winter month recorded: February 1929 (-13 ° C), warmest: February 1990 (+5 ° C).

Average start date: 7 December

Average end date: 3 March

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Average temperature of the coldest month: -2,3°C (January)

Average number of days when max. temperature is below 0 ° C (ice days): 46 (per year)

Average number of days when min. temperature is below 0 ° C: 110 (per year)

Earliest overnight frost in autumn, ever recorded: 17 September

Latest overnight frost in springtime, ever recorded: 31 May

Cold waves (defined as three or more consecutive days when max. temperature is below -10 ° C) occur in Lodz approximately every fifth winter (10 times, 1951-2005).

Lowest temperature recorded: -31 ° C (17 Jan 1963).

Snowfalls and cold-related conditions

On the average, snowfalls are likely between 24 November – 31 March. The width of snow cover in Lodz is relatively low (it is fairly thin). It is typically below 10 cm (70% of all instances) and only rarely over 20 cm (below 10%). Sustainable snow cover may be found between mid-December and early March (earliest: 30 October, latest: 5 April). **In many years, periods (e.g. weeks) with sustainable snow cover interchange with (usually warmer) times without snow cover.** However, some winter seasons are too warm to sustain snow for more than a day or two at a time. Occasional snowfalls with quickly dissipating snow may also occur outside the winter proper (earliest recorded: 13 October, latest: 11 May).

Anomalies: harsh ground frost, early spring onset

In some years (maybe every few years), there are long periods of frost with little or no snow cover: this may cause a ground frost that is deeper than usual (up to a metre down) which may result in broken piping in some areas (this is rare in Lodz, and the maintenance safety is kept).

Sometimes, the winter is so mild that vegetation of plants starts in February. This brings pollen into the air even though leaves would not develop before their usual time in April and May. The mild weather can continue over March (which typically brings just few plants to blossom), but in some years there may be a return to snowstorms, ice, and overnight frost for a period of a week or two, before warming up.

Nature

The picture of the winter outdoors is white and/or greyish brown, with occasional green patches of conifers (like pines) or grass in its winter form. Most birds migrate outside Poland for the wintertime, but their numbers may increase starting from February or/and March. In some years, the winter proper ends in February, and March is warm: this may bring about barely visible blossom at some treetops, but the branches remain leafless. In fact, regardless of the weather, green leaves do not generally show up before April: the last week of April being the norm for most species of trees.

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Winter in Poland can be dangerous for people without shelter or taking risk sleeping outside, because of low temperatures, especially overnight. Because of Poland north-eastern location in terms of climate, **night temperatures below 0 ° C may occur anytime between October and April, sometimes being a short break into otherwise nice weather.** Sustainable frost (with temperatures below 0 ° C for a number of days) is most dangerous at the onset of winter (early December), for it may start and plunge suddenly, as well as in **the core of winter (mid-January to early February, on the average),** when it may sometimes last for more than a dozen days in a row.

Practical information

Winter in Lodz is fairly cold but highly variable: sometimes it may come as mild as the average in Amsterdam, but sometimes as cold as the norm for Moscow. On the average, it is slightly colder than in Britain, Ireland, or the Netherlands, but warmer than in most parts of Russia, the Alps or Scandinavia. **In general, cars need winter tyres just as well as people need winter boots and coats, do hope for November being not too late.** Note that studded tyres are legally forbidden. Tyre chains are both unnecessary and frowned upon, except on rare occasions (snow-covered roads). Most snowfalls in Lodz are brief and the snow cover is usually thinner than 10 cm. Snowfalls of around half a metre occur rarely and very few locals are prepared for them. After a major snowfall, you can expect lengthy traffic jams and public transport delays. Throughout the colder months, drivers must be wary of rime and black ice, which are common between November and March, sometimes even if weather seems fairly nice. No two Polish winters are the same and if you come here in February, you can encounter anything from deep frost and snow to a mild breeze and gentle sunshine. With the latter, one swallow doesn't make a summer: do not leave your hat and scarf at home. **Experienced Polish people keep their winter precautions available at hand, often till around mid-April,** whatever the forecast might say.

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The author is not a climatologist nor a specialist in the field, but used readings and local experience

Data sources:

Agnieszka Podstawczyńska, *Temperatura powietrza i opady atmosferyczne w regionie łódzkim w ostatnim stuleciu*, UŁ 2006

Mirosław Niedźwiecki, *Charakterystyka pokrywy śnieżnej w Łodzi w latach 1950-1989*, UŁ 1998

Marek Kafar, *Charakterystyka Wybranych Zjawisk Atmosferycznych W Łodzi w latach 1951-1992*, UŁ 1998

Website: <http://www.weatheronline.pl> [20/12/2016]