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Weather Outlook for Islamabad (Nov-Dec)

This outlook provides a detailed interpretation of early winter (November–December) conditions for Islamabad, based on observed rainfall and temperature averages for 1981–2010, 1991–2020 and 2021–2024. The comparison highlights how the city's winter climate has evolved over recent decades, revealing a shift toward wetter Novembers and drier Decembers, alongside slightly warmer minimum temperatures. The goal is to translate these climatological statistics into practical implications – how much rain counts as above-normal, what a warmer winter means for crops, fog, and energy demand, and how deviations from normal values help anticipate emerging patterns such as delayed winter onset or sudden cold waves.



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Islamabad

Climatology and Trend – Monthly Rainfall (mm) and Temperature (°C)

Monthly Rainfall (mm)

Islamabad's rainfall pattern shows a notable seasonal redistribution of winter precipitation over the past four decades, highlighting a shift in both timing and intensity of early-winter versus mid-winter rainfall events.

Month	1981-2010 (mm)	1991-2020 (mm)	2021-2024 (mm)	Change (mm)	Change (%)
November	11.9	16.4	31.2	14.8	90.70%
December	40.4	28.7	2.7	-25.9	-90.50%

November rainfall has increased — rising from **11.9 mm (1981–2010)** to **16.4 mm (1991–2020)**, whereas last four years **2021–2024** rainfall was **90.7%** above the mean value. This pronounced rise indicates **a more active pre-winter precipitation phase**, likely driven by **stronger western disturbances** arriving earlier in the season. These enhanced early-season systems are now contributing to **higher soil moisture availability** ahead of Rabi crop sowing and a **longer transition period into winter**.

In contrast, **December rainfall** has declined dramatically — from **40.4 mm (1981–2010)** to just **16 mm (1991–2020)**, while last four years **2021–2024** marking a **–90.5% drop**. This points to **a significant drying trend** during the core winter months, often associated with **persistent high-pressure dominance** and a **reduction in active westerly systems**. Such drying can intensify fog formation, reduce reservoir replenishment, and limit moisture supply for late-Rabi growth.

Monthly Temperature (°C)

Islamabad's temperature profile over recent decades reveals **a clear warming trend in minimum temperatures** and **a slight cooling or stabilization in daytime highs**, signaling a gradual shift in the city's winter character.

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Metric	1981-2010 (°C)	1991-2020 (°C)	2021-2024 (°C)	Change (°C)
Nov (Min)	7.1	7.6	9.3	1.7
Nov (Max)	25.8	25.4	24.2	-0.18
Dec (Min)	3.2	3.2	3.7	0.55
Dec (Max)	20.4	20.6	20.1	-0.44

November minimum temperatures have risen by nearly **0.5 (°C)** from **1981-2010 to 1991-2020** suggesting **milder nights and delayed onset of winter chill** whereas the last four years the change is **1.7 (°C)**. This warming is consistent with **increasing urban heat retention**, reduced radiative cooling due to cloud cover, and greater moisture advection from pre-winter weather systems. Conversely, November maximum temperatures have decreased slightly to **0.4 (°C)** in long run whereas last four years shows **-0.18 (°C)** change and likely influenced by less heating in daytime due to **bad air quality** and more cloudiness due to **increased rainfall**.

In **December**, the pattern continues — minimum temperatures have no significant change whereas increase of **0.55 (°C)** in last four years (**2021-2024**) due to a smaller number of cold waves around pointing to warmer early mornings and reduced frost frequency, while maximum temperatures show a **slight decline**, reflecting **more stagnant air masses, haze, and occasional cloud cover**.

Overall, these changes depict a **narrowing diurnal temperature range** — nights are getting warmer faster than days — highlighting Islamabad's **transition toward milder, less sharply defined winters**, with potential implications for **energy demand, fog persistence, and agricultural planning** during Rabi season.

Seasonal Precipitation Forecast

For the upcoming early winter season (November–December 2025), precipitation in Islamabad is projected to remain **below normal overall**, with similar behavior in both months. **November rainfall is expected to be below normal to near normal**, likely ranging between **10-15 mm**, remaining short of the 1991-2024 normal of **17.3 mm** due to a lower frequency of weak western disturbances and occasional moisture. **December precipitation is forecast to be well below normal**, estimated at **10-15 mm**, which is less than the normal **26.6 mm**, indicating a drier second half of the season.

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This pattern suggests a **front-loaded rainfall season**, where early precipitation improves **soil moisture availability for Rabi crop sowing**, particularly wheat, but the subsequent decline in December rainfall may create **moisture stress** in non-irrigated fields and necessitate **supplementary irrigation** in late winter. The expected dryness in December will also enhance the potential for **fog formation and air stagnation**, as fewer rain-induced cleansing events occur. Overall, the season's precipitation outlook indicates **localized early benefits for agriculture** followed by **heightened drought and air-quality concerns** toward late December.

The following thresholds define 'Below Normal', 'Normal', and 'Above Normal' precipitation based on the 1991–2024 averages for Islamabad. These thresholds help quantify expected anomalies during the upcoming winter months.

Month	1991–2024 Normal (mm)	Below Normal (<mm)	Normal Range (mm)	Above Normal (mm)
November	17.3	<15.6	15.6 – 19.1	>19.1
December	26.6	<24.0	24.0 – 29.3	>29.3

- Thresholds are set at **±10% of the 1991–2024 mean** to define what counts as below or above normal.
- **November's range (15.6–19.1 mm)** reflects a slightly wetter revised climatology.
- **December's range (24.0–29.3 mm)** shows continued downward adjustment consistent with the drying trend after 2020.

Seasonal Temperature Forecast

The upcoming early winter season (November–December 2025) in Islamabad is expected to feature **temperatures slightly above normal**, reflecting a continuation of the recent warming trend observed over the past two decades. Minimum temperatures are likely to remain **0.5–1.0 °C above the 1981–2024 average**, with November nights hovering around **8.0–8.5 °C** (above the normal 7.6°C) and December nights near **3.5–4.0 °C** (above the normal 3.2 °C). Daytime maximums are also forecast to stay modestly elevated, reaching **26–27 °C in November and 21–22 °C in December**, compared to the normal seasonal highs of **25.4 °C and 20.6 °C**, respectively.

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This above-normal warmth indicates a **delayed onset of winter chill**, characterized by extended mild spells, slower nighttime cooling, and reduced frost occurrence across the Islamabad valley. While early-season comfort levels will remain high, the persistence of warm air and weaker temperature contrasts may initially **delay fog formation** through most of November. However, by late December, **stagnant air under weak pressure gradients** and **below-normal precipitation (forecast <25 mm)** are expected to favor **strong inversions**, leading to pockets of poor air quality and isolated frost in low-lying suburbs during clear nights.

Metric	1991-2024 Normal (°C)	Below Normal (<°C)	Normal Range (°C)	Above Normal (>°C)
Nov (Min)	7.7	<7.2	7.3 - 8.3	>8.2
Nov (Max)	25.2	<24.7	24.8 - 25.8	>25.7
Dec (Min)	3.2	<2.7	2.7 - 3.7	>3.7
Dec (Max)	20.5	<20.0	20.1 - 21.1	>21.0

- **November:** Slight warming observed in both minimum and maximum temperatures, consistent with milder early winters and delayed cold onset.
- **December:** Long-term averages remain steady, but recent data indicate increased night-time variability – warmer early December followed by sharper late-month drops.

Fog and Smog Outlook

Fog episodes in Islamabad are generally intermittent but can intensify between late December and mid-January. Above-normal temperatures at night, combined with calm winds and moisture from nearby rainfall, promote early-morning fog. Below-normal rainfall winters, however, tend to produce longer-lasting smog and reduced visibility due to increased particulate concentration.

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Sectoral Impacts

- **Energy:** Warm early winter may delay heating demand, but below-normal temperature nights will trigger sharp electricity or gas consumption spikes. Energy planners should expect.
- **Agriculture:** Above-normal November rain supports wheat germination and soil moisture. Below-normal December rainfall could stress crops unless compensated through irrigation.
- **Transport:** Visibility drops during fog-prone mornings, especially on M1/M2 and Srinagar Highway, may disrupt traffic. Proactive advisories are essential.
- **Health:** Extended dry spells and smog episodes could aggravate respiratory illnesses. Public guidance on masks, humidifiers, and safe driving is recommended.



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