

# Record-Breaking Heatwave in Europe in Late June 2026 and Its Characteristics

13 July 2026

Tokyo Climate Center (TCC), Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)  
<https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc>

In late June of 2026, wide areas of Europe were affected by exceptionally high temperatures, with national records set in Denmark, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belarus and Hungary.

These extremes were associated with a strong, persistent high-pressure system that developed over Europe in conjunction with pronounced northward meandering of the mid-latitude westerlies.

From 21 to 28 June 2026, average temperatures across much of Europe were approximately 10°C above normal (Figure 1), with maximum values exceeding 40°C in many areas. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) described this as an extraordinary heatwave.

National temperature records were set in Denmark, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Belarus and Hungary, while June temperature records were also set in the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria (Table 1).

WMO reports major effects from the heatwave on human health, ecosystems, agriculture, infrastructure and labor productivity.

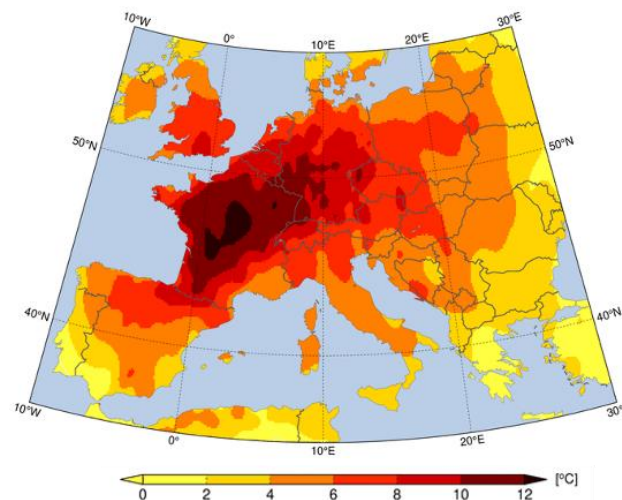


Figure 1: Average temperature anomalies for 21 – 28 June 2026

Table 1: New major temperature records. Source: National meteorological agencies and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Temperatures are in °C. Some values are provisional.

| Country        | Observation Site      | Maximum Temperature (°C) | Date   | Notes           |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Denmark        | Beldringe, Ødum       | 37.0                     | 27 Jun | National record |
| Poland         | Ślubice               | 40.5                     | 28 Jun | National record |
| Germany        | Coschen               | 41.7                     | 28 Jun | National record |
| Czech Republic | Doksany               | 41.9                     | 28 Jun | National record |
| Belarus        | Pinsk                 | 40.4                     | 29 Jun | National record |
| Hungary        | Szécsény              | 42.0                     | 30 Jun | National record |
| UK             | Lingwood              | 37.7                     | 26 Jun | June record     |
| Netherlands    | Ell                   | 39.4                     | 26 Jun | June record     |
| Luxembourg     | Findel                | 38.2                     | 26 Jun | June record     |
| Switzerland    | Basel                 | 39.0                     | 27 Jun | June record     |
| Austria        | Bad Deutsch-Altenburg | 40.1                     | 29 Jun | June record     |
| Spain          | Andújar               | 45.1                     | 22 Jun |                 |
| France         | Saintes               | 43.8                     | 24 Jun |                 |

The exceptionally high temperatures were associated with a strong, persistent high-pressure system that developed over Europe in conjunction with pronounced northward meandering of the mid-latitude westerlies. Very warm air from North Africa was carried into Europe on the western flank of this system, and descending air prevailed near the system center. Upper air was compressed and warmed as it descended toward lower altitudes, resulting in particularly high temperatures in the lower troposphere\*. Strong solar radiation also contributed to further warming near the surface (Figures 2 and 3).

Statistically, temperatures at the 850 hPa level over Europe reached all-time highs, exceeding those observed during the peak of the unprecedented August 2003 heatwave when Europe experienced one of its most extreme heatwaves on record (Figure 4).

\* A phenomenon known as adiabatic warming, in which air descending from higher altitudes (where pressure is lower) is compressed as it approaches the surface (where pressure is higher), causing its temperature to rise.

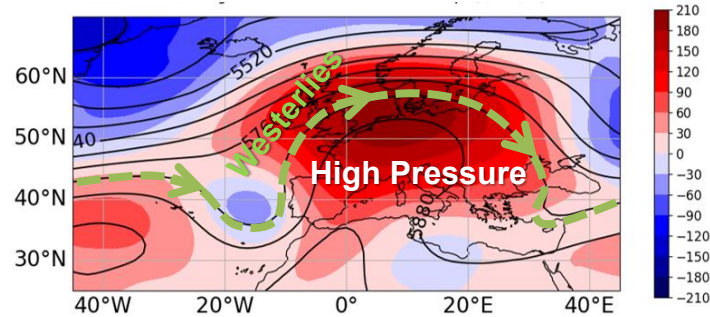


Figure 2. Geopotential height (contours, m) and anomalies (shading, m) at 500 hPa level, averaged for 21 – 28 June 2026

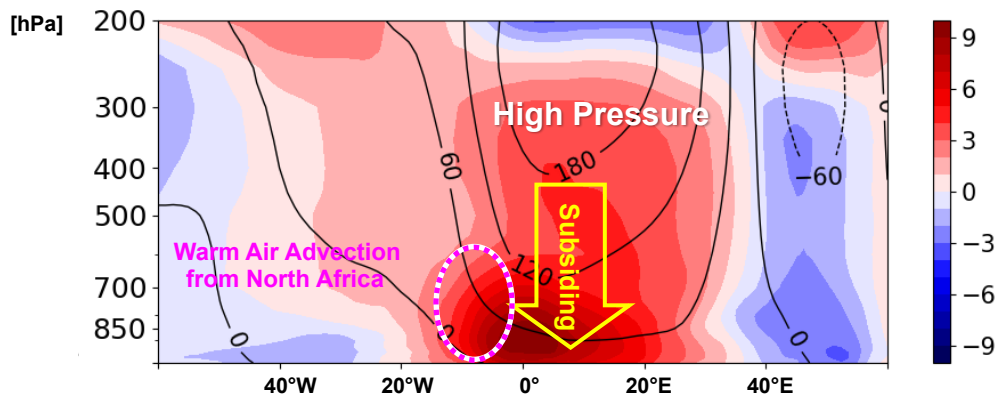


Figure 3. Latitude-height cross section averaged between 40 and 55°N showing geopotential height anomalies (contours, m) and temperature anomalies (shading, °C) for 21 – 28 June 2026

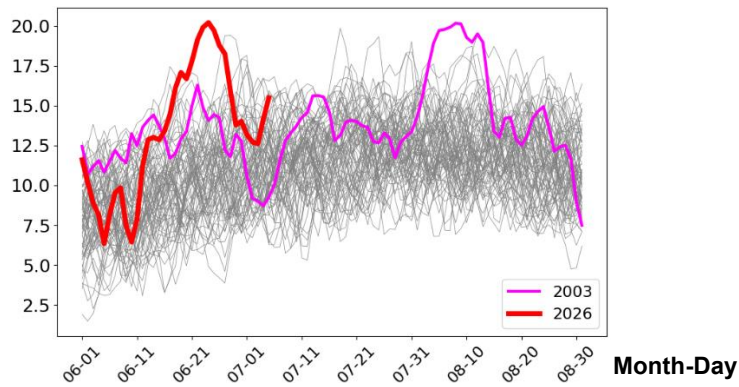


Figure 4. Time-series representations of temperature at the 850 hPa level over Europe (40 – 55°N, 10°W – 15°E average, °C). Thin lines indicate annual values since 1951, and colored lines highlight selected years.