

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

20 MARCH 2016

Weather Portrait for the Melbourne Area



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne is the opening round of the 2016 Formula One season. The 5,303 km long circuit surrounding a small lake is located in Albert Park, just a few kilometres south of downtown Melbourne which is Australia's second largest city. The metropolitan area has about 4.4 million residents living in an urban agglomeration spanning almost 10,000 square kilometres.

The original race track was built in 1953 and was a little shorter than the present day layout which was inaugurated in 1996 when the Australian Grand Prix moved from Adelaide to Melbourne. Most of the track is normally used by everyday traffic with most road sections being fairly smooth and relatively easy to drive.

CLIMATE OF MELBOURNE

Located in the far south of the Australian state of Victoria and close to Bass Strait, the Melbourne area has a temperate climate, especially compared to many other locations in Australia. However, as the city is located between the hot inland areas to the north and the vast sea area just to the south, it can experience frequent and sometimes fairly strong temperature fluctuations. Hot and dry northerly winds can quickly be followed by cool and moist sea breezes. Moreover, strong cold fronts are known to cause heavy showers and thunderstorms in some cases, often accompanied by squally winds and hail, especially during spring.

On average, rainfall can be expected every month with a slight maximum

later in the year during the southern spring months. The mean annual rainfall is about 650 mm though values as high as 809 mm and as low as 300 mm have been recorded in the past.

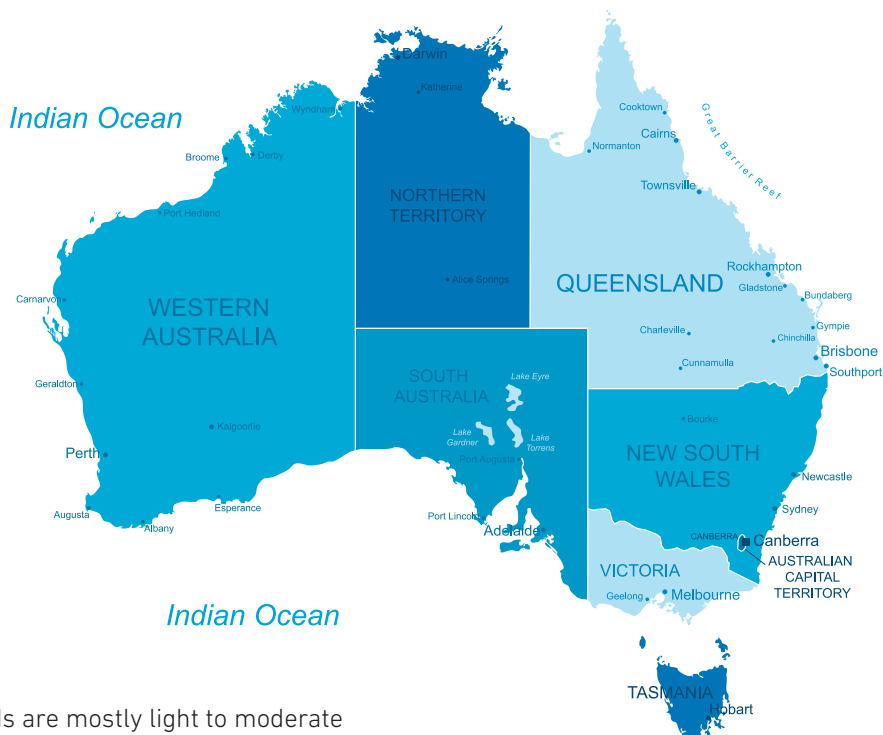
The warmest period usually falls between December and February when daytime highs can reach 35 C or more on a few occasions. On the other hand, July and August tend to be the coolest months with average daytime temperatures of around 14 or 15 C. It is during these months that a few overnight frosts may be expected under clear and calm conditions, though nights with air temperatures below freezing are still relatively rare in the more densely populated areas of Melbourne.

CLIMATE INFORMATION FOR MARCH

March tends to be slightly cooler than the first two months of the year, though hot days and warm nights are not uncommon, especially during the first half of the month. Mean daytime high temperatures lie around 24 C, though values of up to 41 C were measured in the first days of March 1991. Mean overnight lows can be expected to be around 13 C with record low temperatures of just 2 to 3 C as measured at the end of March 2005.

On average, at least some rain can be expected on about 8 to 9 days in March, though most of these rainfall events tend to be light. Just one day of the month can bring heavy and perhaps thundery rainfall or showers of at least 10 mm. Although the air may still be quite hot on some occasions, humidity levels are usually not that high with a mean value of around 50 %, indicating that uncomfortable combinations of high humidity and heat are a rare occurrence.

Winds are mostly light to moderate from the south or southwest. On rare occasions, strong large-scale fronts or thunderstorms can be accompanied by damaging winds of more than 100 km/h.



DETAILED CLIMATE INFORMATION

	February	March	April	Year
Average high (deg C)	25.5	23.7	20.2	19.7
Record high (deg C)	47.5	41.4	35.5	47.5
Average low (deg C)	14.3	12.5	9.9	9.3
Record low (deg C)	5.0	2.7	0.3	-4.4
Average precipitation (mm)	46.2	34.9	45.2	536.5
Average number of days with at least 1.0 mm rainfall	4.4	5.4	6.6	88.1
Average relative humidity (%)	48	49	52	53
Average sunshine (hours)	235	211	168	2191

Source: Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Data Online - closest (representative) station with monthly climate stats: LAVERTON RAAF (temperature 1943-2016; rainfall 1941-2016; sunshine 1967-1999)

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Your contact:

UBIMET GmbH
T +43 1 263 11 22 0
E info@ubimet.com
www.ubimet.com