

During the third quarter of 2012, much of Europe experienced above-average wind speeds at 80 m above ground level relative to the long-term (1997 – 2011) average for the same period, while below-normal wind speeds were only observed in central Europe and Scandinavia (see Figure 1). The largest positive departures from average were observed in northern British Isles (15 to 20% or more), Italy (12 to 18%), the Baltic Sea region and central Spain (10 to 15%). Wind speeds were furthest below normal over the southwest coast of Turkey (-20% or less), Norway, and northern Sweden (-5% to -15%). France, Germany, the southern British Isles, Poland, Ukraine and other central European countries experienced near-normal winds (-6% to 6%).

The North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) transitioned from a strongly negative to a neutral phase during the quarter, indicating a gradual establishment of higher pressure over Europe. The Arctic Oscillation (AO) was neutral during July and August, changing to a slightly positive phase in September. The Scandinavian pattern (SCAN) was slightly negative during the entire quarter while the East Atlantic pattern (EA) was positive with a maximum during August, indicating the displacement to the north of the sub-tropical jet and related storm track, and the enhancement of Mediterranean cyclogenesis.

In July, regional patterns of weak anomalies were observed throughout Europe, apart from substantial negative deviations in Iceland (-20% to -25%) and large positive deviations in Italy (20% to more than 35% locally). During August, the strongly positive EA contributed to above-average winds in the Atlantic bordering countries (up to 25% in the English Channel) and below-average winds in central Europe and Scandinavia (-15% to -25%). In September a strong AO produced a very strong polar jet stream, considerably enhancing the winds in the latitudinal band between 55 to 60 degrees north (more than 35% in Scotland, and up to 25% in the Baltic area). In September, a positive EA contributed to higher than average winds observed in the Mediterranean basin.

The year ending 30 September 2012 (Q4 2011 – Q3 2012) exhibited slightly above-normal wind speeds compared to the long-term average throughout central Europe, the Baltic and North Sea areas, and in Italy, the Adriatic and Aegean seas. This is in contrast with the previous year (ending 30 September 2011), when below-normal wind speeds were observed over almost all of Europe (see Figures 2 and 3).

This analysis was conducted by AWS Truepower’s meteorology team. It is based on a computer simulation of weather conditions dating back to 1997, which results in a comprehensive and detailed weather snapshot at multiple heights above ground for every hour. Project assessments, maps, data and monthly reports are available. For more information on customized analyses for your project portfolio, data or subscription options, please contact us: info@awstruepower.com.

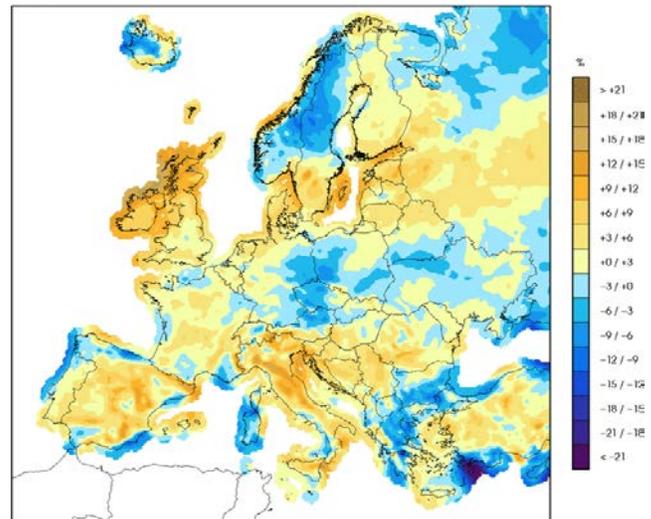


Figure 1. Wind Speed Anomaly Map: Q3 2012

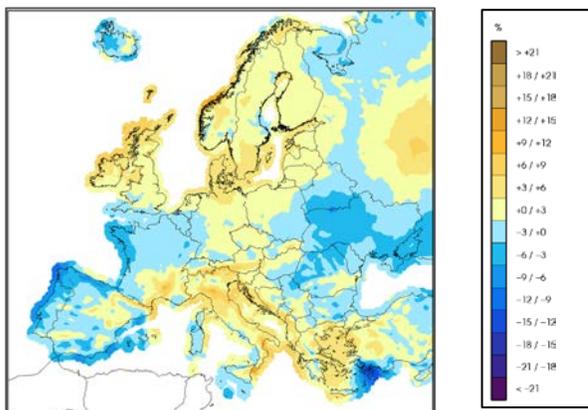


Figure 2. Wind Speed Anomaly Map: Q4 2011 – Q3 2012

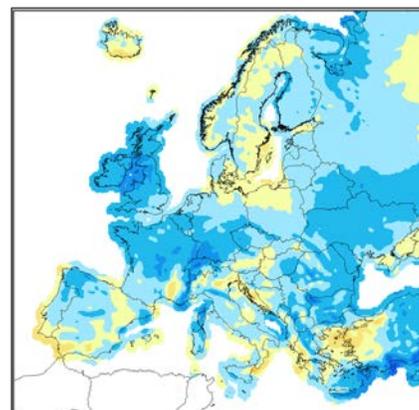


Figure 3. Wind Speed Anomaly Map: Q4 2010 – Q3 2011