

Temperature Trends and Distribution in the Arabian Peninsula

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Abstract: Problem statement: Temperature trend's investigation is important for proper water resources management and urban planning. This study aims to investigate trends and distribution of temperature in the past thirty years for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which represents about 86% of the Arabian Peninsula's area. **Approach:** The trend in the temperature time series, including the recorded maximum, average and minimum daily values, were analyzed using non-parametric statistics. These were Mann-Kendall tau coefficient and Sen's slope estimator. **Results:** (1): The study showed a warming trend through 9 months of the year except in November to January where non-significant cooling trends were observed. (2): The most significant warming trend appears in the summer months of June, August and September around the central region of KSA. (3) Spatially, The northwestern and southern regions were the least affected by the warming trend. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that KSA as well as the Arabian Peninsula are suffering from a considerable warming temperature trend, which is an important issue to be considered for rural development and water resources management.

Key words: Temperature trend, time series, spatial distribution, Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia

INTRODUCTION

The earth's climate is unstable; urbanization and greenhouse effect climate change in non-predictable manner (Can and Atimtay, 2004). Climate change was defined by Landsberg (1975) as a shift in climatic conditions to a new equilibrium position with significantly changing values of the climatic-elements. Climate change highly influences human life in municipal and agricultural fields. Most of the climate factors, like temperature and relative humidity, affect plant water demand. However, investigating changes in trend and magnitude of each climate factor will help in planning and management of agricultural systems. For that, the climate change phenomenon was studied extensively in the last decades in both regional and global scopes (Schwartz and Randall, 2003).

Climate change research has been conducted in many parts of the world. Cueto *et al.* (2009) performed a spatial and temporal analysis of air temperature in Mexicali, B. C. in Mexican Republic. Their study differentiates between urban and rural areas; they found that the increasing trend in temperature is more in urban areas than rural areas, thus highlighting the effect of urbanization as a source for global warming.

Conversely, Xu *et al.* (2006) found a significant decreasing trend in both the reference evapotranspiration and the pan evaporation through a forty-year study of changing region in China. They referred this decrease to the significant reduction in the net total radiation over the region, which might be caused by the heavy cloudiness near Yangtze River. They also performed a sensitivity analysis that showed that the reference evapotranspiration is most sensitive to the net total radiation, followed by relative humidity, air temperature and wind speed. Not far from that, in India, Govinda (1993) had evaluated the long-term changes of seasonal and annual surface air temperatures and precipitation over Mahanadi river basin. He reported that there is a highly significant increasing trend in temperature values, while rainfall did not show any significant trend in the same period.

Due to its hot climate and water scarcity problems, the Arabian Peninsula (AP) is sensitive to climate variability, especially those affecting water demand. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) occupies about 86% of the area of the Arabian Peninsula (Arabia, 2009). In addition, the KSA is spread in all the directions of the AP except the southern region; hence, KSA climate could be considered a suitable

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representative for AP climate (Abderrahman and Al-Harazin, 2008). Several studies have reported that the Middle East region may face more aridity due to temperature increase and rainfall decrease. Nasrallah and Balling Jr (1995) found a statistically significant temperature increase of 0.07°C/decade over Kuwait during the period of 1950-1990. In Jordan, located on the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula, Smadi (2006) performed a study to trace changes in annual and seasonal temperature during the 20th century. His results showed a warming trend starting from the years 1957 and 1967 for the minimum and maximum temperatures respectively. In another study, Smadi and Zghoul (2006) reported that the total rainfall showed a decreasing trend starting from the year 1957 and forward. This means that as water demand increases due to continuous temperature rise, rainfall (and therefore water supply) decreases leading to complex water crisis. Similarly, Bou-Zeid and El-Fadel (2002) conducted a wide study covering the whole Middle East region. They found that water balance would be highly affected by the increasing temperature trend at a rate of 0.6-2.1°C. Recently, Al-Zawad (2008) studied the impacts of climate change on water resources in KSA using the climate model "PRECIS". The results of this model were fairly correlated to the historic climatic data of the region. He concluded that the temperature, the

evaporation and the wind speed have showed an increasing trend on all regions of the country.

However, previous studies were limited in scope and use the annual average data rather than monthly data. In addition, the applications of non-parametric statistics to detect trends in temperature have not been investigated deeply for the Saudi Arabia. Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine changes in temperature trend and magnitude in Saudi Arabia as a suitable representative of the Arabian Peninsula. The analyses of temperature include the recorded maximum, average and minimum daily value. The non-parametric statistics used in this study were Mann-Kendall coefficient and some Sen's slope indices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

KSA geography and climatic database: Saudi Arabia lies between latitudes 16°21'58"N and 32°9'57"N and longitudes 34°33'48"E and 55°41'29"E, as illustrated in Fig. 1. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics, the country falls in the tropical and subtropical desert region with dry climate and high temperatures in most of the region. Winds reaching the country are generally dry and almost all the area is arid. Because of the aridity and the relatively cloudless skies, there are large variations in daily temperature as well as between seasons and regions.

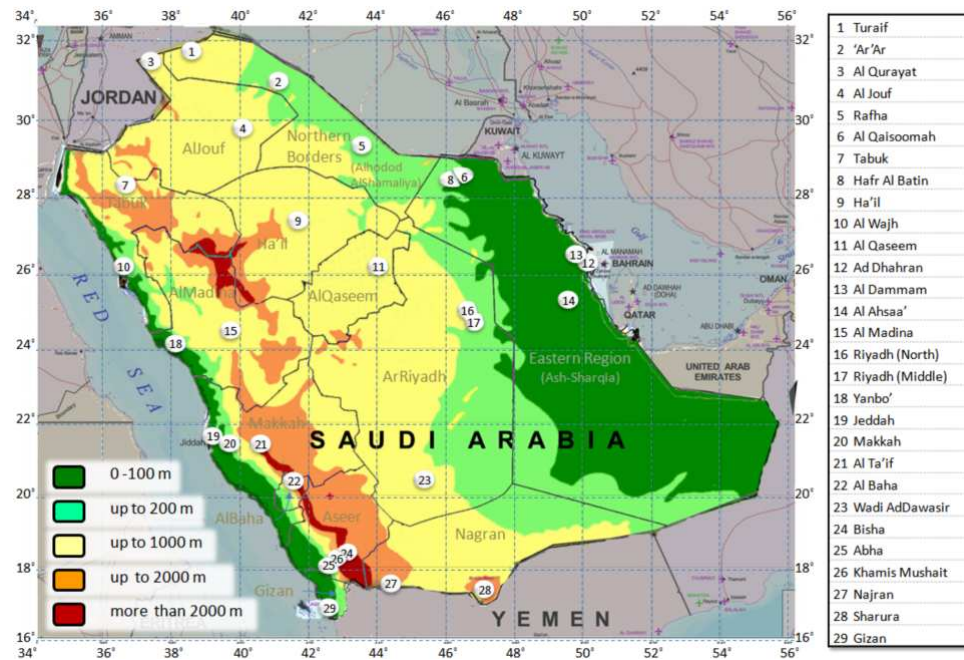


Fig. 1: Geographic and Topographic map of Saudi Arabia, showing 13 districts and 29 meteorological stations. Sources: Base map: National Imagery and Mapping Agency of the US Government and Districts: Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. Topography: Albakry *et al.* (2010)

Table 1: Geographical information of the meteorological stations included in this study

District	Station		Station coordinates			Logged years	Average temperature °C
	ID	Name	Latitude deg. N	Longitude deg. East	Altitude m		
Northern Borders	1	Turaif	31.41	38.40	818	29	19.06±8.27
	2	Arar	31.00	41.00	600	29	22.01±9.17
	5	Rafha	29.38	43.29	447	29	23.33±9.05
AlJouf	3	Guraiat	31.50	37.50	560	4	20.04±7.91
	4	Al Jouf	29.47	40.06	671	29	22.03±8.61
Tabuk	7	Tabuk	28.22	36.38	776	29	21.99±7.53
	10	Wejh	26.12	36.28	21	29	25.00±3.98
Ha'il	9	Hail	27.26	41.41	1013	29	22.47±8.20
AlQaseem Eastern Region	11	Gassim	26.18	43.46	650	29	24.94±8.26
	6	Qaisumah	28.32	46.13	358	29	25.23±9.28
	8	Hafr Al-Batin	28.20	46.07	360	19	25.26±9.21
	12	Dhahran	26.16	50.10	17	29	26.48±7.49
	13	Dammam	26.42	50.12	1	9	26.72±7.86
	14	Ahsa	25.30	49.48	179	24	27.26±8.27
Riyadh	16	Riyadh North	24.42	46.44	611	24	25.80±8.12
	17	Riyadh Middle	24.63	46.77	624	29	26.66±8.10
	23	W-Dawasir	20.50	45.16	652	24	28.15±7.01
Madina	15	Madina	24.33	39.42	636	29	28.45±7.00
	18	Yenbo	24.09	38.04	6	29	27.56±4.72
Makkah	19	Jeddah	21.30	39.12	17	29	28.23±3.50
	20	Makkah	21.40	39.85	213	24	30.78±4.57
	21	Taif	21.29	40.33	1454	29	22.92±5.12
Baha	22	Baha	20.30	41.63	1652	24	22.83±4.92
Aseer	24	Bisha	19.59	42.37	1163	29	25.69±5.40
	25	Abha	18.14	42.39	2093	29	18.60±3.72
	26	Khamis Mushait	8.18	42.48	2057	29	9.49±3.75
Nagran	27	Nejran	17.37	44.26	1210	29	25.51±5.54
	28	Sharurrah	17.47	47.11	725	24	28.57±5.81
Gizan	29	Gizan	16.54	42.35	3	29	30.22±2.80

Climate data was taken from the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) in KSA. Data represents 29 meteorological stations covering all the 13 districts of the KSA, as shown in Fig. 1. The data represents a 29 years of daily meteorological parameters, from 1980-2008, for 20 stations, 24 years of data for 6 stations and 3 stations with less than 20 years as summarized in Table 1. The raw data was reported on daily basis from which the average monthly and yearly values were calculated. The data set is the most reliable one in KSA and used by all other governmental and academic agencies for climate research and prediction. Weather stations are equipped with up-to-date monitoring devices and subjected to regular inspection and replacement for defected devices (personal communication with the PME).

Statistical measures: Time-series analysis was adopted in this research to detect any trends in the meteorological parameters under study. The non-parametric statistics known as Man-Kendall (Kendall, 1975; Gilbert, 1987) and Sen slope (Sen, 1968) will be used in this research as stated below:

Kendall statistics: The Mann-Kendall test is a non-parametric test used for identifying trends in a time

series data. The test compares the relative magnitudes of sample data rather than the data values themselves. Both Kendall tau coefficient (τ) and Mann-Kendall score (s) are nonparametric statistics used to find rank correlation. Kendall τ is a ratio between the actual rating score of correlation, to the maximum possible score. To obtain the rating score for a time series, the dataset is sorted in ascending order according to time and then the following formula is applied:

$$s = \sum_{j=1}^{j=n-1} \sum_{i=j+1}^{i=n} \text{Sign}(x_i - x_j) \tag{1}$$

Where:

- s = The rating score (also called the Mann-Kendall sum)
- x = The data value
- i and j = Counters
- n = Number of data values
- Sign = A function having values of +1, 0, or -1 if $(x_i - x_j)$ is positive zero, or negative, respectively

According to this formula, the maximum value of s is:

$$S_{\max} = \frac{1}{2} n(n-1) \tag{2}$$

Hence, the Kendall tau is calculated as:

$$\tau = \frac{S}{S_{\max}} \quad (3)$$

A positive value of s or τ is an indicator of an increasing trend and a negative value indicates a decreasing trend. However, it is necessary to compute the probability associated with s or τ and the sample size, n , to statistically quantify the significance of the trend. Kendall and Gibbons (1990) introduced a normal-approximation test that could be applied on datasets with more than ten values. After calculating s , the variance (σ^2) of s is calculated:

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{18} n(n-1)(2n+5) - CF_R \quad (4)$$

$$CF_R = \frac{1}{18} \sum_{k=1}^g m_k(m_k-1)(2m_k+5) \quad (5)$$

Where:

CF_R = Repetition correction factor, to fix the effect of tied groups of data (when some of the data values appear more than one time in the dataset, this group of values are called a tied group)

g = Number of tied groups

k = A counter

m = Count of data values in each tied group

Next, the normal distribution parameter (called the Mann-Kendall statistic, Z) is calculated as follows:

$$Z = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sigma}(s-1) \rightarrow s > 0 \\ 0 \rightarrow s = 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sigma}(s+1) \rightarrow s < 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The last step is to find the minimum level at which the parameter Z is significant as mentioned by Abramowitz and Stegun (1972):

$$\alpha_{\min} = (b_0 e^{-0.5Z^2}) \sum_{q=1}^{q=5} b_q \cdot (1 + b_6 \text{ABS}(Z))^{-q} \quad (7)$$

Where:

α_{\min} = Minimum level of significance

q = Counter

b_q = Constants: $b_0 = 0.3989$, $b_1 = 0.3194$, $b_2 = -0.3566$, $b_3 = 1.7814$, $b_4 = -1.8213$, $b_5 = 1.3303$, $b_6 = 0.2316$

$\text{ABS}(Z)$ = The absolute value of Z

Sen's slope estimator: Sen's statistic is the median slope of each point-pair slope in a dataset (Sen, 1968). To perform the complete Sen's test, the following rules and conditions are applied:

- The time series should be equally spaced, i.e., the interval between data points should be equal. However, Sen's method considers missing data
- Data should be sorted in ascending order according to time, then apply the following formula to calculate Sen's slope estimator (Q) as the median of Sen's matrix members:

$$Q = \text{Median} \left\{ \left[\left[\frac{x_i - x_j}{i - j} \right]_{j=1}^{j=n-1} \right]_{i=1}^{i=n} \right\} \quad (8)$$

Q is the main component of Sen's statistics. Its sign reflects data trend direction, while its value indicates the steepness of the trend

- To determine whether the median slope is statistically different than zero, one should obtain the confidence interval of Q at specific probability level, e.g., 95%. Assuming that Q is normally distributed then the value of Z under two-tailed normal distribution curve is calculated at the level $(1-\alpha/2)$, where $\alpha = 1-\text{confidence level}$, e.g., $Z = 1.96$. The variance of Q is calculated using Eq. 4 and a statistic C_a is now calculated as follows:

$$C_a = Z_{1-\alpha/2} \sqrt{\sigma^2} \quad (9)$$

- The upper and lower boundary limits of the slope Q are calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} M_u &= \text{int}(0.5(n_q - C_a)) \\ M_l &= \text{int}(0.5(n_q + C_a)) + 1 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Where:

M_u and M_l = The upper and lower boundaries positions, respectively

n_q = The number of members of Sen's matrix that was produced by Eq. 8; $n_q = n(n-1)$

The slope Q is statistically different than zero if the two limits have similar sign.

Data analysis: Climatic data obtained for 29 stations for the past 29 years were used to calculate man-Kendall coefficients and Sen's slope estimator for maximum, average and minimum temperature for each

month. Significance tests were also performed for τ and Q for each combination of station (29 station), month (12 months) and temperature parameters (3 parameters). Due to Sen and Kendall methods regulations, two stations were excluded from the analysis as their number of recorded years were less than 10 years. These stations are “3-Gurayat”.and “13-Dammam”. The rest of the stations were analyzed as mentioned. Contour plots were used to view and compare trends in several months. Drawing a contour plot requires three factors, namely, longitude, latitude and a selected statistical parameter. Twelve contour-plots, one for each month, were constructed for the maximum temperature. The data was gridded separately using the ordinary-point Kriging method (Isaaks and Srivastava, 1989). The resulted grid was blanked outside the political borders of the KSA. The political borders information of the KSA was grabbed from electronic map from the Saudi Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs The electronic map was digitized and converted to DMS geographic coordinate system. The blanked grid was plotted as a contour map using Surfer™ 8.0 software (Surfer, 2002).

RESULTS

The daily temperature data for the 29 weather stations were analyzed for the past 30 years and the mean monthly and annual temperatures were calculated for the minimum, average and maximum daily temperatures. The mean monthly values of the average temperature varied from about 15 C in January and rise to as high as 33 in July, which is the hottest month in the year, then temperatures decline again to reach 16 C in December, as shown in Fig. 2. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures in July varied from 25 to as high as 40, respectively. The corresponding temperatures in the coolest month of the year, January, were 9 and 21°C, respectively. Figure 2 shows the high variability in temperatures during the year and as well as during the month that make regional planning for water resources and agricultural production even more challenging.

Further analysis was carried out to examine the relationships between mean annual temperatures and stations altitudes and latitudes and the results are shown in Fig. 3 and 4, respectively. As expected from Fig. 3 temperature is inversely proportional to altitudes. Temperatures varied from about 30°C in sea level stations like Yenbo to as low as 18°C in Abha with altitude of about 2000 m above sea level. A linear relationship can approximate the relationship between T_a and altitude with a slope of $-0.004^\circ\text{C m}^{-1}$ and moderate $R^2 = 0.4$. The standard deviations of T_a ,

shown in Fig. 3, were relatively constant at about 6°C, even though temperature variations seemed to be relatively lower in high altitude compared to low altitude stations.

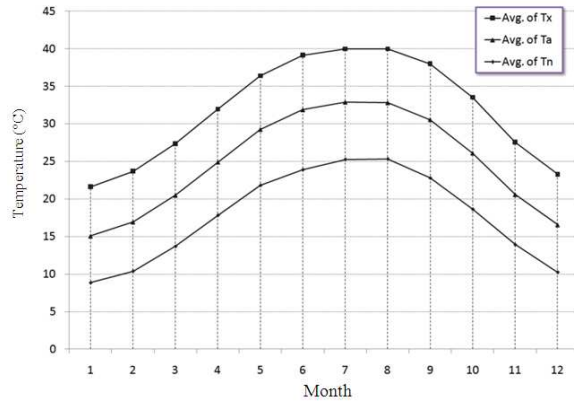


Fig. 2: The mean-monthly maximum, average and minimum temperature variations during the year in SA

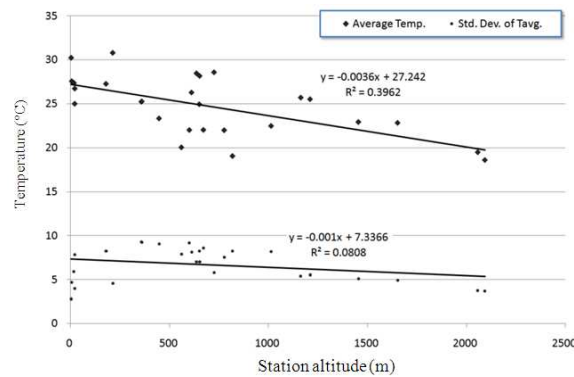


Fig. 3: Average annual temperature values and standard deviation as related to station altitude

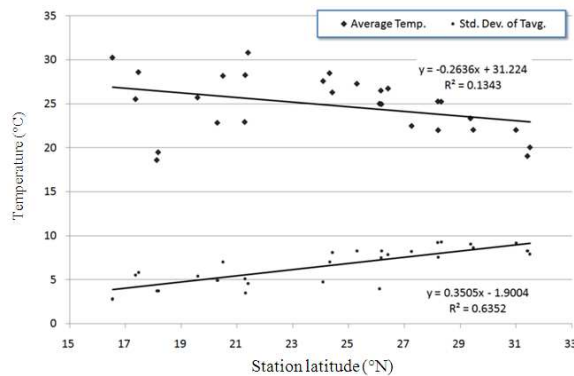


Fig. 4: Average annual temperature values and standard deviation as related to station latitude

Table 2: Monthly trends in maximum temperature as estimated from Mann-Kendall and Sen slope statistics for various meteorological station

Station	Sen's slope (Q)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TURAIIF	0.02	0.09	0.12	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.03	0.02
ARAR	0.06	0.11*	0.16*	0.09*	0.11*	0.12*	0.09*	0.13*	0.06*	0.13*	0.04	0.10
AL JOUF	0.00	0.07	0.11	0.05*	0.05	0.06*	0.05	0.10*	0.03	0.09*	0.05	0.01
RAFHA	-0.03	0.06	0.12*	0.05*	0.04	0.05*	0.01	0.09*	0.00	0.08*	0.01	-0.02
QAISUMAH	-0.01	0.09*	0.13*	0.08*	0.08*	0.08*	0.05	0.11*	0.05*	0.12*	0.02	0.01
TABUK	-0.01	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05*	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.00
HAFR AL-BATIN	-0.07	0.06	0.18*	0.04	0.03	-0.01	0.04	0.10	0.04	0.09	-0.09	-0.10
HAIL	0.01	0.11*	0.11*	0.11*	0.08*	0.10*	0.07*	0.13*	0.07*	0.10*	0.03	0.10
WEJH	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.06*	0.03	0.05*	0.03	0.05	0.01
GASSIM	0.04	0.16*	0.18*	0.17*	0.14*	0.14*	0.10*	0.16*	0.11*	0.14*	0.07	0.09
DHAHRAN	0.04	0.11*	0.17*	0.10*	0.12*	0.10*	0.07*	0.10*	0.05	0.12*	0.05	0.06
AHSA	0.02	0.13*	0.19*	0.15*	0.11*	0.12*	0.08*	0.10*	0.06*	0.09*	0.02	0.12
MADINA	-0.03	0.09*	0.11*	0.09*	0.04	0.04*	0.03	0.07*	0.04*	0.05*	0.04	0.07
RIYADH (New)	0.00	0.11*	0.14*	0.14*	0.07*	0.09*	0.06	0.07*	0.05*	0.04	0.01	0.08
YENBO	0.02	0.09*	0.10*	0.09*	0.14*	0.10*	0.09*	0.13*	0.09*	0.09*	0.10	0.09*
JEDDAH	-0.01	0.07*	0.06	0.04	0.07*	0.06*	0.07*	0.07*	0.05*	0.05*	0.05	0.03
MAKKAH	-0.02	0.10	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.08
TAIF	0.02	0.14*	0.09*	0.09*	0.09*	0.06*	0.05	0.07*	0.06*	0.08*	0.06*	0.07
BAHA	0.02	0.12*	0.12*	0.14*	0.12*	0.07	0.05	0.06*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07*	0.09
W-DAWASIR	0.01	0.13*	0.13*	0.04	0.08*	0.04*	0.04	0.08*	0.06*	0.06*	0.07*	0.09
BISHA	0.05	0.14*	0.09*	0.09*	0.11*	0.09*	0.07*	0.09*	0.09*	0.08*	0.09*	0.10*
ABHA	0.02	0.13*	0.10*	0.08*	0.08*	0.03	0.03	0.04*	0.05*	0.04*	0.04*	0.06
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.05	0.15*	0.10*	0.09*	0.10*	0.04	0.02	0.05*	0.06*	0.04*	0.05*	0.08*
NEJRAN	0.10*	0.17*	0.10*	0.12*	0.11*	0.08*	0.08*	0.10*	0.11*	0.12*	0.11*	0.12*
SHARURRAH	0.06	0.13*	0.04	0.08*	0.06*	0.04*	0.04	0.01	0.04*	0.02	0.07*	0.05
GIZAN	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.03	0.01	0.00
Kendall τ												
TURAIIF	0.03	0.25	0.32*	0.15	0.23	0.32*	0.17	0.33*	0.11	0.22	0.06	0.03
ARAR	0.17	0.30*	0.38*	0.35*	0.45*	0.58*	0.34*	0.45*	0.36*	0.45*	0.17	0.18
AL JOUF	0.01	0.19	0.33*	0.31*	0.23	0.38*	0.26*	0.38*	0.23	0.39*	0.15	0.02
RAFHA	-0.08	0.17	0.34*	0.26*	0.17	0.29	0.08	0.32*	0.02	0.36*	0.03	-0.04
QAISUMAH	-0.02	0.32*	0.35*	0.32*	0.41*	0.44*	0.25	0.43*	0.31*	0.44*	0.07	0.04
TABUK	-0.02	0.20	0.12	0.15	0.07	0.12	0.11	0.27*	0.03	0.25	0.12	0.00
HAFR AL-BATIN	-0.11	0.20	0.41*	0.09	0.05	-0.05	0.13	0.24	0.12	0.19	-0.18	-0.14
HAIL	0.01	0.33*	0.38*	0.49*	0.47*	0.30*	0.52*	0.38*	0.49*	0.49*	0.11	0.16
WEJH	0.01	0.21	0.13	0.00	0.09	0.13	0.47*	0.22	0.33*	0.18	0.22	0.02
GASSIM	0.12	0.42*	0.42*	0.52*	0.52*	0.57*	0.42*	0.60*	0.57*	0.61*	0.23	0.25
DHAHRAN	0.16	0.44*	0.45*	0.33*	0.45*	0.56*	0.37*	0.43*	0.24	0.51*	0.21	0.18
AHSA	0.03	0.30*	0.51*	0.45*	0.45*	0.61*	0.40*	0.45*	0.45*	0.49*	0.05	0.21
MADINA	-0.11	0.29*	0.32*	0.37*	0.21	0.30*	0.18	0.39*	0.36*	0.37*	0.17	0.16
RIYADH (New)	0.00	0.32*	0.43*	0.42*	0.35*	0.43*	0.26	0.34*	0.38*	0.23	0.03	0.10
RIYADH (Old)	-0.13	0.26*	0.25	0.26	0.29*	0.39*	0.11	0.39*	0.10*	0.19	-0.06	0.05
YENBO	0.11	0.32*	0.37*	0.37*	0.44*	0.37*	0.35*	0.47*	0.40*	0.49*	0.37*	0.33*
JEDDAH	-0.03	0.30*	0.21	0.26	0.35*	0.41*	0.42*	0.51*	0.29*	0.33*	0.28*	0.14
MAKKAH	-0.11	0.22	0.11	0.26	0.25	0.10	0.12	0.23*	0.18	0.20	0.08	0.18
TAIF	0.11	0.45*	0.39*	0.35*	0.38*	0.35*	0.23	0.42*	0.40*	0.40*	0.35*	0.24
BAHA	0.07	0.40*	0.39*	0.38*	0.32*	0.29	0.22	0.36*	0.38*	0.23	0.37*	0.28
W-DAWASIR	0.05	0.36*	0.41*	0.20	0.42*	0.31*	0.22	0.38*	0.35*	0.34*	0.35*	0.23
BISHA	0.19	0.44*	0.42*	0.35*	0.50*	0.50*	0.49*	0.57*	0.60*	0.45*	0.40*	0.43*
ABHA	0.15	0.45*	0.38*	0.32*	0.39*	0.24	0.22	0.38*	0.46*	0.36*	0.27*	0.22
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.19	0.46*	0.35*	0.33*	0.44*	0.24	0.10	0.49*	0.50*	0.30*	0.33*	0.30*
NEJRAN	0.33*	0.44*	0.44*	0.36*	0.54*	0.52*	0.44*	0.63*	0.68*	0.57*	0.44*	0.47*
SHARURRAH	0.17	0.32*	0.24	0.30*	0.34*	0.32*	0.22	0.12	0.34*	0.08	0.30*	0.19
GIZAN	0.09	0.18	0.09	0.01	-0.04	-0.12	-0.15	-0.04	-0.12	-0.16	0.07	0.00

Symbol's key: *: Significant at 95%; **: Significant at 99%

Saudi Arabia extends widely from 15°North to more than 31° and therefore one expect a wide temperature variation with latitude. The relationship between Ta and its standard deviation and stations latitude was plotted in Fig. 4. A weak and negative linear relationship was found between Ta and latitude with a slope of -0.26 and R² = 0.13. Therefore, temperature seemed to be higher in the northern part of SA compared to southern parts. This is an expected result because northern parts are prevailed by desert climate with high average Ty and high temperature

variations as well. Indeed, temperature variations, as indicated by standard deviation, seemed to increase steadily with in the northern parts, large altitudes, at a rate of 0.35°C and R² = 0.63, shown in Fig. 4.

Trend analyses for the time series data of monthly temperatures were performed using Kendall and Sen's statistics. The values of Kendall τ and Sen's Q are shown in Table 2-4 for maximum, average and minimum temperatures respectively. In such tables, the significance degree is marked beside each value.

Table 3: Monthly trends in average temperature as estimated from Mann-Kendall and Sen slope statistics for various meteorological station

Station	Sen's slope (Q)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TURAIIF	-0.01	0.05	0.07	0.03	0.06	0.05*	0.06	0.08	0.02	0.05	-0.01	-0.01
ARAR	0.02	0.07	0.12*	0.07*	0.08*	0.08*	0.09*	0.11*	0.06*	0.10*	0.04	0.08
AL JOUF	0.00	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.07*	0.06	0.06	0.09*	0.03	0.08*	0.06	0.01
RAFHA	-0.01	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.05	0.05*	0.03	0.10*	0.02	0.07*	-0.02	0.00
QAISUMAH	0.00	0.07	0.09*	0.06	0.08*	0.08*	0.05	0.10*	0.05*	0.08*	-0.01	0.02
TABUK	0.02	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04*	0.04*	0.07*	0.04*	0.06*	0.03	-0.01
HAFR AL-BATIN	-0.02	0.06	0.18*	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.05	-0.02	-0.05
HAIL	0.00	0.08*	0.07*	0.07*	0.06*	0.09*	0.06*	0.10*	0.06*	0.07*	0.01	0.05
WEJH	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05*	0.04*	0.04*	0.02	0.04	0.00
GASSIM	0.00	0.08*	0.09*	0.10*	0.07*	0.08*	0.05*	0.10*	0.06*	0.06*	0.03	0.07
DHAHRAN	0.02	0.07*	0.09*	0.06*	0.09*	0.07*	0.06*	0.08*	0.05*	0.08	0.01	0.04
AHSA	-0.05	0.03	0.09*	0.09*	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.04*	-0.03	0.01
MADINA	-0.03	0.08	0.08*	0.08*	0.03	0.03*	0.03	0.07*	0.04*	0.04*	0.03	0.05
RIYADH (New)	0.02	0.08	0.10	0.12*	0.08*	0.08*	0.06	0.06*	0.05*	0.01	0.00	0.04
RIYADH (Old)	0.00	0.07*	0.08*	0.07	0.07*	0.07*	0.04*	0.09*	0.04*	0.05*	0.00	0.04
YENBO	0.01	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.10*	0.08*	0.09*	0.12*	0.09*	0.07*	0.05	0.04*
JEDDAH	-0.02	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04*	0.06*	0.07*	0.04*	0.02*	0.03*	0.02
MAKKAH	-0.02	0.09	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04*	0.04	0.04*	0.02	0.05
TAIF	-0.01	0.07*	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03*	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
BAHA	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.11*	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.06*	0.03	0.04*	0.05
W-DAWASIR	-0.01	0.07	0.03	-0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.02*	0.07*	0.06
BISHA	0.01	0.08*	0.04	0.07	0.08*	0.07*	0.06*	0.06*	0.06*	0.04*	0.05	0.05*
ABHA	0.03	0.07*	0.05*	0.07*	0.07*	0.03*	0.02	0.04*	0.04*	0.04*	0.04*	0.04
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.06*	0.10*	0.07*	0.08*	0.09*	0.07*	0.04*	0.07*	0.08*	0.08*	0.10*	0.09*
NEJLAN	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.06*	0.06*	0.06	0.06*	0.06*	0.08*	0.08*	0.07	0.07*
SHARURRAH	0.03	0.06	-0.01	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.03*	-0.01	0.02*	0.00
GIZAN	0.04*	0.04*	0.02	0.03*	0.02*	0.02	0.02	0.02*	0.04*	0.02*	0.05*	0.00
	Kendall τ											
TURAIIF	-0.03	0.16	0.20	0.10	0.25	0.33*	0.21	0.25	0.12	0.17	-0.02	-0.01
ARAR	0.08	0.25	0.32*	0.27*	0.37*	0.54*	0.35*	0.43*	0.36*	0.42*	0.09	0.21
AL JOUF	0.00	0.26	0.25	0.23	0.26*	0.21	0.24	0.30*	0.17	0.36*	0.13	0.04
RAFHA	-0.02	0.14	0.22	0.18	0.22	0.41*	0.17	0.36*	0.11	0.30*	-0.06	0.01
QAISUMAH	0.01	0.26	0.28*	0.25	0.38*	0.53*	0.26	0.41*	0.27*	0.41*	-0.07	0.05
TABUK	0.05	0.20	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.36*	0.26*	0.38*	0.28*	0.33*	0.10	-0.03
HAFR AL-BATIN	-0.06	0.17	0.46*	0.05	0.16	0.22	0.04	0.18	0.22	0.11	-0.06	-0.03
HAIL	0.01	0.26*	0.29*	0.40*	0.32*	0.53*	0.33*	0.46*	0.37*	0.42*	0.03	0.21
WEJH	-0.01	0.21	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.43*	0.37*	0.33*	0.23	0.20	0.02
GASSIM	-0.01	0.27*	0.30*	0.39*	0.35*	0.58*	0.29*	0.48*	0.47*	0.35*	0.15	0.17
DHAHRAN	0.09	0.29*	0.34*	0.31*	0.41*	0.52*	0.50*	0.59*	0.38*	0.43*	0.10	0.18
AHSA	-0.09	0.11	0.36*	0.34*	0.21	0.29	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.16	-0.08	0.12
MADINA	-0.11	0.24	0.27*	0.35*	0.11	0.30*	0.22	0.37*	0.33*	0.36*	0.19	0.16
RIYADH (New)	0.09	0.26	0.48*	0.43*	0.41*	0.57*	0.28	0.30*	0.33*	0.05	0.02	0.09
RIYADH (Old)	-0.01	0.28*	0.27	0.24	0.40*	0.49*	0.28	0.43*	0.38*	0.34*	-0.01	0.12
YENBO	0.04	0.24	0.13	0.30*	0.35*	0.46*	0.48*	0.54	0.49*	0.57*	0.23	0.20
JEDDAH	-0.16	0.25	0.07	0.17	0.17	0.36*	0.39*	0.47*	0.38*	0.29*	0.23	0.14
MAKKAH	-0.10	0.28	0.11	0.26	0.24	0.26	0.25	0.46*	0.22	0.29*	0.19	0.22
TAIF	-0.02	0.33*	0.18*	0.18	0.15	0.20	0.06	0.36*	0.21	0.23	0.19	0.12
BAHA	0.09	0.41*	0.32	0.43*	0.20	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.32*	0.18	0.19	0.25
W-DAWASIR	-0.07	0.21	0.07	-0.08	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.19	0.18	0.09	0.23	0.22
BISHA	0.07	0.30*	0.19	0.27*	0.38*	0.50*	0.40*	0.45*	0.42*	0.24	0.23	0.25
ABHA	0.16	0.49*	0.36*	0.29	0.39*	0.31*	0.20	0.42*	0.39*	0.38*	0.29*	0.42*
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.46*	0.56*	0.45*	0.42*	0.48*	0.49*	0.36*	0.60*	0.63*	0.58*	0.56*	0.60*
NEJLAN	0.09	0.25	0.11	0.29*	0.31*	0.25	0.44*	0.37*	0.44*	0.37*	0.26	0.31*
SHARURRAH	0.09	0.12	-0.04	0.17	0.16	0.21	0.08	-0.04	0.21	-0.06	0.12	-0.02
GIZAN	0.33*	0.28*	0.19	0.28*	0.29*	0.25	0.24	0.35*	0.46*	0.28*	0.41*	0.00

Symbol's key: *: Significant at 95%; **: Significant at 99%

Table 4: Monthly trends in minimum temperature as estimated from Mann-Kendall and Sen slope statistics for various meteorological station

Station	Sen's slope (Q)											
	1	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TURAI	-0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.06*	0.07*	0.08*	0.06*	0.06	-0.02	-0.02
ARAR	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.07*	0.06*	0.05*	0.10*	0.03	0.09*	-0.01	0.03
AL JOUF	0.04	0.09*	0.07	0.06*	0.09*	0.07*	0.08*	0.10*	0.07*	0.11*	0.04	0.03
RAFHA	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.10*	0.08*	0.12*	0.06*	0.09*	-0.02	0.02
QAISUMAH	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.06*	0.09*	0.06*	0.12*	0.05*	0.06*	-0.01	0.03
TABUK	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.05*	0.06*	0.08*	0.06*	0.06*	-0.01	-0.02
HAFR AL-BATIN	0.03	0.11*	0.17*	0.13	0.14*	0.10*	0.07	0.13*	0.10	0.03	0.03	0.01
HAIL	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.09*	0.06*	0.14*	0.11*	0.06	-0.01	0.07
WEJH	-0.01	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.01*	0.04*	0.05*	0.04*	0.04*	0.03	0.00
GASSIM	-0.03	0.03	-0.01	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.08*	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02
DHAHRAN	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.05*	0.03*	0.04*	0.06*	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.03
AHSA	0.05	0.08	0.08*	0.08	0.09*	0.13	0.06*	0.10*	0.09*	0.08*	0.08	0.06
MADINA	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.05*	0.02	0.04*	0.04	0.09*	0.07*	0.03*	0.03*	0.06
RIYADH (New)	0.07	0.10	0.06	0.11*	0.09*	0.11*	0.09*	0.10*	0.11*	0.06	0.07	0.08
RIYADH (Old)	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07*	0.08*	0.05*	0.08*	0.05*	0.04	0.02	0.05
YENBO	0.05	0.09*	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.07*	0.12*	0.07*	0.03	0.04	0.05
JEDDAH	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.07*	0.09*	0.05*	0.02	0.02	0.00
MAKKAH	0.03	0.13*	0.08*	0.09*	0.06	0.10*	0.10*	0.11*	0.08*	0.08*	0.07	0.07*
TAIF	-0.02	0.03	-0.04	0.00	-0.03	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.02	-0.01
BAHA	0.02	0.09	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03*	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03
W-DAWASIR	0.00	0.06	-0.01	0.01*	0.05	0.06	0.07*	0.11*	0.10*	0.10*	0.13*	0.11*
BISHA	0.02	0.07	-0.01	0.04	0.05*	0.08*	0.09*	0.08*	0.09*	0.07	0.05	0.09
ABHA	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.04*	0.07*	0.04*	0.05*	0.04*	0.05*	0.05*	0.05*	0.04
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.09*	0.03	0.04	0.07*	0.10*	0.06*	0.06	0.08*	0.09*	0.09*	0.13*	0.10*
NEJRAN	0.01	0.01	-0.05	0.00	-0.01	0.03	0.05*	0.00	0.05*	0.04	0.04	0.07
SHARURRAH	0.02	-0.04	-0.06	0.00	0.05	0.07*	0.04	-0.01	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.05
GIZAN	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04*	0.04*	0.03*	0.04*	0.03	0.06*	0.06*	0.05*	0.00
Station	Kendall τ											
	1	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TURAI	-0.10	0.17	0.21	0.10	0.25	0.59*	0.35*	0.40*	0.32*	0.23	-0.08	-0.03
ARAR	-0.01	0.19	0.20	0.21	0.31*	0.52*	0.28*	0.34*	0.26	0.34*	-0.02	0.09
AL JOUF	0.14	0.36*	0.26	0.30*	0.42*	0.55*	0.44*	0.45*	0.30*	0.43*	0.18	0.13
RAFHA	0.01	0.08	0.13	0.20	0.22	0.58*	0.37*	0.39*	0.32*	0.28*	-0.04	0.04
QAISUMAH	-0.01	0.23	0.17	0.24	0.30*	0.53*	0.36*	0.38*	0.30*	0.32*	-0.05	0.10
TABUK	0.06	0.17	0.10	0.11	0.25	0.45*	0.32*	0.40*	0.45	0.27*	-0.04	-0.07
HAFR AL-BATIN	0.06	0.37*	0.38*	0.23	0.47*	0.35*	0.26	0.37	0.31	0.08	0.10	0.03
HAIL	0.04	0.17	0.16	0.26	0.23	0.44*	0.33	0.42*	0.44*	0.22	-0.05	0.19
WEJH	-0.05	0.14	0.08	0.10	0.18	0.16	0.32*	0.36*	0.34*	0.31*	0.12	0.03
GASSIM	-0.19	0.10	-0.05	0.19	0.03	0.26	0.06	0.32*	0.21	0.07	0.04	0.11
DHAHRAN	0.06	0.20	0.12	0.23	0.32*	0.22	0.34*	0.40*	0.22	0.21	-0.01	0.14
AHSA	0.23	0.29	0.33*	0.26	0.39*	0.62*	0.30*	0.54*	0.38*	0.43*	0.27	0.19
MADINA	-0.03	0.25	0.11	0.31*	0.14	0.37*	0.26	0.35*	0.36*	0.30*	0.27*	0.20
RIYADH (New)	0.23	0.28	0.27	0.47*	0.48*	0.64*	0.41*	0.35*	0.47*	0.23	0.19	0.21
RIYADH (Old)	0.03	0.24	0.22	0.25	0.44*	0.43*	0.35*	0.40*	0.33*	0.17	0.10	0.19
YENBO	0.17	0.30*	0.02	0.12	0.23	0.24	0.48	0.52*	0.45*	0.23	0.14	0.20
JEDDAH	-0.03	0.18	0.04	0.07	-0.03	0.26	0.38*	0.41*	0.33*	0.23	0.15	0.01
MAKKAH	0.14	0.46*	0.36*	0.38*	0.22	0.57*	0.55*	0.54*	0.50*	0.54*	0.47*	0.38*
TAIF	-0.11	0.16	-0.19	-0.01	-0.18	0.04	-0.03	0.01	-0.20	-0.20	-0.10	-0.05
BAHA	0.10	0.28	0.01	0.37*	0.14	0.01	0.10	0.29*	0.13	-0.02	0.08	0.09
W-DAWASIR	0.01	0.14	-0.04	0.07	0.23	0.22	0.33*	0.38*	0.41*	0.38*	0.32*	0.33*
BISHA	0.07	0.25	-0.04	0.17	0.34*	0.45*	0.42*	0.39*	0.48*	0.26*	0.19	0.25
ABHA	0.17	0.02	0.05	0.30*	0.46*	0.36*	0.37*	0.39*	0.46*	0.34*	0.28*	0.18
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	0.41*	0.15	0.23	0.40*	0.50*	0.32*	0.23	0.36*	0.34*	0.37*	0.50*	0.36*
NEJRAN	0.02	0.03	-0.14	-0.01	-0.04	0.12	0.35*	0.01	0.28*	0.21	0.10	0.20
SHARURRAH	0.04	-0.05	-0.16	-0.01	0.24	0.30*	0.15	-0.03	0.12	0.05*	0.12	0.14
GIZAN	0.20	0.23	0.06	0.31*	0.30*	0.31*	0.31*	0.24	0.59*	0.47*	0.38*	0.00

Symbol's key: *: Significant at 95%; **: Significant at 99%

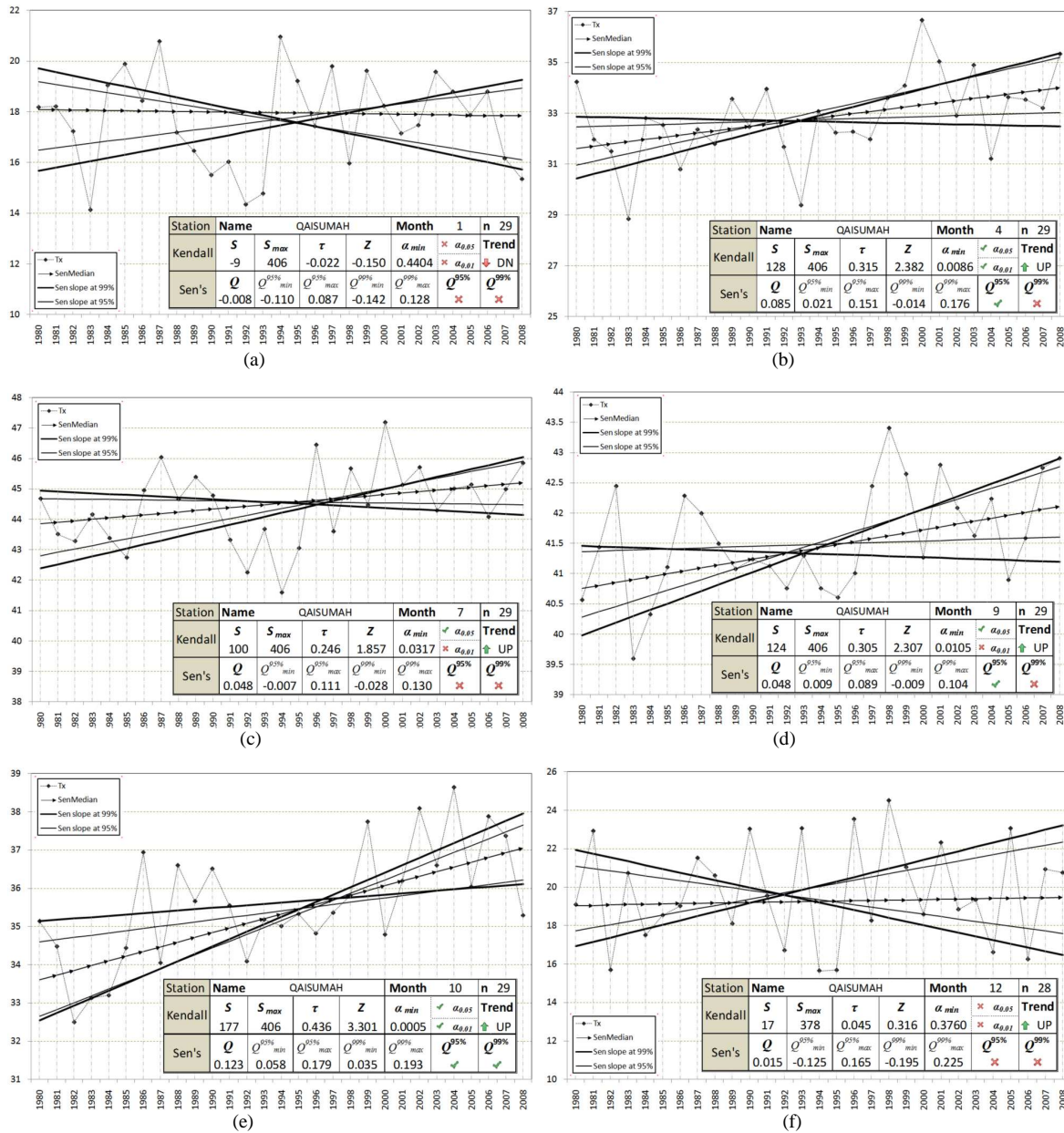


Fig. 5: Analysis of maximum temperature trends using Mann-Kendall and Sen slope estimator and their significant tests parameters

A sample representation for this analysis is shown in Fig. 5. Each of these charts (a-f) represents one month, (January, April, July, September, October and December, respectively) where these months were selected to show the performance of both Kendal and Sen Methods under various temperature series). All of the charts represents the maximum temperature trend of “6-Qaisumah” Station. Values of τ and Q were obtained along with their significant parameters and shown on

the table included in each chart. The number of stations having significant trends for each month is listed in Table 5, while the number of months having significant trend for each station is shown in Table 6.

DISCUSSION

As shown in Fig. 5, Kendall and Sen’s tests gave similar results with a notice that Sen slope test being more sensitive (rejects more).

Table 5: Number of stations with significant increase T_{max} , T_{avg} and T_{min} ($p>95\%$) for the indicated months as predicted by Sen statistic

Month	Number of significant stations		
	T_{max}	T_{avg}	T_{min}
January	1	2	1
February	18	10	4
March	20	13	3
April	18	14	8
May	18	14	12
June	19	16	19
July	10	12	20
August	22	21	23
September	18	18	20
October	17	17	13
November	10	3	6
December	4	3	3

Table 6: Number of months having significant increase in T_{max} , T_{avg} and T_{min} ($p>95\%$) for each meteorological station according to Sen statistic

Name	T_{max}	T_{avg}	T_{min}	Index
TURAIIF	3	1	4	8
ARAR	9	8	5	22
GURAIAT*	0	0	0	0
AL JOUF	5	3	8	16
RAFHA	5	3	5	13
QAISUMAH	8	6	6	20
TABUK	1	5	5	11
HAFR AL-BATIN	1	1	5	7
HAIL	9	9	4	22
WEJH	2	3	4	9
GASSIM	9	9	2	20
DHAHRAN	8	9	3	20
Dammam*	0	0	0	0
AHSA	9	2	7	18
MADINA	7	6	6	19
RIYADH (New)	7	6	6	19
RIYADH (Old)	3	8	5	16
YENBO	11	7	4	22
JEDDAH	8	5	3	16
MAKKAH	0	2	10	12
TAIF	9	2	0	11
BAHA	7	4	2	13
W-DAWASIR	8	0	6	14
BISHA	11	7	5	23
ABHA	8	10	8	26
KHAMIS MUSHAIT	9	12	9	30
NEJLAN	12	7	2	21
SHARURRAH	6	0	1	7
GIZAN	0	8	7	15

*: Insufficient data to calculate sen statistics station number of significant months

A negative τ or Q indicates a decreasing trend, January, while a positive sign indicates an increasing trend, April. The significance of τ was tested by comparing the calculated α_{min} with $\alpha = 0.05$ or 0.01 for 95 and 99% confidence level, respectively; $\alpha_{min}<0.05$ or 0.01 . The corresponding significant test for Q was carried out by calculating its confidence intervals at 95 and 99%

indicated $(Q_{min}^{95\%}, Q_{max}^{95\%})$ and $(Q_{min}^{99\%}, Q_{max}^{99\%})$, respectively. If the two limits have similar sign, then the calculated Sen Slope Q cannot be zero and therefore the slope is significantly higher than the zero indicating a positive or negative trend.

Figure 5 represents all possible combinations of τ and Q and their significance. In January, τ and Q values were negative, indicating a decreasing trend for maximum daily temperature, T_{max} . But this decrease in not significant according to Kendall τ since $\alpha_{min} = 0.44$ which is much greater than 0.05 or 0.01 . It is also not significant according to Sen slope Q since the higher limits at 95% and 99% were greater than zero ($Q_{max}^{95\%} = 0.087, Q_{max}^{99\%} = 0.128$). For April both tests showed that T_{max} is increasing significantly at 95% level since τ and Q were positive and $\alpha_{min} = 0.0086<0.05$ and $Q_{min}^{95\%} > 0.0$. However, while the uptrend is also significant at 99% level according to Kendall τ , alpha min = $0.0086<0.01$, it was not significant according to Sen slope at the same level since 99% $Q_{max}^{99\%} < 0.0$ indicating the possibility of the slope being zero. This result showed that the Sen Slope test seemed to be more conservative than Kendall test. Similar results were found for July since the uptrend was significant at 95% level according to Kendall τ , $\alpha_{min} = 0.032<0.05$ but not significant according to Sen slope, 95% $Q_{min}^{95\%} = -0.007 < 0.0$. However, these discrepancies between Kendall and Sen Tests were uncommon and occurred only in few cases. This is shown in the temperature analysis for the flowing three months; September, October and December were both tests gave consistent results. In September, both tests showed that the temperature uptrend is only significant at 95% level since $\alpha_{min} = 0.0105<0.05$ and $Q_{min}^{95\%} = 0.009 > 0.0$. In October, the uptrend seemed to be significant at both 95% and 99% level. In December, the uptrend is not significant at 95% nor at 99% as $\alpha_{min} = 0.376 > 0.05$ and both $Q_{min}^{95\%}$ and $Q_{min}^{99\%} < 0.0$. This analysis was carried out for each month for the studied stations.

Contour maps were plotted to show variation of maximum temperature and its significance for the entire Saudi Arabia for each months (Fig. 6). In Fig. 6, Kendall Z values as calculated from Equation 6 were used for plotting to show the direction and significance of trends in T_{max} . Positive and significant trends in T_{max} ($p>90\%$) were represented by solid grey scale and the level of significance is increasing as gray gets more dark. Negative trends were indicated by dotted surface while white surface indicates no trend.

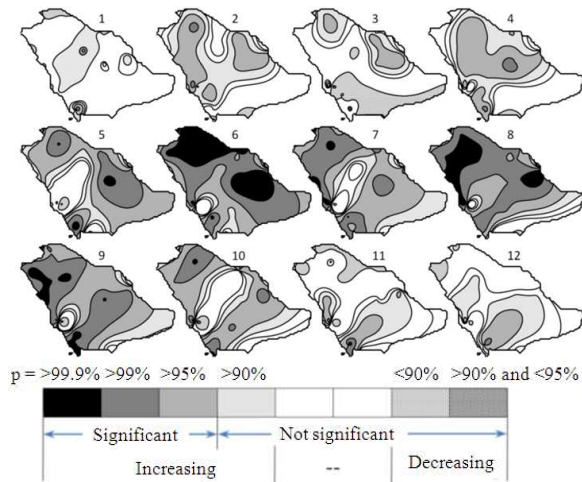


Fig. 6: Contour plots of Kendall Z statistic for the maximum temperature's trend in various months during the past 29 years

In general a significant warming trends is observed in almost all Saudi Arabia during the whole year except in the winter months of January and November and December to lesser degree. In these three winter months some cooling trends can be noticed, dotted surface, in the northern and eastern part of the country but this cooling is not significant at 90% probability. Another general observation is that no increase in T_{max} was observed in the northern part of the country, white regions, near to the red sea during the year, "7-Tabuk., 10-Wejh." and "6-Qaysoumah. In all other months from February to October, a rising T_{max} was observed in all parts of Saudi Arabia at varying degree of significance. A high significant warming trend ($p > 99\%$), dark regions, was observed in the month of August, June, May, December, October, April and July in that order and concentrated in the middle, north east and south west belt of the country from "2-Arar., in the North to "27-Najran., in the South. "27-Najran., area in the south seemed to have a warming trend in the whole year including the winter months, November to January. Temperature variations in the Month of July seemed to be different from that in June and August. A significant warming trend was still observed but to a lesser degree ($95\% < p < 99\%$) in most parts of SA except in the North West and North East.

Similar analysis, to that in Fig. 5, was carried out for the entire weather stations in Saudi Arabia for each month and the results are summarized in Table 2-4 for maximum, average and minimum temperatures, respectively. Table 2-4 show the values of Kendall τ and Sen's Q statistics and an index, white, black or half black circles, indicating the value's significance

level. A black circle indicates the value is significant at 99% level; a half circle is for 95% significant level, while a white circle indicates no significance at 95% level.

Results indicated that both Kendall and Sen nonparametric statistics were appropriate to detect trends in temperature time series and produce similar results under 95% significant level as noticed in Table 2-4. The temperature trends and their significance are found on Table 2-4 for all studied stations at all months of the year. In general, temperature increase is shown in the summer months from March to October for most of stations. Temperatures in August seemed to rise significantly more than any other months of the year. In the winter months, November, December and January, temperatures are still on the rise for some stations but a decreasing trend was noticed in some others but those positive or negative trends were insignificant. January had the lowest temperatures and showed a decrease in temperatures for about 10 stations and increase in others but those trends were insignificant at 95% probability level.

Table 5 summarizes the number of stations having warmer trend in each month. The largest temperature increase have been noticed during the month of August where 22, 21 and 23 stations out of 27 showed a significant uptrend in the maximum, average and minimum temperatures, respectively followed by September, October, June and May covering 18, 16 and 17 and 14 stations in average temperature. Similar trends in for T_{max} and T_{min} were noticed to even a higher degree in some cases. In general, the summer months in Saudi Arabia spanning from May to October seemed to get warmer with time. In winter only 3 stations showed some warming in T_{avg} and this warming trend is insignificant.

Table 6 summarizes the number of months with a significant uptrend in temperatures for each station. "13-Dammam. and "3-Gurariat., were neglected from the analysis due to small number of recorded years of data. "27-Nejran., "24-Bisha., 18-Yenbo., "26-Khamis Mushait., 25-Abha., stations showed the highest increase in temperatures in the past 30 years. In "26-Khamis-Mushait., an uptrend in the average temperature was recorded for 12 months followed by the nearby stations of "25-Abha., 10 months and "24-Bisha., of 7 months. It is interesting to note that these stations have the highest altitude in the country and considered of mild climate.

Other stations showed similar trends to a lesser degree. About 17 stations out of 27 have warming trends for 7 months or higher. An interesting observation is related to the city of "20-Makkah. Time series analysis revealed that no warming trend was

observed for the T_{max} and only 2 months showed warming trends in the T_{avg} , but the T_{min} have a warming trend for 10 out of 12 months of the year. This is probably due to the special demographic and geographic characteristics of the city, which pushes the minimum temperature higher, but kept the average temperature relatively constant in the past 30 years.

It seemed that the increase in temperature with time is to some extent related to station altitude. A simple regression analyses, shown in Fig. 7, between the number of months having a positive uptrend in the average temperature and station altitude revealed a weak, but positive slope suggesting that warming trends in SA is higher in stations having large altitude. Further analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between temperature trends and latitude and the results are shown in Fig. 8. A weak but negative relationship between number of months with up-trends average and maximum temperatures and the corresponding station latitudes was found, Fig. 7. "20-Makkah. and "29-Gizan., was not included in the plots because they show no temperature uptrend in any month during the year.

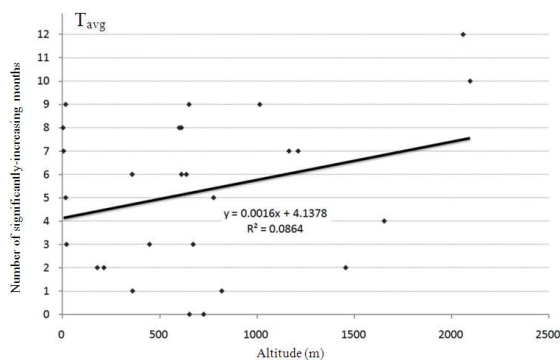


Fig. 7: Relationship between number of months with increasing trend in average temperature and the corresponding stations altitudes

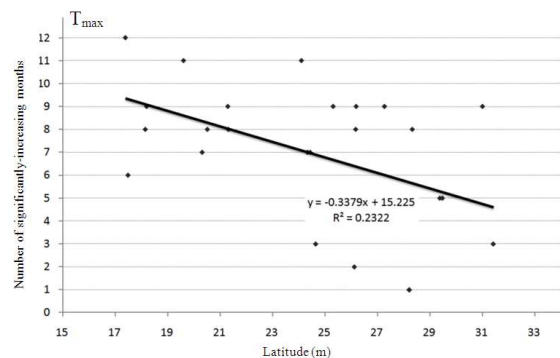


Fig. 8: Relationship between number of months with increasing trend in maximum temperature and the corresponding stations altitudes

Nevertheless, it seemed that temperature is increasing in the southern region of the kingdom at higher rate compared to northern parts as been previously noticed in the contour maps in Fig. 6. Most of the agricultural production and investments are carried out in the southern region of the kingdom, as well as the touristic investments due to the beautiful scenes and mild climate there. Temperature increase in the southern region could have negative impact on tourist activities and agricultural production.

CONCLUSION

This study investigates temperature changes in KSA for 29 years using data obtained from 29 meteorological stations distributed over the country. The study showed a warming trend in the maximum, minimum and average temperatures throughout the year except in the winter months of November to January where non-significant cooling trends were observed in some stations. Highly significant warming trends were found in June, August and September, in the central region with more than 99% significance levels. The northwestern and southern regions were the least affected by the warming trend, probably due to the effect of the red sea in the west and the high altitudes in the south. The study confirmed that KSA as well as the Arabian Peninsula were affected by the climate variability, as the temperature tends to rise significantly all over the country in April until October. This raises an important issues related to water resources and agricultural management.

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