



# What's the weather like?

## Averages help sheet

### Averages and spread using Excel:

In a formula you can use **=average**(*first cell:last cell*) to give the mean of a set of numbers. This gives you a number that can represent the whole set of data.

You can use **=stdevp**(*first cell:last cell*) to give you the standard deviation of a set of numbers. This tells you how spread out the numbers are from the mean.

### Statistics of four numbers

Enter these sets of numbers in turn.

Work out and write down the mean and standard deviation for each set of numbers:

(a) 3, 5, 7, 9

(b) 0, 10, 2, 12

(c) 6.5, 5.5, 5, 7

(d) -3, 20, -11, 18

How to use Excel to calculate the mean and standard deviation:  
Enter the numbers into four cells.

In another cell, press **=average**(*highlight the four cells*). Enter.

In another cell, press **=stdevp** (*highlight the four cells*). Enter.

### Statistics of weather data

Which month do you think is the wettest?

Choose a selection of years in some fairly random sort of a way.

Find the average (mean) rainfall for each of the months.

Compare these averages.