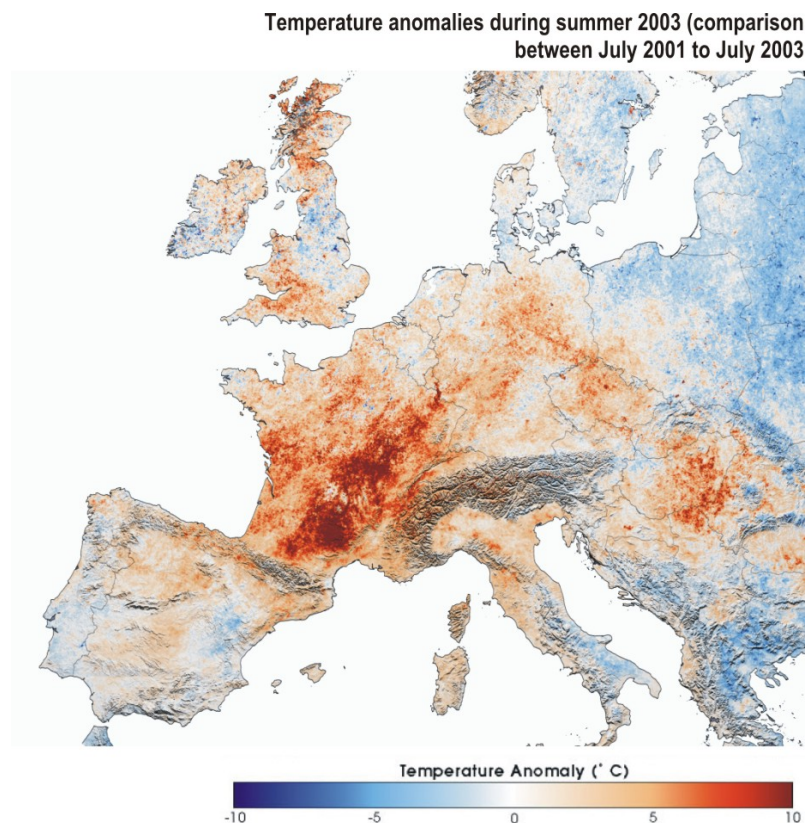


### Heat wave in Europe in 2003, new data shows Italy as the most affected country

Italy, with 20,000 people dead, has become the country that registered the most casualties related to the heat wave that affected Western Europe during the summer of 2003.

With these new figures for Italy, the official number of casualties for the whole of Western Europe was raised to 46730 (sources: National Institute of Statistics of Italy, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the CRED International Disaster Database EM-DAT).

The map shows the abnormalities in the temperatures observed in July 2003, using the temperatures of 2001 as a reference. For example, the average temperatures in France during 2003 were higher than those registered in 2001.

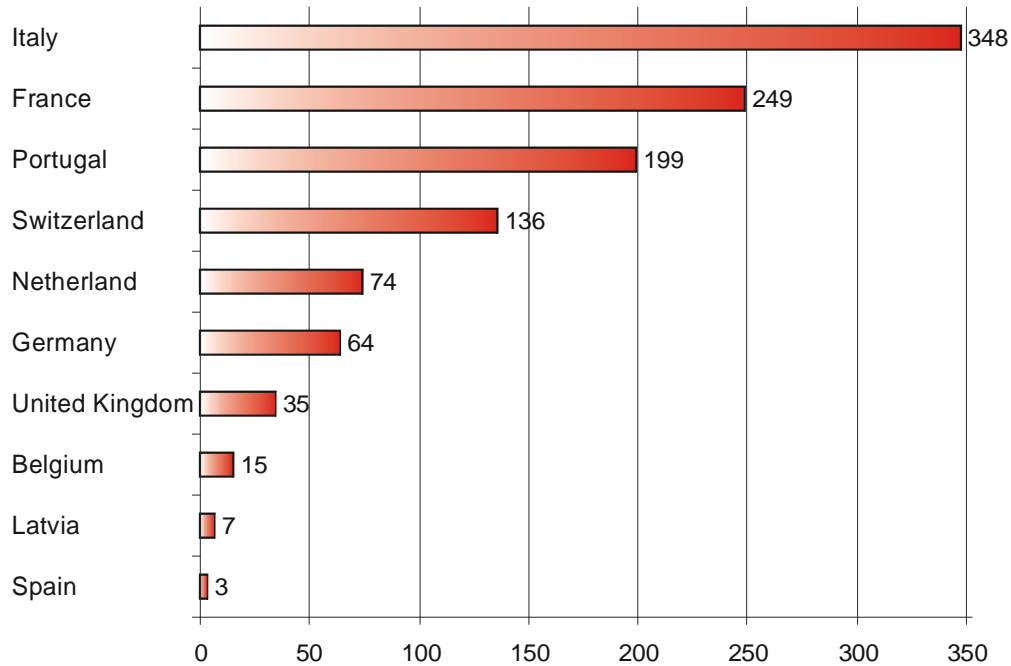


Mortality figures increased during August 2003, after the long period of extreme temperatures took a toll on the most vulnerable segment of society –the elderly– The heat wave began in June, continued in July and peaked in August, with 38.1°C in UK, 40°C in France and 41.5°C in Switzerland.

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## Number of people killed by million inhabitants



## Number of people killed

Italy	20000
France	14947
Germany	5250
United Kingdom	2045
Portugal	2007
Netherland	1200
Switzerland	975
Belgium	150
Spain	141
Latvia	15
total	46730



UN/ISDR - Information group

Data Source: EM-DAT : The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.

Www.em-dat.net, UCL - Brussels, Belgium

Istituto Nazionale di Statistica - Swiss Federal Statistical Office

Map Source: NASA's Earth Observatory, July 31, 2003

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