

Þórður Arason¹ and Haraldur Ólafsson²

1) Icelandic Meteorological Office

2) University of Iceland, Icelandic Meteorological Office and Institute for Meteorological Research

Statistics of forecast errors

We have compared differences between radiosonde observations in SW-Iceland and 48 hour forecast by numerical weather prediction models over a period of five years (2000-2004). Temperature and height of the pressure levels of 925, 850 and 500 hPa were compared in search for systematic errors. In the overall mean, the predictions have little bias. There are however slight seasonal variations and indications of situations where the models do relatively poorly. At 500 hPa there is a cold bias in the forecasts in late winter, but no such bias in the autumn and early winter. Errors in wind direction are mainly associated with relatively weak winds.