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yr.no – weather forecasts for the general public

Since the 1980s and onwards into the 1990s NWP models started to represent the dynamical and physical processes for quasi-geostrophic atmospheric disturbances (i.e. synoptic-scale weather systems) with considerable realism. With the more recent introduction at several forecasting centers of high-resolution non-hydrostatic NWP models the more local features are potentially better captured. This has opened up the possibility to forecast the weather very locally.

The aim is for yr.no to provide site-specific forecast for all places in Norway, currently about 870.000 locations. Worldwide about 8 million site-specific forecasts are available. Since its introduction in June 2007, yr.no has experienced a steady and rapid increase in usage peaking (so far) at 3.8 million) unique users per week. (Not including the traffic on the related services on mobile phones etc.) Around 50% of the users are traced as Norwegian IP-adresses, a large amount considering that the population of Norway is close to 5 million.

On yr.no we present our best forecasts. They forecasts may occasionally be prone to errors (not least due to local effects) but we believe that developments and improvements in forecast skill may be significantly advanced by interacting with the user community. A forecast for every place in Norway has created a strong ownership to yr.no amongst many of its users providing feedback on forecast performance in many locations where conventional observational are not available.

Post-processing the raw model output add on average value to the forecasts by employing established relationships between physical processes on resolved and unresolved scales or from statistical relationships using the most recent observations in the calibration.

yr.no is a collaborative effort between the Norwegian national TV and radio broadcaster NRK and the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (met.no). The forecast data provided by met.no are freely available to all users where yr.no is currently the main user.