

Our ship's barometer is a very useful onboard weather station and with a few simple pieces of information we are able to predict and validate weather and forecasts. Keeping a record of the barometric pressure in our ships log can help us understand the conditions we might face.

When Barometric Pressure is: What it means:

General overview of barometric pressure changes

Descending (falling)

Low pressure area is coming

Ascending (rising)

The low pressure is passing or a high pressure area is coming. Any rise in pressure is usually connected to gradually drier weather.

Rule of thumb for barometric pressure changes measured over a 3 hour period

Descending (falling) slowly
(0.5 - 3 hPa/3h)

Low pressure is weak, dying or moving slowly. You might get some rain but typically no high winds.

Descending (falling) moderately
(3 - 6 hPa/3h)

Rapid movement of, or deepening low pressure. Moderate winds and rain in warm front. The low is passing you fast so the day after tomorrow will typically be fine.

Descending (falling) quickly
(6 - 12 hPa/3h)

Storm warning. If you are out at sea, you should be seeking refuge as soon as possible.

