

The Weather of 2009

Wetter than normal everywhere; mild and sunny

Annual rainfall totals were well above normal for the second successive year. They ranged from 918mm at Dublin Airport to 2175mm at Valentia Observatory, between 12% and 55% higher than the 30-year annual average amounts. Like the previous two years, the summer period of June to August was extremely wet, while November 2009 was the wettest November since records began at most stations and the wettest of any month on record in several places. Annual totals were the highest in over 50 years of record at both Mullingar and Johnstown Castle, while Valentia Observatory's total was its highest since observations began in the area in 1866, considerably higher than its previous highest total of 1923mm in 2002. The exceptionally heavy rainfall brought extensive flooding during the late summer and again during November, especially in the west and south. The driest months relative to normal were March and September, but the annual number of wetdays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) was above normal everywhere, by between 10% and 20% generally; there were between 145 wetdays at Casement Aerodrome and 231 at Valentia Observatory. Most stations measured their highest daily fall of the year during November, but there were also very heavy falls locally over short periods during the summer months, usually associated with thunderstorms.

Despite very cold weather at the end of the year, mean annual air temperatures were around half a degree above normal for the 1961-90 period at most stations. Mean values were close to those of 2008, but Valentia Observatory had its coolest year since 2002, while it was the coolest since 1996 at Cork Airport. Mean air temperatures for most months were slightly higher than normal, while values for January were near normal and December was colder than normal everywhere. The highest temperatures of the year were observed during early summer at most stations, with both Birr and Claremorris measuring 27.5°C on June 2nd. The lowest values were recorded during early January and late December. Mullingar's air and ground temperatures of -10.0°C and -13.0°C respectively on December 25th were the lowest at the station for almost 30 years. The total number of air frosts during the year of between 38 and 58 at inland stations was close to normal.

Annual sunshine totals were above normal everywhere, with Malin Head having its sunniest year since 1960. The sunniest months relative to normal were March, May and particularly June, which was the sunniest for over 50 years in places; August was the only relatively dull month generally. All stations measured their sunniest day of the year during June.

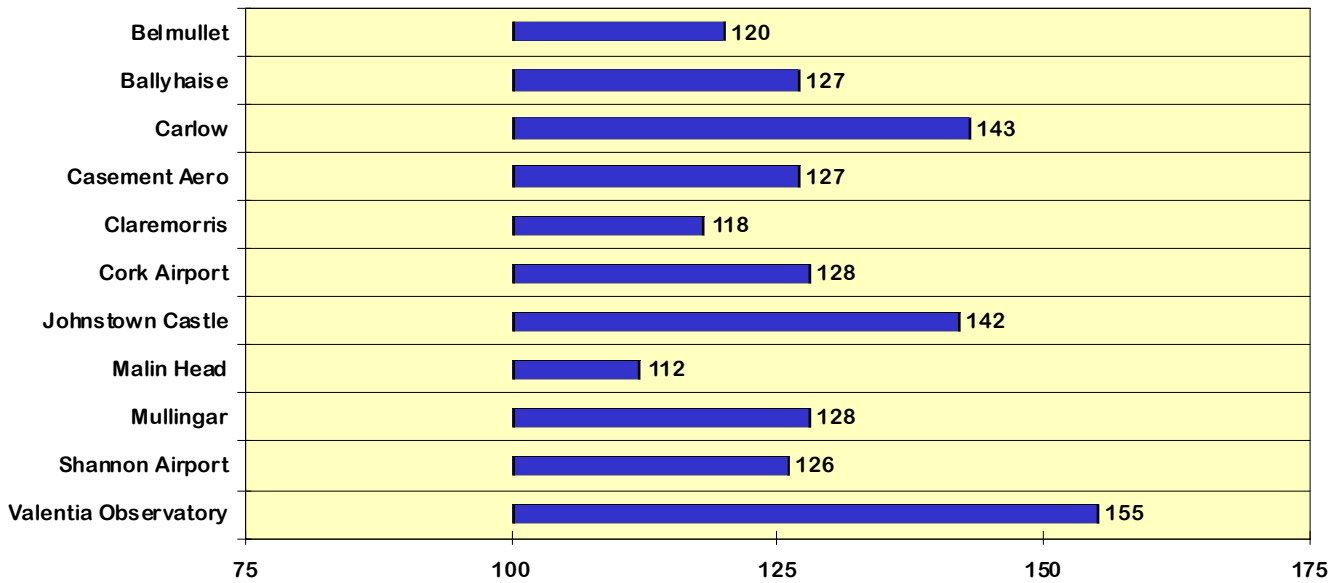
Mean windspeeds for the year of between 7 and 12 knots generally (*13 and 22km/h*) were above normal and were the highest annual values for up to 15 years in places. Belmullet observed the highest gust of the year, 94 knots (*174km/h*) during a storm on January 17th, matching the previous highest gust at the station, recorded in January 1957.

Extreme values

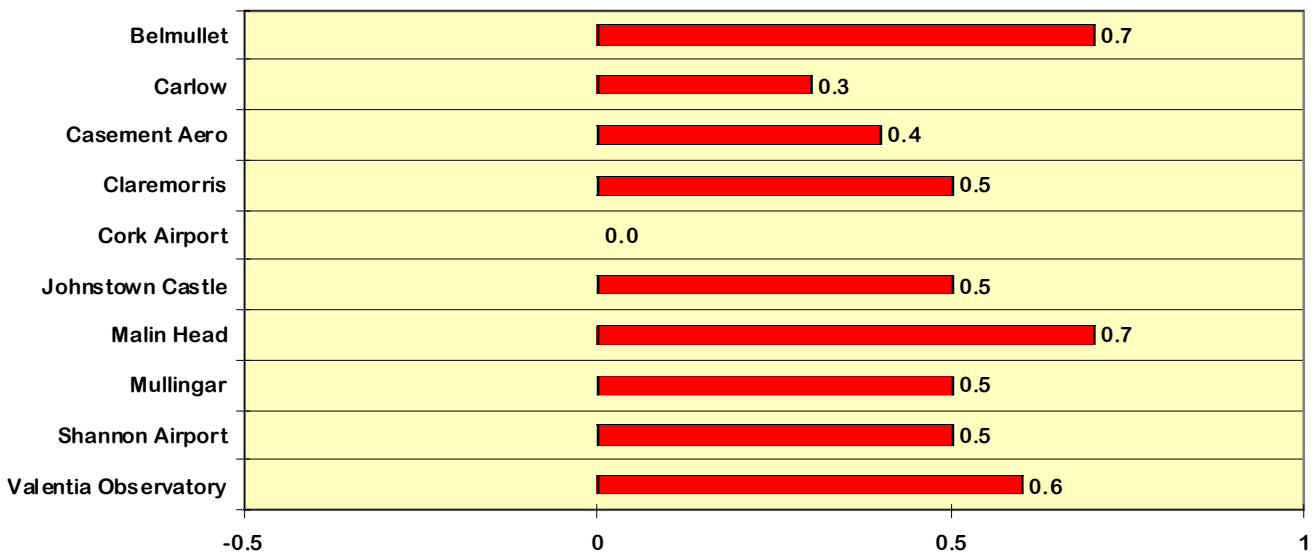
Rainfall	Highest annual total: 2175mm at Valentia Observatory (<i>its wettest year since records began in the area in 1866</i>) Lowest annual total: 918mm at Dublin Airport Highest daily rainfall: 51.2mm at Cork Airport on November 19th
Temperature	Highest mean annual temperature: 11.1°C at Valentia Observatory (<i>its coldest year since 2002</i>) Lowest mean annual temperature: 8.7°C at Knock Airport (<i>its coldest year since 2001</i>) Highest temperature: 27.5°C at both Birr and Claremorris on June 2nd Lowest air temperature: -10.0°C at Mullingar on December 25th (<i>its lowest such value since January 1982</i>) Lowest grass minimum temperature: -13.0°C at Mullingar on December 25th (<i>its lowest such value since January 1982</i>)
Sunshine	Highest annual total: 1561 hours at Dublin Airport Lowest annual total: 1319 hours at Knock Airport Highest daily sunshine: 16.0 hours at Casement Aerodrome on June 24th (<i>its sunniest day since June 1988</i>)

Year 2009 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

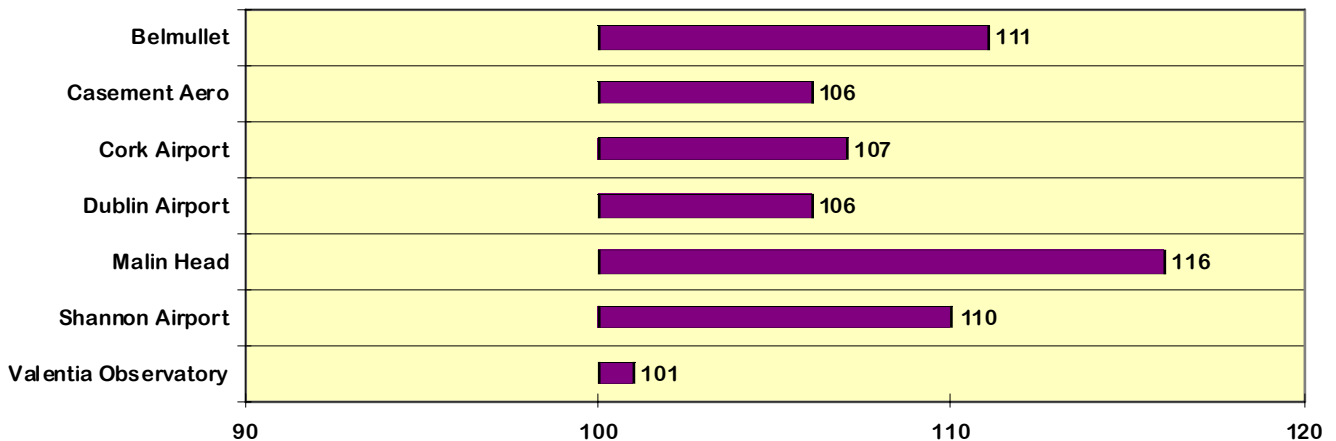
Rainfall (*% of normal for period 1961-1990*)



Temperature (*°C difference from normal for period 1961-1990*)



Sunshine (*% of normal for period 1961-1990*)



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 This report is based on preliminary data from the synoptic weather stations operated by Met Éireann

A detailed summary is available in the **Monthly Weather Bulletin**

For more information, contact Met Éireann at 01-8064200 or e-mail: climate.enquiries@met.ie website: www.met.ie/climate