



# Weather Summary of 2011

## **Warmer than normal everywhere; dry in the south and southeast**

The majority of months in 2011 were warmer than their 1961-1990 averages, except for January and the summer season months. November was the warmest month relative to normal and the warmest on record for most stations in the west, midlands and east, with mean temperatures reaching over three degrees above normal in eastern areas. Overall, annual mean temperatures were warmer than their 1961-1990 averages, with differences above normal, up nearly 1°C in places. Phoenix Park, Mullingar and Roche's Point all reported their highest annual mean temperature in over five to seven years. Annual mean maximum temperatures for the year were above normal, with the majority of annual maximas recorded during the months of April, June and September. The highest temperature of 2011 was 26.0°C, at climate stations of Cavan (Drumconnick) and Athy (Chanterlands) Co. Kildare on June 3rd. Phoenix Park reported the latest and highest maximum temperature of the year at a synoptic station with 25.7°C on September 28th, its warmest temperature during September since 1906 (105 years). Synoptic stations, mainly in the south and west, reported their coolest annual maximum temperatures in a number of years, with Belmullet and Cork Airport reporting their lowest annual maximum temperatures since the 1960's. Most annual mean minimum temperatures for the year were below normal, with most stations recording their minimum temperatures of 2011 during January. The years lowest temperature of -8.3°C was recorded at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), Co. Kilkenny on January 29th. The total number of air frosts recorded at synoptic sites in 2011 was below average, ranging from five at Sherkin Island to 47 at Mullingar, with the highest amount of air frosts recorded in January and at inland stations.

Annual rainfall totals for 2011 were mostly above average, except for some areas in the south and southeast. The highest annual percentage was at Claremorris which received 123% of its annual rainfall total and its wettest year on record since 1986 (25 years). In contrast, Johnstown Castle received only 83% of its annual total rainfall and had its driest year since 1971 (40 years). The distribution of rainfall over the year was uneven, with the majority of stations recording February and October as their wettest months and March as their driest. During October, Casement Aerodrome recorded the highest percentage relative to normal (241%) and on the 24th, recorded rainfall of 82.2mm, its highest daily rainfall in October since the station opened in 1954 (57 years). The highest daily rainfall in 2011 was 106.6mm at Delphi Lodge II, Co. Mayo on November 17th, its highest daily rainfall on record at the site since 1994 (17 years). The annual number of wetdays (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) was above normal almost everywhere with between 120 wetdays recorded at Casement Aerodrome and 228 wetdays at Belmullet.

Sunshine totals were near or above normal during 2011, however it was still the dullest year in a number of years for most stations, with the lowest amounts relative to normal received in the south and southwest. The sunniest months relative to normal were January and March, with September recording the least. Percentage of normal values for September in the south and southwest were just above 50% and Valentia Observatory recorded its lowest September sunshine since 1893 (118 years). In 2011, Cork Airport had its dullest year since 1994 (17 years) with 1352 hours, while the highest amount of sunshine was recorded at Dublin Airport with 1548 hours and nearly 110% of its yearly average. The majority of stations recorded their sunniest day of the year during June, with Casement Aerodrome recording the highest daily sunshine for the year, with 15.9 hours on June 3rd.

Mean wind speeds for the year were above normal measuring between 7 and 15 knots (*13 and 27 km/h*). Annual values at Shannon Airport and Cork Airport were the highest since 1982 (29 years) and 1990 (21 years), respectively. The highest gust in 2011 was 78 knots (*144 km/h*) on May 23rd at Belmullet, which was the highest gust ever recorded in Ireland during May.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, provisional global temperatures in 2011 are the 10th highest on record, with temperature 0.4°C above the 1961-1990 average of 14.0°C, and the 2002-2011 period being recorded as the warmest decade on record.

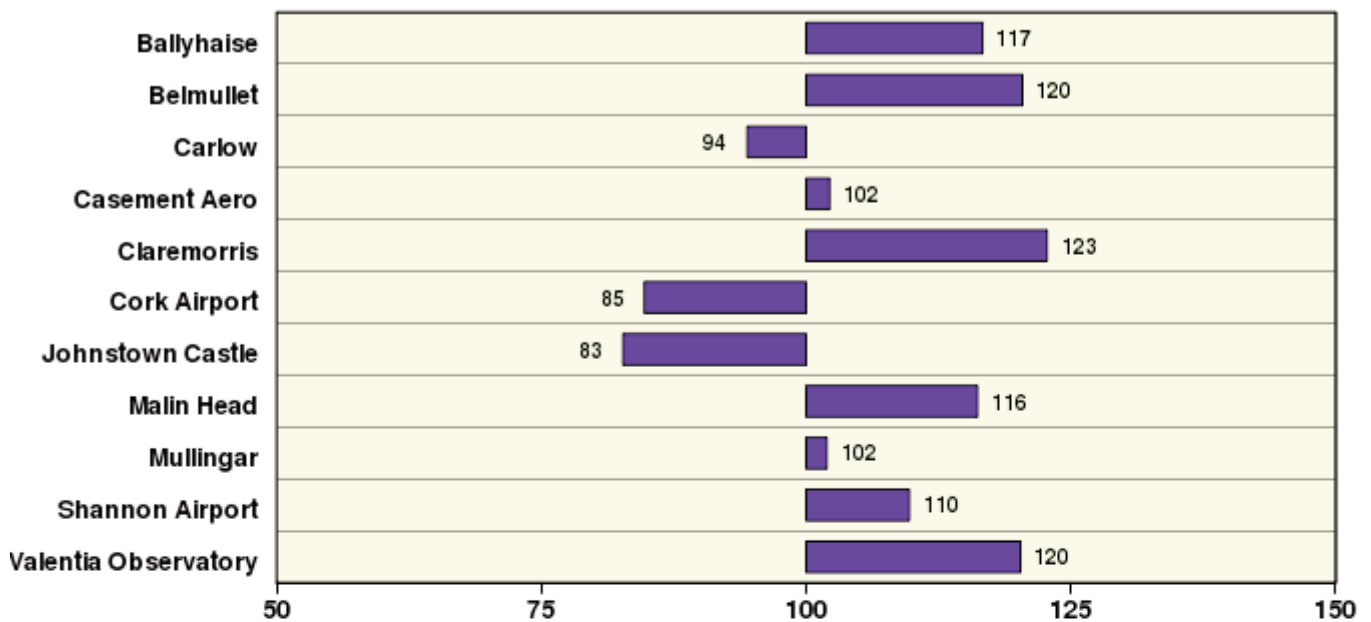
## **EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS AND CLIMATE STATIONS**

<b>Rainfall</b>	Highest annual total: 1719.7 mm at Valentia Observatory Lowest annual total: 671.8 mm at Dublin Airport Highest daily rainfall: 106.6mm at Delphi Lodge II, Co. Mayo on November 17th ( <i>its highest daily fall on record since 1994</i> )
<b>Temperature</b>	Highest mean annual temperature: 11.0°C at Valentia Observatory Lowest mean annual temperature: 8.9°C at Knock Airport Highest air temperature: 26.0°C at Cavan (Drumconnick) and Athy (Chanterlands) on June 3rd Lowest air temperature: -8.3°C at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), Co. Kilkenny on January 29th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -12.6°C Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), Co. Kilkenny on January 29th
<b>Sunshine</b>	Highest annual total: 1548.0 hours at Dublin Airport Lowest annual total: 1123.3 hours at Knock Airport ( <i>its dullest year since 1998</i> ) Highest daily sunshine: 15.9 hours at Casement Aerodrome on June 3rd

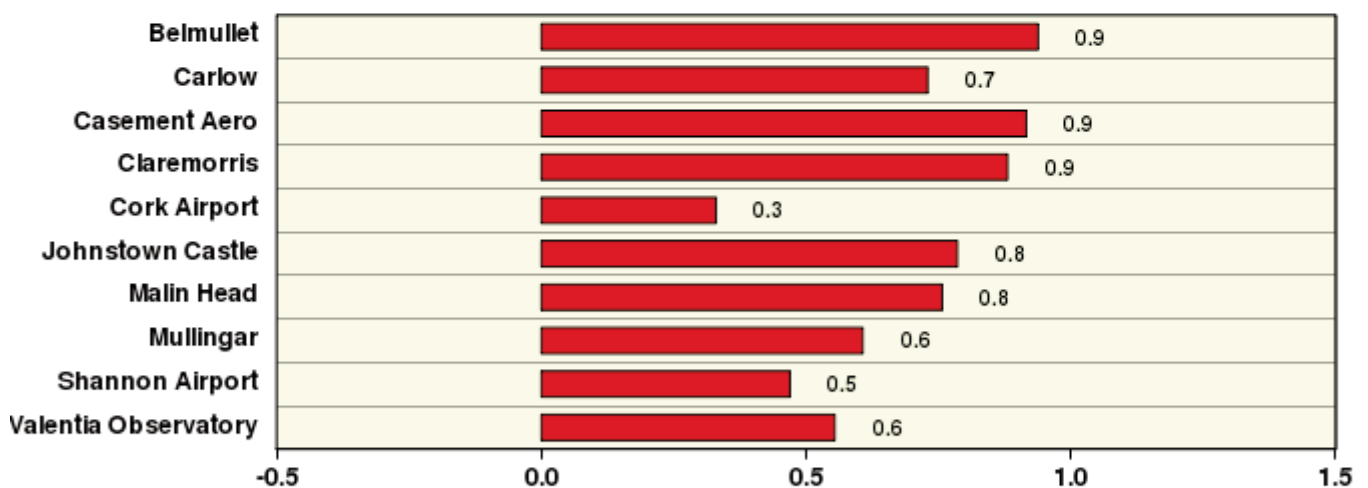
## 2011 Annual Percentage/Difference from 1961-1990 Normals

Based on Data from 1st January to 31 December 2011 on pro rata basis

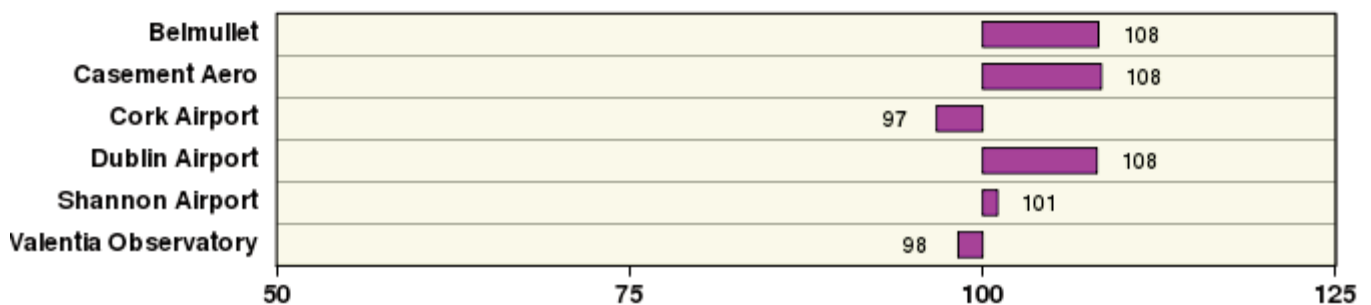
### Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990) on pro rata basis



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



### Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990) on pro rata basis



Issued and reviewed by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on 4th January 2012

This report is based on preliminary data from synoptic and climate stations operated by Met Éireann

A detailed summary is available in the [Monthly Weather Bulletin](#)

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