



# Monthly Weather Summary

## The Weather of April 2007

### **Warmest and sunniest April on record; dry for most of month**

High pressure centred near or over the country during almost all of April gave an exceptionally sunny, warm and dry month everywhere. Mean monthly air temperatures varied between 10°C and 11.5°C and were around three degrees higher than normal generally; this range of temperatures is more typical of that for an average May. It was the warmest April on record almost everywhere, including the long-term stations of Birr, Malin Head and Dublin (Phoenix Park), where records began more than a century ago. The mean temperature at Phoenix Park of 11.2°C was a full degree higher than its previous highest mean April value of 10.2°C, recorded in both 1987 and 1865. Despite the very high monthly values, however, minimum temperatures fell sharply on several nights under clear skies and there were between 12 and 18 ground frosts recorded at inland stations, around a third more than normal for April. Monthly rainfall totals were well below normal except in the northwest. Following mostly dry weather during the last week of March, some stations recorded no measureable rainfall until the 22nd of this month. It was the driest April on record at both Shannon Airport and Casement Aerodrome, while at many other stations it was the driest for between 10 and 27 years. There were only between 2 and 6 wetdays measured (days with 1mm or more rainfall), with almost all of the month's rainfall recorded between the 21st and 25th. Soil moisture deficits increased significantly during the month; the very dry conditions led to outbreaks of gorse fires in many parts of the country. For the second successive April, sunshine totals were exceptionally high. It was the sunniest April on record almost everywhere, with monthly totals around 50% higher than normal generally.

**1st to 20th:** Large anticyclones, or areas of high pressure, persisted close to Ireland throughout the period, giving fine and dry weather. Daytime temperatures were between three and five degrees above normal on many days, especially in inland areas, but nighttime temperatures were below normal during the first week, leading to widespread ground frost. Very little rainfall was recorded, with only light coastal showers at times, while daytime relative humidity values of less than 50% were frequent. Sunshine amounts were very high, with more than 10 hours of sunshine recorded on many days. Winds were from an east or northeasterly direction during much of the period.

**21st to 25th:** As high pressure moved away eastwards, frontal systems moved across the country, bringing cloudy and occasionally windy conditions with rain or showers each day. Falls were heaviest near Atlantic coasts between the 23rd and 25th, when some were thundery. Both daytime and nighttime temperatures were above normal throughout.

**26th to 30th:** High pressure became re-established, bringing a return to dry and sunny weather generally, but there were thundery showers over the south of the country on the 29th and 30th. Becoming very warm in midland and western areas, but cooler in eastern counties affected by onshore breezes.

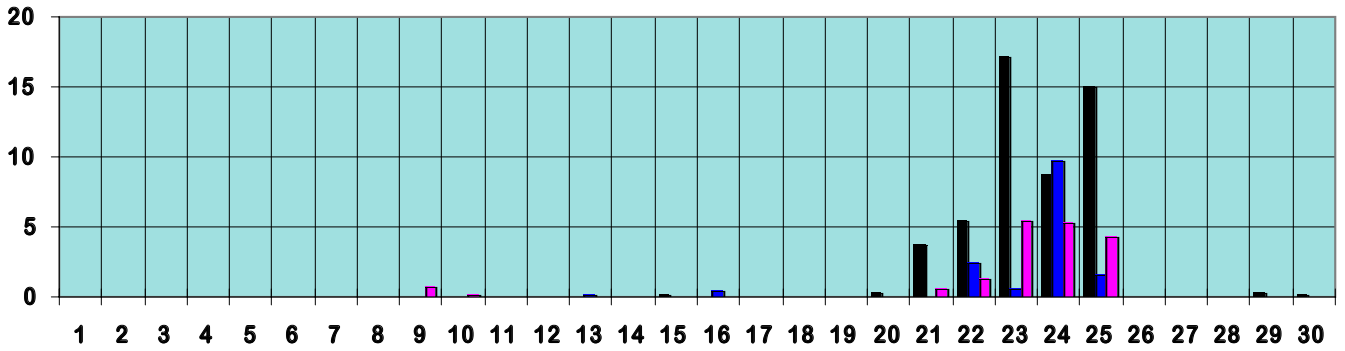
**Wind and elements:** Mean windspeeds for the month were below normal everywhere, varying between 5 and 9 knots (9 and 17km/hr) generally; these values were the lowest for April for between 10 and 33 years generally. The highest gust, 46 knots (85km/hr), was measured at Belmullet on the 23rd. Thunderstorms were recorded on the 22nd and in the periods 24th to 25th and 28th to 30th. There were no reports of either hail or snow. Fog became widespread under clear and calm conditions on several nights, especially in the periods 5th to 8th and 19th to 25th.

### **Extreme values**

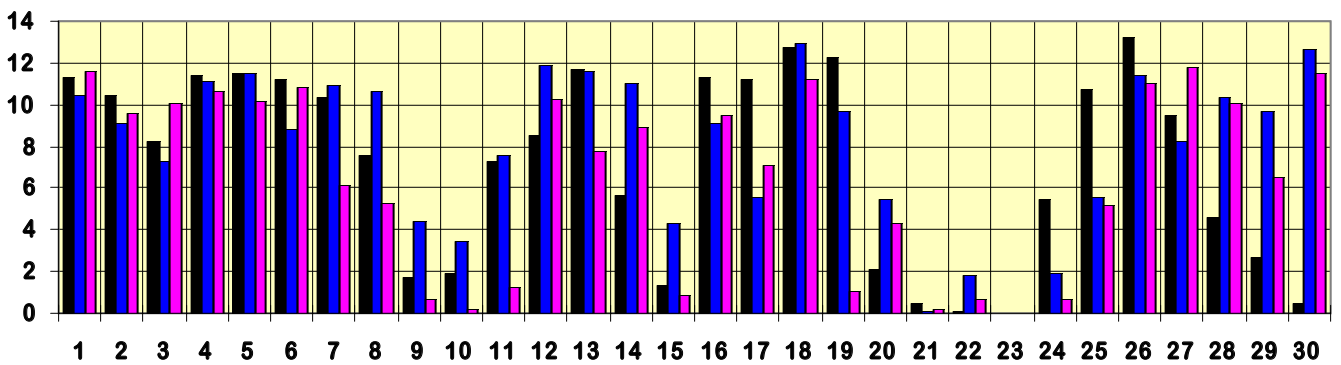
<b>Rainfall</b>	Highest total: 54.7mm at Belmullet Lowest total: 5.4mm at Casement Aerodrome ( <i>its driest April since records began there in 1964</i> ) Highest daily rainfall: 23.5mm at Belmullet on 25th ( <i>its highest daily value for April since records began there in 1956</i> )
<b>Temperature</b>	Highest mean monthly temperature: 11.6°C at Shannon Airport ( <i>its warmest April since records began there in 1945</i> ) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 10.2°C at Knock Airport ( <i>its warmest April since records began there in 1997</i> ) Highest temperature: 22.2°C at Shannon Airport on 28th Lowest air temperature: -1.7°C at Casement Aerodrome on 4th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -8.4°C at Birr on 5th
<b>Sunshine</b>	Highest monthly total: 243 hours at Rosslare ( <i>its sunniest April since records began there in 1956</i> ) Lowest monthly total: 190 hours at Malin Head ( <i>its sunniest April since 1981</i> ) Highest daily sunshine: 14.1 hours at Belmullet on 26th ( <i>the joint highest daily value on record for April at any station</i> )

# April 2007 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

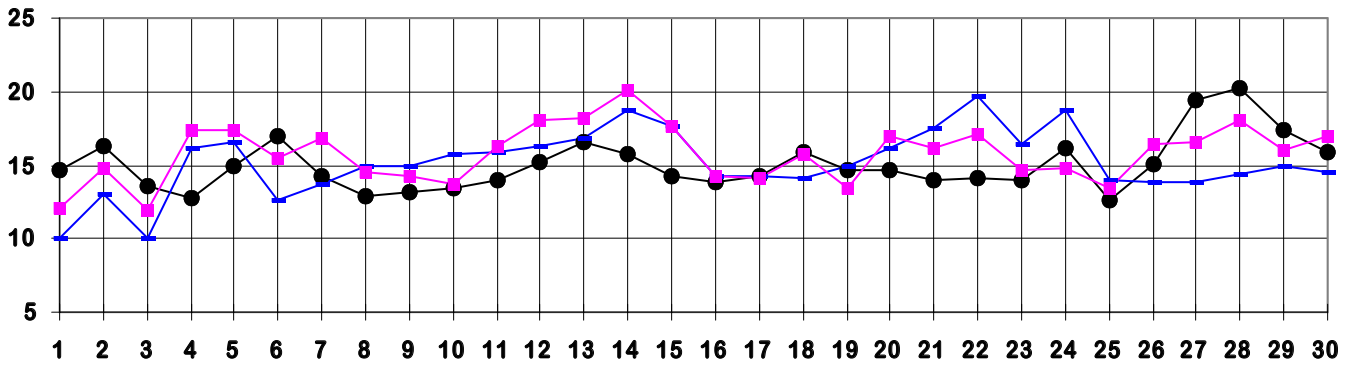
## Rainfall (mm)



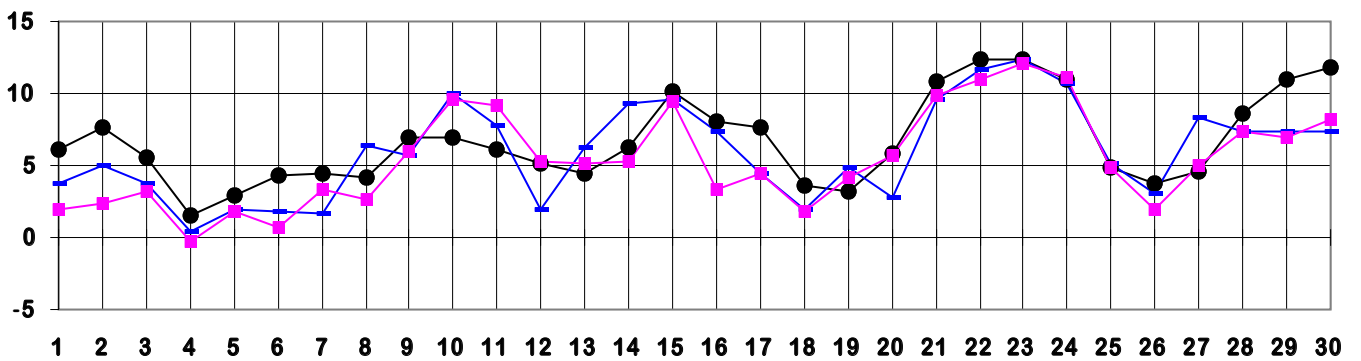
## Sunshine (hours)



## Maximum temperature (°C)



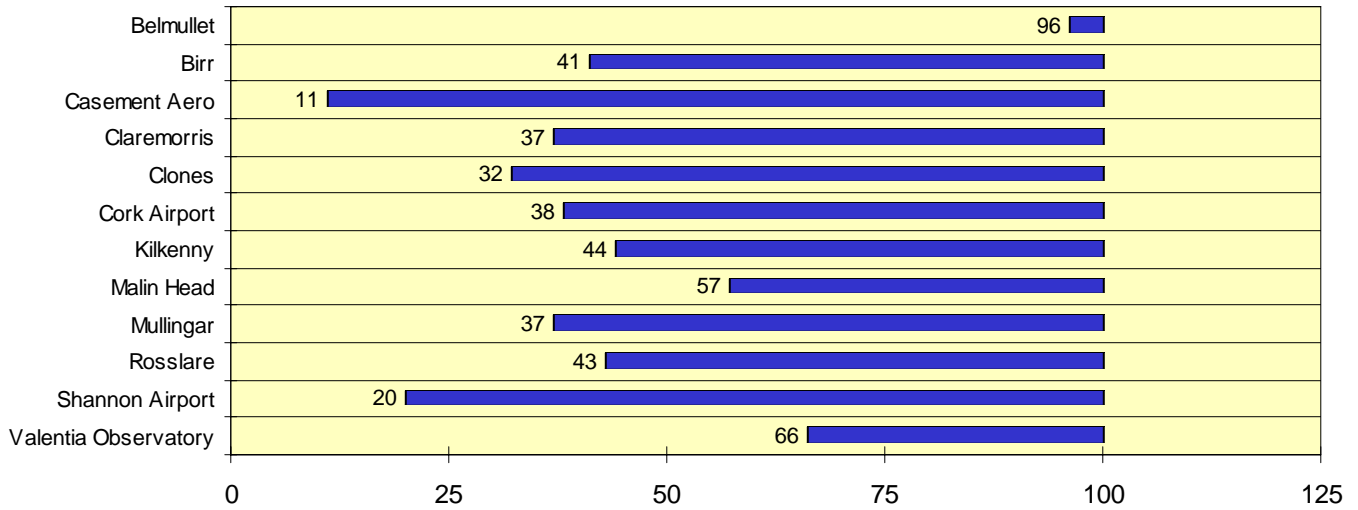
## Minimum temperature (°C)



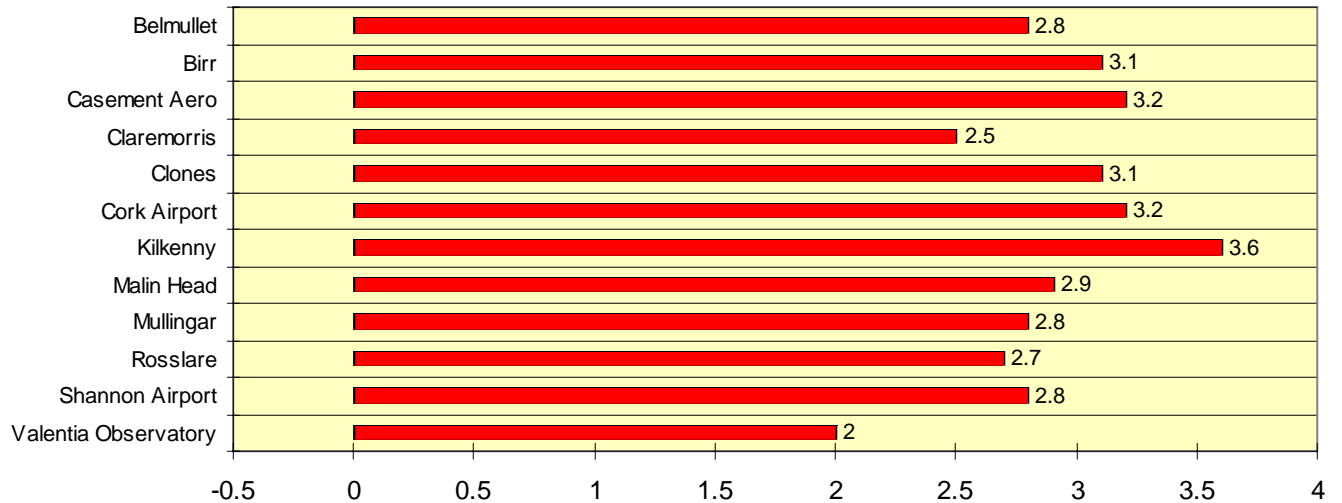
● Valentia Observatory      - Dublin Airport      ■ Clones

# April 2007 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

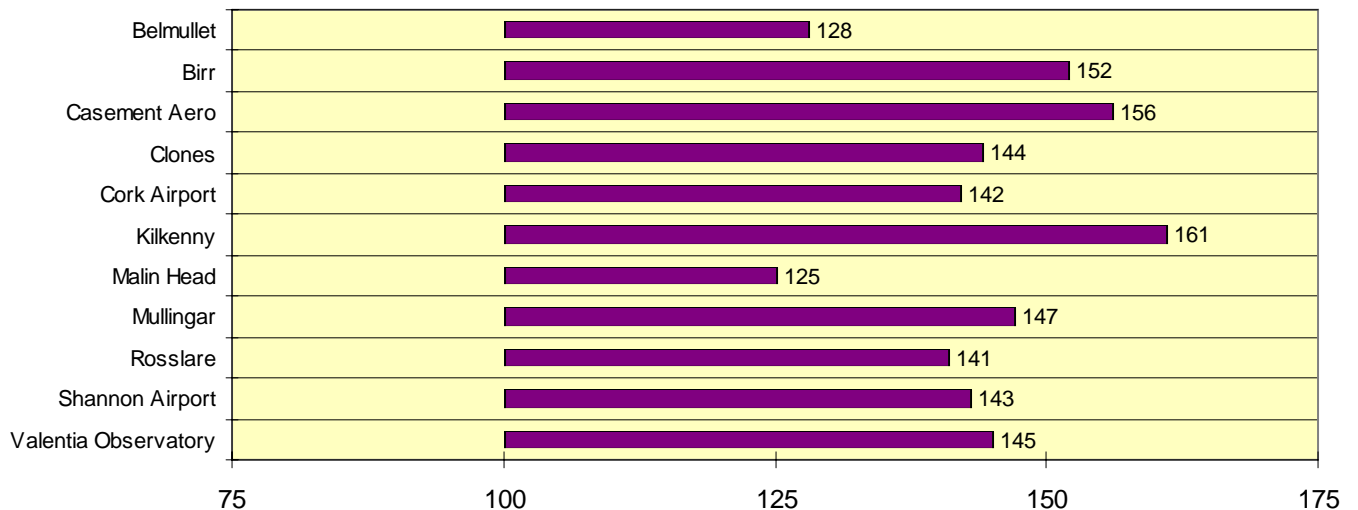
## Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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



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



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on 1st May 2007

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**

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