



Monthly Weather Summary

The Weather of April 2011

Warmest April on record at most stations; sunny and drier than normal almost everywhere

After a wet start, most of April was dry and sunny with above normal temperatures. Mean air temperatures for the month of between 10°C and 12°C were around three degrees higher than normal and it was the warmest April on record at most stations. At the long-term stations of Malin Head and Valentia Observatory it was the warmest April in over a century of record, but in some eastern areas it was not as warm as April 2007. Highest temperatures this month were recorded mainly on the 10th and during the period 20th to 22nd, when daily maximum values rose above 20°C. These were the highest April values for at least eight years in many places and Malin Head's maximum of 20.8°C on the 22nd was the highest recorded for April since the station opened. Most stations recorded between three and 14 ground frosts during the month, around average for the time of year, but with little frost observed near the Atlantic coast. Rainfall accumulations were below average at most stations this month, receiving 40% to 90% of normal, but totals were above average for the time of year at Belmullet, Malin Head and Claremorris. Almost all of the month's rainfall fell during the first half, with heavy falls during the first week, some with thunder. Most stations recorded between four and nine wetdays during the month (days with 1mm or more rainfall), around half of the normal number for April of between 10 and 13 wetdays. Sunshine totals were above normal across the country, with highest monthly totals in the east; Dublin Airport and Casement Aerodrome both had their sunniest April day on record on the 28th, while Belmullet equalled the highest ever daily value for April with 14.1 hours on the 29th.

1st to 6th: A series of Atlantic depressions located northwest of the Irish coastline brought a wet start to the month, especially in the west and northwest. Thunderstorms gave some locally heavy falls across the country. Winds were fresh to strong south to southwesterly, with gale gusts recorded in many locations. Some sunshine on most days, with temperatures slightly above normal.

7th to 10th: A high pressure system located over Europe brought a period of dry, warm and mostly sunny weather to the country with little or no rainfall. Daytime temperatures were well above normal, but with slight ground frost recorded on some nights.

11th to 14th: A return to unsettled weather with widespread showers and prolonged periods of rain, heaviest on the 13th. Temperatures returned to near normal values, with strong southwest to westerly winds at times; gale gusts were recorded on most days.

15th to 30th: This period was dominated by high pressure close to Ireland, giving mostly dry and sunny conditions, with highest temperatures of the month being recorded in the period 20th to the 22nd almost everywhere. Small amounts of rainfall also fell on a number of days, with thunderstorms experienced in the west and northwest on the 21st and 22nd. Winds were light for most of the period.

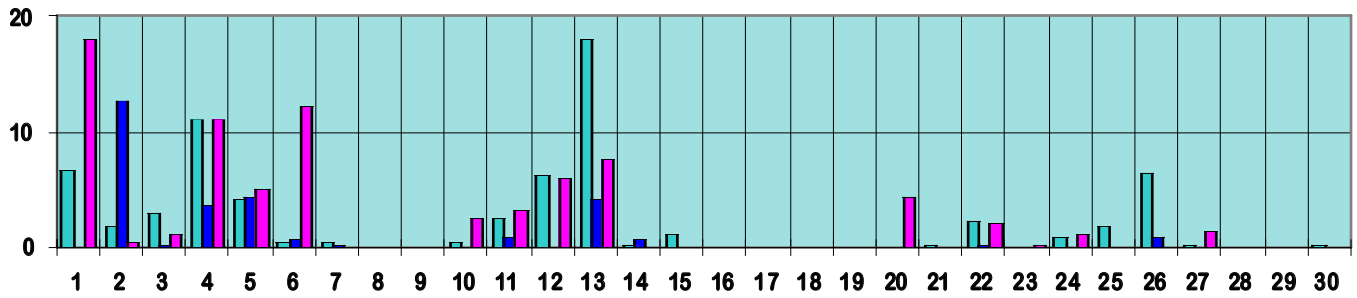
Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month were near normal, varying between 6 and 12 knots generally (11 and 22km/h). The strongest winds were recorded on the 1st, 4th and 11th with the month's highest gust of 54 knots (100km/h) at Belmullet on the 1st. Thunderstorms were most widespread during the first week, especially on the 1st and 2nd, and the period 21st to 22nd. Hail was observed only on the 2nd, 3rd and 11th. Light winds experienced between the 7th and 10th led to fog being reported in some areas.

Extreme values

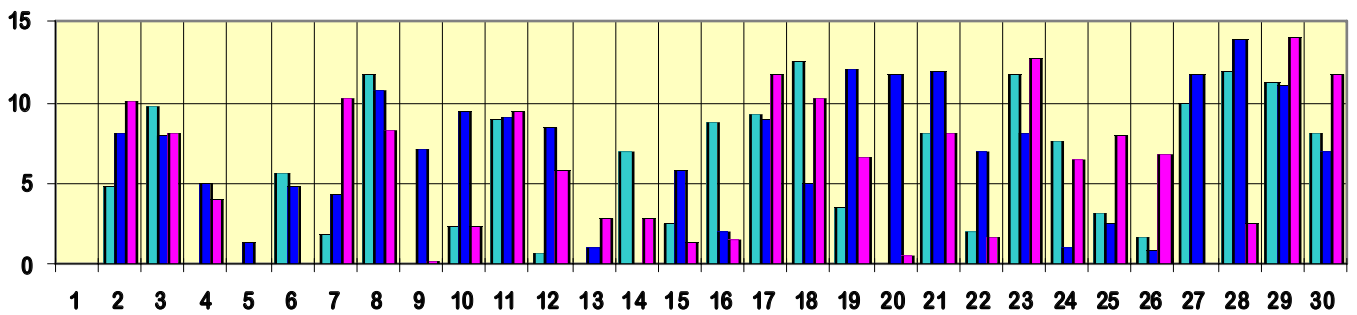
Rainfall	Highest total: 91mm at Claremorris Lowest total: 20mm at Carlow (Oak Park) Highest daily rainfall: 26.5mm at Claremorris on 1st (<i>its highest daily fall for April since 1991</i>)
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 12.0°C at Shannon Airport (<i>its warmest April since records began there in 1945</i>) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 10.1°C at Dublin Airport Highest temperature: 22.7°C at Shannon Airport on 21st (<i>its highest April temperature since 2003</i>) Lowest air temperature: -0.1°C at Dublin Airport on 17th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -4.7°C at Carlow (Oak Park) on 12th
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 208 hours at Casement Aerodrome Lowest monthly total: 166 hours at Valentia Highest daily sunshine: 14.1 hours at Belmullet on 29th (<i>equalling the highest daily sunshine on record for April at any station</i>)

April 2011 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

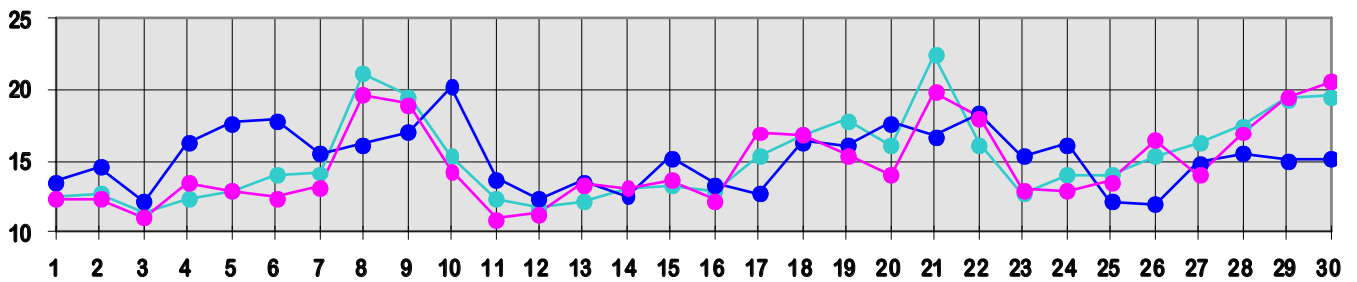
Rainfall (mm)



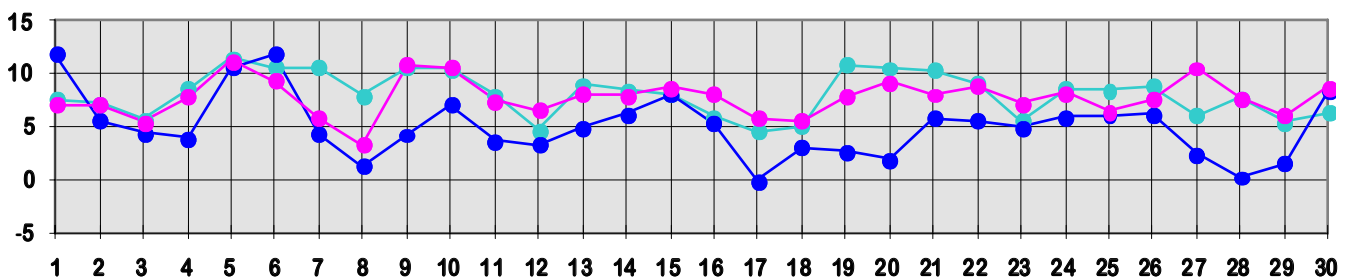
Sunshine (hours)



Maximum temperature (°C)



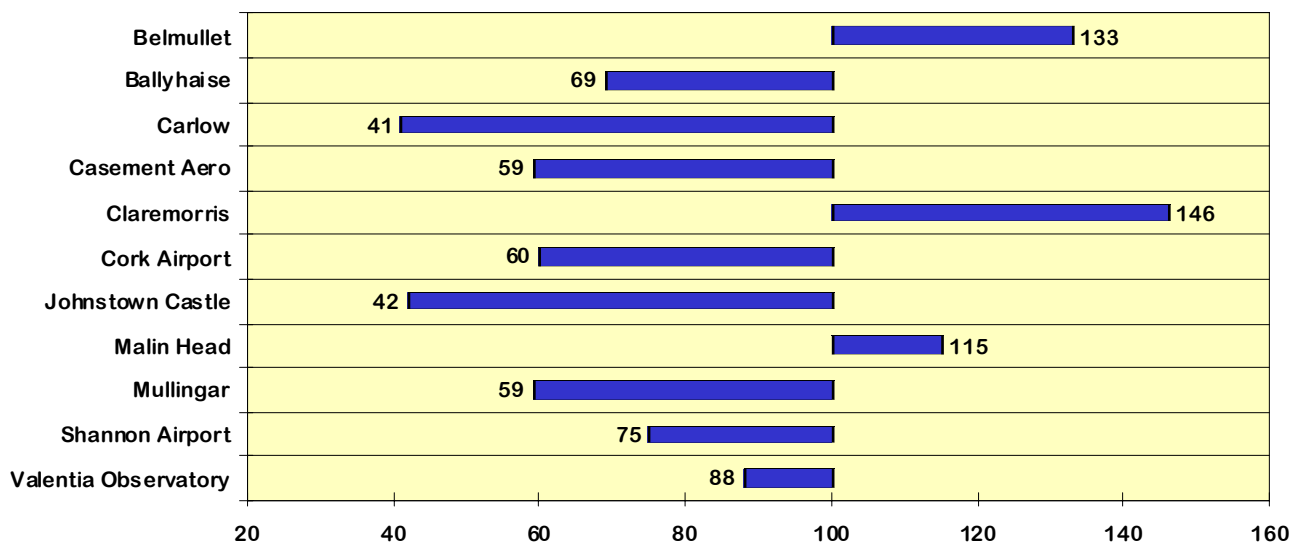
Minimum temperature (°C)



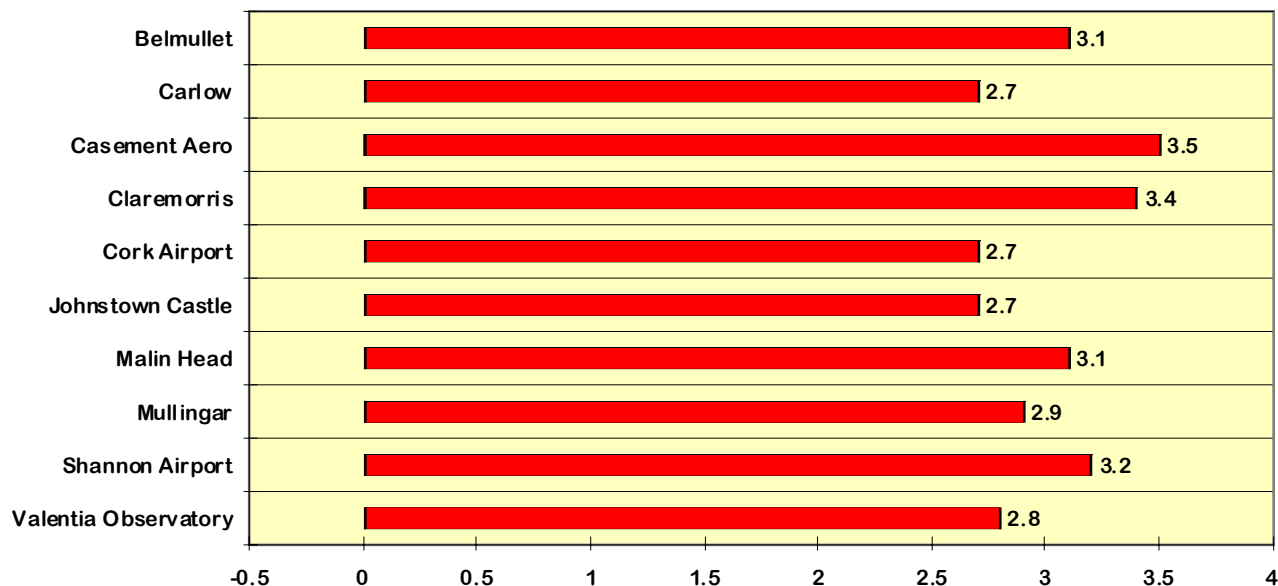
● Valentia Observatory ● Dublin Airport ● Belmullet

April 2011 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)

