



Monthly Weather Summary

The Weather of August 2010

Dry and sunny everywhere; becoming cool at end of month

Although there were spells of wet weather at times during August, rainfall amounts were generally small, especially in southern areas, while many days were sunny. There was little variation in temperatures during much of August, but a cool northerly airstream over Ireland during the last week brought mean temperatures for the month below normal at most stations. Rainfall totals were below normal everywhere and it was a particularly dry month over Munster and south Leinster, where less than 50% of normal rainfall was recorded. Cork Airport's total of 17mm was its lowest for August since 1995. This station had only three wetdays during the month (days with 1mm or more rainfall), but between eight and 14 wetdays were measured at most stations, close to normal for August. Temperatures were near or a little above normal during much of August, but cool conditions during the final week brought mean air temperatures for the month a little below normal generally, and many stations had their coolest August for 16 or 17 years. There were very few days during the month when maximum temperatures rose above 20°C, while there were no such days in some western and southwestern areas. Slight ground frost developed in eastern and midland areas towards the end of the month, with many stations recording their lowest August temperatures for up to 46 years on either the 29th or 30th. Like every other month so far of 2010 apart from July, sunshine totals were above normal everywhere and it was the sunniest August for between seven and 15 years generally. Unusually for August, the second half of the month was sunnier than the first, with some stations recording their sunniest day of the month as late as the 30th.

1st to 15th: The first half of August brought shallow depressions close to Ireland, with weak frontal systems giving mostly light rain; most rainfall was recorded in western and northern areas. There were also intervals of fair weather, especially later in the period. Temperatures varied very little during this spell and both maximum and minimum values were close to normal for August. Winds were generally light to moderate westerly, later veering northerly.

16th to 24th: More active Atlantic fronts gave falls of heavy rain in places, thundery at times, while deep depressions close to Ireland between the 20th and 24th brought the strongest winds of the month. Much of the rainfall was in the form of showers, with sunny periods also. Strong southerly winds between the 19th and 22nd brought higher than normal temperatures.

25th to 31st: Pressure rose slowly over Ireland as an anticyclone to the west of the country moved eastwards. This period was dry apart from some light coastal showers, while most days were very sunny. The period was also cool, however, and clear conditions allowed temperatures to fall sharply at night. Winds were light, variable or northerly in direction.

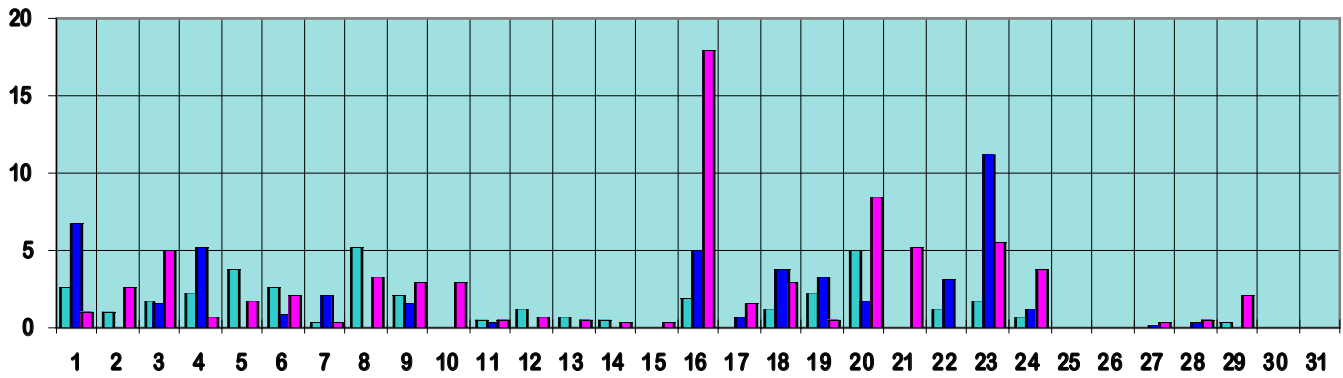
Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month of between 5 and 13 knots (*9 and 24km/h*) were below normal everywhere. Gale gusts were mainly confined to coastal stations in the period 20th to 24th; the month's highest gust of 49 knots (*91km/h*) was observed at Belmullet on the 20th. Most thunderstorms were recorded in the period 18th to 20th, but there were no reports of hail. Fog was most widespread in the periods 8th to 9th and 19th to 22nd.

Extreme values at synoptic stations

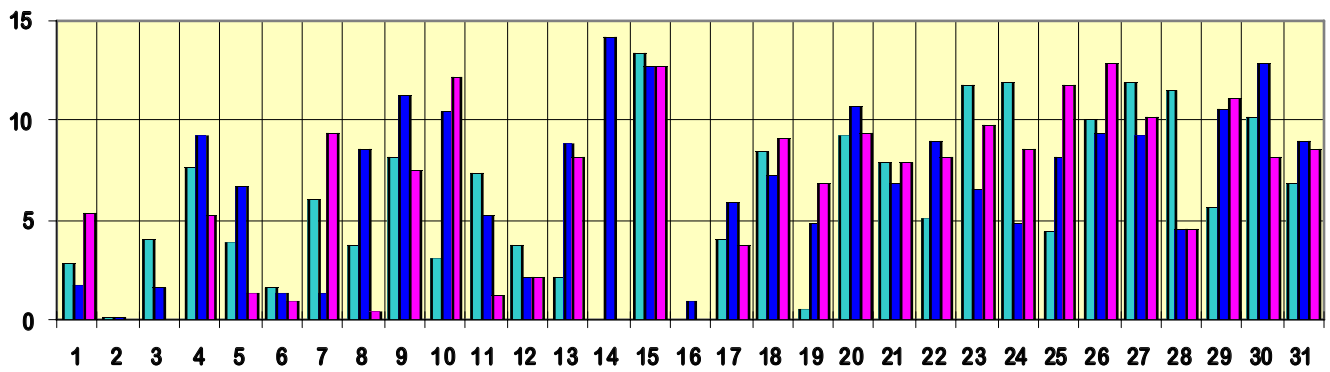
Rainfall	Highest total: 73.3mm at Knock Airport Lowest total: 17.1mm at Cork Airport (<i>its driest August since 1995</i>) Highest daily rainfall: 19.1mm at Malin Head on 16th
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 15.2°C at Roche's Point Lowest mean monthly temperature: 13.0°C at Knock Airport (<i>its coldest August since records began there in 1996</i>) Highest temperature: 24.2°C at Carlow (Oak Park) on 15th Lowest air temperature: 0.6°C at Gurteen on 30th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -1.9°C at Casement Aerodrome on 30th (<i>its lowest such value for August since 1964</i>)
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 216 hours at Dublin Airport (<i>its sunniest August since 1995</i>) Lowest monthly total: 173 hours at Knock Airport (<i>its sunniest August since 2003</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 14.2 hours at Dublin Airport on 14th (<i>its sunniest August day since 1975</i>)

August 2010 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

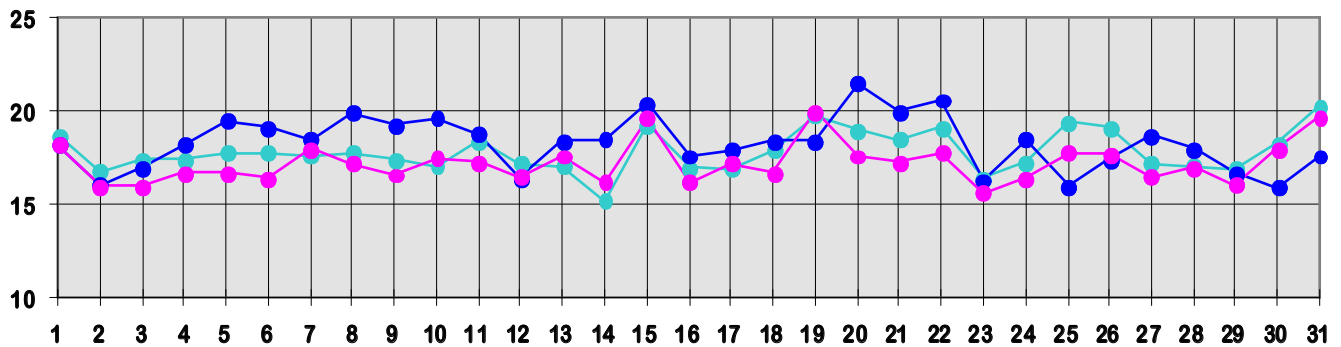
Rainfall (mm)



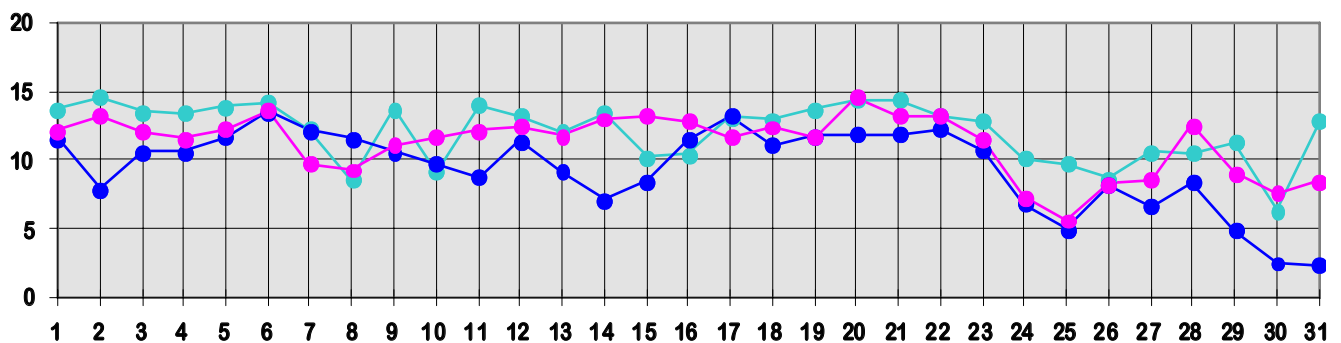
Sunshine (hours)



Maximum temperature (°C)



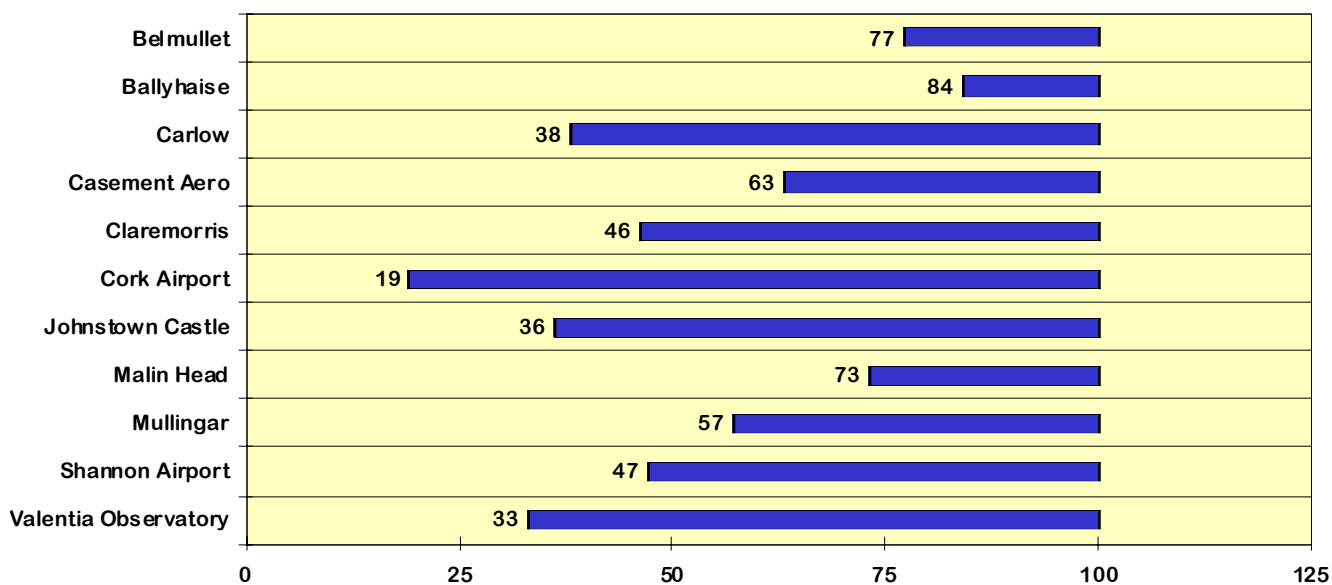
Minimum temperature (°C)



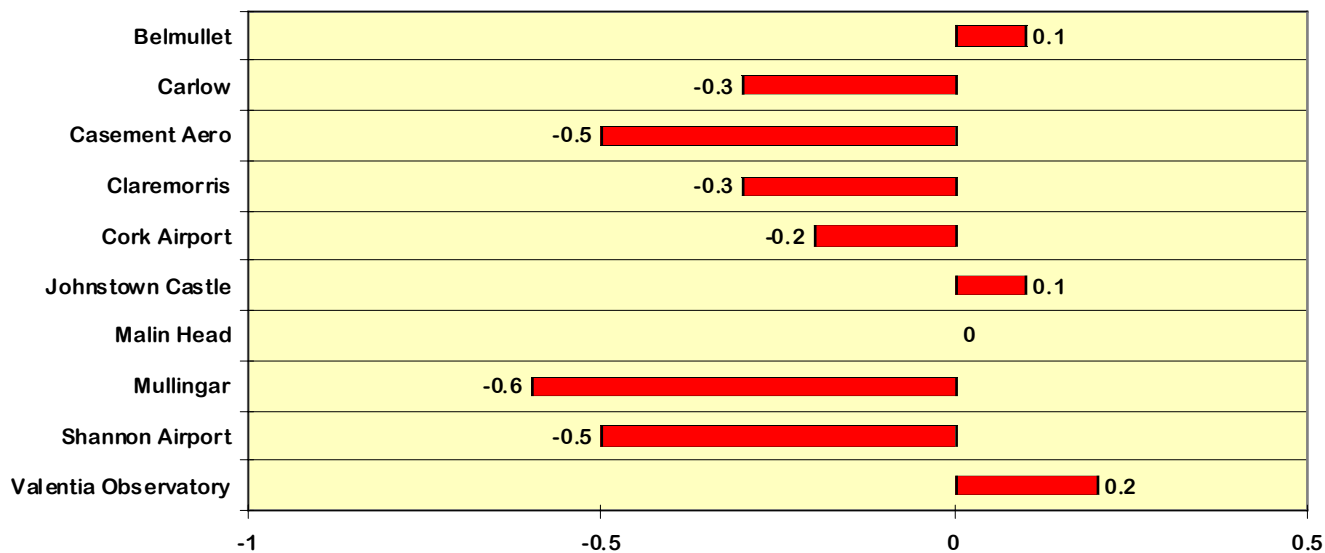
● Valentia Observatory
 ● Dublin Airport
 ● Belmullet

August 2010 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)

