



Monthly Weather Summary

The Weather of January 2012

Warm everywhere; dull and wet in most parts

Mean temperatures were above normal everywhere with largest differences above normal in the west and southwest. Stations in the southwest reported their warmest January since 2002 (10 years), while stations in the west and midlands reported their warmest January since 2007 (5 years). Maximum air temperatures recorded during January were above normal, with most recorded on the 3rd and with the month's highest temperature of 13.1°C recorded at Shannon Airport on this date. Minimum air temperatures were also above normal for the time of year, with Sherkin Island recording a January minimum temperature of 2.5°C, the warmest at the site since 1990 (22 years). Other stations in the south and southwest reported their warmest minimum temperatures in 10 to 19 years, while most remaining stations across the country reported their warmest in at least five years. Warmer than normal minimums led to stations reporting a below average number of days with air frost, with between zero and four days recorded. Days with ground frost were also below average due to above average grass minimum temperatures. Belmullet reported a minimum grass temperature of -2.2°C, its highest grass minimum since 1983 (29 years) and reported only four days with ground frost, much lower than its January average of 11 days. Rainfall was above average almost everywhere, except for stations in the south. Roche's Point and Johnstown Castle received 61% and 63% of their long-term average rainfall, respectively, with Johnstown Castle recording its driest January since 2007 (5 years). Sunshine totals were below normal almost everywhere with percentage of normals ranging from 50% at Valentia Observatory to 112% at Dublin Airport. Below normal sunshine stations reported it was the dullest January in five to 19 years, with Valentia reporting the least sunshine this month, with 21.9 hours and its dullest January since 1983 (29 years).

1st to 5th: Unsettled conditions as Atlantic depressions and associated fronts brought widespread rain, drizzle and showers each day, some with hail and thunder. Mainly cloudy and mild, with a few spells of prolonged sunshine. Strong to gale force winds with high gale gusts were recorded between the 3rd and 5th as the low pressure centre of European windstorm Ulli moved near the north coast.

6th to 12th: Mainly dry and mild, with light rain, drizzle and some fog in places. A few periods of sunshine in the east and southwest but mainly cloudy. Winds were generally moderate, south to southwest with few gale gusts recorded along Atlantic coasts.

13th to 16th: High pressure brought mainly dry, clear skies with fog and mist in places, followed by light rain and patchy drizzle which were persistent at times. Nights were mainly cold and frosty. Winds were light and southwesterly, becoming moderate at the end of the period.

17th to 22nd: Atlantic depressions and their associated fronts brought more unsettled weather, with heavy bands of rain and drizzle, turning showery later on with some hail. Mild temperatures with some sunny spells, thereafter. Winds were mainly west to northwest, with gale gusts in most locations.

23rd to 31st: More unsettled weather with scattered wintery showers at times, few with hail and thunder. Periods of persistent heavy rain with low cloud and fog in places. Some bright spells. Mild temperatures at the start of the period became cooler, with air frosts reported as a cold west to northwesterly airstream covered the country.

Wind and elements: It was the windiest January in five years for some stations, with mean windspeeds between 9 and 20 knots (17 and 37 km/h). Gales were recorded between the 3rd and 5th and on the 25th, with most days in the month recording gale gusts. The month's highest gust was at Malin Head on the 3rd with 90 knots (167 km/h). Thunderstorms were reported on the 1st and 26th, with six days with hail and five days with snow reported. Fog reports were mainly in the south, southwest and west, with stations in the south reporting up to 10 days with fog. Air frosts were reported mainly mid-month and at the end of the month, with ground frost reported at various locations on most days.

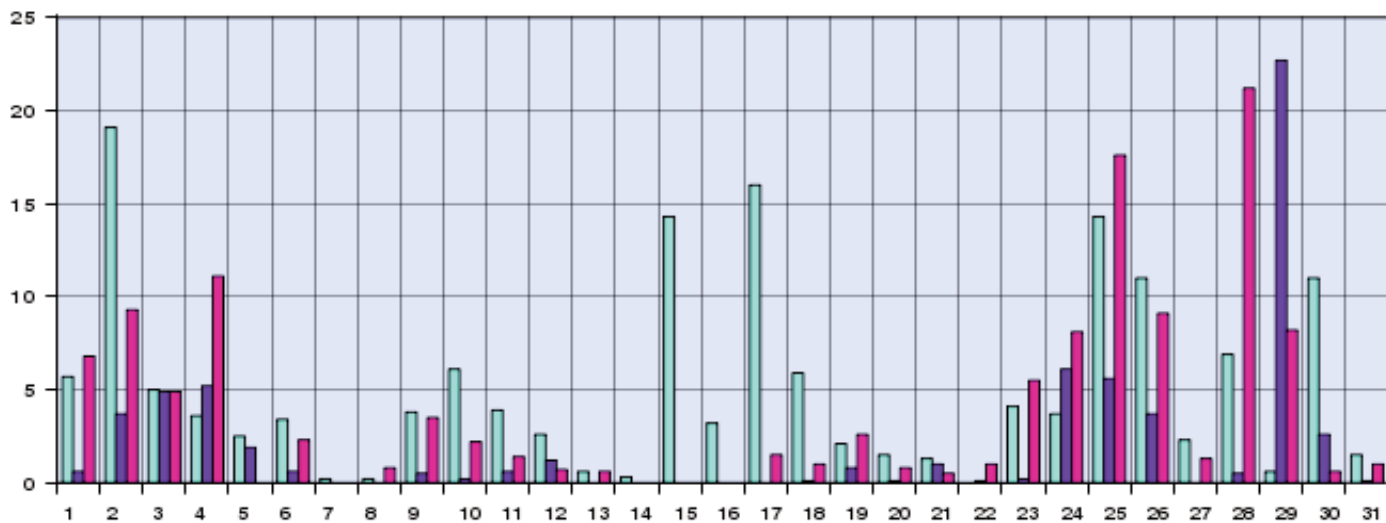
EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall	Highest total: 156.7 mm at Valentia Observatory Lowest total: 62.9 mm at Dublin Airport Highest daily rainfall: 24.6 mm at Mullingar and Carlow (Oak Park) on 29th
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 9.1°C at Sherkin Island (<i>its warmest January since 2002</i>) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 5.5°C at Knock Airport (<i>its warmest January since 2007</i>) Highest temperature: 13.1°C at Shannon Airport on 3rd Lowest air temperature: -3.1°C at Mullingar on 28th (<i>its highest minimum for January since 2007</i>) Lowest grass minimum temperature: -7.2°C at Mullingar and Gurteen on 28th
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 62.6 hours at Dublin Airport Lowest monthly total: 21.9 hours at Valentia Observatory (<i>its dullest January since 1983</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 6.4 hours at Dublin Airport on 13th

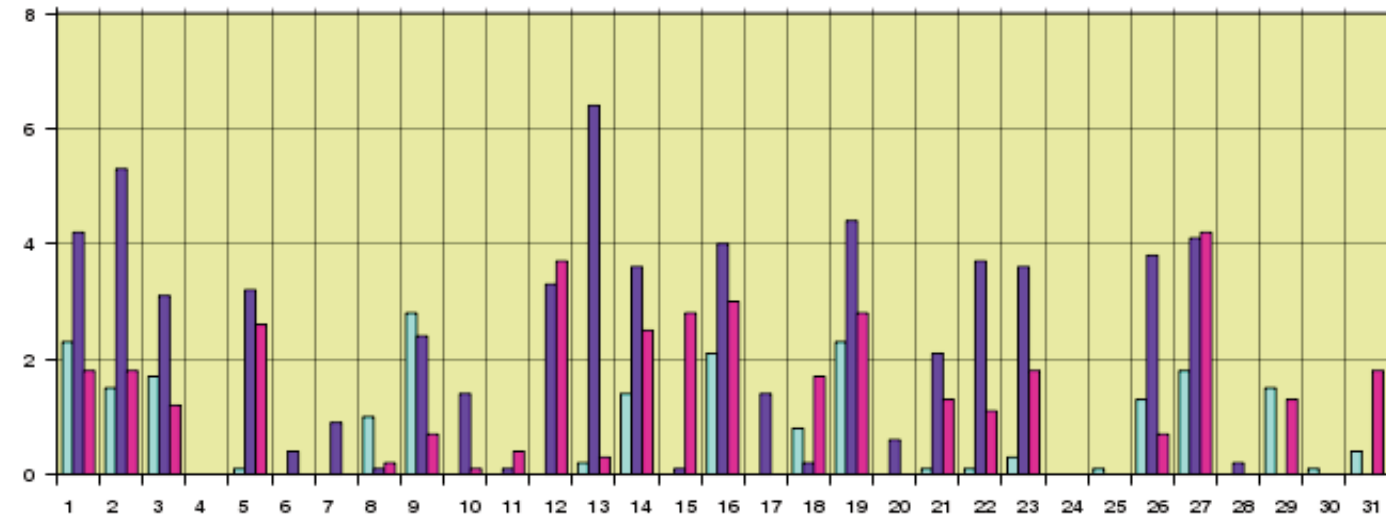
January 2012 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

Based on data from 1- 31 January 2012

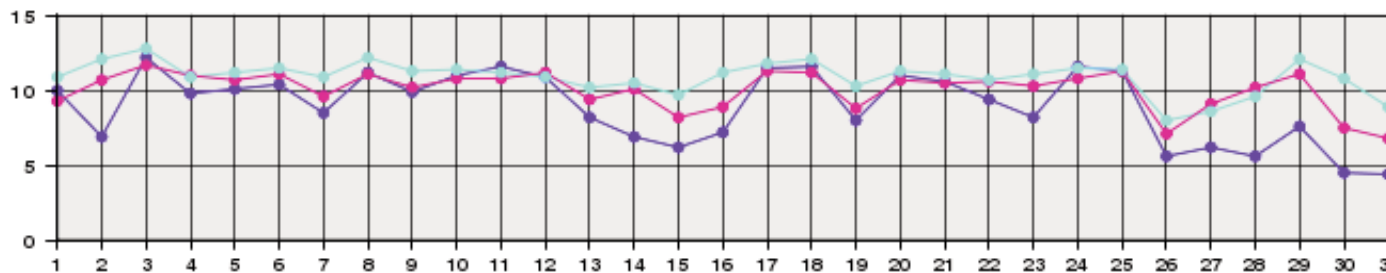
Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



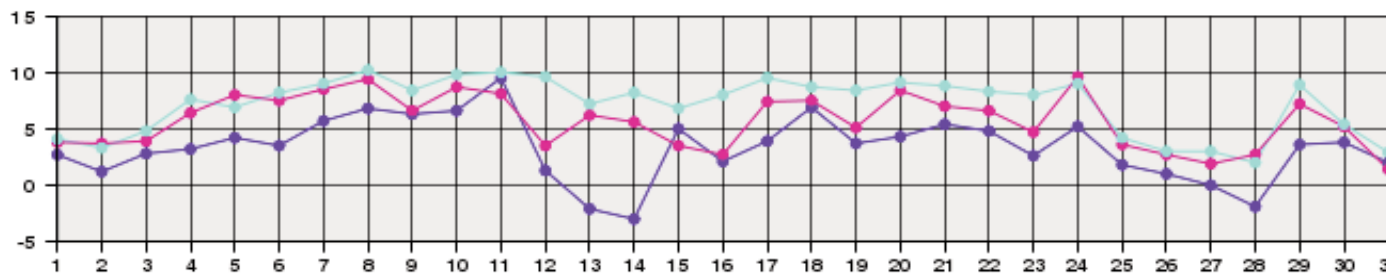
Daily sunshine values(hours)



Daily 00-24h maximum temperature (°C)



Daily 00-24h minimum temperature (°C)

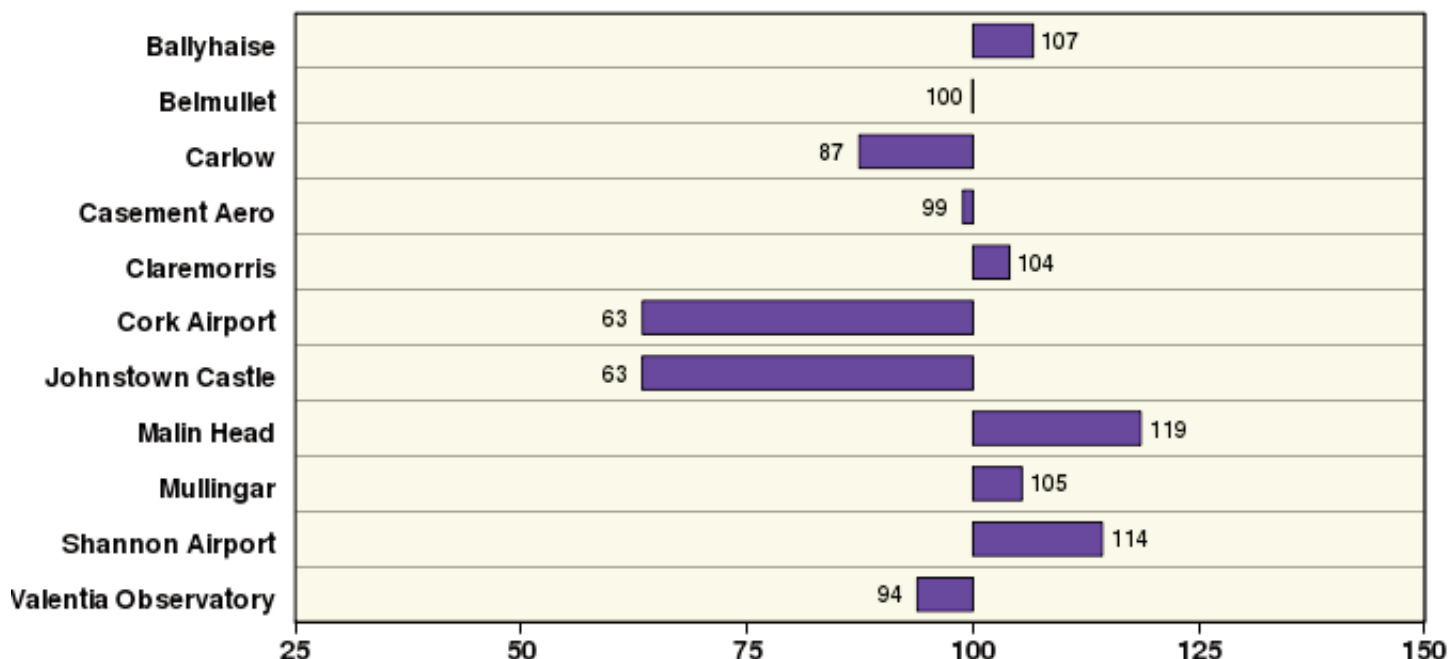


- Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport - Belmullet

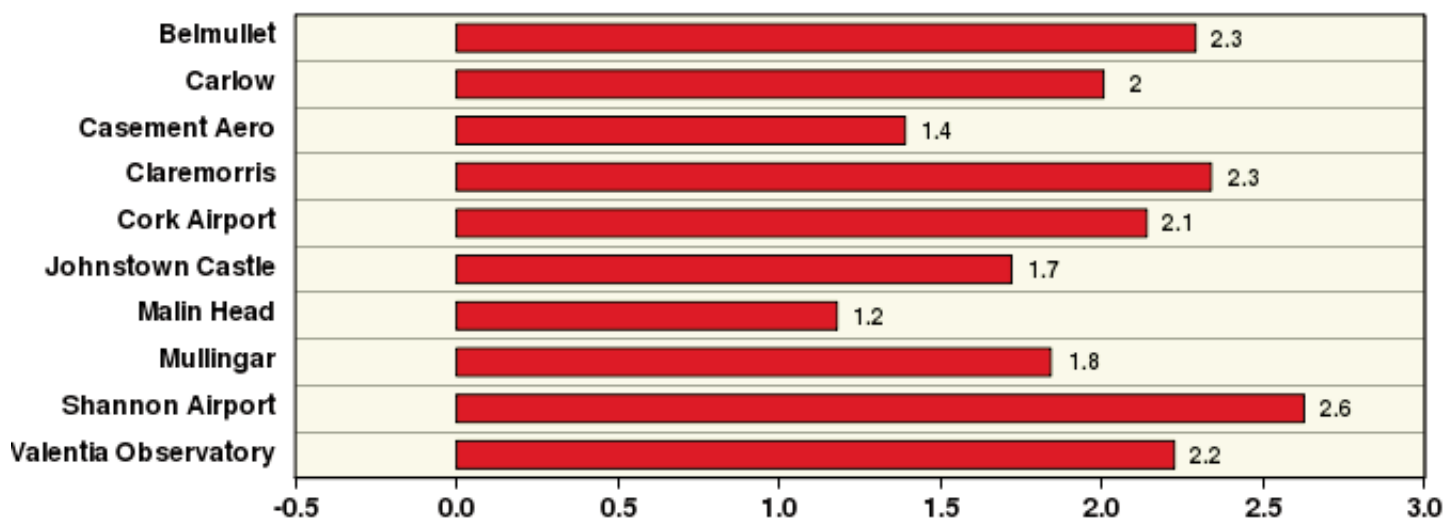
January 2012 Percentage/Difference from 1961-1990 monthly normal

Based on Data from 1-31 January 2012 on whole month basis

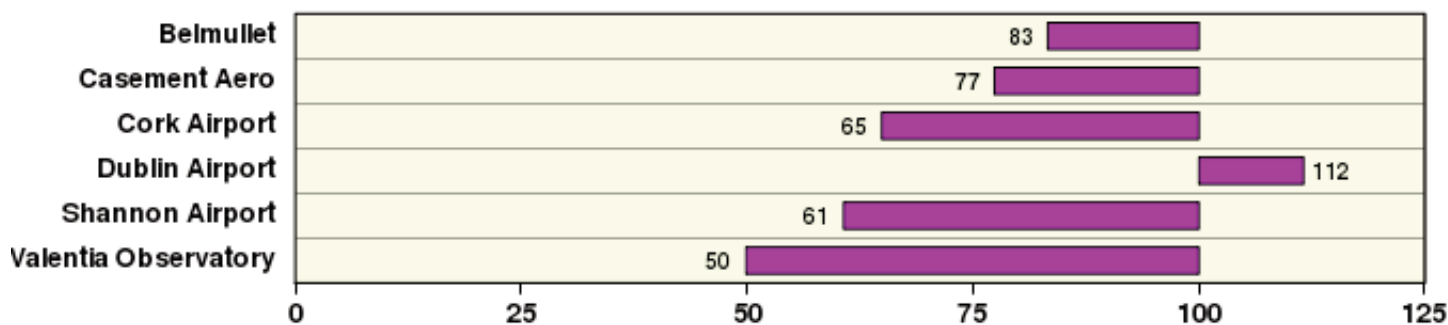
Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990) on whole month basis



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



Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990) on whole month basis



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on 1st February 2012

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