The Weather of Winter 2007/08

(December, January & February summary)

Wet except in the southeast; mild and sunny everywhere

Despite a drier than normal February almost everyhwere, the winter season was wetter than normal except in the southeast. There was a wide range in seasonal totals across the country, with western and southwestern areas measuring over twice the rainfall recorded in the east. At many stations it was the wettest winter for between 8 and 13 years. Spells of heavy rain during December and January brought flooding in parts of the south and west, but much of February was dry. The total number of raindays during the season (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) ranged between 43 and 69 generally, close to normal for winter.

Temperatures were well above normal throughout most of the season, but there were also short spells of cold weather during early January and mid-February, when frost was severe in places. Overall, mean air temperatures were between one and two degrees above normal for the 1961-90 period and it was the warmest winter for between 6 or 10 years at many stations, while it was the warmest winter at Valentia Observatory since records began there in 1892. The total number of air frosts during the winter season ranged from 3 at some coastal stations to 30 at Kilkenny, with most inland stations recording between 18 and 26 air frosts, compared with a range of between 25 and 30 air frosts in these areas during an average winter. Almost all stations measured their lowest temperatures of the season on either January 4th or in the period between February 17th and 19th.

Winter sunshine totals were above normal everywhere, especially in the east. The season's highest daily values at all stations were measured during mid-February.

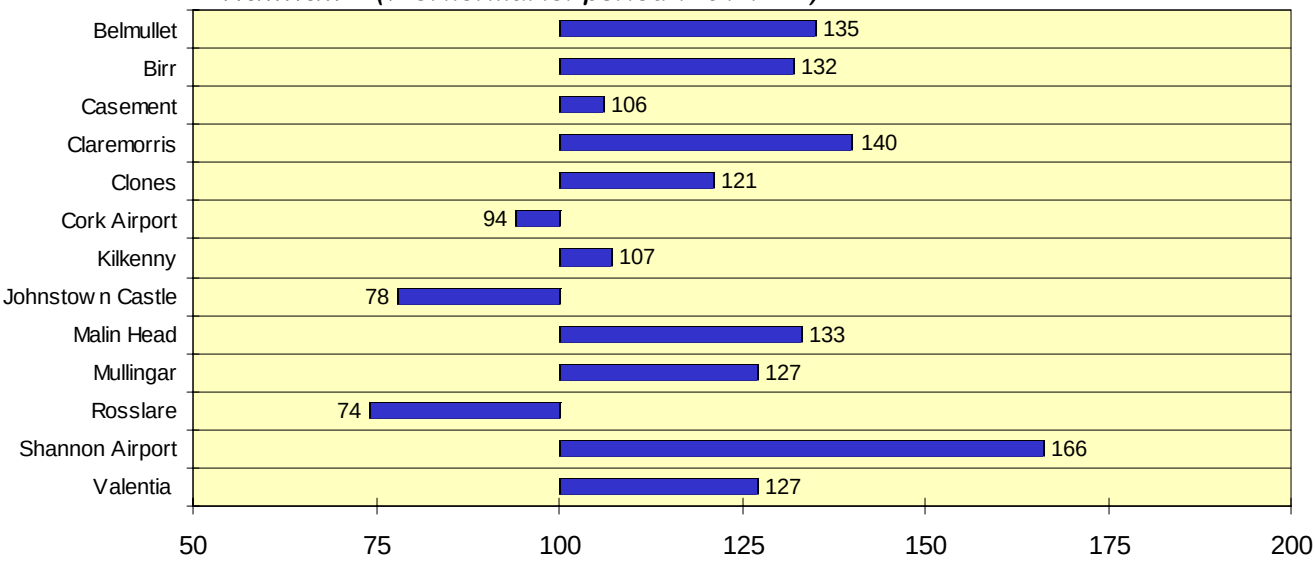
There were spells of stormy weather at times during the winter, especially during early January and late February. Mean windspeeds for the season of between 8 and 19 knots *(15 and 35 km/h)* were above normal everywhere and were the highest for winter for between 6 and 14 years in many places. The highest gust of the season, 91 knots *(168 km/h)*, was measured at Malin Head on January 9th, the highest gust there since December 1998.

Extreme values

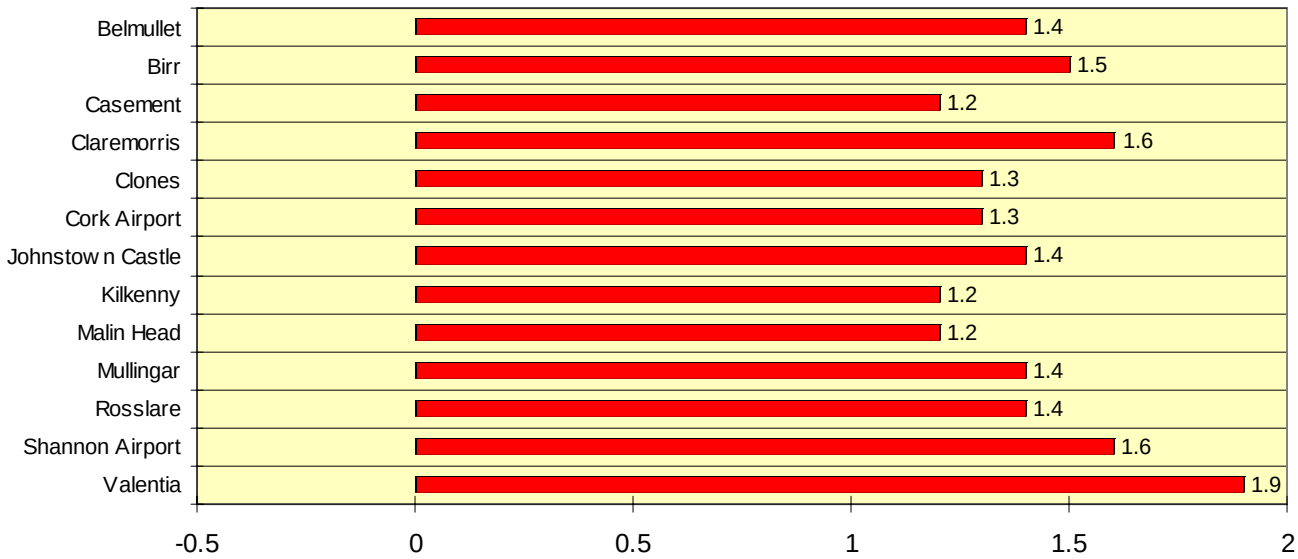
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 577mm at Valentia Observatory *(its wettest winter since 1999/2000)* Lowest seasonal total: 176mm at Dublin Airport *(its wettest winter since 2002/3)* Highest daily rainfall: 33.6mm at Shannon Airport on December 6th
Temperature	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 8.9°C at Valentia Observatory *(its warmest winter since records began there in 1892)* Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 5.2°C at Knock Airport Highest temperature: 15.9°C at Kilkenny on February 13th *(its highest winter value since records began there in 1957)* Lowest air temperature: -7.7°C at Casement Aerodrome on February 19th *(its lowest winter value since 2001/2)* Lowest grass minimum temperature: -12.8°C at Birr on February 17th and 18th
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 219 hours at Dublin Airport and Rosslare Lowest seasonal total: 138 hours at Knock Airport *(its dullest winter value since 1997/8)* Highest daily sunshine: 9.2 hours at Belmullet on February 18th

Winter 2007/08 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

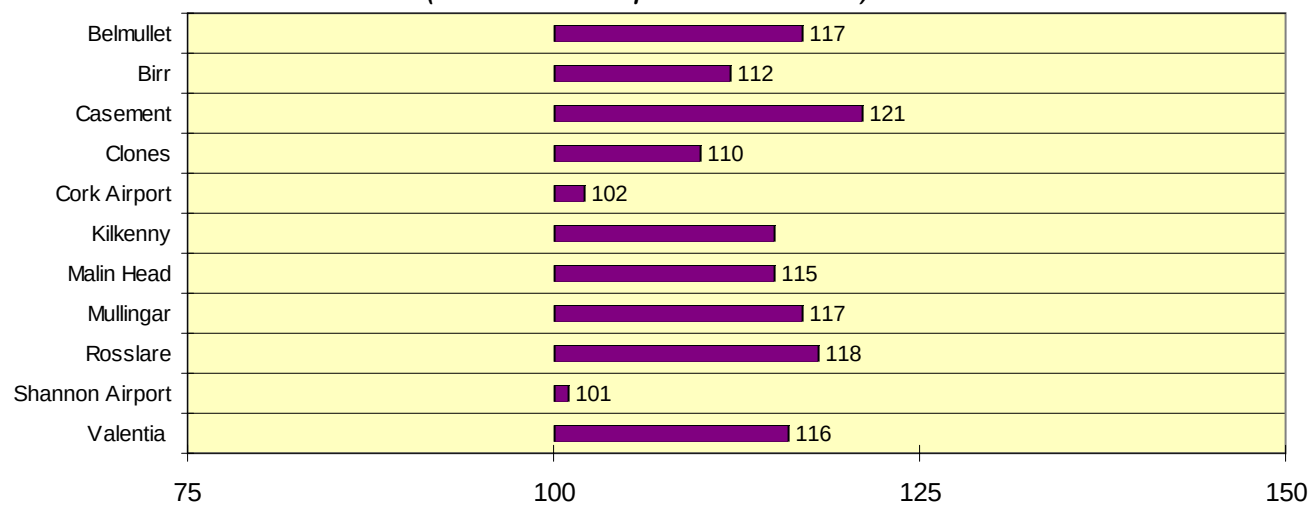
Rainfall *(% of normal for period 1961-1990)*



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



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



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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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