



## Exceptional weather events

**Type of event:**  
**Summer weather**

**Date:**  
**Summer 1995**

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THE WEATHER OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

# Warmest summer on record

It was the warmest summer on record almost everywhere, with mean air temperatures over two degrees above normal in most places. Among the long-term records broken were at Valentia Observatory and at Dublin (Phoenix Park), which both measured a mean air temperature of 16.6°C, the highest for over a century in each case. Temperatures rose to around 30°C on a number of days and nighttime minima remained above 15°C for much of the second half of July and early August. Kilkenny had a total of 27 days with temperatures in excess of 25°C compared with the normal 3 or 4; the same station recorded the highest temperature of the summer with 30.8°C on August 2nd. The lowest air temperature of the season, 2.1°C, was recorded at Casement Aerodrome on June 12th, while Clones recorded the lowest grass minimum temperature of -2.9°C on June 13th. It was also an exceptionally dry summer, with less than half the normal rainfall recorded over

most of the eastern half of the country. It was the driest summer on record at Malin Head, Casement Aerodrome and Cork Airport, while at Dublin (Phoenix Park) the summer's total of just 65.1mm was the lowest since 1887. June and August were particularly dry, but there were a number of days during July which brought localised downpours, often accompanied by thunder. Shannon Airport recorded 39.3mm on July 29th, the highest daily fall of the season. For the first summer in many years sunshine was above normal everywhere, with mean daily sunshine of over 6 hours in most places. It was the sunniest summer for at least 25 years generally and the sunniest since 1899 at Dublin (Phoenix Park). There was virtually unbroken sunshine over the country between the 21st and 29th of June, with daily totals of over 14 hours each day almost everywhere. Malin Head recorded 16.0 hours sunshine on June 26th, the highest daily value of the season.

**June**  
*dry except on a few days, very warm and sunny in final week*

**July**  
*very warm with some local downpours*

**August**  
*exceptionally dry, warm and sunny*

*Note: This summary is based on monthly to monthly readings from the nearest specific stations operated by the Meteorological Service.*

County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)			TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (hours)			NO. OF DAYS					
	Total	Tot to ave	most in a day amount date(s)	Mean	diff. from average	Extremes Highest Lowest	Daily mean	% of average	most in a day amount date(s)	Rain	Snow	Air-frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Sea gales
CO. CLAKE																
SHANNON AIRPORT	158.7	76	39.3 29 Jul	17.8	+2.8	30.2 6.3	6.18	120	15.7 27 Jun	32	0	0	0	0	8	2
CO. CORK																
CORK AIRPORT	110.0	50	18.6 15 Jul	16.6	+2.4	28.0 5.5	6.71	119	15.6 27 Jun	32	0	0	0	2	24	3
CO. DUBLIN																
MALIN HEAD	106.1	64	16.0 19 Jul	16.9	+1.4	25.2 7.9	6.35	126	16.0 26 Jun	43	0	0	0	2	4	18
CO. DUBLIN																
DUBLIN AIRPORT	89.0		39.0 16 Jul	15.9		27.1 4.0	7.39	131	15.9 27 Jun	26	0	0	0	1	16	3
CASEMENT AERODROME	66.6	36	11.4 6 Jul	16.3	+2.0	28.8 2.1	6.84	127	15.8 27 Jun	24	0	0	0	1	8	3
CO. KERRY																
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	232.3	89	30.9 29 Jun	16.6	+2.2	28.3 6.1	5.79	136	15.3 22 Jun	40	0	0	0	2	5	9
CO. KILKENNY																
KILKENNY	110.9	64	26.5 30 Jun	17.1	+2.6	30.8 3.8	6.80	134	15.3 27 Jun	26		0				6
CO. MAYO																
CLAREBOROUGH	161.6	67	17.1 27 Jul	16.2	+2.5	29.0 4.5	6.64	150	15.8 27 Jun	19	0	0	1	3	6	0
RENDULLEY	140.1	61	23.8 16 Jul	16.1	+2.3	28.0 5.6	6.81	136	15.9 27 Jun	43	0	0	0	3	4	15
CO. MONAGHAN																
CLONES	140.2	62	17.2 26 Jul	16.5	+2.6	29.3 3.4	6.88	155	15.8 26 Jun	43		0				5
CO. OFFALY																
BIRR	111.7	57	31.4 1 Aug	16.8	+2.5	29.7 2.6	6.25	131	15.7 27 Jun	32		0				3
CO. WESTMEATH																
MULLINGAR II	104.9	49	14.9 27 Jul	16.2	+2.4	28.1 4.0	6.98	144	15.8 27 Jun	15		0				3
CO. WEXFORD																
ROSSLAKE	87.8	49	15.4 14 Jul	16.2	+1.7	24.7 8.0	7.73	121	15.5 23 Jun	19	0	0	0	1	11	8

# SUMMER 1995 RANKS AS BEST EVER

Comparisons between summer weather of different years may be rather subjective depending on one's particular memories. The Poulter Index provides an objective measure of just how "good" or "bad" a summer was by means of a formula-derived score for the summer based on meteorological parameters. The Index works by taking the range of values of temperature, rainfall and sunshine for the summer season of June, July and August over the whole period of a station's record to produce weighting factors for each of the elements concerned. The mean temperature, total sunshine and rainfall for a particular summer are then multiplied by the appropriate weighting factor and summed to produce the Index. The graphs below show the Poulter Indices for each summer at three of the longest recording stations in the country. At Birr and Dublin (Phoenix Park), the indices of 433 and 443 respectively for 1995 were the highest in over a century of recording, while at Valentia Observatory the Index for 1995 of 425 was the highest since 1955. Another long-term station, Malin Head, with observations back to 1915, recorded its highest ever value of 435. The graphs also show that 1912 was the worst summer on record at both Birr and Dublin (Phoenix Park), while at Valentia Observatory this dubious honour is held by 1985.

