



# January 2020

## **Mild and Dry overall**

The first week of January was changeable with low pressure to the north and west and high pressure to the south and southeast. Relatively weak weather fronts crossed the country from time to time in a mild south-westerly airflow, with dry periods in between. The second week was more unsettled with active low-pressure systems dominating our weather in a mostly westerly or south-westerly airflow. One such system, Storm Brendan, brought the strongest winds of the month on the 13th, including a squall line which crossed the country from west to east with embedded thunderstorms. It remained very unsettled and windy up to the 16th. The rest of the third week saw high-pressure building over Ireland, which intensified to near record levels on the 20th and brought some cold, crisp, mostly sunny days with frost and fog at night. Anticyclonic gloom took over from the 21st when a weak weather front brought a lot of cloud into the high-pressure system over Ireland. Several dull days followed, along with some dense fog and drizzle up to the 25th. Atlantic weather fronts broke through on the 26th in a westerly airflow and introduced a fresh and cold polar maritime air mass, originating from Greenland. This brought wintry showers and frost at night, with lying snow in places, especially in the West and North. A weak warm front brought milder air in from the southwest on the 29th and the month finished mild and changeable once again.

## **Rainfall: Below average in most places**

Nearly all rainfall totals were below their Long-Term Average (LTA) for the month. Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 58% (the month's lowest monthly rainfall total of 36.1 mm) at Dublin Airport to 123 % (the month's highest monthly rainfall total of 154.8 mm) at Claremorris, Co Mayo. The highest daily rainfall total was 23.3 mm at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on the 11th (22% of its monthly LTA). The number of rain days ranged from 13 days at Dublin Airport to 26 days at a few stations. The number of wet days<sup>1</sup> ranged from 9 days at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 23 days at Newport, Co Mayo. The number of very wet days<sup>2</sup> ranged from no days at a few stations to 7 days at Claremorris, Co Mayo.

## **Temperature: Above average everywhere**

All mean air temperatures across the country were above their Long-Term Average (LTA) for the month. Deviations from mean air temperature for the month ranged from 0.4 °C (6.1 °C mean temperature) at Moore Park, Co Cork to 1.8 °C (7.0 °C mean temperature) at Finner, Co Donegal. Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 5.0 °C (1.0 °C above its LTA ) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 8.3 °C (0.8 °C above its LTA ) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork. The month's lowest temperatures were recorded on the 19th with the lowest air minimum reported at Mullingar, Co Westmeath with a temperature of -6.1 °C and the lowest grass minimum reported at Oak Park, Co Carlow with -10.7 °C. The highest maximum was reported on the 7th at Newport, Co Mayo with a temperature of 14.4 °C (*its highest January max temperature since 2009*). All stations reported ground frost during the month. The number of ground frost days ranged from 3 days at a few stations to 19 days at Markree, Co Sligo. More than half of stations reported air frost. The number of air frost days ranged from zero days at Mace Head, Co Galway to 7 days at a few stations. Air frost was particularly widespread on the 18th and 19th.

## **Sunshine: Above average everywhere apart from the Northwest**

Sunshine totals were mostly above average across the country. Percentage of monthly sunshine values ranged from 82% (monthly sunshine total of 39.9 hours) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 130% (the month's highest monthly sunshine total of 74.2 hours) at Cork Airport, Co Cork. Monthly sunshine totals were lowest at Malin Head, Co Donegal with 33.9 hours (No LTA comparison\*). The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this month was 7.6 hours at Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Johnstown Castle\*, Co Wexford both on the 20th. The number of dull days<sup>2</sup> ranged from 7 days at both Dublin Airport and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 16 days at both Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford and Knock Airport, Co Mayo.

## **Wind: Storm force winds reported during Storm Brendan**

Monthly mean wind speeds ranged from 5.5 knots (10.2 km/h) at Moore Park, Co Cork to 19.2 knots (35.6 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Gales were reported on numerous days with strong gales reported on the 7th, 9th and 15th. Storm force winds were reported on the 13th during Storm Brendan. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 11 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero days at Dublin (Phoenix Park) to 2 days at Mace head, Co Galway and Belmullet, Co Mayo. The number of days with up to storm force winds ranged from zero days at most stations to 1 day at three stations. These were Mace Head, Co Galway, Belmullet, Co Mayo and Roches Point, Co Cork, all on the 13th during Storm Brendan. Both the month's highest gust and 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at Roche's Point, Co Cork on the 13th during Storm Brendan. The highest gust was 73 knots (135 km/h) while the month's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 52 knots (96 km/h).

Dense Fog was reported in many places on the 22nd and 23rd.

## **EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS**

### **Rainfall**

Highest total: 154.8 mm at Claremorris, Co Mayo (123% of its LTA)  
Lowest total: 36.1 mm at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (58% of its LTA)  
Highest daily rainfall: 23.3 mm at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon (22% of its monthly LTA) on Sat 11th

### **Temperature**

Highest mean monthly temperature: 8.3°C at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (0.8°C above its LTA)  
Lowest mean monthly temperature: 5.0°C at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (1.0°C above its LTA)  
Highest Air temperature: 14.4°C at Newport, Co Mayo (5.7°C above its LTA) on Tue 7th (*its highest January max temperature since 2009*)  
Lowest air temperature: -6.1°C at Mullingar, Co Westmeath (7.8°C below its LTA) on Sun 19th  
Lowest grass minimum: -10.7°C at Oak Park, Co Carlow on Sun 19th

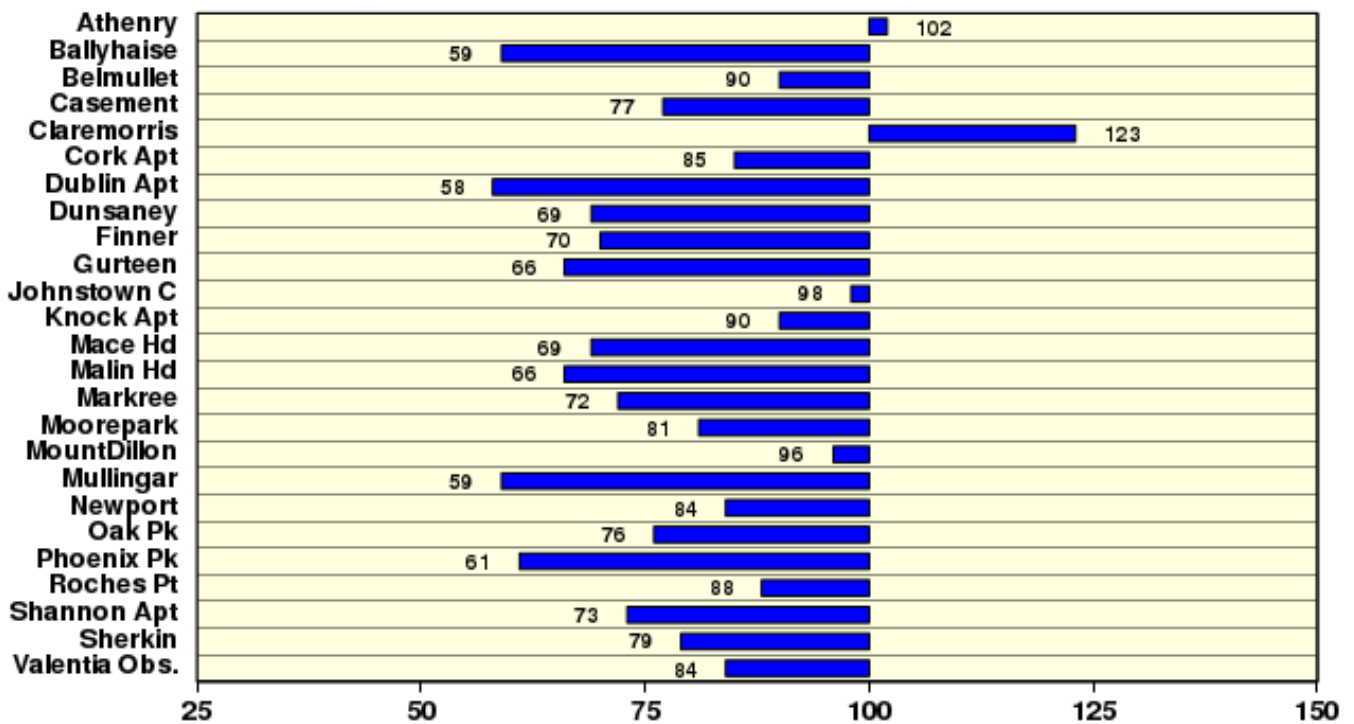
### **Sunshine**

Highest monthly total: 74.2 hrs (daily mean 2.39 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork  
Lowest monthly total: 33.9 hrs (daily mean 1.09 hrs/day) at Malin Head, Co Donegal  
Highest daily sunshine: 7.6 hours at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford on the 20th

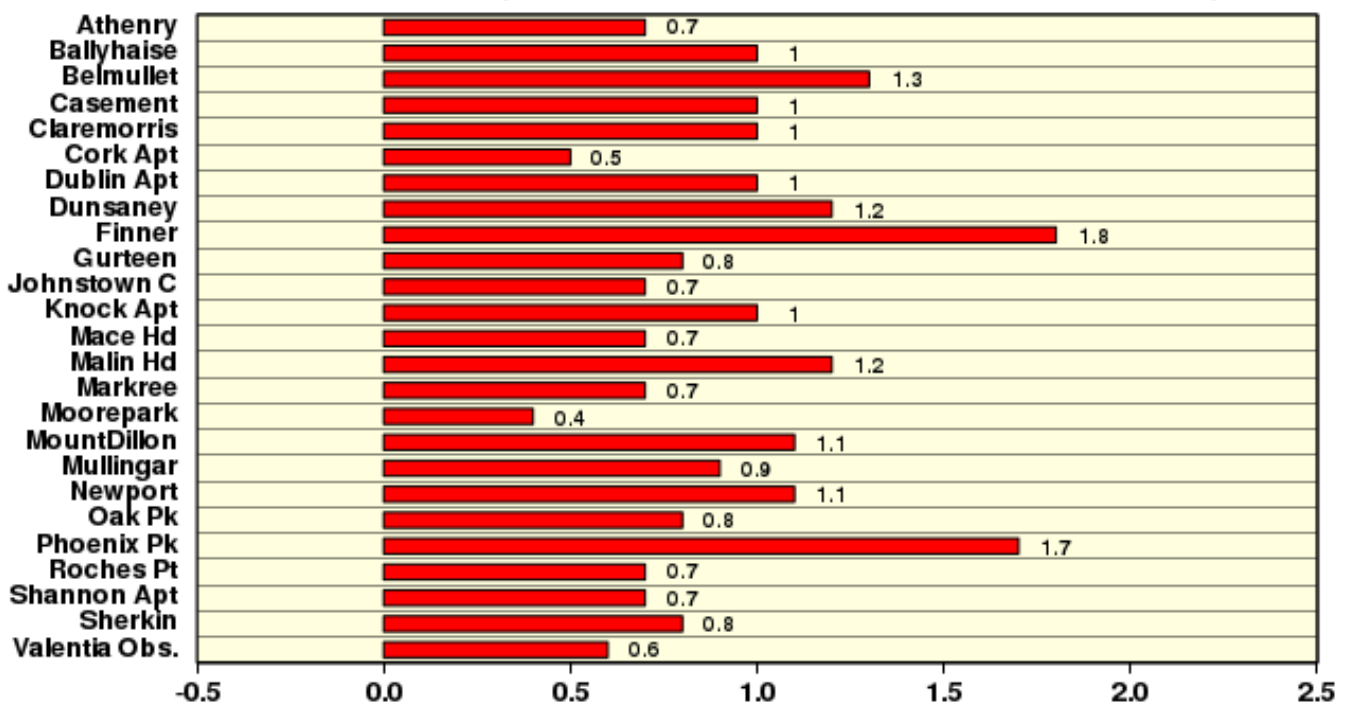
# January 2020

Based on Data from 1-31 January 2020 on whole month basis

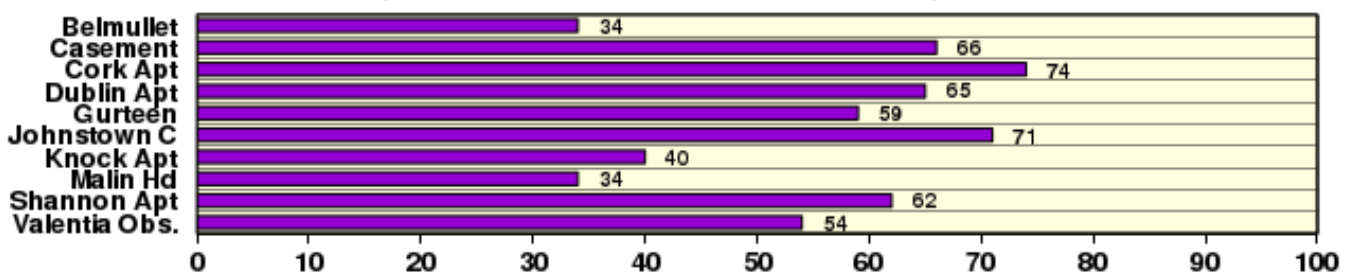
## Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole month basis



## Temperature (°C) difference from average for period 1981-2010)



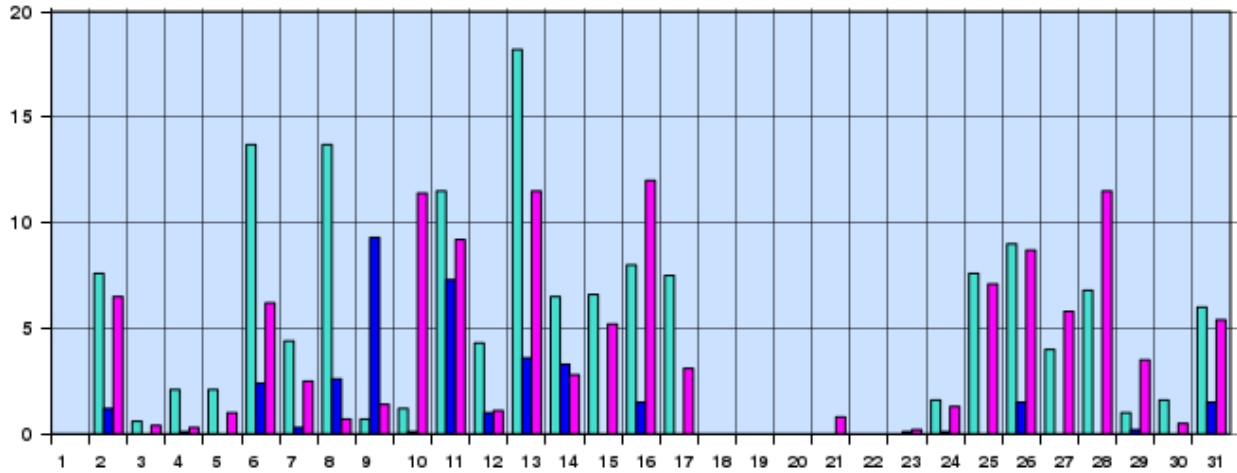
## Sunshine (Number of monthly sunshine hours)



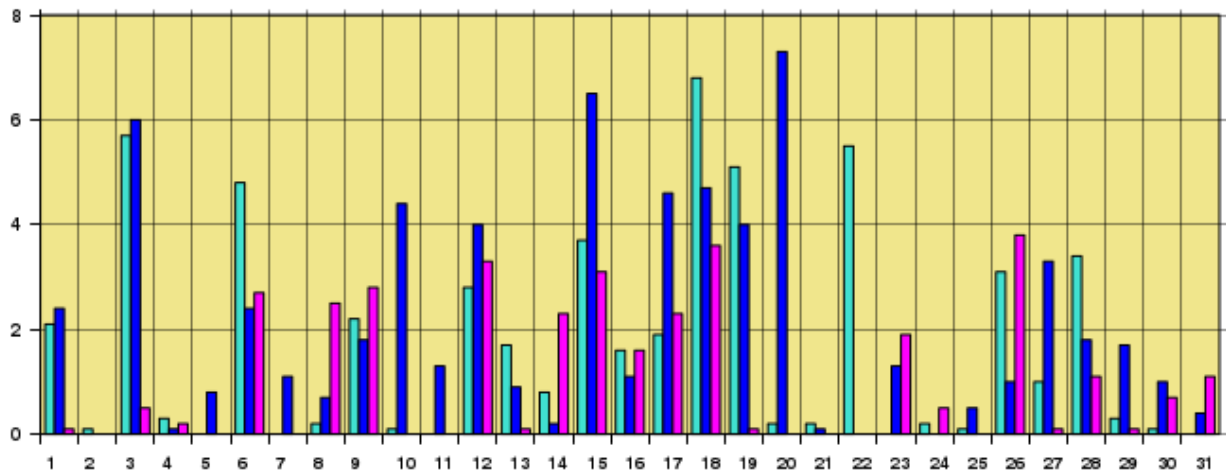
# January 2020 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

Based on data from 1-31 January 2020 on a pro rata basis

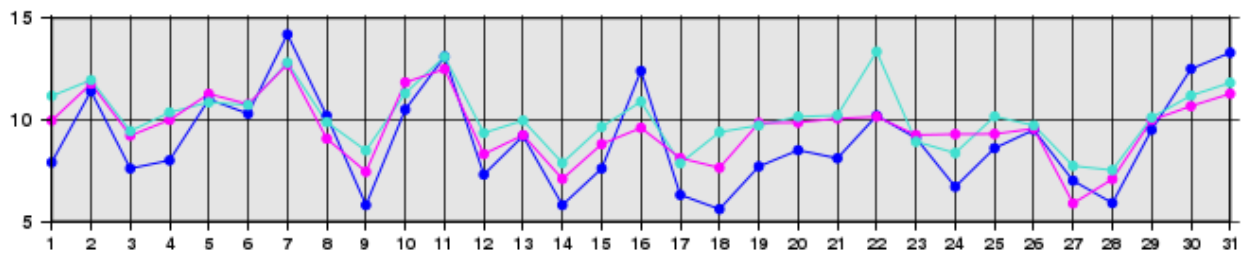
Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



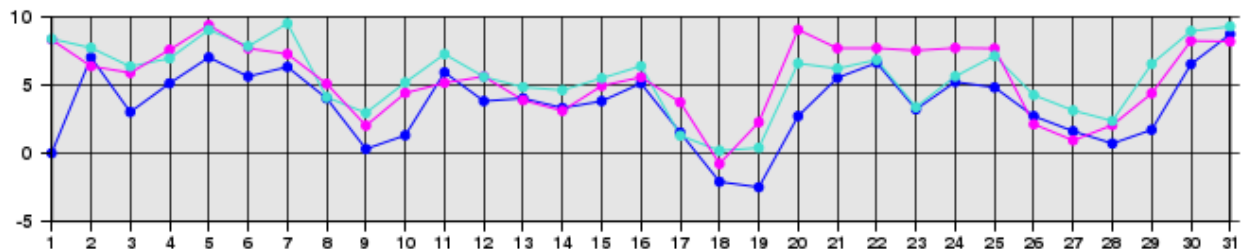
Daily sunshine values(hours)



Daily 00-24h maximum temperature (°C)



Daily 00-24h minimum temperature (°C)



- Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport - Belmullet

Source: newR/WXBULL/CurentMonthlyTemp.R Plotted Mon Feb 3 17:23:44 2020

Issued by Met Éireann on Tuesday 4th February 2020. This report is based on available preliminary data from 25 principal weather stations operated by Met Éireann. Synoptic station data is midnight to midnight UTC. Long-Term Averages (LTAs) and “average” refer to the period 1981-2010. <sup>1</sup> A dry spell is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 1.0 mm or more of precipitation (i.e. daily tot < 1.0 mm). <sup>2</sup> A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall. <sup>3</sup> A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine. <sup>4</sup> A very wet day is a day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall. \*Sunshine data is from the Autosol Network. LTAs for these sites are currently not used for comparison purposes. For more information, contact Met Éireann at 01-8064200 or e-mail: enq@met.ie