

## WARMER THAN NORMAL EVERYWHERE; DRY IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST

Most months in 2011 were warmer than their 1961-1990 averages, except for January and the summer season months. November was the warmest month relative to normal and the warmest on record for most stations in the west, midlands and east, with mean temperatures over three degrees above normal in eastern areas. Overall, annual mean temperatures were higher than their 1961-1990 averages, with temperature differences up to 1°C in places. Phoenix Park, Mullingar and Roche's Point all reported their highest annual mean temperature in over five to seven years. Annual mean maximum temperatures for the year were above normal, with most annual maximums recorded during the months of April, June and September. The highest temperature of 2011 was 26.0°C, at climate stations Cavan (Drumconnick) and Athy (Chanterlands) Co. Kildare on June 3rd. Phoenix Park reported the latest maximum temperature of the year, with 25.7°C on September 28th, its warmest temperature during September since 1906 (105 years). Synoptic stations, mainly in the south and west, reported their lowest annual maximum temperatures in a number of years, with Belmullet and Cork Airport reporting their lowest annual maximum temperatures since the 1960's. Most annual mean minimum temperatures for the year were below normal, with most stations recording their minimum temperatures of 2011 during January. The years lowest temperature of -8.3°C was recorded at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), Co. Kilkenny on January 29th. The total number of air frosts recorded at synoptic sites in 2011 was below average, ranging from four at Roche's Point to 46 at Mullingar, with the highest number of air frosts recorded in January and at inland stations.

Annual rainfall totals for 2011 were mostly above average, except for areas in the south, southeast and east. Percentage of annual normals ranged from 81% at Johnstown Castle, its driest year since 1971(40 years) to 126% at Belmullet. The distribution of rainfall over the year was uneven, with

most stations recording February and October as their wettest month and March as their driest. The majority of stations during Spring and Summer 2011 were relatively dry with exception of a few stations east and southwest. On October 23rd/24th, a slow moving frontal depression resulted in high rainfall totals, mainly in the east and southeast, attributing to Autumn 2011's relatively wet conditions. A third to nearly a half of the monthly rainfall in the east was recorded during this event with Casement Aerodrome recording a daily fall of 82.2mm, its highest daily rainfall in October since the station opened in 1954 (57 years). The highest daily rainfall in 2011 was 106.6mm at Delphi Lodge II, Co. Mayo on November 17th, its highest daily rainfall on record at the site since 1994 (17 years). The annual number of wetdays (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) was above normal almost everywhere ranging from 120 wetdays at Casement Aerodrome to 228 wetdays at Belmullet.

Sunshine totals were near or above normal during 2011, however it was still the duller year in a number of years for most stations, with the lowest amounts relative to normal received in the south and southwest. The sunniest months relative to normal were January and March, with September recording the least. Percentage of normal values for September in the south and southwest were just above 50% and Valentia Observatory recorded its lowest September sunshine since 1893 (118 years). In 2011, Cork Airport had its duller year since 1994 (17 years) with 1353 hours, while the highest duration of sunshine was recorded at Dublin Airport with 1551 hours and nearly 109% of its yearly average. Most stations recorded their sunniest day of the year during June, with Casement Aerodrome recording the highest daily sunshine for the year, with 15.9 hours on June 3rd.

Mean wind speeds for the year were above normal measuring between 7 and 15 knots (*13 and 27 km/h*). Annual values at Shannon Airport and Cork Airport were the highest since 1982 (29 years) and 1990 (21 years), respectively. The highest gust in 2011 was 78 knots (*144 km/h*) record at both Malin Head on December 8th and Belmullet on May 23rd, Ireland's highest ever gust recorded during May.

County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)			TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (HOURS)			NO. OF DAYS WITH:						
	Total	% of average	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	Gale gusts
<b>CO. CARLOW</b>																	
Carlow (Oak Park)	735.9	94	46.5 30 Sep	10.3	+0.9	25.5	-5.9				215	39					36
<b>CO. CAVAN</b>																	
Ballyhaise	1074.7	103	27.7 15 Jan	9.5		24.1	-7.0				249	41					28
<b>CO. CLARE</b>																	
Shannon Airport	1016.6	111	33.0 5 Feb	10.7	+0.6	23.9	-5.3	3.54	101	15.1 3 Jun	237	7	24	15	3	28	59
<b>CO. CORK</b>																	
Cork Airport	1022.7	86	33.8 2 May	9.9	+0.4	21.5	-3.7	3.72	98	13.8 29 Apr	235	9	12	7	1	95	63
Roche's Point	770.0	82	28.4 2 May	10.8	+0.5	21.2	-2.0				212	4					80
<b>CO. DONEGAL</b>																	
Malin Head	1231.6	116	22.4 17 Oct	10.2	+0.7	23.4	-3.6				267	5					155
<b>CO. DUBLIN</b>																	
Dublin Airport	671.8	90	69.1 24 Oct	10.1		24.1	-6.8	4.26	109	15.6 3 Jun	195	5	38	4	4	18	81
Casement Aerodrome	726.7	100	82.2 24 Oct	10.3	+1.0	24.4	-5.3	4.06	111	15.9 3 Jun	190	5	32	11	5	10	84
<b>CO. KERRY</b>																	
Valentia Observatory	1719.7	123	54.9 22 Oct	11.1	+0.5	22.5	-4.7	3.34	98	15.3 3 Jun	271	1	13	21	2	17	95
<b>CO. MAYO</b>																	
Belmullet	1375.5	126	34.7 21 Jun	10.7	+0.7	20.6	-3.8	3.79	108	15.0 11 Jun	275	16	7	44	2	12	151
Knock Airport	1441.9	117	34.9 6 Jul	9.0		22.0	-3.7	3.09		13.8 2 May	265	18	29	21	2	85	89
<b>CO. TIPPERARY</b>																	
Gurteen	941.0		23.6 8 Jul	9.9		23.7	-6.1				238	36					41
<b>CO. WESTMEATH</b>																	
Mullingar	943.8	101	21.4 6 Feb	9.6	+0.8	24.1	-6.6				241	46					16
<b>CO. WEXFORD</b>																	
Johnstown Castle	812.5	81	26.2 9 Feb	10.4	+0.8	21.4	-3.0				222	11					47