

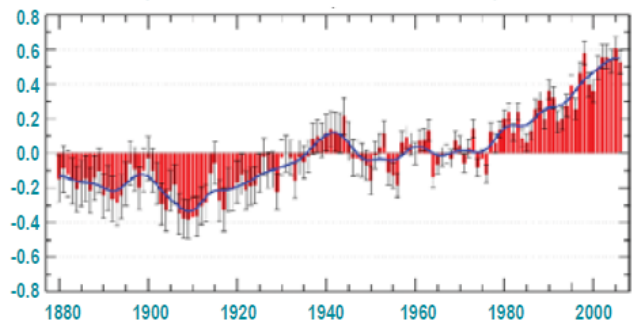
## Warmest on record in some places; mainly wet but sunny

Mean air temperatures for the year were over one degree above normal for the 1961-90 period in most places. At many stations it was the warmest year since 1997, while it was the warmest year on record at Casement Aerodrome, Kilkenny, Rosslare and also at Malin Head, where temperature records extend back to 1885. The mean annual temperature of 10.6°C at Dublin (Phoenix Park) was its highest value in a series that extends back to 1855; nine of the twelve warmest years at the station over this period have been recorded since 1995. Over the country as a whole during 2006, March was the only month where mean temperatures were near or a little below normal, while June, July, September and October were particularly warm months relative to normal. The hottest weather of the year was during mid-July, when the highest temperature, 32.3°C, was measured at Elphin, Co. Roscommon, on the 19th; this was the highest value recorded in Ireland since June 1976. For the second successive year, the lowest air and ground temperatures of the year at almost all stations were recorded during exceptionally cold weather in early March.

Annual rainfall totals were above normal over most of the country, but they were a little below normal in parts of the east and south. Rainfall was very unevenly

distributed throughout the year; January, February and June were drier than normal everywhere, while March, May and the autumn months were wet. Widespread heavy falls during the last three months of the year led to flooding in places, especially in midland and western areas. Most stations recorded their heaviest daily falls of the year on either October 25th or November 15th. The number of raindays (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) measured during the year was close to normal in most places; there were fewer than 200 raindays in most eastern areas, with close to 250 wetdays in parts of Connacht. Annual sunshine totals were above normal everywhere. April, June and July were particularly sunny months relative to normal and only March was duller than normal at all stations. Shannon Airport had its sunniest year since 1968, while at Dublin Airport it was the sunniest since 1959.

**GLOBAL TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES, 1880-2006**  
(RELATIVE TO PERIOD 1901-2000)



The global annual temperature for combined land and ocean surfaces for 2006 was 0.54°C higher than normal, similar to that of each of the last five years; it was the sixth warmest year in the period of record in the series extending back to 1880. The land and ocean surface temperatures for the northern and southern hemisphere ranked second and sixth warmest respectively (chart: NOAA Climate Prediction Centre, US Department of Commerce)

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
CO. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	968.5	105	47.8 21 Sep	11.1	+1.0	30.2 -5.8	4.08	112	15.3 6 Jun	211	3	23	10	5	23	68
CO. CORK CORK AIRPORT	1198.3	98	42.2 25 Oct	10.4	+1.0	25.4 -4.0	4.29	109	15.4 2 Jun	202	6	7	5	4	89	80
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	1156.9	111	34.3 23 Nov	10.6	+1.3	25.9 -1.5	3.92	111	15.8 25 Jun	231	8	6	35	5	11	171
CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	740.0		29.7 15 Nov	10.3		26.5 -5.8	4.51	112	15.6 2 Jun	192	8	32	7	6	24	75
CASEMENT AERODROME	676.5	93	37.6 15 Nov	10.6	+1.3	31.0 -7.5	4.24	111	15.0 17 Jul	177	5	39	11	9	15	82
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	1760.7	126	55.3 25 Oct	11.5	+1.1	26.8 -2.8	3.89	109	15.6 2 Jun	240	3	5	17	7	8	76
CO. KILKENNY KILKENNY	895.2	108	40.6 15 Nov	10.6	+1.3	30.2 -6.4	4.29	117	15.4 2 Jun	194	n/a	43	---	n/a	---	33
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	1399.2	127	50.5 21 Sep	11.1	+1.5	29.9 -4.6	3.96	106	15.0 27 Jun	245	8	11	36	10	16	125
KNOCK AIRPORT	1205.6		39.2 25 May	9.1		25.9 -3.4	3.10		14.5 14 May	249	9	28	10	1	123	68
CO. MONAGHAN CLONES	1054.1	115	26.7 25 Oct	10.1	+1.3	28.9 -6.6	3.75	102	15.2 15 Jul	222	n/a	32	---	n/a	---	42
CO. OFFALY BIRR	911.3	112	26.7 25 Oct	10.4	+1.1	30.1 -7.8	3.87	109	14.8 15 Jul	203	n/a	32	---	n/a	---	34
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR II	1004.5	109	31.8 3 Dec	10.0	+1.2	29.4 -7.2	4.12	114	15.3 1 Jun	226	n/a	39	---	n/a	---	16
CO. WEXFORD ROSSLARE	904.5	102	32.3 15 Nov	11.4	+1.3	23.3 -2.3	4.85	108	15.5 2 Jun	168	3	5	6	7	25	113