

## Month of Contrast

- \* Cold unpleasant start redeemed by dry warm weather
- \* Unusually dull with mean temperatures well above normal

The month started with a cold wet easterly dominating until 4th. There was a slow rise in temperature over 5th and 6th as winds turned southerly but the period 7th to 10th was unsettled as the southerly windflow gave way to showery westerlies. A ridge developed on 11th and was followed by a southwesterly airflow on 12th but pressure was high enough until 16th for amounts of rain to be fairly small. The Easter weekend started pleasantly on 17th but was subsequently disappointing, especially in the west and northwest.

Between 21st and 23rd the southerly airflow turned southeast to east and there followed a spell of dry, warm weather which lasted until 29th. On 30th a rain belt made its way slowly eastwards across the country and behind it a distinctly cooler, fresher northwesterly windflow prevailed.

### HIGH TEMPERATURES

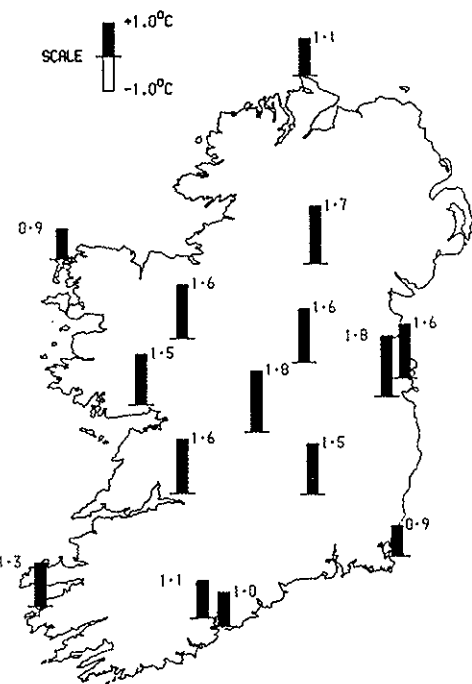
Mean, maximum and minimum air temperatures for the month were above normal. Until 13th, however, temperatures both by day and night were below normal. Thereafter, with the exception of the period 19th to 22nd, temperatures were well above normal. During the warm spell from 24th to 29th temperatures exceeded 20°C at many stations and reached 22.5°C at Cahirciveen on 28th. Shannon Airport recorded its highest April temperature since 1945 while Dublin Airport had its highest April temperature since recording began in 1940.

Mean monthly maxima were the highest for over 20 years at Casement Aerodrome, Rosslare and Dublin Airport but mean minimum temperatures were the highest since 1961 or before at many stations. Lowest air temperatures of the month were recorded on 2nd and in the period 10th to 12th. The lowest air temperature recorded was -2.8°C at Casement Aerodrome on 12th.

### REMARKABLY DULL

Until 16th, very dull weather prevailed and except at Malin Head in the extreme north no station had as much as 10 hours sunshine in a day. The 16th and 17th were sunny but, except in parts of the east and south, the remainder of the Easter

*(Continued on back page)*



Temperature deviation from (1951-1980) normals

April 1987

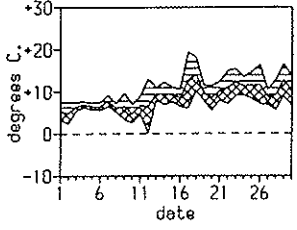
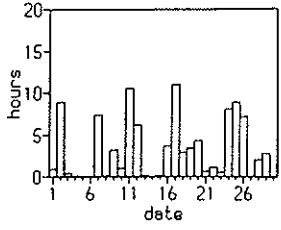
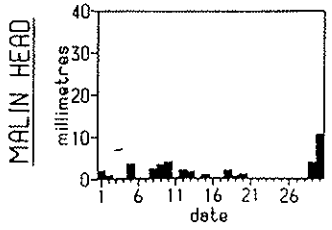
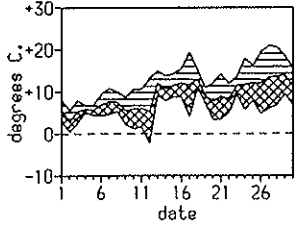
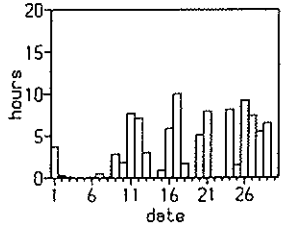
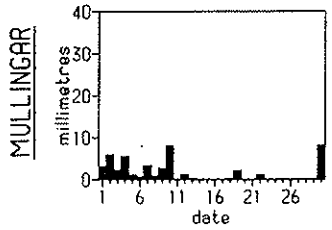
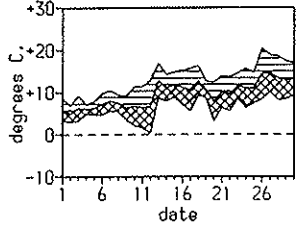
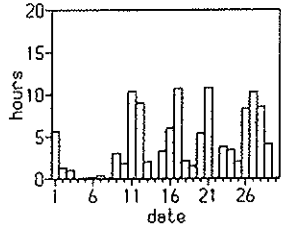
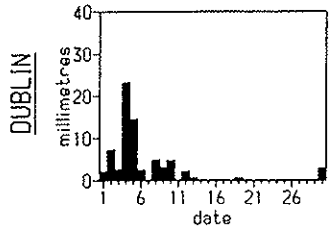
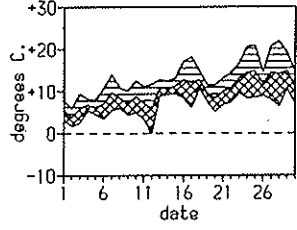
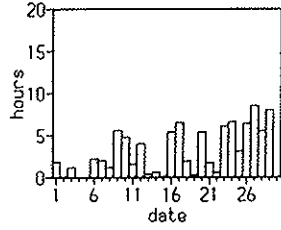
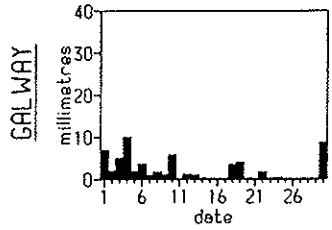
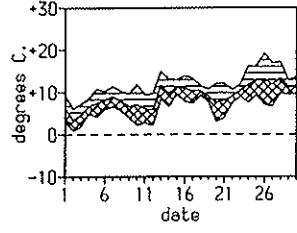
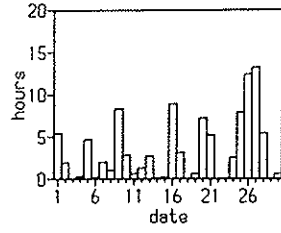
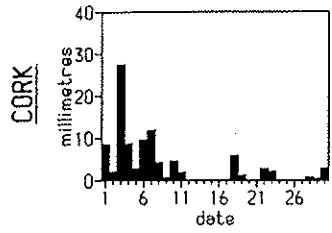
# Distribution of Daily Values


  
 Max
   
 Mean
   
 Min

Rainfall

Sunshine

Temperature



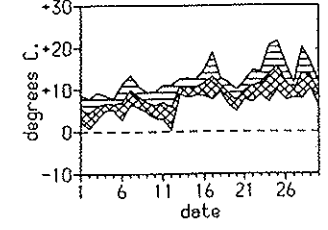
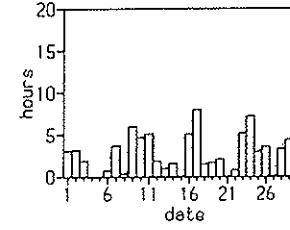
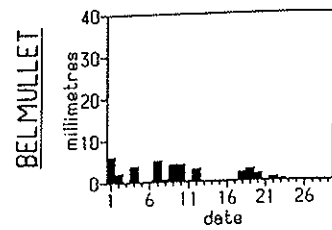
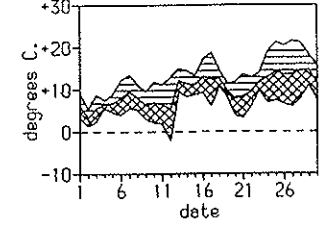
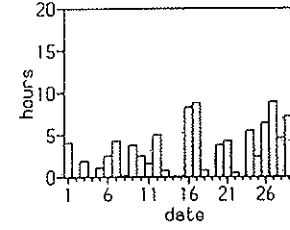
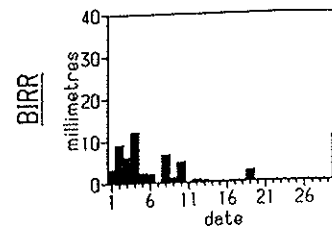
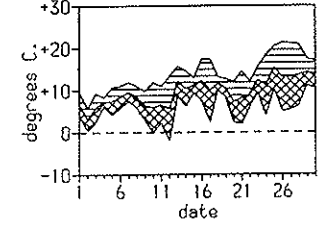
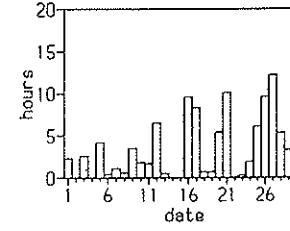
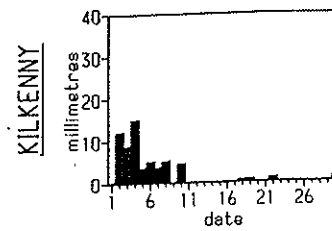
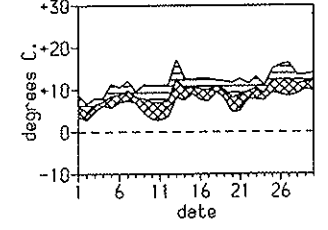
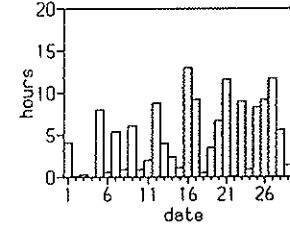
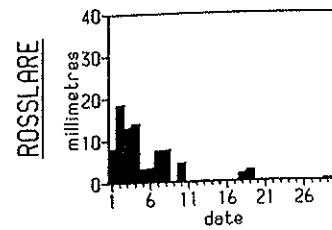
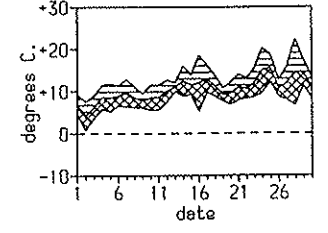
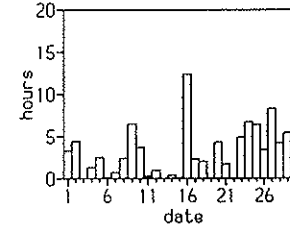
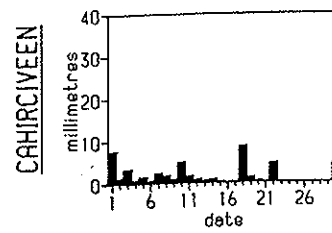
April 1987


  
 Max
   
 Mean
   
 Min

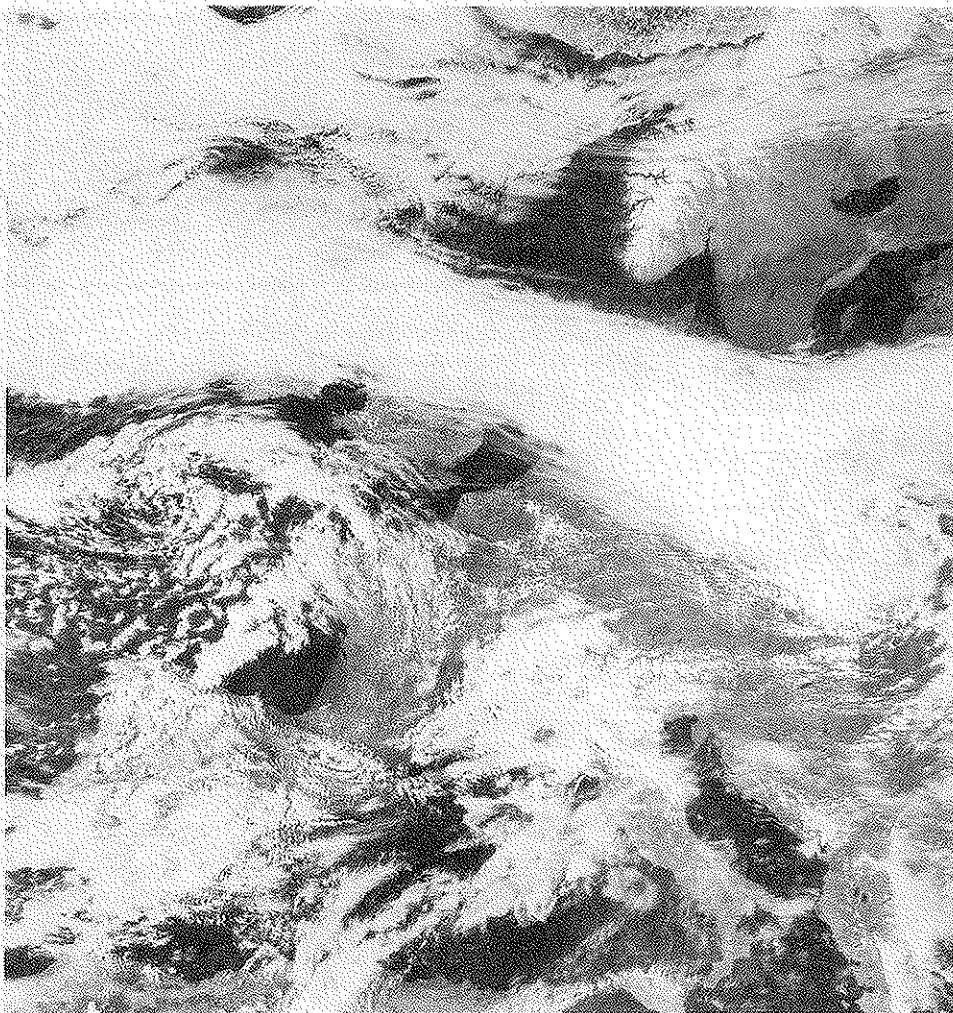
Rainfall

Sunshine

Temperature

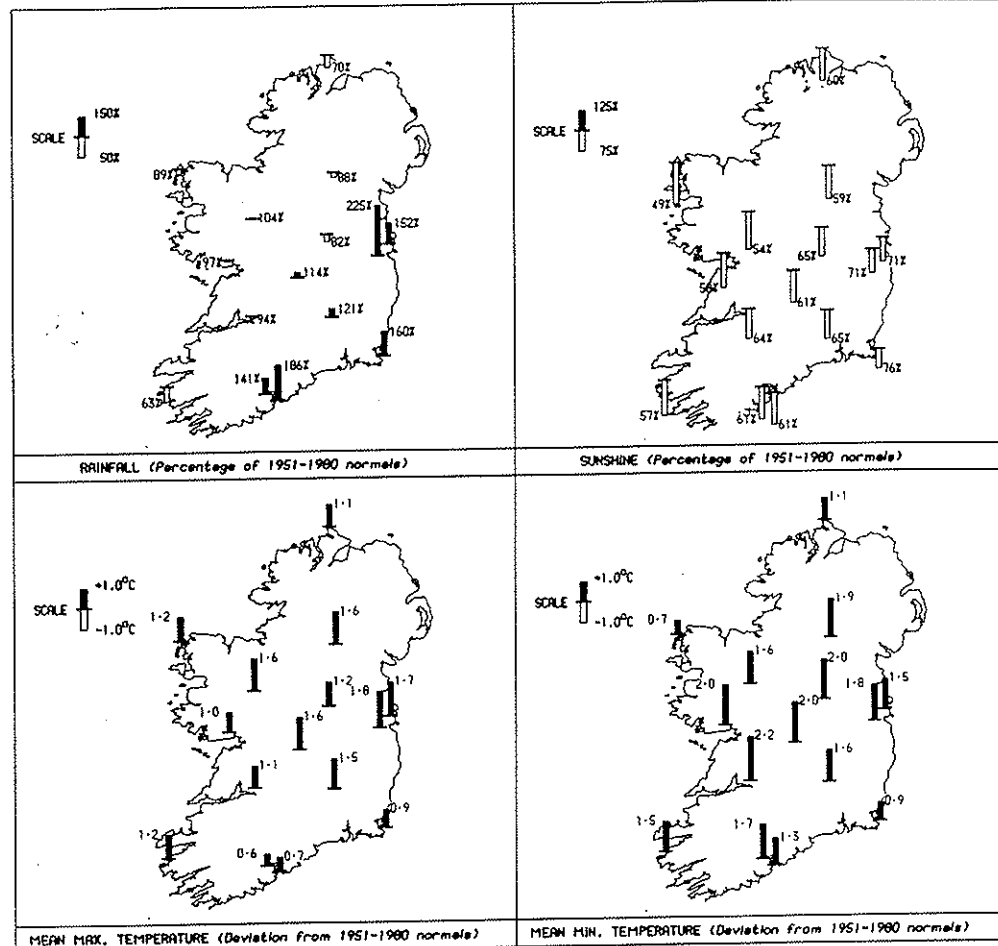


APRIL 1987



The satellite picture was taken by the American polar-orbiting satellite NOAA-9. It shows the situation on the 5th of the month at 1400 hours. The band of cloud stretching from the Atlantic to central Europe is being pushed slowly northward by a depression over the Bay of Biscay. The widespread, heavy rain of that morning and the previous day slowly died out, giving some bright spells in the southern half of the country.

April 1987 Totals, Means and Extremes



Station	Rainfall			Air Temperature						Sunshine		Wind		Number of days with								
	Total	Most in a Day		Means of		Extreme Temperature				Total	Most in a Day	Max Gale Gust	Rain*	Snow	Frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gales			
		Amount	Date(s)	Max	Min	Mean	Highest	Date(s)	Lowest											Date(s)	Amount	Date(s)
Balmuliat	50.6	13.1	30	12.8	6.2	9.5	21.5	25	0.4	12	79.6	9.0	17	55	16	-	-	1	-	4	8	
Blirr	62.5	12.1	4	13.9	5.8	9.9	21.5	27	-2.2	12	89.7	8.9	27	38	13	1	1	1	-	-	2	4
Cahiriveen	49.5	8.7	18	13.5	7.3	10.4	22.5	28	0.0	2	88.7	12.4	16	46	20	-	-	-	-	-	5	4
Cesament	105.9	35.3	4	13.7	5.3	9.5	21.3	27	-2.8	12	109.9	12.7	21	43	13	1	1	3	-	-	3	6
Clermorris	64.3	11.9	19	13.6	5.3	9.5	21.4	28	-1.4	2	75.2	7.5	27	39	17	-	2	3	-	-	3	3
Clones	46.8	13.1	30	13.3	5.5	9.4	21.5	27	-1.5	12	83.0	8.9	17	40	15	-	1	1	-	-	1	3
Cork Airport	99.0	27.5	3	12.1	6.1	9.1	19.2	26	0.9	2	98.6	13.2	27	45	19	-	-	2	1	16	4	
Dublin Airport	71.5	23.3	4	13.2	6.0	9.6	20.5	26	0.4	12	115.3	10.8	21	35	14	-	-	-	-	8	1	
Galway	60.1	10.0	4	13.5	6.4	10.0	21.9	28	-0.1	12	91.6	8.5	27	39	20	-	-	1	-	-	4	3
Kilkenny	62.9	15.1	4	13.9	5.5	9.7	21.2	26	-2.0	12	99.5	12.2	27	39	14	1	1	-	-	-	2	3
Malin Head	40.1	10.7	30	11.5	6.2	8.9	19.4	17	0.1	12	95.4	11.0	17	57	17	-	-	1	1	5	11	
Mullingar	48.2	8.2	10,30	13.1	5.3	9.2	21.0	27	-2.4	12	97.0	10.0	17	38	17	1	1	1	-	-	3	4
Roche's Point	98.7	37.5	3	12.2	7.2	9.7	17.1	28	2.2	12	98.7	12.1	26	53	16	-	-	-	1	12	5	
Rosslare	86.3	18.6	2	12.0	6.8	9.4	17.2	13	2.8	2,11	136.6	13.0	16	44	15	-	-	-	-	1	8	4
Shannon Airport	53.7	7.0	4	14.0	7.0	10.5	22.0	25	1.6	2	96.2	9.8	24	39	18	1	-	-	-	-	4	1

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius, Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots. Gale Gust = Gust of > 33.5 knots. \* = days with 0.2mm or more

(Continued from front page)

weekend was dull. On 21st, 26th and 27th some stations recorded more than 10 hours sun but, in general, it was the dullist April since 1966 or before. At the long-term stations at Malin Head and Birr it was the dullist April since 1937, while Cahirciveen (Valentia Observatory) had its lowest sunshine total for April since 1905.

### THE EASTER WEEKEND

Friday 17th was mostly dry and for the only time over the weekend a maximum temperature in excess of 20°C was recorded. The south to southwest windflow increased on 18th; conditions in the eastern half of the country remained largely dry but in the west there was some rain, mostly in the evening when it was heavy in places. On 19th temperatures dropped below normal and there were showers, some heavy or thundery, especially in the west and northwest as the fresh and blustery winds changed from southwest to northwest in direction. On Monday 20th, winds were backing to the southwest and again there were scattered showers, but many parts of the east and south escaped.

### RAINFALL

During the cold wet spell between 1st and 5th, coastal areas of the east and south were worst affected and daily totals of over 30 millimetres were recorded. Casement Aerodrome recorded nearly 175% of its average total for April in this period, while at the same time a number of stations in the north and west were recording less than 20% of their normal totals for the month. Falls were of sleet in some areas on 2nd and 3rd. While the weather was very unsettled until 10th amounts of rain between 11th and 16th were small.

As noted above, the east and southeast escaped relatively lightly over the Easter weekend but in parts of the north and west there were some heavy falls of rain: while none of the synoptic stations recorded thunder, there were reports from other observers. The period 21st to 29th was mostly dry but on 29th there were showers here and there, a few of them thundery. Percentages of normal rainfall for the month ranged from over 150% on the east and south coasts, where it was the wettest April since 1966, to 63% of normal at Cahirciveen where it was the driest April since 1962.

### FOG

Fog was widespread on 13th, 17th and between 26th and 28th when it was persistent in some coastal areas, especially in the north and west.

### WIND

Strong winds with gale gusts were recorded at many stations on 3rd, 4th, 10th and 19th, when gusts of between 50 and 57 knots were recorded at some coastal stations.

## SNOWFALL OF 1st APRIL 1917

Snow is recorded on average in Ireland on 1 or 2 days in April (see table below), but it is generally not persistent and thaws rapidly. The storm of 1st April 1917, however, brought one of the heaviest snowfalls this century and this snow persisted for several days in many areas, isolating towns and villages and causing a number of deaths.

Heavy snow had already been recorded in January of that year and the winter had remained cold. Within an hour and a half of snowfall commencing on the afternoon of 1st April, drifts of 10m were reported from Blacksod, Co. Mayo, and around 0.3m of level snow was reported from several places in the west and south by the morning of the 2nd. Counties Clare and Tipperary were among the worst affected. Further east, snowfall was lighter but it was exceptionally cold: the temperature of -7.2°C at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 1st is the lowest April temperature recorded in Dublin this century.

Snow was widely recorded on subsequent days up to the 12th, making this the most severe Spring period of snow ever recorded in the country.

STATION	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR	PERIOD
ALPHEGROVE	7.2	7.5	5.7	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6	5.6	37.4				1951-1980
BELMULLET	4.0	4.1	3.4	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	1.9	15.6					1957-1980
BIRR	4.8	4.6	2.4	0.8	0.2	<0.1	0.7	2.4	15.9					1955-1980
CASEMENT AERODROME	4.5	4.7	3.0	1.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.0	17.5					1964-1980
CASHEMERT	6.6	5.4	4.0	1.8	0.3	0.1	1.7	3.6	23.7					1951-1980
CLONES	2.5	4.5	4.1	1.9	0.3	0.1	1.9	4.0	26.3					1951-1980
CORK AIRPORT	4.2	4.4	3.1	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.7	2.3	16.5					1962-1980
DUBLIN AIRPORT	5.7	6.1	3.9	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.9	2.4	21.0					1951-1980
GELCEMPT	4.7	4.6	2.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.8	2.5	16.3					1958-1980
MALIN HEAD	6.7	6.0	4.2	2.1	0.3	0.1	1.9	3.6	24.8					1954-1980
MULLINGAR	6.5	4.0	3.9	1.6	0.2	<0.1	1.3	3.3	22.8					1951-1980
PHOENIX PARK	2.5	3.0	1.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	8.8					1956-1980
ROSLARE	2.8	3.8	2.7	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.3	1.4	11.5					1957-1980
SALMON AIRPORT	4.0	3.7	1.5	0.6	<0.1	<0.1	0.4	1.6	11.8					1951-1980
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	1.8	2.1	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	6.7					1951-1980

MEAN NUMBER OF DAYS WITH SNOW OR SLEET AT SPECIFIED STATIONS