Wettest January in 30-40 years

Although relatively mild, this January was one of the wettest on record. The Atlantic influence dominated the months weather. While there were a few excursions into cool westerlies or easterlies none persisted long enough to bring on hard frosts. Nonetheless, some of the frosts that did occur caused morning road conditions to be treacherous on a few occasions, notably between 14th and 16th, on 18th, 22nd, and 23rd. The centres of the Atlantic depressions passed over or close by the country more often than usual during the month. Southerlies or southwesterlies were the predominant winds and so the highest rainfall totals were recorded in the south and west. There were some falls of snow on 4th, 10th, 18th, and in the period 21st to 23rd; northern and midland areas were most affected but the snow never lay long enough to become a major problem. The end of the month brought some fairly severe weather with a bitter blustery westerly on Saturday 30th and a major storm approaching on 31st.

WET MONTH

Precipitation totals were well above normal everywhere and ranged from 209% at Rocha's Point to 147% of normal at Casement Aerodrome. Amounts ranged from 270 millimetres at Cahirciveen to 97 millimetres at Casement Aerodrome. It was the wettest January for 14 years at Cahirciveen, Cork and Rosslare but at Dublin Airport it was the wettest January since 1948 and at Clones and Belmullet the wettest in over 30 years of record. There was widespread heavy rain on 2nd, 12th, 16th, 23rd and 31st.

On 12th and 18th daily totals of between 30 and 46 millimetres were recorded and Cahirciveen (Valentia Observatory) had its highest daily fall for January since 1947. Thundery showers affected some areas between 1st and 6th and again on 9th and 10th while hail showers were recorded on 13th, during the period 19th to 22nd and between 29th and 31st when Cahirciveen also recorded thunder.

MILDEST JANUARY SINCE 1983

Mean air temperatures ranged from 9.7°C at Cahirciveen to 6.9°C at Clones and were above normal except at Belmullet. Daytime temperatures were above normal by between 0.5°C and 1.0°C generally but were only 0.0°C to 0.4°C above normal in the north and northwest. The highest daytime temperatures were recorded on 1st, 8th and 9th.

(Continued on back page)
Distribution of daily values

Rainfall

Sunshine

Temperature

Cork

45.5 mm

Galway

Cahir Civeen

Rossave

Dublin

Kilkenny

Mullingar

Malin Head

Belmullet
MeteOROLOGIcAL SuMmARY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Station</th>
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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
AGMET-DAY Monday 29th of February 1988

CONFERENCE

ON

WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE

and Scientific Exhibition

VENUE: School of Architecture, UCD, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Dr. R. A. Feddes, Deputy Director, Institute for Land and Water Management Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Dr. D. J. Royle, Institute of Arable Crop Research, Long Ashton Research Station, University of Bristol

also Members of An Foras Talúntais, Meteorological Service, and Faculty of Agriculture UCD

THEME: Interpretation and Application of Weather to Agriculture

TOPICS: Role of Meteorology in Agriculture (keynote Address); Important Features and Environmental Aspects of Climate; Soil Management; Crop Modelling; the Livestock System; Crop and Animal Diseases; Trends in Weather Forecasting

EXHIBITION: Computer models for Crop Growth and Disease; Automatic Weather Recording; Weather effects on Agriculture, Animal Diseases, Forestry and the Milling of Peat

Registration (IRE5) at 9.30am  Programme 10am to 5pm
Main Head recorded 13·5°C on 9th, its highest January temperature for 17 years but Kilkenny had the highest temperature of the month, 13·9°C which was recorded on 1st. Cork Airport had a modest 12·6°C but equelled its previous highest January temperature since records began there in 1965.

Nighttime temperatures were between 0·2°C and 1·1°C above normal in most areas but were below or about normal on the north and northwest coasts. Air frosts were less frequent than usual; neither were they severe, as the lowest air temperature of the month was -2·8°C, recorded at Clones on 18th. However, frost did affect many areas between 4th and 7th, from 14th to 16th, on 18th, 21st to 23rd. On both 16th and 18th fog occurred with the frost in some areas.

Between 26th and 27th there was slight air frost and patchy fog in just a few places as we were in a fairly slack but generally easterly airflow. There was ground frost in places early on 30th and 31st. It was the mildest January since 1963 but then 1963 bore comparison with the mild Januaries of the early seventies and at some stations was the mildest for over 40 years.

**SUNSHINE**

There was a marked east - west gradient in the percentages of sunshine recorded with over 115% of normal in east Leinster and less than 80% of normal in west Connacht. Totals ranged from 83·5 hours at Rosslea to 32·7 hours at Belmullet, but then Rosslea recorded 22 hours of sunshine during the period 19th to 22nd when Belmullet had a total of 6 hours.

At Belmullet it was the dullest January for five years but in parts of the east and south it was the sunniest January for nine years. Nearly all areas had no sun on 1st, 12th, 18th, 23rd and 28th. The days of most widespread sunshine were 6th, the period 13th to 15th, 21st, 22nd and 24th.

**BLUSTERY AT TIMES—**

Winds were strong to gale force and gusty during the periods 1st to 4th, 9th to 13th, 18th to 20th, 30th and 31st. At most inland stations maximum gusts were in the range 49 to 60 knots but were as high as 64 knots at Casement Aerodrome (Baldonnell).

At coastal stations maximum gusts for the month ranged 60 to 70 knots, the upper limit being recorded at both Malin Head on the north coast on 9th and at Roche's Point on the south coast on 12th. On the evening of 31st with a major storm approaching from the Atlantic gusts of 63 to 69 knots were recorded at our stations in Munster and there was a very distinct promise of worse to come.

**Sunshine in Ireland**

The sunniest months are May and June. During these months sunshine duration averages between 5 and 6·5 hours per day over most of the country. The extreme southeast gets the most sunshine, averaging over 7 hours a day in early summer.

December is the dullest month with average daily sunshine ranging from about 1 hour in the north to almost 2 hours in the extreme southeast. Over the year as a whole most areas get an average of between 3·25 and 3·75 hours of sunshine each day.

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Mean daily sunshine as a fraction of mean length of day (hours)

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