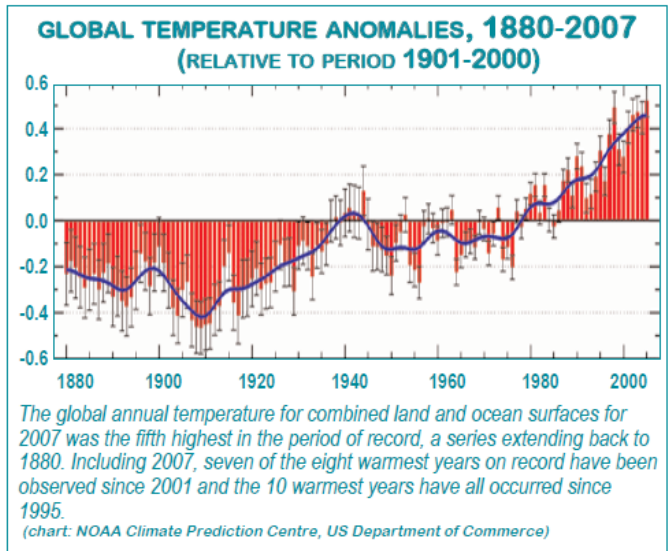


Warmest year on record in places; sunnier than normal everywhere and dry in south

Mean air temperatures for the year were more than one degree above normal for the 1961-90 period. This was despite a relatively cool summer, especially over the eastern half of the country. It was the warmest year on record at the long-term stations of Valentia Observatory and Malin Head, where comparable records began in 1892 and 1885 respectively. It was also the warmest year on record at Belmullet, Rosslare and Kilkenny, where records commenced in the mid-1950s, and the warmest since 1949 at Birr. April was the warmest on record at most stations, while the autumn months between September and November were also exceptionally warm. July was the only month when mean temperatures were below normal over most of the country. The highest temperatures were recorded relatively early in the year: during the period June 9th to 11th in many places and on May 17th near the south and southeast coasts. The lowest air and ground temperatures of the year at almost all stations were recorded during a spell of very cold weather between February 5th and 8th.

Annual rainfall totals were above normal over most of Leinster, but were well below normal near southern and southeastern coasts. The distribution of rainfall over the year was very uneven. The summer period of June, July and August was exceptionally wet, especially over the eastern half of the country, where more than twice the normal summer rainfall was recorded at some stations. In contrast, the subsequent months of autumn were very dry and it was the driest autumn for more than 30 years

in many places. April was also a very dry month, with monthly totals of less than 10mm in some eastern areas. The heaviest daily falls of the year at most stations were associated with thunderstorms during the summer months, particularly in June and August. The annual number of raindays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) was near or below normal generally, varying between 153 at Rosslare and 260 at Knock Airport. Annual sunshine totals were above normal everywhere and both Malin Head and Belmullet had their sunniest year since 1968. The spring months of March, April and May were the sunniest relative to normal, while June and November were relatively dull. Mean windspeeds for the year were exceptionally low and were the lowest on record at Rosslare. Belmullet recorded the highest gust of the year, 81 knots (150km/h) on January 20th, while Dublin Airport's gust of 80 knots (148km/h) on January 18th was the highest at the station since it opened in 1941.



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	Extremes 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	921.5	99	33.6 6 Dec	11.3	+1.2	25.0	-3.6	4.02	100	14.8 7 Jun	207	2	13	18	6	31	61
CO. CORK CORK AIRPORT	1057.4	86	31.7 19 Feb	10.7	+1.3	23.5	-1.5	4.47	86	14.8 30 Jul	200	3	7	5	2	83	67
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	1071.6	103	29.0 27 Oct	10.7	+1.4	20.5	-2.0	4.02	103	15.6 6 Jun	235	11	2	28	3	16	145
CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	761.0		30.1 3 Jun	10.3		22.8	-4.8	4.27	101	14.6 9 Jun	189	5	23	6	9	25	71
CASEMENT AERODROME	811.3	111	35.1 3 Jun	10.5	+1.2	23.2	-6.4	3.98	111	15.2 29 May	190	5	24	9	10	17	72
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	1351.7	97	46.9 2 Jun	11.8	+1.4	23.3	-0.5	3.98	97	15.4 4 Jun	233	1	1	18	3	18	70
CO. KILKENNY KILKENNY	879.5	107	30.9 15 Jun	10.8	+1.5	25.2	-5.8	4.19	107	14.7 7 Jun	189	n/a	33	---	n/a	---	35
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	1140.6	104	28.3 18 Nov	11.4	+1.5	25.1	-2.5	4.15	104	15.2 4 Jun	253	6	5	32	7	23	127
KNOCK AIRPORT	1346.0		30.6 16 Sep	9.5		23.5	-3.3	3.65		15.6 4 Jun	260	13	10	9	5	132	70
CO. MONAGHAN CLONES	912.4	99	19.8 17 Nov	10.1	+1.3	25.9	-6.5	3.71	99	14.0 1 May	217	n/a	25	---	n/a	---	39
CO. OFFALY BIRR	862.9	106	41.1 11 Aug	10.6	+1.3	25.6	-5.6	3.75	106	14.8 7 Jun	209	n/a	31	---	n/a	---	33
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR II	977.1	105	28.7 13 Jun	10.0	+1.2	24.0	-6.2	3.99	106	15.1 29 May	213	n/a	40	---	n/a	---	27
CO. WEXFORD ROSSLARE	756.9	86	31.0 3 Jun	11.3	+1.2	22.3	0.4	4.91	85	15.2 6 Jun	153	n/a	0	---	n/a	---	102