

# The Weather of Autumn 2008

## (September, October & November summary)

### ***Coolest autumn for at least 8 years; wetter but sunnier than normal***

Mean air temperatures for the season were a little below normal except at some western and northern stations and it was the coolest autumn for between 8 and 15 years. September mean temperatures were near normal, but October was cooler than normal everywhere, while November was relatively mild. Most stations recorded their highest daily maxima of the season on September 20th, but there were few very warm days. The lowest temperatures were recorded at the end of the season, with widespread severe frost. There were between 17 and 32 ground frosts at inland stations during the season, compared with the normal range for autumn of between 16 and 20 in these areas. In contrast, neither air nor ground frost was recorded at Malin Head.

Rainfall totals were above normal everywhere and were well above normal in the east. Both September and October were wet months, particularly over the eastern half of the country, but November was relatively dry. Some of the season's heaviest daily falls were recorded during the first week of September, especially on the 5th, when many eastern stations recorded falls of between 25 and 50mm. A total of between 38 and 56 wetdays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) was recorded at most stations during the 3-month period, close to the normal range for autumn.

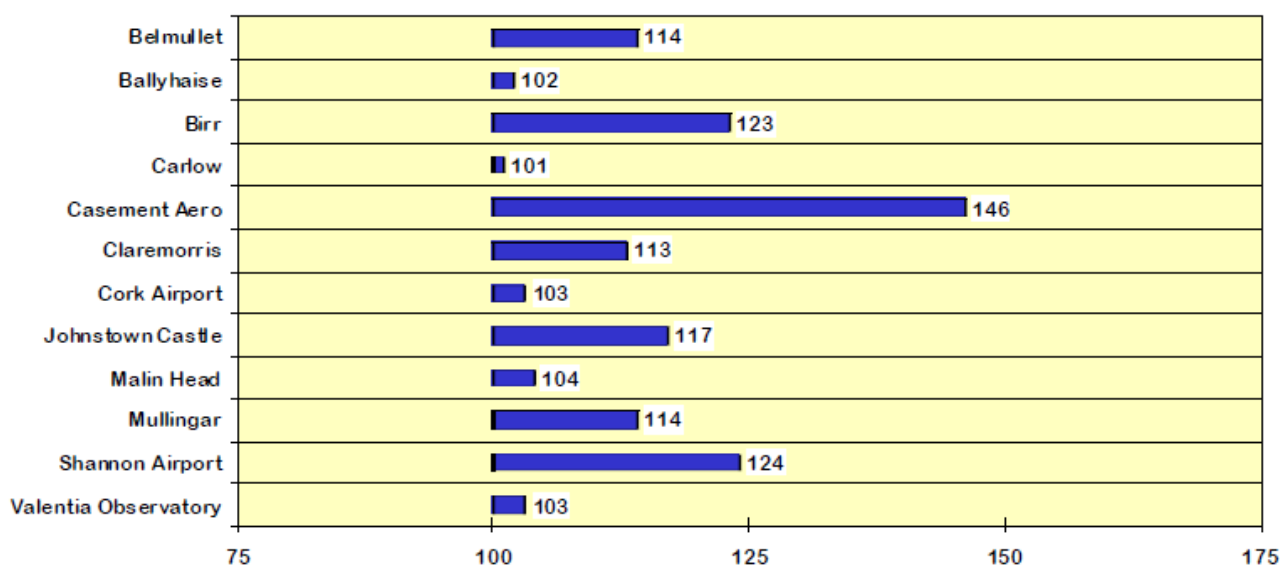
Sunshine totals for the season were higher than normal everywhere. Both September and October were relatively sunny but November was generally dull. The highest daily values of the season were recorded in northern areas on September 7th.

### **Extreme values at synoptic stations**

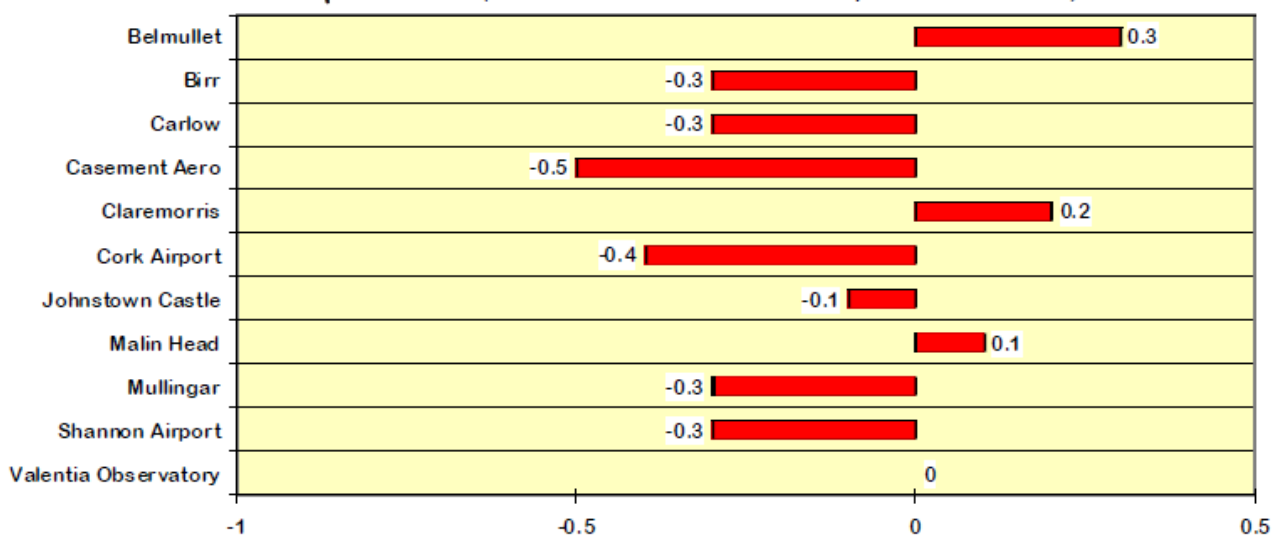
<b>Rainfall</b>	Highest seasonal total: 478mm at Knock Airport Lowest seasonal total: 226mm at Carlow (Oak Park) Highest daily rainfall: 47.8mm at Casement Aerodrome on September 5th
<b>Temperature</b>	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 11.2°C at Valentia Observatory ( <i>its coolest autumn since 2000</i> ) Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 8.7°C at Knock Airport ( <i>its coolest autumn since 2000</i> ) Highest temperature: 19.7°C at Mullingar on September 20th Lowest air temperature: -5.2°C at Mullingar on November 29th ( <i>its lowest such value for autumn since 1993</i> ) Lowest grass minimum temperature: -9.9°C at Birr on November 30th ( <i>its lowest such value for autumn since 1995</i> )
<b>Sunshine</b>	Highest seasonal total: 331 hours at Cork Airport ( <i>its sunniest autumn since 2003</i> ) Lowest seasonal total: 228 hours at Malin Head Highest daily sunshine: 11.4 hours at Malin Head on September 7th

## Autumn 2008 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

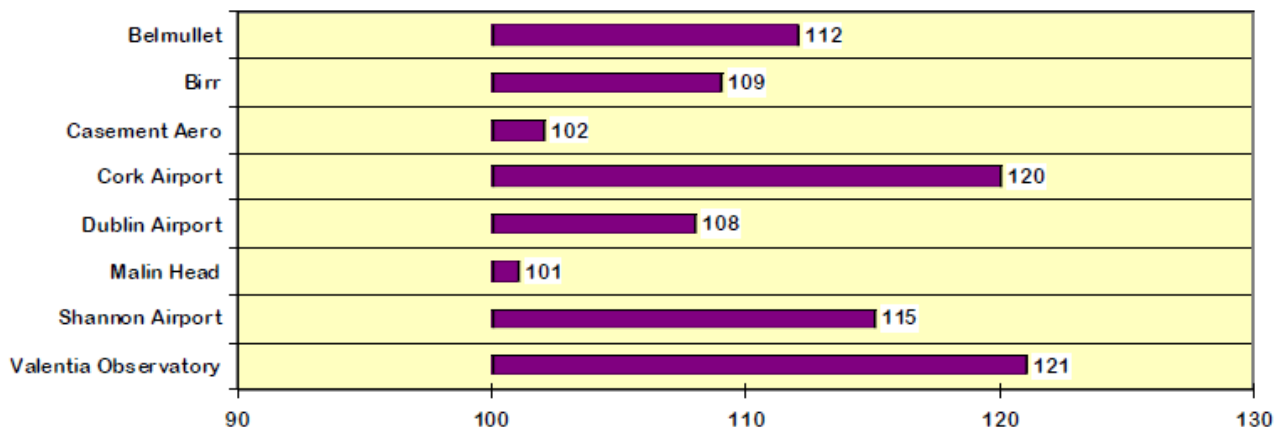
### Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



### Temperature (°C difference from normal for period 1961-1990)



### Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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 This report is based on preliminary data from the synoptic weather stations operated by Met Éireann  
 A detailed summary is available in the *Monthly Weather Bulletin*

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