



ANNUAL 2015

Wet, windy and slightly cool in many places

Temperature: below LTA mean temperatures nearly everywhere

Nearly all annual mean air temperatures were on or below their Long-term Average (LTA). The coolest conditions (compared to monthly LTAs) were in July with differences from LTA of over -2°C . December by comparison had the warmest monthly conditions with LTA differences nearing 4°C in the East. Differences from annual LTA ranged from -0.8°C at Markree, Co Sligo with an annual mean temperature of 8.8°C , its coolest year in five years to 0.3°C at Dublin (Phoenix Park) with an annual mean temperature of 9.9°C . A few other stations, mainly located in the Midlands and West, reported their lowest annual mean temperatures since 2010. The highest annual temperatures were mainly recorded in June and July with the highest annual maximum recorded at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on June 30th with 25.6°C , its highest June maximum since 1996. The lowest annual temperatures were mainly recorded in January and February with the lowest annual minimum reported Dublin Airport on the February 3rd with -7.9°C , its lowest for February since 1956 and its lowest annual temperature since 2010.

Rainfall: nearly all places report on or above normal rainfall

Annual rainfall totals comparisons to LTA were nearly all on or above their LTA. The driest month (compared to LTA) was June with monthly LTAs in the East below 30% (attributed to a 'dry spell'¹ between the 6th and 26th). The wettest conditions (compared to LTA) were in December when parts of the South reported 300% or more of the normal rainfall. Annual percentage of LTA values ranged from 96% at Mace Head, Co Galway with 1281.6 mm to 137% at Knock Airport, Co Mayo with 1852.0 mm, its wettest years since the station opened in 1996. Malin Head, Co Donegal reported an annual total of 1483.9 mm (134% of LTA) and its wettest year since records began at the site in 1885. Newport, Co Mayo reported the highest annual rainfall with 2078.8 mm (129% of LTA), its wettest since the site opened in 1960, while most other stations in the West, South and Midlands reported it was their wettest year in six to 13 years. The highest daily rainfall was at Malin Head on December 5th during Storm Desmond with 80.7mm, the wettest day at the station since 1955. The number of annual wet days² ranged from 144 at Dublin Airport to 236 at Newport.

Sunshine: dullest year for Knock Airport since station opened

Annual sunshine totals were lowest at Knock Airport where the dullest year since the station opened 19 years ago was reported with an annual total of 980.9 hours (daily mean of 2.7 hrs/day, 82% of LTA). The highest annual sunshine was 1547.9 hours (daily mean 4.2 hrs/day, 107% of LTA) at Dublin Airport. The sunniest day was June 10th reported at both Dublin Airport and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin with 15.7 hours and Dublin Airport's sunniest day in five years. The number of dull days³ ranged from 77 at Dublin Airport to 131 at Knock Airport.

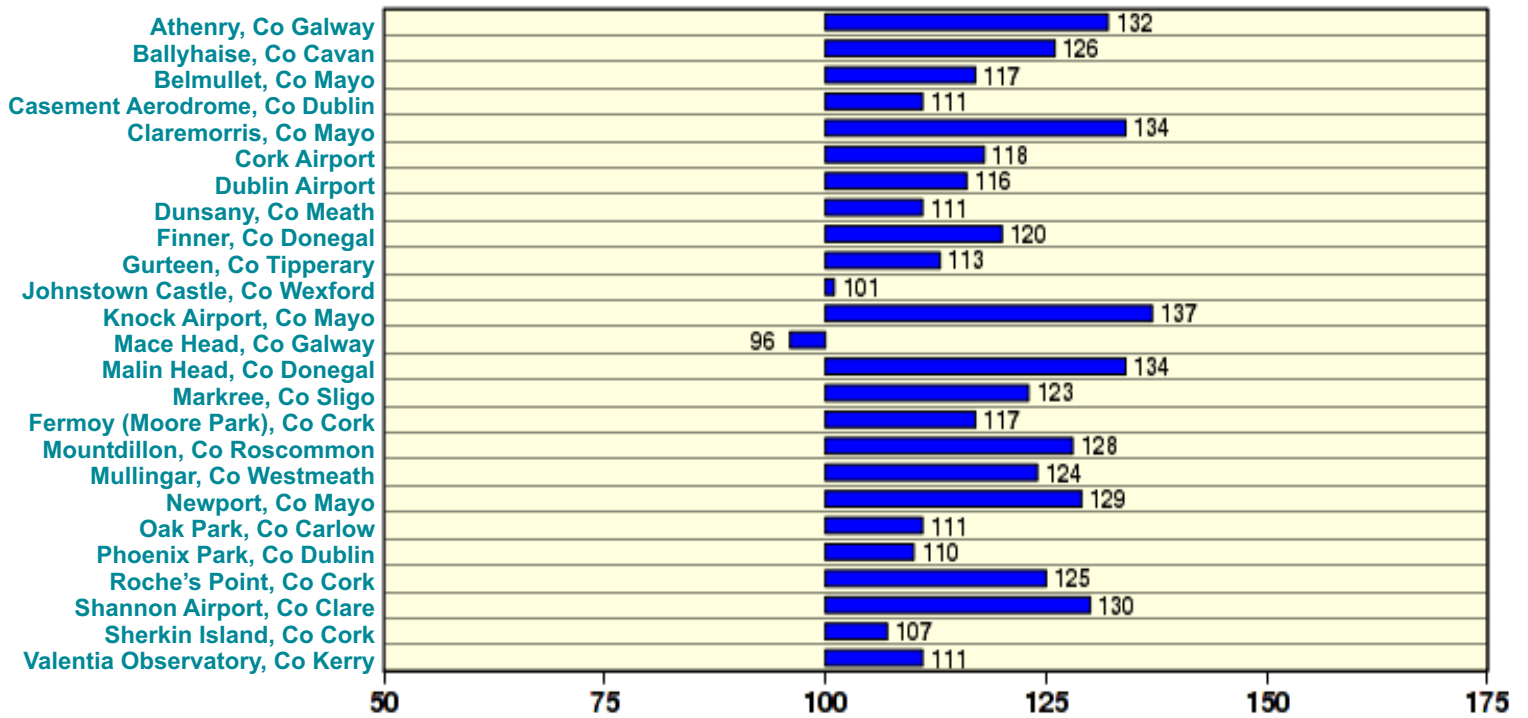
Wind: highest annual mean wind speed in 33 years at Shannon Airport

Annual mean wind speeds ranged from 5.4 knots (10.0 km/h) at Fermoy (Moore Park), Co Cork to 15.9 knots (29.4 km/h) at Mace Head, Co Galway. Two-thirds of stations reported their highest annual mean wind speeds in at least six to 25 years, with Shannon Airport, Co Clare reporting an annual wind speed of 10.4 knots (19.3 km/h), its highest since 1982. The year's highest gust was 76 knots (141 km/h) at Mace Head on February 23rd while the highest 10-minute wind speed was 55 knots (102 km/h) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork on December 30th.

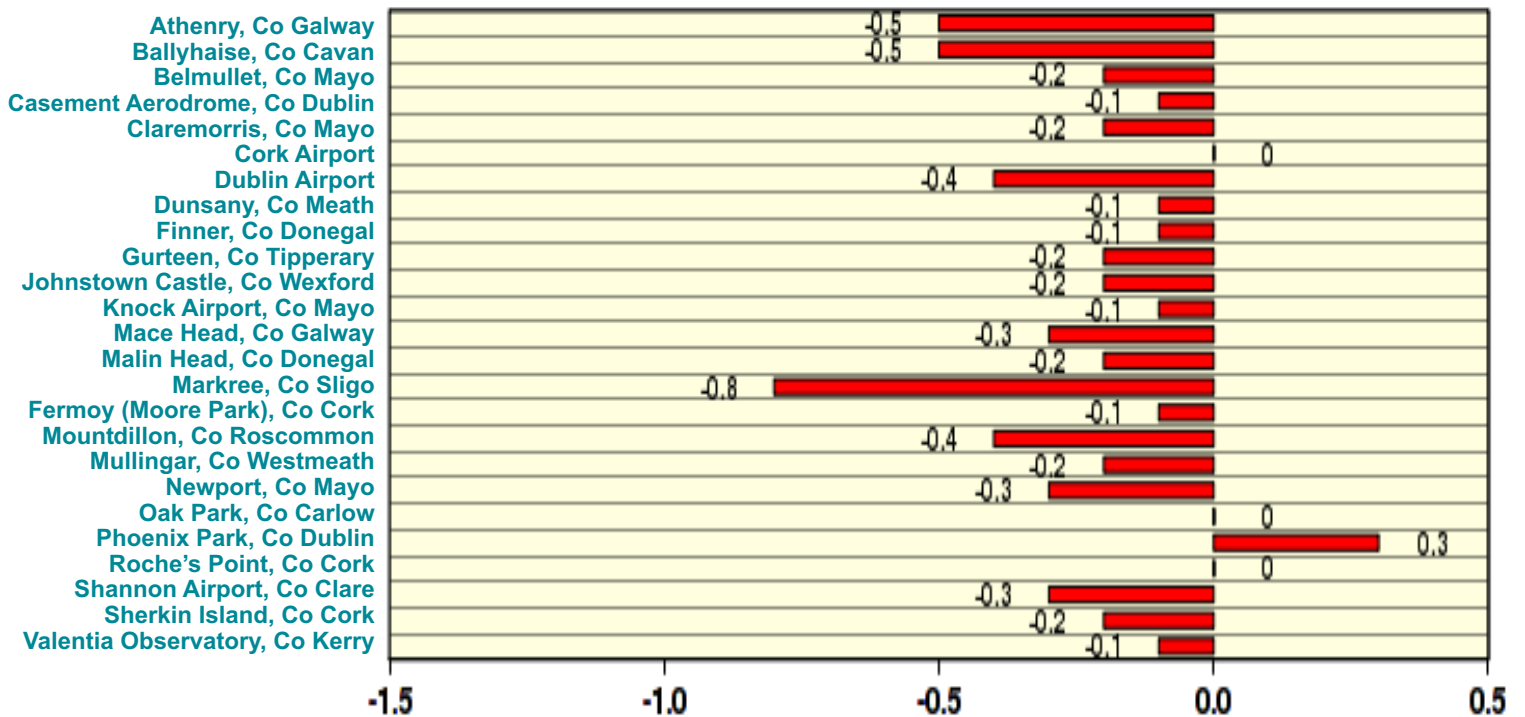
ANNUAL EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall	Highest annual total: 2078.8 mm (129% of LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo Lowest annual total: 839.9mm (111% of LTA) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin Highest daily rainfall: 80.7 mm at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Dec 5th (<i>its wettest day since 1955</i>)
Temperature	Highest annual mean temperature: 11.0°C (-0.2°C from LTA) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork Lowest annual mean temperature: 8.5°C (-0.1°C from LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo Highest air temperature: 25.6°C at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on Jun 30th (<i>its highest June maximum since 1996</i>) Lowest air temperature: -7.9°C at Dublin Airport on Feb 3rd (<i>its lowest February minimum since 1996</i>) Lowest grass minimum temperature: -11.9°C at Gurteen, Co Tipperary on Feb 4th
Sunshine	Highest annual total: 1547.9 hrs (daily mean 4.2 hrs/day, 107% of LTA) Dublin Airport Lowest annual total: 980.6 hrs (daily mean 2.7 hrs/day, 82% of LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (<i>its dullest year since the station opened in 1996</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 15.7 hrs at Dublin Airport and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin on Jun 10th

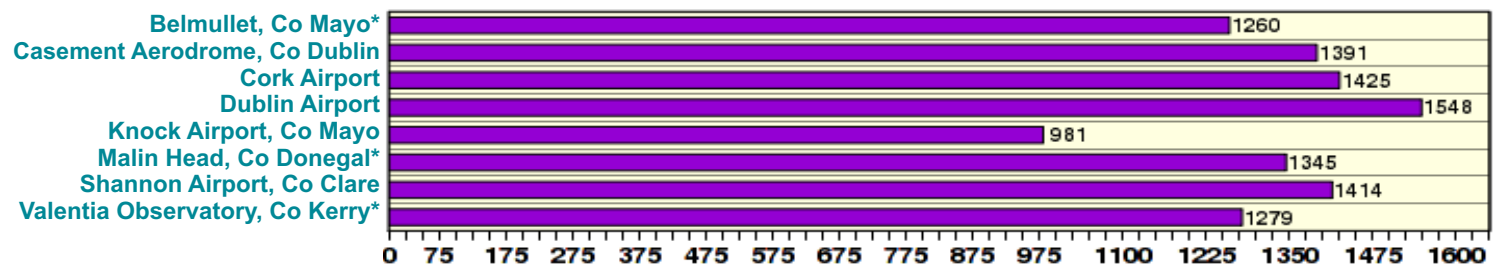
ANNUAL RAINFALL (% OF LTA)



ANNUAL MEAN TEMPERATURE (°C) (DIFFERENCE FROM LTA)



ANNUAL SUNSHINE (NUMBER OF ANNUAL SUNSHINE HOURS)



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on Tuesday, 5th January 2016.

This report is based on available preliminary data from 25 principal weather stations operated by Met Éireann.

Long-Term Averages (LTAs) and "average" refer to the period 1981-2010. Synoptic station data is midnight to midnight UTC.

*Sunshine data is from the Autosol Network. LTAs for these sites are currently not used for comparison purposes.

¹ A dry spell is a period of 15 or more days to none of which is credited 1.0 mm or more of rain.

² A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rain. ³ A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine.

For more information, contact Met Éireann at 01-8064200 or e-mail: climate.enquiries@met.ie