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Monthly Weather Bulletin February 2013

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MONTHLY WEATHER BULLETIN

NO. 322
FEBRUARY 2013



Crocus flowers made an appearance at the beginning of February in the grassy land surrounding the South Link road, Cork City. Crocuses are one of the first flowers of the year to bloom, with flowering usually starting in late winter. (Picture courtesy of Evening Echo, Larry Cummins)

DRY, COLD AND SUNNY NEARLY EVERYWHERE

Rainfall totals were mainly below their Long-Term Average (LTA) with many stations in the West, Southwest and South receiving below 75% of their LTA rainfall. Percentage of LTA values were above average in the East and Northeast ranging from 28% at the Ballaghbeama Gap, Co. Kerry, its driest February since 1986 (27 years) to over 144% at Riverstown (Glenmore Upper), Co. Louth. Despite below LTA rainfall in places,

some stations reported drier Februarys in the last five years, with a few above LTA stations in the Dublin and surrounding areas reporting their highest rainfall totals in five to 11 years. Generally stations measured their highest daily rainfall between the 9th and 13th, with the month's wettest day recorded at Glenbridge Lodge, Co. Wicklow with 58.4 mm on the 10th, its wettest February day since 1943 (70 years). The number



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of very wetdays (*days with 10mm or more*) were below average in most areas, with the number of days ranging from zero at numerous locations to seven at Lough Glencar, Co. Leitrim, with a few stations in the East reporting their lowest number of very wetdays in seven years. Mean air temperatures were below their LTAs nearly everywhere, with deviations from LTA ranging from -1.1°C at Markree, Co. Sligo to $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ at Elphin, Co. Roscommon. Most stations reported colder conditions in February 2010. The majority of highest maximum temperatures were measured between the 13th and 16th, with the month's highest temperature of 14.1°C recorded at Cork (Clover Hill) on the 13th. The lowest air minimum and grass minimum temperatures were primarily recorded during the cold period at the end of the month. The lowest air and grass minimum temperatures were both recorded on the 25th, with -7.4°C at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick and -13.4°C at Straide, Co. Mayo, respectively, Straide's lowest February grass minimum in five years. Sunshine was above its LTA nearly everywhere, with the exception of a few stations in eastern coastal counties and the Southwest. Percentage of LTA values were from 84% at Ashford (Cronykeery), Co. Wicklow to 177% at Belmullet. The sunniest day of the month was at Knock Airport on the 25th with 9.9 hours, with Valentia Observatory's sunniest day of 9.2 hours on the same date its sunniest February day since 1953 (60 years).

1st to 7th: Mainly unsettled as a series of active fronts affected the country. Scattered showers, widespread at times, with hail, snow and thunder on the 5th. Rain also, often light and patchy, some drizzle in places. Cloudy periods but with a number of good sunny intervals. Fog in many places.

8th to 17th: Damp conditions as bands of rain and showers prevailed. Rain, heavy and persistent at times, with drizzle in places. A few isolated showers also. Mainly dull but with dry, sunny breaks. Mist and fog also in several places.

18th to 28th: Mainly dry, cold conditions as high pressure dominated. Bright, clear spells, with long sunny periods at the start, turning cloudier later in parts. A few patches of drizzle and isolated scattered showers. Snow showers between 22nd and 24th in the East.

Wind and Elements: Mean windspeeds for the month were between six knots (11km/h) at Mullingar and 15 knots (28km/h) at Mace Head, with a few monthly mean windspeeds in parts of the West and South the highest in five to 10 years. The month's highest gust was at Mace Head on the 4th with 68 knots (127km/h). Gale force winds were reported along Atlantic coasts between the 3rd and 7th and the 11th, with the month's highest 10-minute windspeed recorded at Mace Head on the 5th with 42 knots (78km/h). Hail was reported on the 5th, 13th, 18th and 19th, with snow reported on the 4th, 5th, 8th, 18th and between the 22nd and 24th. Fog was reported on more than 20 days, mostly during the first half of the month.

A declining ridge of high pressure on the 15th lead to light winds in the South, Southwest and West resulting in heavy fog forming in some areas. In the photo on the right, a goalscorer for Cobh Ramblers watches through the heavy fog conditions as his shot hits the back of the net while playing in a pre-season friendly game against Cork City. (Picture courtesy of Evening Echo, Larry Cummins)



COLD AND DULL IN PLACES; VARIABLE RAIN

The majority of mean air temperatures were below their Long-Term Average (LTA) with on or above LTA values recorded in parts of the western half of the country. Deviations below LTA were largest in parts of the east Midlands, with differences as much as -2.2°C at Killucan (Ballyhaw), Co. Westmeath. The coldest winter conditions were recorded at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), Co. Laois which recorded the season's lowest mean temperature of 4.3°C, -0.5°C below its LTA. Differences above average were highest in the Southwest, with Dooks, Co. Kerry reporting a mean temperature of 6.6°C, +1.0°C above its LTA. Sherkin Island reported the the highest winter mean temperature with 7.6°C, just -0.1°C below its LTA. Overall, nearly all stations reported a colder winter in the previous two years. Highest seasonal maxima were mainly recorded during the warm period between December 27th and January 8th, with winter's highest temperature of 15.7°C recorded at Ashford (Cronykeery), Co. Wicklow on January 3rd. Lowest winter air temperatures and grass minima were recorded at various times, with the season's lowest air minimum and grass minimum both recorded on February 25th. Castleconnell, Co. Limerick reported the lowest air temperature of -7.4°C, with Straide, Co. Mayo reporting the lowest grass minimum of -13.4°C. The number of days with air frost ranged from three at Atlantic coastal stations to 34 at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), Co. Kilkenny.

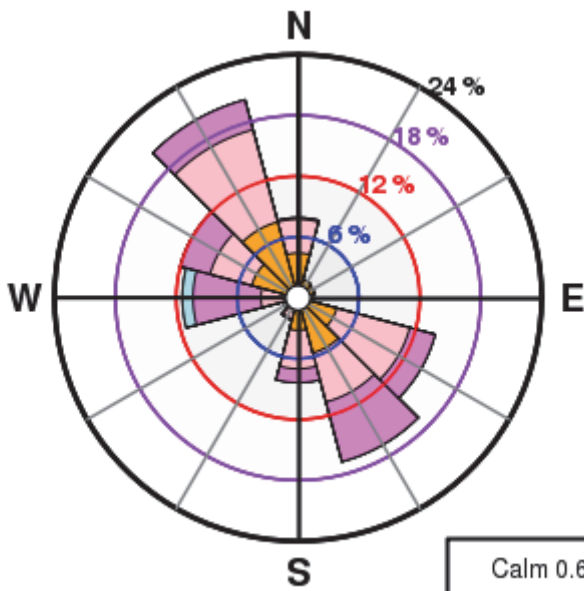
Most stations reported above LTA rainfall with the exception of a few stations mainly in the West, Southwest, Midlands and East which reported below LTA values. Percentage of LTA values ranged from 64% at Kilkeeran, Co. Mayo with a seasonal total of 249.7 mm to 175% with 485.5 mm at Riverstown (Glenmore Upper), Co. Louth. Winter rainfall totals in low-lying areas (below 200 m) ranged from 153.3 mm at Dublin (Ringsend), which was just on average to 915.1mm at Cloone Lake (Caragh River Area) which recorded 113% of its LTA. The overall highest seasonal accumulation was in the Cummeragh Mountains where 1,184.0 mm of rain was recorded. The wettest day of winter was at Leenane (Glanagimla), Co. Galway on January 26th with 75.3 mm, its wettest winter day since 2006 (7 years). The number of wetdays (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) ranged from 25 at Fairyhouse Racecourse, Co. Meath to 71 days at Waterville, Co. Kerry.

Sunshine totals were below normal for the majority of stations with above LTA values at a selection of stations in Atlantic coastal counties. Percentage of LTAs ranged from 80% at Knock Airport to 124% at Belmullet. Despite having the lowest sunshine compared to average, Knock Airport recorded the season's sunniest day on February 25th with 9.9 hours, the sunniest winter's day in Ireland since 2004 (9 years). The number of dull days (*days with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine*) ranged from 38 at a few stations in the South, Southeast and East to 50 at Knock Airport.

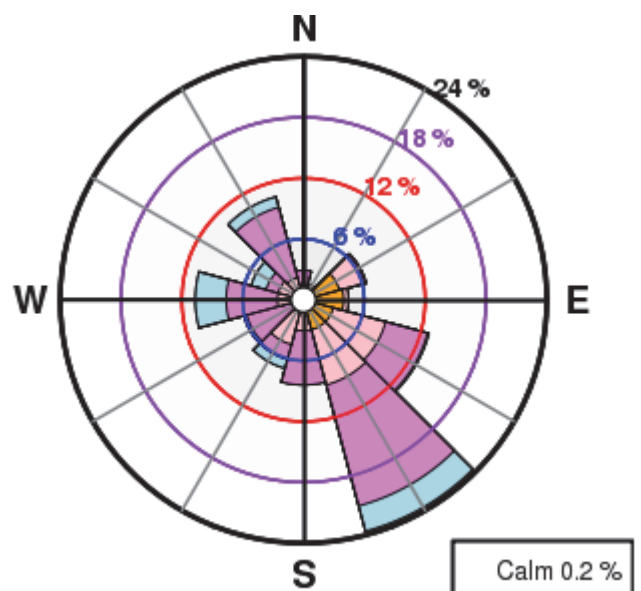
COUNTY/STATION	RAINFALL (mm)					TEMPERATURE (°C)					SUNSHINE (HRS)				WIND				
	TOTAL	% OF LTA	MOST IN A DAY	NO. OF RAIN DAYS	NO. OF WET DAYS	MEAN	DIFFERENCE FROM LTA	EXTREMES MAXIMUM	EXTREMES MINIMUM	NO. OF DAYS GROUND FROST	NO. OF DAYS AIR FROST	TOTAL	% OF AVERAGE	MOST IN A DAY	NO. OF DULL DAYS	HIGHEST GUST (KNOTS)	HIGHEST 10-MIN WIND SPEED (KNOTS)	NO. OF DAYS GALES	NO. OF DAYS GUSTS ≥34 KNOTS
CO. CARLOW																			
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	179.9	98	18.5	53	39	5.1	-0.5	13.6	-3.7	50	23				55	33	0	15	
CO. CAVAN																			
BALLYHAISE	295.3	115	18.5	60	47	4.4	-0.7	13.0	-5.8	45	31				52	31	0	15	
CO. CLARE																			
SHANNON AIRPORT	270.3	105	21.1	64	54	6.1	-0.1	13.9	-4.0	29	14	150.3	93	9.6	43	54	40	4	24
CO. CORK																			
CORK AIRPORT	355.9	109	28.5	66	51	5.8	0.0	12.6	-2.5	33	6	185.9	104	9.5	41	54	36	1	25
ROCHE'S POINT	292.5	115	31.4	64	47	6.8	-0.2	12.3	-0.5	15	4				59	45	14	33	
CO. DONEGAL																			
FINNER	344.3	104	17.7	65	51	5.4	-0.1	13.4	-3.7	36	12				59	43	8	29	
MALIN HEAD	364.0	123	22.2	67	51	5.7	-0.3	13.4	-2.6	24	6				67	50	21	47	
CO. DUBLIN																			
DUBLIN AIRPORT	194.0	118	21.9	57	44	4.9	-0.5	13.8	-5.3	44	27	178.9	93	8.8	41	56	40	5	18
CASEMENT AERODROME	161.5	99	15.6	53	37	4.8	-0.4	13.8	-4.8	45	28	147.2	85	8.2	42	62	41	4	19
CO. KERRY																			
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	527.4	125	35.8	72	66	7.7	+0.3	13.6	-1.8	12	3	137.4	94	9.2	44	61	40	5	36
CO. MAYO																			
BELMULLET	337.0	102	23.4	68	53	6.5	0.0	12.2	-3.0	28	9	182.7	124	9.6	39	71	49	9	35
KNOCK AIRPORT	380.7	107	28.3	73	56	4.1	-0.1	11.2	-3.0	38	19	118.8	80	9.9	50	63	41	2	24
CO. TIPPERARY																			
GURTEEN	216.0	91	11.5	58	46	5.0	-0.5	14.0	-6.8	48	24				54	33	0	17	
MULLINGAR	236.6	110	24.9	60	39	4.4	-0.2	13.4	-5.8	55	30				47	26	0	10	
CO. WEXFORD																			
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	265.8	103	31.9	64	40	5.8	-0.2	11.7	-2.0	34	5				51	31	0	20	

COUNTY / STATION	WIND (knots)								ELEMENTS (no.of days)						
	MEAN SPEED	MAX. DIR.	10-MIN. MEAN		MAX. GUST			DAYS WITH GUSTS		HOURS WITH GUSTS	SNOW	SNOW LYING	HAIL	THUNDER	FOG
			SPEED	DATE/HOUR	DIR.	SPEED	DATE/TIME	GALES	(≥34 KNOTS)						
CO. CARLOW OAK PARK	7.5	250°	32	4/18	270°	50	4/1846	0	3	10					
CO. CAVAN BALLYHAISE	6.3	320°	20	1/14	340°	36	5/2105	0	4	4					
CO. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	9.6	270°	33	5/01	290°	50	5/1515	0	5	35	0	0	2	2	0
CO. CORK ROCHE'S POINT	12.7	300°	38	5/16	280°	49	5/0048	3	7	55					
CORK AIRPORT	10.8	280°	31	5/01	290°	54	5/0027	0	7	37	1	1	0	0	6
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	14.8	320°	43	5/14	260°	61	4/ 649	4	14	101					
CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	10.9	260°	31	5/14	260°	41	4/1434	0	3	28	0	0	0	0	0
					250°	41	5/1226								
CASEMENT	8.7	260°	33	4/13	260°	45	4/1214	0	3	21	4	1	1	0	1
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	10.7	280°	35	5/13	280°	55	5/0015	2	10	75					
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	11.3	270°	33	5/02	280°	52	4/1908	0	10	69					
KNOCK AIRPORT	10.3	280°	31	4/09	280°	48	4/1829	0	7	53	1				8
					330°	31	7/15								
CO. MEATH DUNSANY (GRANGE)	7.8	260°	26	4/13	260°	40	4/1352	0	2	8					
CO. ROSCOMMON MOUNTDILLON	7.4	310°	26	7/14	320°	38	7/1439	0	3	8					
CO. TIPPERARY GURTEEN (AG. COLLEGE)	8.7	260°	27	4/12	260°	43	4/1120	0	3	11					
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR	6.0	300°	22	7/14	290°	38	7/1414	0	2	2					
CO. WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	9.2	300°	26	7/16	270°	43	4/2143	0	4	12					
					300°	43	7/1655								

CARLOW (OAK PARK)



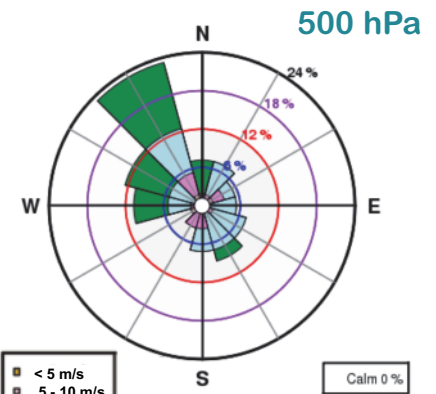
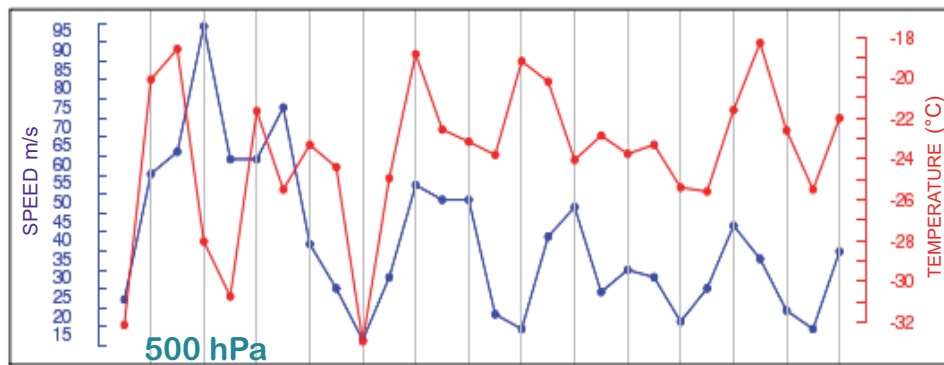
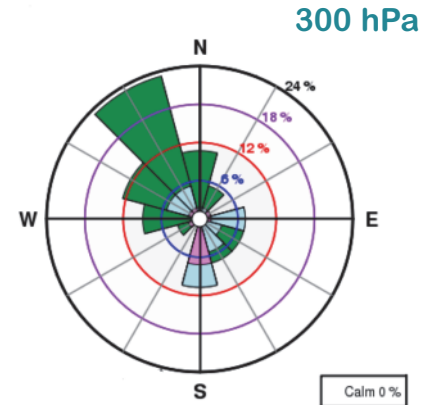
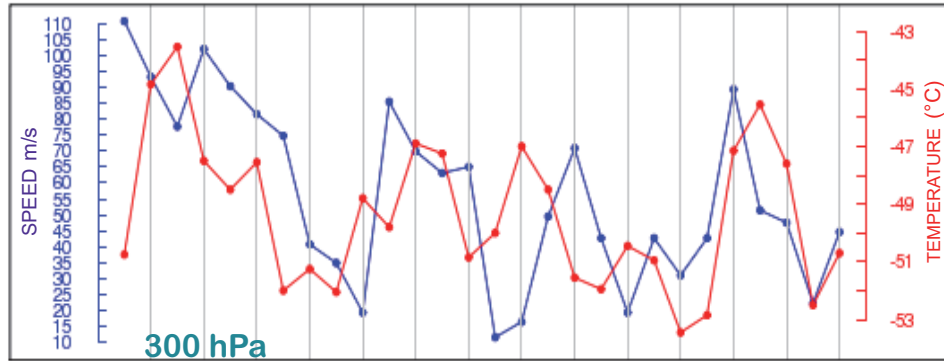
BELMULLET



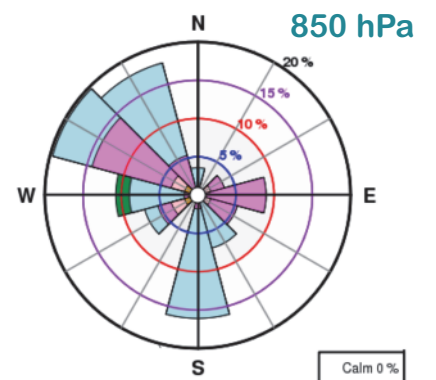
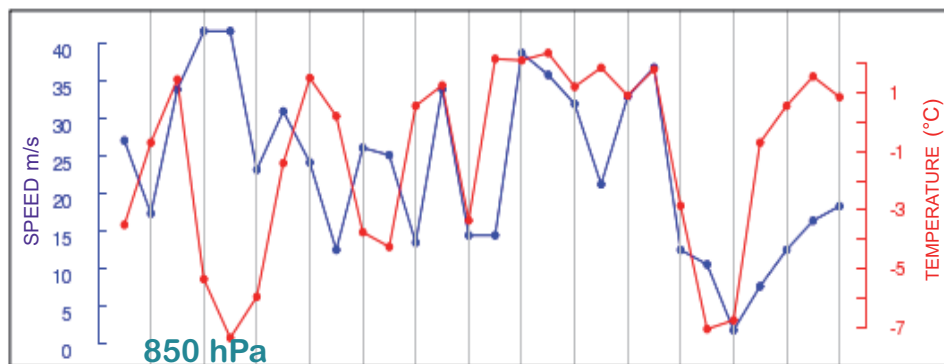
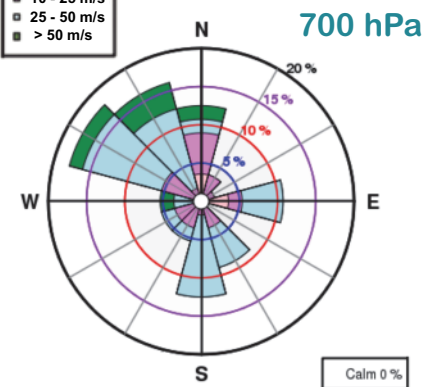
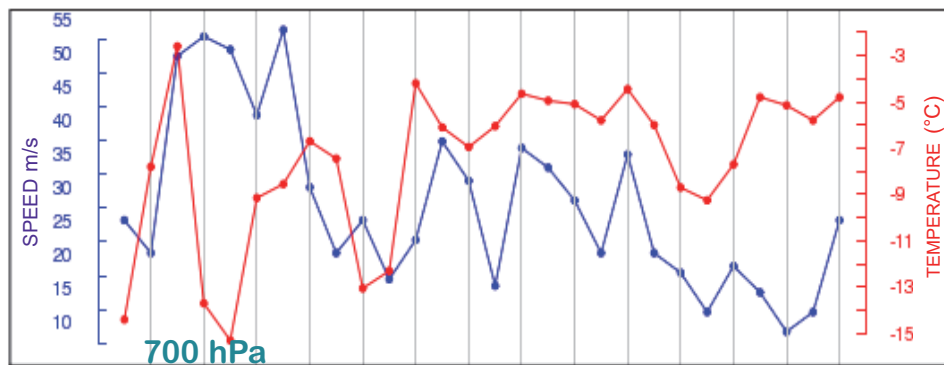
PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF WIND DIRECTION

Upper Atmosphere wind and temperature readings are made at Valentia Observatory twice a day by a radiosonde (a balloon with instruments attached). Shown below are daily average windspeeds and temperatures at defined pressure levels, 850, 700, 500 and 300 hPa, corresponding approximately to heights of 1,500, 3,000, 6,000 and 10,000 metres. Monthly windroses are also shown for each pressure level.

UPPER AIR WIND SPEED AND TEMPERATURE FEBRUARY 2013



- < 5 m/s
- 5 - 10 m/s
- 10 - 25 m/s
- 25 - 50 m/s
- > 50 m/s



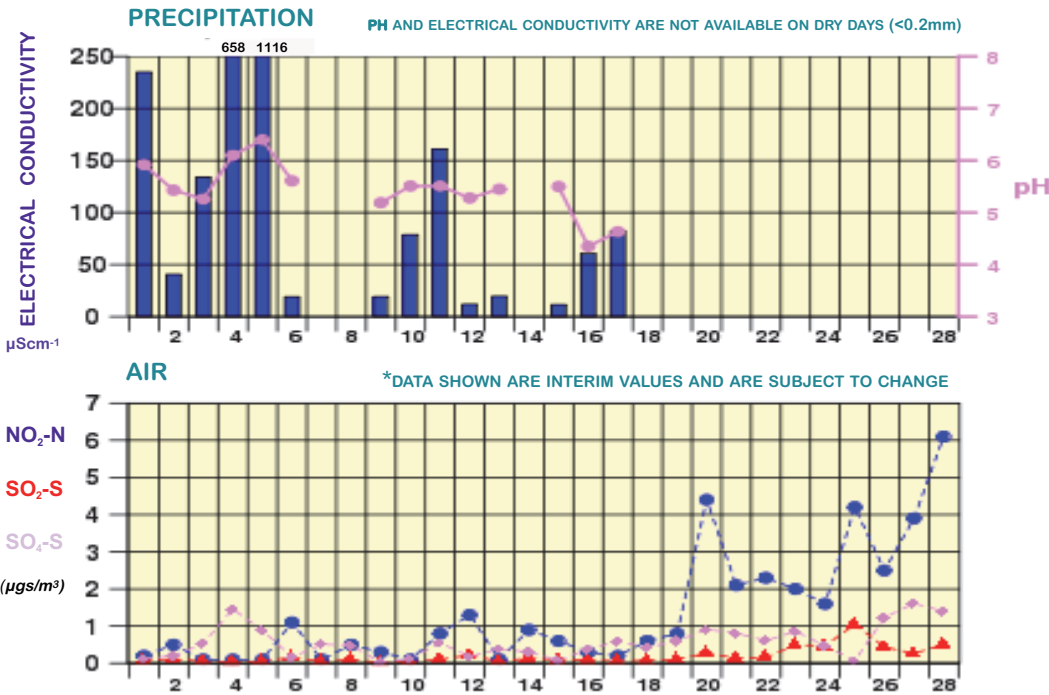
DAY OF MONTH

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PRECIPITATION AND AIR SAMPLES AT VALENTIA OBSERVATORY

Acid rain occurs when pollutants combine with moisture in the air to form sulphuric or nitric acid. pH is the simplest way of measuring the acidity of precipitation. Usually pH of 7.00 is considered neutral but this is not the case in rainfall samples. Pure water in the atmosphere has an equilibrium pH value of 5.65 at 20°C owing to carbon dioxide in the air dissolving to form carbonic acid. Any value below pH 5.65 is considered acid while any value above is considered alkaline.

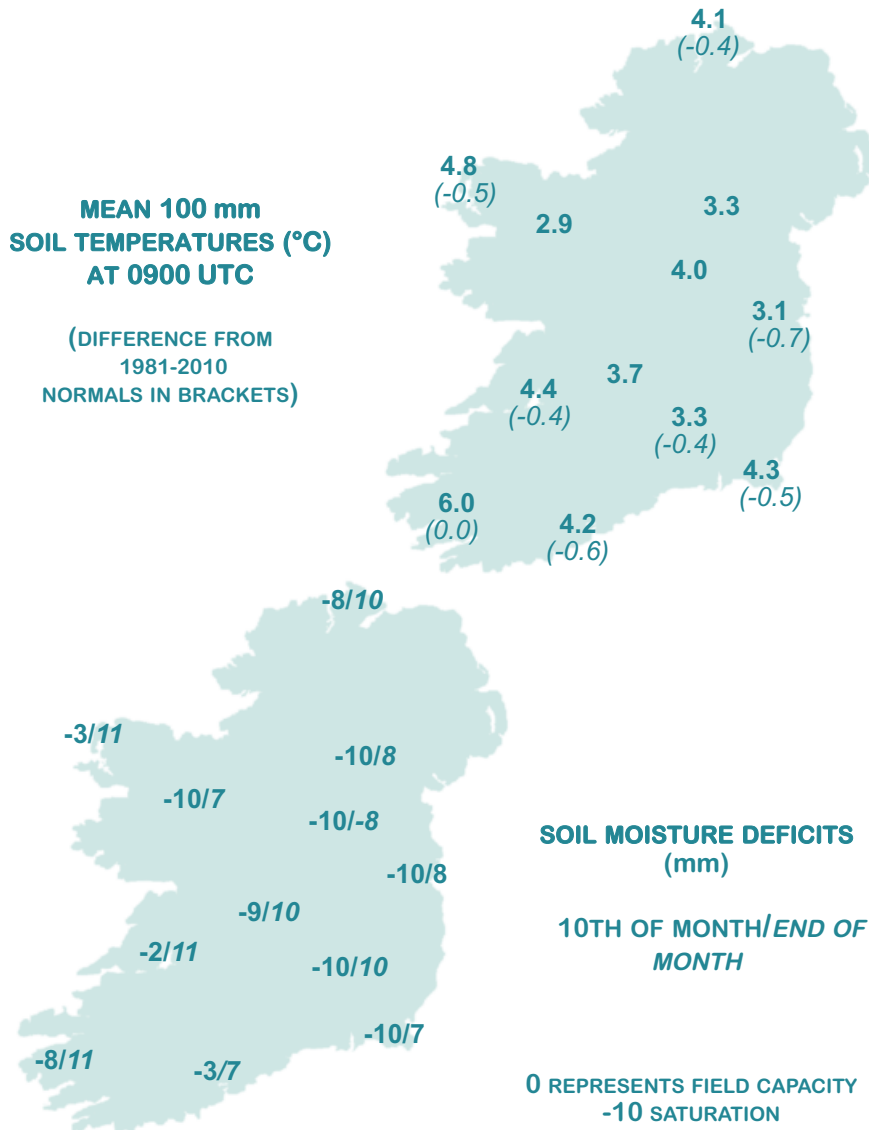
Sulphur dioxide and sulphate in air contribute to the formation of sulphuric acid; nitrate in air contributes to the formation of nitric acid.

Conductivity measures the total ion activity in the rainfall, i.e. the higher the conductivity the greater the number of ions present.



MEAN 100 mm SOIL TEMPERATURES (°C) AT 0900 UTC

(DIFFERENCE FROM 1981-2010 NORMALS IN BRACKETS)



MEAN SOIL TEMPERATURES (°C) AT 0900 UTC

COUNTY/STATION	100 mm	200 mm	300 mm
CO. CARLOW			
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	3.3	4.3	4.5
CO. CAVAN			
BALLYHAISE	3.3	4.2	4.7
CO. CLARE			
SHANNON AIRPORT	4.4	4.9	6.1
CARRON	4.9		5.5
CO. CORK			
ROCHE'S POINT	4.7	5.7	6.0
FERMOY (MOOREPARK)	4.0	4.7	5.4
CORK AIRPORT	4.2	5.0	6.0
SHERKIN ISLAND	6.3	7.0	7.5
BALINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	4.0	4.0	5.5
CO. DONEGAL			
MALIN HEAD	4.1	5.0	5.8
CO. DUBLIN			
PHOENIX PARK	3.3	4.4	4.8
DUBLIN AIRPORT	3.3	4.1	4.6
CASEMENT AERODROME	3.1	4.0	4.9
CO. KERRY			
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	6.0	6.8	7.4
CO. KILKENNY			
THOMASTOWN (MT. JULIET)	4.9	5.2	5.6
CO. LIMERICK			
MOUNTRUSSELL	4.0	4.6	
CO. MAYO			
BELMULLET	4.8	5.7	6.3
STRAIDE	4.5		
KNOCK AIRPORT	2.9	3.9	4.5
CO. MEATH			
WARRENSTOWN	3.0	4.0	4.4
DUNSANY (GRANGE)	3.1	3.8	4.5
CO. TIPPERARY			
GURTEEN (AG. COLLEGE)	3.7	4.2	4.7
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	4.3	4.9	
CO. WATERFORD			
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)		4.7	5.6
CO. WESTMEATH			
MULLINGAR	4.0	4.6	5.2
CO. WEXFORD			
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	4.3	4.7	5.4
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)		not available	
CO. WICKLOW			
ASHFORD (CRONYKEERY)	4.2	4.9	5.4

10-DAY VALUES FOR SELECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL STATIONS		RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)												SUNSHINE (hours)			
STATION	PERIOD	AMOUNT	% OF LTA	RAIN DAYS	WET DAYS	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	MEAN DAILY	DIFF. FROM LTA	LOWEST MIN.	DATE	DAYS WITH AIR FROST	DEGREE DAYS > 4.4°C	DEGREE DAYS > 10.0°C	LOWEST *GRASS-MIN. °	DATE	DAYS WITH GROUND FROST	MEAN 10CM AT 0900H	MEAN 30CM AT 0900H	TOTAL NO. OF HOURS	% OF LTA
CO. CORK BALLINCURRIG	1-10	26.8	-	6	5	8.7	1.0	4.9	-	-1.0	5	3	14	0	-2.1	7	5	3.8	5.3	35.6	-
	11-20	21.7	-	6	3	8.8	3.3	6.1	-	-0.3	15	1	21	1	-1.5	15	1	5.5	6.4	16.0	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	6.2	-0.8	2.7	-	-3.9	24	6	4	0	-5.0	25	6	2.4	4.9	23.6	-
	MONTH	48.5	47	12	8	8.0	1.3	4.7	-0.6	-3.9	24	10	40	1	-5.0	25	12	4.0	5.5	75.2	104
CO. DONEGAL GLENTRIES	1-10	64.9	-	9	9	8.4	2.5	5.5	-	-1.0	2	2	16	0	-3.4	2	6	-	-	-	-
	11-20	21.7	-	5	2	9.4	3.3	6.4	-	1.0	15	0	24	1	-3.9	20	3	-	-	-	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	7.3	-1.2	3.1	-	-5.2	24	4	7	0	-9.1	24	7	-	-	-	-
	MONTH	86.6	66	14	11	8.4	1.7	5.1	0.0	-5.2	24	6	47	1	-9.1	24	16	-	-	-	-
CO. KERRY ARDFERT	1-10	39.5	-	9	7	9.2	3.1	6.2	-	0.9	7	0	21	1	-0.6	7	1	-	-	18.6	-
	11-20	23.7	-	4	4	10.5	5.2	7.9	-	2.6	20	0	35	2	1.0	20	0	-	-	16.2	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	7.4	0.4	3.9	-	-2.8	26	4	7	0	-3.7	26	4	-	-	24.6	-
	MONTH	63.2	68	13	11	9.1	3.0	6.1	-0.3	-2.8	26	4	64	2	-3.7	26	5	-	-	59.4	89
CO. MONAGHAN CARRICKMACROSS	1-10	52.9	-	8	7	7.9	1.4	4.7	-	-2.1	6	5	13	0	-4.9	7	8	-	-	-	-
	11-20	19.0	-	4	3	8.6	2.1	5.4	-	-1.4	19	2	17	1	-3.9	15	6	-	-	-	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	5.7	-0.3	2.7	-	-2.4	25	3	4	0	-6.9	25	8	-	-	-	-
	MONTH	71.9	105	12	10	7.5	1.2	4.4	-0.6	-2.4	25	10	34	1	-6.9	25	22	-	-	-	-
CO. WATERFORD DUNGARVAN	1-10	26.8	-	7	7	10.3	2.3	6.3	-	0.5	7	0	25	1	-2.0	7	3	-	5.3	32.5	-
	11-20	14.3	-	7	4	10.3	4.2	7.3	-	-0.4	15	1	31	3	-1.0	20	2	-	6.8	22.8	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	6.4	0.2	3.3	-	-3.6	25	4	4	0	-7.0	25	5	-	4.5	21.7	-
	MONTH	41.1	44	14	11	9.2	2.4	5.8	-0.5	-3.6	25	5	61	4	-7.0	25	10	-	5.6	77.0	108
CO. WEXFORD J.F.K. PARK	1-10	25.0	-	6	6	8.9	1.8	5.4	-	-1.2	7	1	17	0	-3.5	7	6	3.4	6.4	27.9	-
	11-20	14.8	-	5	3	8.8	3.6	6.2	-	1.2	12	0	21	1	-1.5	15	3	5.3	6.9	21.2	-
	21-END	0.0	-	0	0	5.7	1.1	3.4	-	-0.2	24	1	5	0	-2.5	26	5	3.1	6.1	20.1	-
	MONTH	39.8	58	11	9	7.9	2.2	5.1	-0.8	-1.2	7	2	43	1	-3.5	7	14	4.0	6.5	69.2	97
CO. WICKLOW ASHFORD	1-10	38.8	-	7	5	9.1	3.3	6.2	-	-0.5	3	1	22	1	-6.9	3	8	4.0	5.3	29.1	-
	11-20	11.5	-	3	3	9.1	3.1	6.1	-	-2.7	20	2	23	1	-9.2	20	5	4.9	5.9	31.0	-
	21-END	5.4	-	2	1	5.7	2.5	4.1	-	0.9	24	0	5	0	-3.6	25	7	3.6	4.9	8.9	-
	MONTH	55.7	82	12	9	8.1	3.0	5.6	-0.3	-2.7	20	3	50	2	-9.2	20	20	4.2	5.4	69.0	84

P.E. (PENMAN)		GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION (MJ/sq.m.)				MONTHLY EVAPORATION (mm) FROM CLASS A PAN			
STATION /COUNTY	TOTAL (mm)	STATION /COUNTY	1ST-10TH	11TH-20TH	21ST-END	TOTAL	COUNTY/ STATION	MONTHLY RAINFALL (mm)	MONTHLY EVAPORATION (mm)
CO. CARLOW CARLOW (OAK PARK)	19	CO. CARLOW CARLOW (OAK PARK)*	40.61	50.08	44.38	135.07	CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY 75.9 31.0 CO. KERRY NORTH KERRY LANDFILL 92.9 18.3 CO. MAYO NEWPORT (FURNACE) 94.3 8.8 CO. OFFALY DERRYGREENAGH 51.8 8.3 CO. WATERFORD DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA) 41.1 18.6 CO. WEXFORD J.F.K. PARK 39.8 24.0 GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION VALUES FOR STATIONS MARKED * ARE PROVISIONAL		
CO. CAVAN BALLYHAISE	16	CO. CAVAN BALLYHAISE*	32.51	47.41	35.62	115.54			
CO. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	19	CO. CORK ROCHE'S POINT*	53.66	45.86	37.78	137.30			
CO. CORK CORK AIRPORT	16	CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	24.13	49.71	46.11	119.95			
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	25	CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	35.96	52.43	32.65	121.04			
CO. DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	19	CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBS.	40.45	37.20	61.93	139.58			
CASEMENT AERODROME	14	CO. MAYO BELMULLET	40.58	50.26	68.48	159.32			
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBS.	25	CO. TIPPERARY GURTEEN (AG. COLLEGE)*	40.45	51.80	38.93	131.18			
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	21	CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR*	34.99	47.08	31.67	113.74			
KNOCK AIRPORT	14	CO. WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE*	42.42	46.44	32.59	121.45			
CO. TIPPERARY GURTEEN (AG. COLLEGE)	18								
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR	15								
CO. WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	21								

Friday 1st: Scattered showers continued overnight in the West and North, as a light rain spread into south Munster and south Leinster before quickly clearing. Showers became more widespread and active for a time during the morning before retreating back to Atlantic coasts later in the afternoon.

Winds were light to moderate, variable in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 9.2 mm at Roundstone

Temperature: Lowest max. 6.1°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest max. 10.6°C at Dungarvan (Carriglea). Lowest min. -0.4°C at Fermoy (Moore Park), highest min. 6.2°C at Mace Head

Sunshine: 0.6 hours at Ardferf (Lisachane), Casement to 5.1 hours at Ballyshannon (Cathleen's Fall)

Saturday 2nd: A widespread frost overnight, milder along the west coast. The morning was mostly dry with scattered showers in places. The afternoon continued dry with bright spells. The evening and night had some light rain and drizzle along the western coasts, but mostly dry over eastern parts with some clear spells. Winds were light, northwesterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 20.3 mm at Leenane (Glanagimla)

Temperature: Lowest max. 7.0°C at Glendalough, highest max. 11.1°C at Delphi Lodge. Lowest min. -3.6°C at Casement, highest min. 4.9°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: 3.4 hours at Ardferf (Lisachane) to 7.9 hours at Dublin Apt.

Sunday 3rd: Rain in the East overnight, patchy drizzle elsewhere and some mist also. Rain cleared the east coast during the morning, but it remained cloudy over much of the country with some light rain and drizzle in parts. The afternoon and evening were cloudy again with further rain and drizzle in places. Winds were light to fresh, southwest to west in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 11.8 mm at Listowel (Gurtocloghane)

Temperature: Lowest max. 9.0°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest max. 12.2°C at Waterford (Tycor). Lowest min. -2.5°C at Casement, highest min. 5.4°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 0.5 hours at Ballincurragh (Peafield)

Monday 4th: Patchy rain and drizzle overnight in places. Showers in the West during the morning, with mostly dry conditions with some good sunshine in the East. During the afternoon the showers became more widespread and continued after dark, with some clear periods also. Winds were moderate to gale, westerly in direction.

Rainfall: 0.0 mm at Killanne (Corraegen) to 30.2 mm at Tralee (Lisaboula)

Temperature: Lowest max. 6.0°C at Lullymore Nature Centre, highest max. 10.9°C at Cloyne (Lisanley). Lowest min. 2.6°C at Dundalk (Annaskeagh), highest min. 7.7°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: 1.2 hours at Ardferf (Lisachane) to 6.5 hours at Ashford (Cronykeery)

Tuesday 5th: Snow and hail showers overnight in many places, with heavy snowfall in places. The snow showers continued through the morning in places, but later the showers turned to mostly rain. Showers continued for the afternoon but by evening they became scattered. Winds were strong, west to northwest.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 17.1 mm at Kilgarvan (Gortnaboul)

Temperature: Lowest max. 5.7°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest max. 10.5°C at Dungarvan (Carriglea). Lowest min. -2.0°C at Castleconnell, highest min. 2.6°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: 0.1 hours at Ardferf (Lisachane) to 5.9 hours at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

Wednesday 6th: Scattered showers in the western counties overnight with clear conditions in the East. The showers developed during the morning in the Northwest becoming scattered later on and drifting into eastern areas by afternoon. Long spells of sunshine in many parts, with some cloudy conditions in the Northwest. After dark, temperatures dropped with ground frost recorded nearly everywhere and air frost forming later in eastern areas. Winds were moderate to strong, west to northwest.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 13.3 mm at Delphi Lodge

Temperature: Lowest max. 5.6°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 9.0°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -2.1°C at Carrickmacross (Dunoge), highest min. 4.5°C at Belderrig

Sunshine: 3.4 hours at Ardferf (Lisachane) to 8.2 hours at Ashford (Cronykeery)

Thursday 7th: Frost disappeared in western areas as rain arrived in west Connacht toward dawn. Rain quickly spread to all parts during the morning, lingering for a time over much of Ulster and Leinster. The rain gradually moved southwards, clearing the South by early evening. There were some light scattered showers countrywide later on in the evening. Winds were light to moderate, west to northwesterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 13.1 mm at Kilmacrennan (Massreagh)

Temperature: Lowest max. 4.9°C at Dunmoe (Graigs Lane), highest max. 10.5°C at Sherkin Island. Lowest min. -3.2°C at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), highest min. 3.4°C at Mace Head

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 4.8 hours at Sherkin Island

Friday 8th: Mostly dry during the early part of the night, with only isolated patchy light rain. Towards morning, rain became widespread in the eastern half of the country persisting until mid-afternoon. Elsewhere it was dry and bright, but the East remained cloudy. Later on in the evening a heavier band of rain spread into the Northwest and West. Winds were light to moderate, variable in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 11.9 mm at the Gap of Dunloe

Temperature: Lowest max. 7.2°C at Dundalk (Annaskeagh W.W.), highest max. 12.0°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -0.4°C at Kilkenny Greenhill, highest min. 7.4°C at Valentia Obs.

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 6.7 hours at Sherkin Island

Saturday 9th: Rain in Connacht and Ulster moved southeastwards into Leinster during the early hours of the morning, with Munster remaining dry. A clearance followed reaching the east coast by late morning. A band of rain moved into the Southwest in mid-afternoon, covering most of the country by nightfall. Rain was mainly light, with some heavy falls in places. Winds were light, south to southwest.

Rainfall: 0.0 mm at North Kerry Landfill to 28.0 mm at the Gap of Dunloe

Temperature: Lowest max. 7.9°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 13.2°C at Dooks. Lowest min. 0.6°C at Dunmoe (Graigs Lane), highest min. 8.0°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 1.7 hours at Dungarvan (Carriglea)

Sunday 10th: Countrywide rain overnight was heavy in places. It continued over eastern and northern parts during the morning, while the West and South had just the odd shower and were mainly dry. Persistent, heavy rain, remained over eastern parts in the afternoon, continuing after dark. Scattered showers with some clear spells over the rest of the country. Winds were light to moderate, west or northwesterly.

Rainfall: 0.3 mm at Ventry to 58.4 mm at Glenbride Lodge

Temperature: Lowest max. 5.3°C at Fethard (Parsonhill), highest max. 12.0°C at Glengarriff (Innacullin). Lowest min. 0.9°C at Fermoy (Moore Park), highest min. 6.9°C at Dublin (Glasnevin)

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 5.6 hours at Sherkin Island

Monday 11th: Widespread, overnight rain and drizzle continued over much of the country throughout the morning. Damp conditions nearly everywhere during the morning with more rain and drizzle in most parts. Later on patchy rain and drizzle continued to affect mainly the East with a few dry periods over western parts. Winds were light to strong, northwesterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 11.8 mm at Knocknagoshel (Meinletrim), Listowel (Gurtocloghane)

Temperature: Lowest max. 3.2°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest max. 9.4°C at Glengarriff (Innacullin). Lowest min. 1.2°C at Glengarriff (Innacullin), Waterford (Tycor), highest min. 5.1°C at Mace Head

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 6.6 hours at Sherkin Island

Tuesday 12th: Mainly cloudy, with some showers in the Southwest and Midlands early on. Rain approached the Southwest during the afternoon and quickly spread across Munster becoming persistent in many places by evening. Winds were fresh to strong, variable in direction.

Rainfall: 0.2 mm at Termonbarry to 22.0 mm at Kilcar (Cronasillagh)

Temperature: Lowest max. 6.4°C at Dublin Apt., highest max. 11.7°C at Springfield Castle. Lowest min. 0.8°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest min. 5.4°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 0.1 hours at Dublin (Glasnevin)

Wednesday 13th: Rain and drizzle, in many areas overnight, continued in the East during the morning with scattered showers further west. Mist and fog along southwest and western coasts. Rain and drizzle continued during the afternoon in the North and East, with just the odd shower in the South and Southwest. Rain and drizzle over the West spread eastwards through the evening becoming drier in the West by late evening. Winds were fresh to strong, southerly.

Rainfall: 0.1 mm at Listowel (Gurtocloghane) to 69.0 mm at Illies (Pollan Dam)

Temperature: Lowest max. 9.7°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 14.1°C at Cork (Clover Hill).

Lowest min. 1.5°C at Cavan (Drumconnick), highest min. 5.5°C at Sherkin Island

Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 0.5 hours at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

Thursday 14th: Some light, well scattered showers overnight across the country. The showers continued through to afternoon but were brief and scattered, becoming isolated during the evening. Many places had good sunshine during the day, with clear night skies leading to frost in some places. Winds were light to fresh, west to southwest in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 18.0 mm at Illies (Pollan Dam)

Temperature: Lowest max. 8.0°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 12.2°C at Dungarvan (Carriglea).
Lowest min. 1.9°C at Dundalk (Annaskeagh), highest min. 8.2°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: 0.2 hours at Sherkin Island to 4.2 hours at Ashford (Cronykeery)

Friday 15th: Isolated showers overnight. Showers affected mostly the Southwest during the morning. Showers continued during the afternoon in the western half of the country, while the East remained dry with a little sunshine. During the evening a front moved slowly across the country reaching eastern counties towards midnight accompanied by light rain. Winds were light, variable in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 10.2 mm at Rosscarbery (Froe)
Temperature: Lowest max. 7.9°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 12.5°C at Dungarvan (Carriglea).
Lowest min. -1.7°C at Fermoy (Moore Park), highest min. 6.7°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: 0.1 hours at Ardferf (Liscahane) to 5.2 hours at Dublin (Glasnevin)

Saturday 16th: Some patchy rain or showers at times through the day, with most areas remaining dry. Generally cloudy, with some sunshine particularly in the East. Winds were moderate, south to southeast in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 4.6 mm at Bantry (Shandrum)
Temperature: Lowest max. 8.8°C at Cork Apt., Mount russell, Cashel (Ballydoyle Hse.), highest max. 13.4°C at Dublin (Glasnevin). Lowest min. 0.4°C at Kilkenny (Greenshill), highest min. 8.0°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 3.7 hours at Dublin (Glasnevin)

Sunday 17th: Some rain or drizzle along southwest and western coasts during the morning and again late in the evening. Predominantly a dry day almost everywhere. Cloudy in the Southwest, with some sunshine, particularly in the North and West. Winds were moderate, southeasterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 8.2 mm at Ballinskelligs
Temperature: Lowest max. 7.9°C at Cork Apt., Dundalk (Annaskeagh), highest max. 12.0°C at Elphin. Lowest min. 4.0°C at Cahore (Kilmichael Hse.), highest min. 9.7°C at Valentia Obs.
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 6.1 hours at Dungarvan (Carriglea)

Monday 18th: Dry overnight apart from some patchy drizzle along southwest coasts. The day remained dry and bright over most of the country, with cloud persisting over the South and Southwest with further patchy drizzle in the area during the afternoon. The evening and night had good clear spells over much of the country. Winds were strong, south to southeast in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 3.6 mm at Macroom (Curraleigh)
Temperature: : Lowest max. 6.8°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 11.1°C at Mallow (Spa Hse.).
Lowest min. -0.5°C at Cavan (Drumconnick), highest min. 8.0°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 8.2 hours at Casement

Tuesday 19th: A dry and bright morning over much of the country, cloudy in the South and Southwest. The afternoon saw good sunshine everywhere, though some mist persisted in places also. The evening and night were cold and clear over much of the country, with ground frost developing after dark. The cloud cover and mist saw the South and Southwest remain frost free. Winds were light, southeasterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 1.4 mm at Bantry (Shandrum), 1.4 mm at Oldbridge (Oakview)
Temperature: Lowest max. 7.8°C at Dublin Apt., Johnstown Castle, Dun Laoghaire, highest max. 12.7°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -3.6°C at Dunsany, highest min. 7.8°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: 1.3 hours at Newport (Furnace) to 8.8 hours at Dublin Apt.

Wednesday 20th: Clear spells overnight with a sharp to severe ground frost. Misty at times in many areas with freezing fog in the East. Fog persisted in the West during the morning before turning to mist by afternoon. Cloudier in the South and West as fog cleared, with long sunny spells throughout the day elsewhere. Winds were light to fresh, southeasterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 1.2 mm at the Gap of Dunloe
Temperature: : Lowest max. 6.2°C at Glenealy (Kilmacurragh Park), highest max. 12.6°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -3.6°C at Ballyhaise, highest min. 8.1°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: 0.1 hours at Dungarvan (Carriglea) to 8.1 hours at Casement

Thursday 21st: Dry for the whole day. Mostly sunny in the western half of the country with extended sunshine in places. The eastern half of the country was cloudier with shorter sunny spells. Winds were strong, southeasterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 0.6 mm at Oldbridge (Oakview)
Temperature: Lowest max. 2.6°C at Clonroche (Knoxtown), highest max. 12.0°C at Glengarriff (Ilnacullin). Lowest min. -1.1°C at Killucan (Ballyhaw), highest min. 8.0°C at Valentia Obs.
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 5.1 hours at Ballyshannon (Cathleen's Fall)

Friday 22nd: Cold and dry overnight with a slight ground frost. Conditions generally remained the same throughout the day as temperatures barely rose above night time values. Cloudy in most places with some sunshine in parts of the West. Ground frost returned to western areas during the evening while some light snow showers affected eastern areas. Winds were moderate to fresh, east to southeast in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 1.0 mm at Drum West
Temperature: Lowest max. 0.8°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 7.3°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -3.5°C at Cavan (Drumconnick), highest min. 4.6°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 4.1 hours at Newport (Furnace)

Saturday 23rd: Cloudy conditions for most of the country. Occasional sunny outbreaks in parts of the West, which remained dry throughout. Snow along eastern coasts fell periodically during the day, giving accumulations in places. Frost returned after dark. Winds were light to moderate, northeasterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 9.3 mm at Kilbride (Togher)
Temperature: Lowest max. 0.9°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 6.1°C at Valentia Obs.
Lowest min. -2.1°C at Belmullet, Dundalk (Annaskeagh), highest min. 2.0°C at Sherkin Island
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 2.5 hours at Dungarvan (Carriglea)

Sunday 24th: Light snow showers affected Leinster overnight, but became well scattered by morning. A cloudy start in west Munster and much of Leinster with a little precipitation in the far Southeast. A few scattered light wintry showers affected Leinster coasts during the afternoon. After dark, severe ground frost returned in some parts. Munster remained mostly frost free. Winds were light, variable in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 8.0 mm at Glenealy (Kilmacurragh Park)
Temperature: Lowest max. 2.1°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), highest max. 9.5°C at Dooks. Lowest min. -6.9°C at Markree, highest min. 2.2°C at Valentia Obs.
Sunshine: 0.3 hours at Sherkin Island to 9.3 hours at Knock Apt.

Monday 25th: A widespread sharp to severe ground frost overnight, lingered well into the morning. Light wintry showers drifted into Leinster from the Irish Sea. Some long sunny spells during the day with much of the West and North enjoying uninterrupted sunshine. Frost returned after dark with a severe frost inland. Winds were light, variable in direction.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 0.2 mm at Portlaw (Mayfield)
Temperature: Lowest max. 5.5°C at Cavan (Drumconnick), highest max. 11.1°C at Glengarriff (Ilnacullin). Lowest min. -7.4°C at Castleconnell, highest min. 2.0°C at Cahore (Kilmichael Hse.)
Sunshine: 6.2 hours at Ashford (Cronykeery) to 9.9 hours at Knock Apt.

Tuesday 26th: Cold overnight with widespread air and ground frost, but cloudy and frost free along the east coast. Generally dry with some good sunny spells. The evening and night continued dry with variable cloud cover, with a ground frost developing after dark away from the east coast. Winds were light to moderate variable at first, turning northeasterly later.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 0.6 mm at Tullaroan (Ballybeagh)
Temperature: Lowest max. 4.0°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 11.7°C at Glengarriff (Ilnacullin).
Lowest min. -5.6°C at Markree, highest min. 3.3°C at Ashford (Cronykeery)
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 8.2 hours at Ardferf (Liscahane)

Wednesday 27th: Dry overnight with a widespread mist and slight ground frost in places. The day remained cloudy and misty generally, with just the odd bright spell. A slight ground frost developed later in the night. Winds were light, easterly.

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 0.1 mm at Castleisland (Coom)
Temperature: Lowest max. 4.0°C at Knock Apt., highest max. 10.0°C at Kilkenny (Greenshill).
Lowest min. -3.5°C at Cavan (Drumconnick), highest min. 5.1°C at Dublin (Glasnevin), Ashford (Cronykeery)
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 4.8 hours at Clonroche (Knoxtown)

Thursday 28th: Generally cloudy overnight, with some clear spells mainly in the West and South. Mist was widespread and persisted through the night, turning to fog in some places around dawn. A mostly dry, cloudy day with some spells of sunshine, before frost returned after dark under clear skies. Winds were light, northeasterly

Rainfall: Nil at numerous locations to 1.0 mm at Falcarragh (Lough Altan)
Temperature: Lowest max. 4.2°C at Mount russell, highest max. 10.5°C at Finner. Lowest min. -3.7°C at Thomastown (Mt. Juliet), highest min. 4.1°C at Ashford (Cronykeery)
Sunshine: Nil at numerous locations to 5.5 hours at Dungarvan (Carriglea)

BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL IN MOST PLACES

Rainfall totals were mainly below Long-Term Average (LTA) with above LTA totals in areas of the East and Northeast. About half of the stations reported below 75% of their monthly LTA, with the month's lowest percentage values recorded in the counties of Kerry, Mayo, Cork and Galway. The month's lowest percentage value was at the Ballaghbeama Gap, Co. Kerry with 28%, recording 74.8 mm of rain and its driest February since 1986 (27 years). A few stations in counties along the Atlantic coast and in the Dublin area reported their driest conditions in five to 27 years with most stations reporting a drier February in 2012.

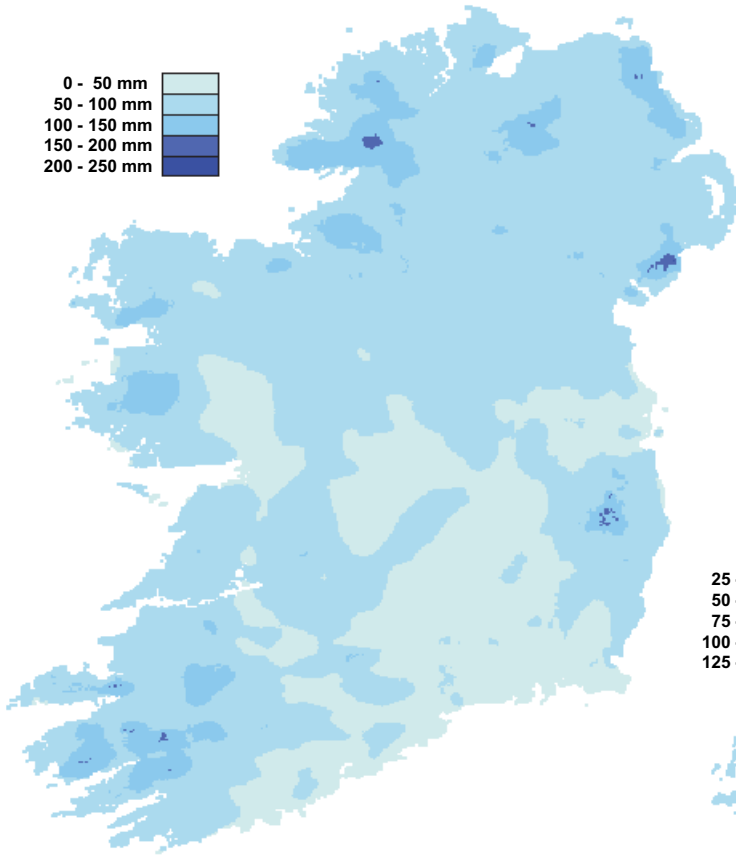
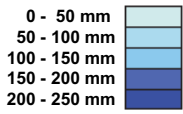
Percentage of average values were highest in Dublin and Louth with values up to 144% at Riverstown (Glenmore Upper), Co. Louth with 114.9 mm of rain, with a few stations mainly in Dublin and surrounding counties reporting their wettest February in five to 11 years. Wettest days of the month were mainly between the 9th and 13th, with the month's highest daily rainfall recorded at Glenbridge Lodge, Co. Wicklow on the 10th with 58.4 mm, nearly half its monthly total of 118.4 mm and its wettest February day since 1943 (70 years). Monthly rainfall accumulations ranged from 25.5 mm at New Ross, Co. Wexford to 157.5 mm at Tralee (Lisaboula), Co. Kerry.

The number of wetdays (*days with 1 mm or more of rainfall*) were nearly all below average except for a few stations in Dublin and Kildare. Number of days ranged from five at Paulstown (Shankill Castle), Co. Kilkenny to 17 at the Gap of Dunloe, Co. Kerry. A small number of stations in Donegal, Kerry, Mayo and Tipperary reported their lowest amount of wetdays in 10 to 27 years.

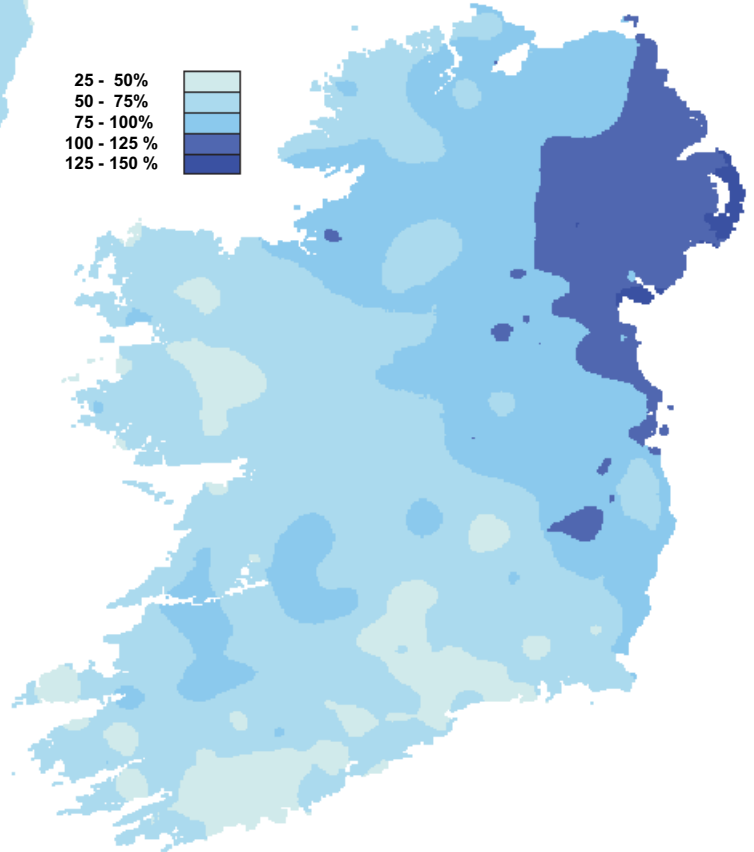
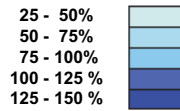
COUNTY/ STATION	TOTAL	% OF	MOST IN		NUMBER OF	
	AMOUNT (mm)	1981-2010 AVERAGE	A DAY /	DATE	RAINDAYS (≥0.2mm)	WETDAYS (≥1mm)
CO. CARLOW						
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	35.8	62	9.0	10	11	7
CO. CAVAN						
BALLYHAISE	63.8	88	12.4	9	13	10
CO. CLARE						
CARRON	84.1	71	16.2	12	15	11
SHANNON AIRPORT	49.2	65	9.4	12	13	10
CO. CORK						
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	48.5	47	9.0	9	12	8
CORK AIRPORT	50.1	51	9.6	9	14	9
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	44.3	55	9.0	4	14	9
ROCHE'S POINT	38.5	51	9.2	9	11	8
SHERKIN ISLAND	45.5	45	9.1	12	10	7
CO. DONEGAL						
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	86.4	99	17.8	9	14	12
GLENTIES HATCHERY	86.6	66	15.3	13	14	11
MALIN HEAD	68.3	78	13.2	12	15	11
CO. DUBLIN						
CASEMENT AERODROME	45.2*	93*	15.6*	10	13*	9*
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	46.4	100	12.9	9	15	11
DUBLIN AIRPORT	47.3	97	12.7	9	15	11
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	46.6	91	11.8	9	14	10
CO. GALWAY						
MAAM VALLEY	119.5	55	19.8	13	15	14
CO. KERRY						
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	63.2	68	12.6	12	13	11
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	75.9	61	14.5	12	16	15
CO. KILKENNY						
THOMASTOWN (MT. JULIET)	37.5	57	8.8	4	12	9
CO. LIMERICK						
MOUNT RUSSELL	54.8	57	11.4	10	16	13
CO. MAYO						
BELMULLET	57.9	60	10.8	9	16	12
DELPHI LODGE	126.9		21.5	10	15	13
KNOCK AIRPORT	72.5	70	12.4	9	16	13
STRAIDE	58.1	55	9.5	13	15	13
CO. MEATH						
WARRENTOWN	49.0	82	9.8	10	11	8
CO. MONAGHAN						
CARRICKMACROSS (DUNOGE)	71.9	105	14.8	10	12	10
CO. OFFALY						
DERRYGREENAGH	51.8	79	9.7	9	13	10
CO. ROSCOMMON						
MOUNTDILLON	54.4	70	10.4	9	15	10
CO. SLIGO						
ARDTARMON	69.5	88	18.1	9	14	13
CO. TIPPERARY						
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	40.9	59	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GURTEEN (AG.COLLEGE)	39.5	60	7.1	9	13	9
CO. WATERFORD						
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	41.1	44	9.0	9	14	11
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	38.8	53	10.4	9	12	8
CO. WESTMEATH						
MULLINGAR	54.8	78	9.8	9	13	8
CO. WEXFORD						
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	46.7		10.4	9	13	10
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	46.4	61	12.1	9	14	10
CO. WICKLOW						
ASHFORD (CRONYKEERY)	55.7	82	15.3	9	12	9

* ESTIMATED DATA USED IN CALCULATION. TABLE REPRESENTS DATA FROM A SMALL SELECTION OF RAINFALL STATIONS. ALL DATA IS 09-09 HR

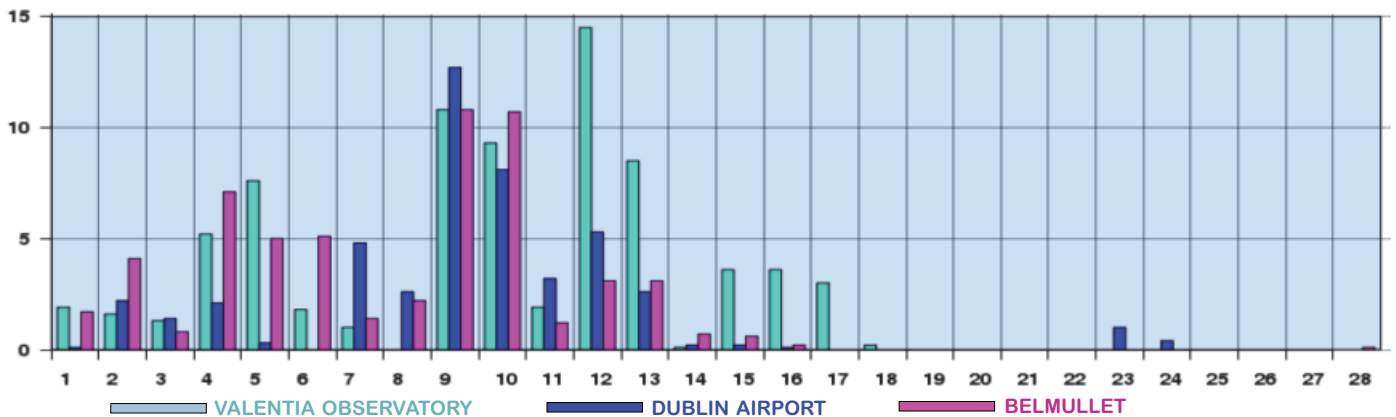
TOTAL RAINFALL (mm)



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL RAINFALL
(1981-2010 NORMALS)



DAILY 09-09hr RAINFALL VALUES (mm)

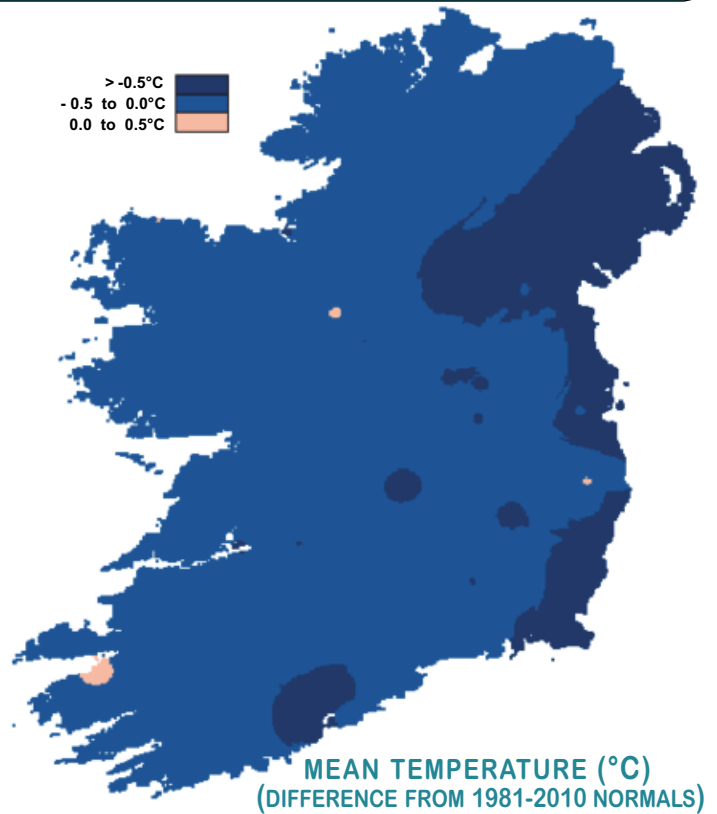


MEAN TEMPERATURES, BELOW LTA

NEARLY EVERYWHERE

Nearly all mean temperatures were below their Long-Term Average (LTA) with the exception of a few isolated areas. Deviations from LTA were highest in the coastal areas in the East, South and Northwest, with differences from average as much as -1.1°C at Markree, Co. Sligo. Differences above average were up to $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ at Elphin, Co. Roscommon. Mean temperatures ranged from 3.4°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), Co. Laois to 7.4°C at Sherkin Island, Co. Cork. Most stations reported it was colder in February 2010.

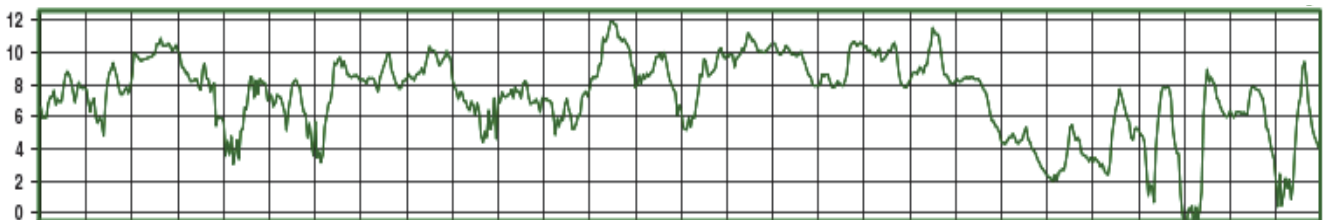
The majority of mean maximum temperatures were below average, with highest maxima mainly recorded between the 13th and the 16th. Highest maximum temperatures ranged from 9.9°C at Slieve Bloom Mtns. (Nealstown), Co. Laois to 14.1°C at Cork (Clover Hill). All stations reported higher February maxima in 2012. Mean minimums were mostly below average with lowest minima mainly recorded on the 24th and 25th. Lowest minimum temperatures ranged from -7.4°C at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, its lowest February minima since 2004 (9 years) to $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ at Dublin (Merrion Sq.) Most stations reported lower minima in 2012, with a few stations in the East reporting their highest minima in up to eight years.



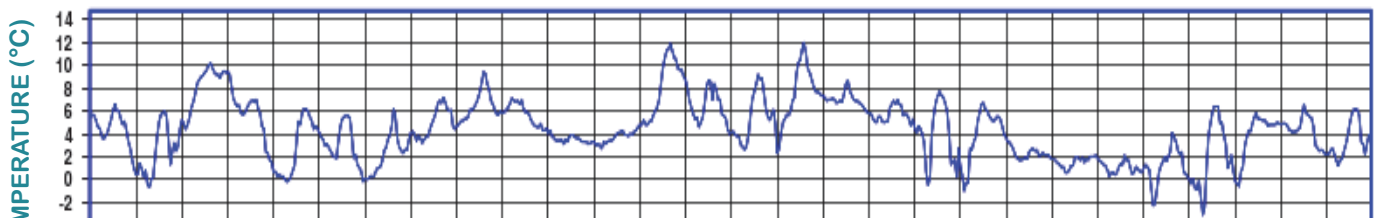
The number of days with air frost ranged from zero at some stations in the Dublin area and at Sherkin Island to 13 at Dundalk (Annaskeagh), Co. Louth. The month's lowest grass minimum was at Straide, Co. Mayo with -13.4°C on the 25th, with the number of days with ground frost ranging from three at Sherkin Island to 24 at Derrygreenagh, Co. Offaly.

HOURLY TEMPERATURES FEBRUARY 2013

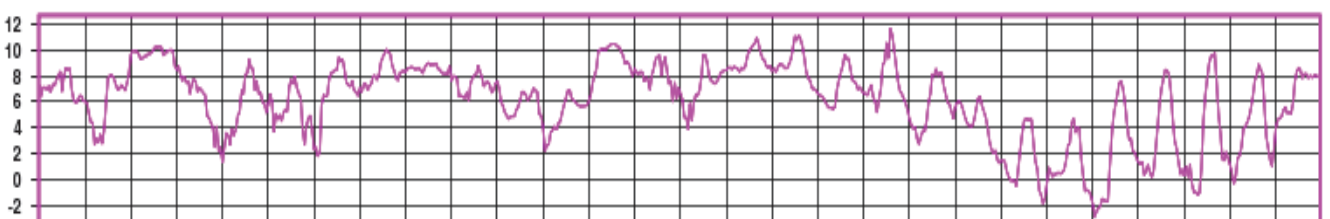
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY



DUBLIN AIRPORT



BELMULLET



DAY OF MONTH

COUNTY/ STATION	MEAN MAX.	MEAN MIN.	DIFFERENCE FROM 1981-2010		HIGHEST MAX./DATE	LOWEST MIN./DATE	LOWEST GRASS MIN./DATE	DAYS WITH FROST	
			MEAN	AVERAGE				AIR	GROUND
CO. CARLOW									
CARLOW (OAK PARK)	7.7	1.8	4.8	-0.8	12.3 13	-2.5 26	-7.8 24	4	17
CO. CAVAN									
BALLYHAISE	7.3	1.0	4.1	-1.0	11.0 16	-5.8 25	-8.2 25	12	15
CO. CLARE									
CARRON	7.8	2.4*	5.1*	0.0*	11.0 13	-3.1 25	-11.2 25	4	13
SHANNON AIRPORT	8.4	2.7	5.5	-0.7	12.0 13	-4.0 25	-7.6 25	4	13
CO. CORK									
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	8.0	1.3	4.7	-0.6	12.0 13	-3.9 24	-5.0 25	10	12
CORK AIRPORT	7.5	2.7	5.1	-0.6	12.2 13	-2.5 24	-6.7 24	4	13
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	8.3	1.6	4.9	-0.7	12.9 13	-5.0 25	-8.4 25	8	14
ROCHE'S POINT	8.3	3.9	6.1	-0.7	12.3 13	-0.5 24 25	-4.8 25	2	6
SHERKIN ISLAND	9.1	5.2	7.4	0.0	11.1 13	0.2 25	-2.0 25	0	3
CO. DONEGAL									
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	8.0	2.5	5.2	0.0	11.5 13	-3.7 24		3	
GLENTIES HATCHERY	8.4	1.7	5.1	0.0	11.2 16	-5.2 24	-9.1 24	6	16
MALIN HEAD	7.7	2.7	5.2	-0.6	12.5 16	-2.6 24	-6.8 24	5	10
CO. DUBLIN									
CASEMENT AERODROME	7.4	1.3	4.4	-0.7	13.2 16	-4.8 24	-8.9 24	9	13
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	7.8	3.3	5.5	-0.9	13.2 16	0.5 19		0	
DUBLIN AIRPORT	7.2	1.6	4.4	-0.9	13.0 16	-3.3 25	-8.0 25	8	15
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	7.7	2.0	4.8	-0.4	12.6 16	-2.3 25	-7.9 19	9	19
CO. GALWAY									
MAAM VALLEY	8.7	3.0*	5.8*	-0.3*	11.9 16	-4.1 25	-9.3 25	5	11
CO. KERRY									
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	9.1	3.0	6.1	-0.3	11.9 19	-2.8 26	-3.7 26	4	5
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	9.5	4.8	7.1	-0.1	12.0 13	-1.2 26	-5.4 26	1	4
CO. KILKENNY									
THOMASTOWN (MT. JULIET)	8.2	1.1	4.7	-0.5	13.3 13	-4.6 26	-8.2 25	9	16
CO. LIMERICK									
MOUNT RUSSELL	7.7	2.4*	5.1*	-0.3*	12.5 13	-2.8 26	-8.9 25	7	14*
CO. MAYO									
BELMULLET	9.2	3.1	6.2	-0.2	12.0 19	-3.0 24	-5.5 24	6	12
DELPHI LODGE	9.0	3.0*	6.0*	-0.4*	12.5 16	-2.5 26	-6.8 25	4	10
KNOCK AIRPORT	6.5	1.2	3.8	-0.4	10.0 16	-3.0 25	-5.1 24	7	12
STRAIDE	8.5	1.9*	5.2*	-0.2*	12.1 16	-6.3 25	-13.4 25	8	17
CO. MEATH									
WARRENTOWN	7.7	1.8	4.7	-0.2	12.0 16	-3.8 25	-9.6 24	6	21
CO. MONAGHAN									
CARRICKMACROSS (DUNOGE)	7.5	1.2	4.3	-0.5	11.4 13	-2.4 25	-6.9 25	10	22
CO. OFFALY									
DERRYGREENAGH	7.9*	1.1	4.5*	-0.2*	11.4 13	-4.1 25	-11.2 25	10	24*
CO. ROSCOMMON									
MOUNTDILLON	7.8	1.1	4.5	-0.5	11.8 16	-5.7 25	-9.7 25	9	15
CO. SLIGO									
ARDTARMON	8.6	3.0*	5.8*	0.0*	11.4 16	-1.9 24 25	-7.8 25	3	17
CO. TIPPERARY									
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	7.3	1.5	4.4	-0.3	12.0 13	-2.6 25	-4.5 25	9	13
GURTEEN (AG.COLLEGE)	7.7	1.5	4.6	-0.6	11.8 13	-6.8 25	-12.1 25	7	15
CO. WATERFORD									
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	9.2	2.4*	5.8*	-0.3*	13.0 13	-3.6 25	-7.0 25	5	10
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	8.8	2.6*	5.7*	-0.3*	12.2 3	-0.6 25		2	
CO. WESTMEATH									
MULLINGAR	7.2	0.9	4.1	-0.6	10.7 13 16	-5.8 25	-10.7 25	10	16
CO. WEXFORD									
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	7.5	1.9	4.7	-0.3	11.0 13	-1.5 24	-5.1 24	5	14
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	7.4	2.7	5.0	-0.9	11.2 3	0.0 5 24	-3.4 3	1	14
CO. WICKLOW									
ASHFORD (CRONYKEERY)	8.1	3.0	5.6	-0.3	11.9 3	-2.7 20	-9.2 20	3	20

* ESTIMATED DATA USED IN CALCULATION. TABLE REPRESENTS DATA FROM A SMALL SELECTION OF RAINFALL STATIONS. ALL DATA IS 09-09 HR

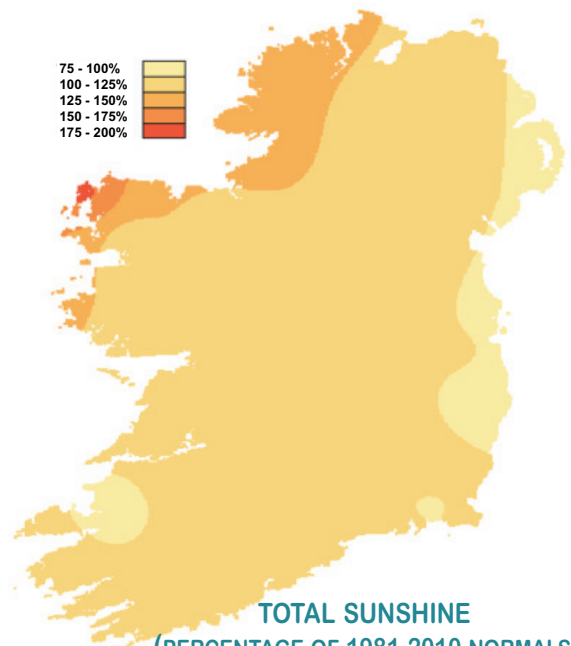
COUNTY/ STATION	DAILY MEAN (HOURS/DAY)	% OF 1981-2010 LTA	DULL DAYS (<0.5 HRS)	MOST IN A DAY/DATE
CO. CLARE				
SHANNON AIRPORT	2.51	108	12	9.6 25
CO. CORK				
BALINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	2.69	104	9	9.5 25
CORK AIRPORT	2.63	106	12	9.5 25
SHERKIN ISLAND	2.78	107	9	8.0 14
CO. DONEGAL				
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	2.85	132	9	8.3 19
CO. DUBLIN				
CASEMENT AERODROME	2.66	105	10	8.2 18
DUBLIN (GLASNEVIN)	2.51	94	11	8.1 25
DUBLIN AIRPORT	2.59	96	12	8.8 19 25
CO. KERRY				
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	2.12	89	12	9.1 25
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	2.59	117	11	9.2 25
CO. MAYO				
BELMULLET	4.19	177	5	9.6 24 25
KNOCK AIRPORT	2.25	105	10	9.9 25
NEWPORT (FURNANCE)	2.37	110	9	7.7 24
STRAIDE	2.69	124	7	9.0 24 25
CO. WATERFORD				
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	2.75	108	11	7.8 14
CO. WEXFORD				
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	2.52	102	13	7.7 6
J.F.K PARK	2.47	97	11	7.2 6
WEXFORD (WILDFOWL RESERVE)	2.57	109	11	8.2 14
CO. WICKLOW				
ASHFORD (CRONYKEERY)	2.46	84	14	8.2 6

* ESTIMATED DATA USED IN CALCULATION.

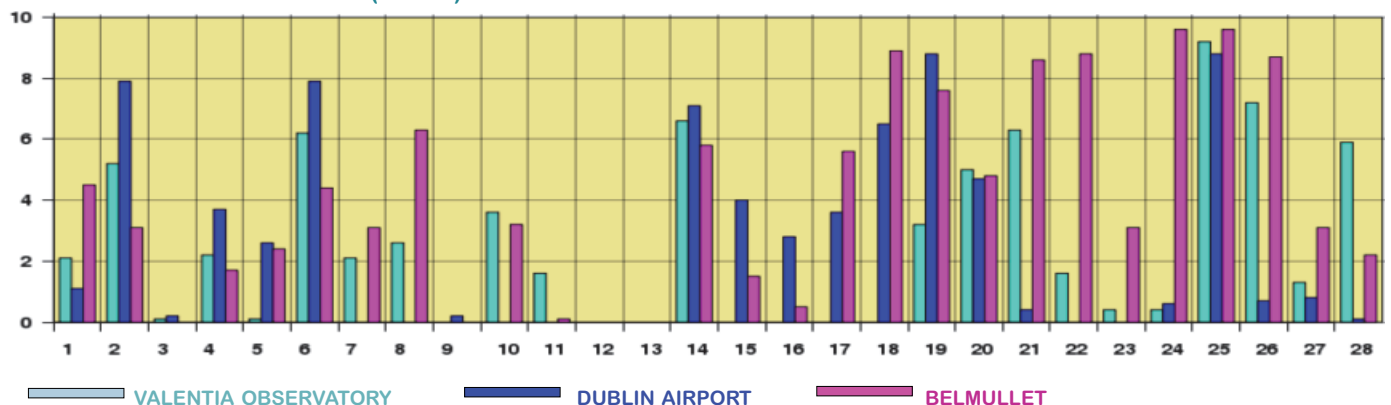
MAINLY SUNNY, EXCEPT IN AREAS IN THE EAST AND SOUTHWEST

Sunshine totals were mainly above their LTAs (Long-Term Average), with parts of the East and Southwest reporting below average values. Percentage of LTA values ranged from 84% at Ashford (Cronkeery), Co. Wicklow to 177% at Belmullet, Co. Mayo. Most stations reported it was sunnier in 2010 and 2011 with the exception of Belmullet, which reported 117.2 hours of sunshine and its sunniest February since records began in 1956 (57 years). The sunniest day was at Knock Airport on the 25th with 9.9 hours, its highest for February since the station opened in 1996 (17 years), while Valentia Observatory's highest daily sunshine of 9.2 hours also on the 25th, was its sunniest February day since 1953 (60 years).

Percentage of LTA global solar radiation values were all above average with values as much as 148% at Belmullet.

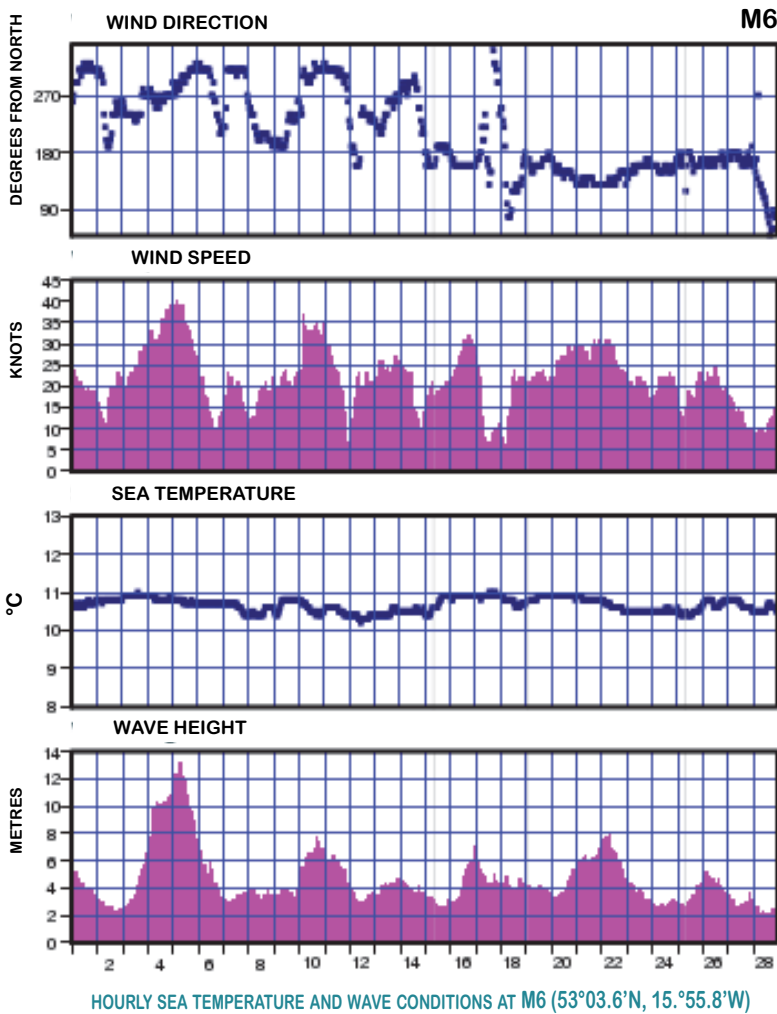


DAILY SUNSHINE VALUES (HOURS)



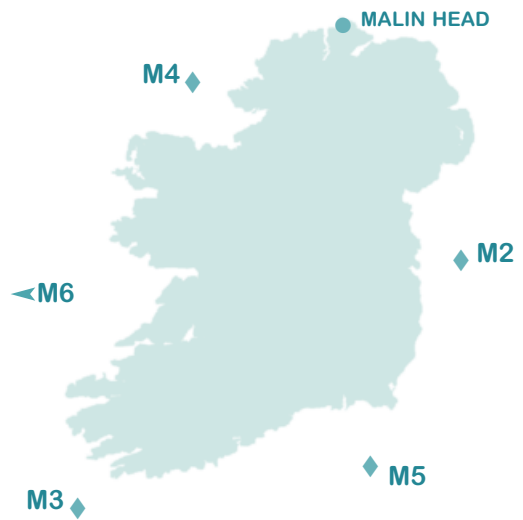
TOTAL SUNSHINE (PERCENTAGE OF 1981-2010 NORMALS)

MARINE OBSERVATIONS FROM IRISH MARINE DATA BUOY NETWORK

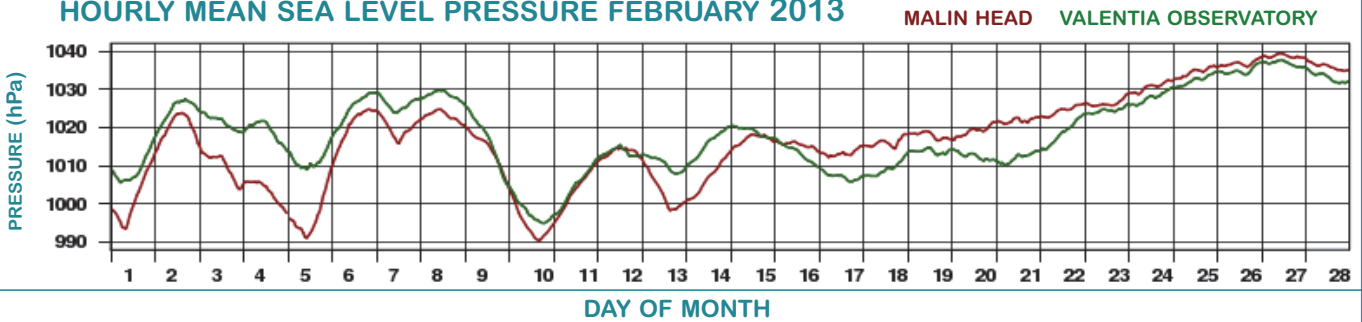


BUOY	SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°C)	MEAN WIND SPEED (knots)	MAX 10-MIN WIND (knots)	MEAN SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT (m.)	MAX SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT (m.)
M2	8.2	14.5	33.3	n/a	n/a
M3		not available			
M4		not available			
M5	8.9	15.7	30.5	2.1	4.2
M6	10.7	20.8	40.0	4.4	13.2
MALIN HEAD	7.2				

SUMMARY OF MEAN MONTHLY VALUES

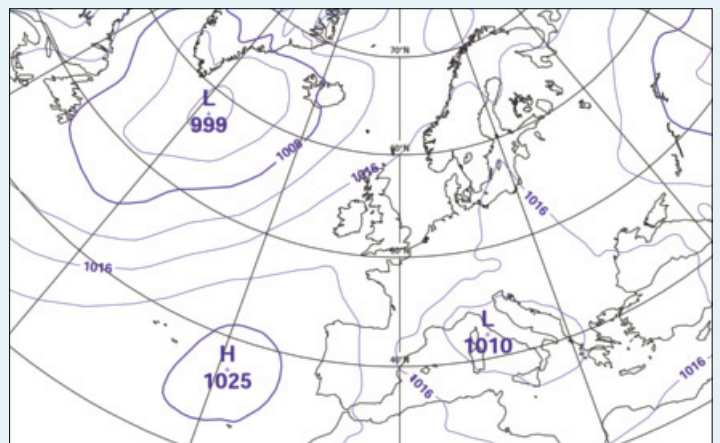


HOURLY MEAN SEA LEVEL PRESSURE FEBRUARY 2013



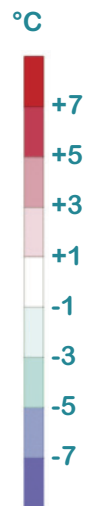
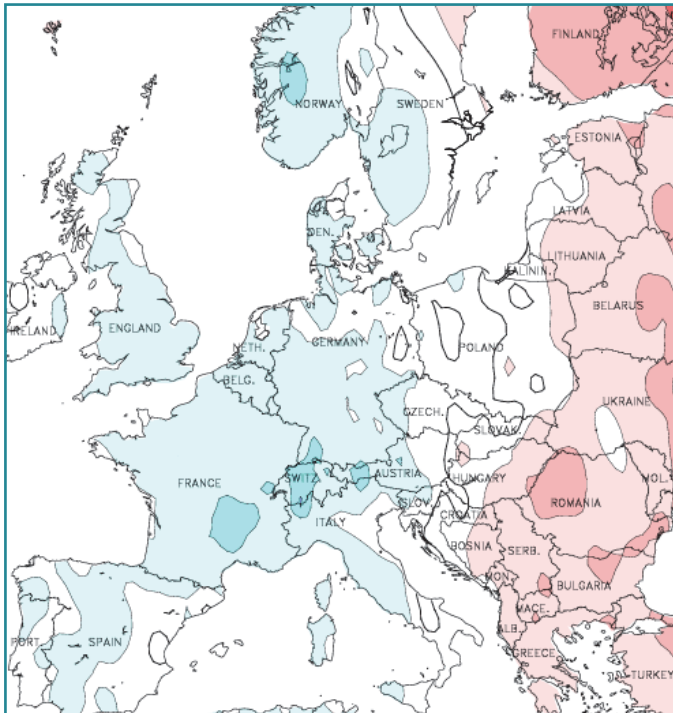
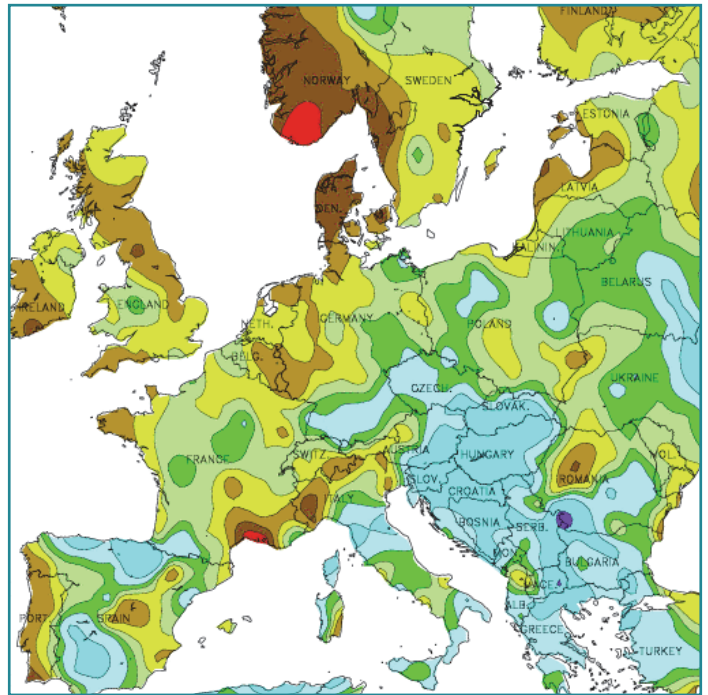
ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

Monthly mean sea level pressure values ranged from 1017 hPa in the North to 1019 hPa in the South. The month's highest pressure value was 1039.5 hPa recorded at Knock Airport on the 27th as high pressure was situated over the UK and Ireland. The month's lowest pressure value was 988.6 hPa recorded at Finner on the 10th, as a low pressure system with active frontal troughs crossed the country.



MONTHLY MEAN MSL PRESSURE, BASED ON 1200 UTC VALUES

FEBRUARY RAINFALL
(PERCENTAGE OF 1961-1990 NORMAL)



FEBRUARY MEAN TEMPERATURE
(DIFFERENCE FROM 1961-1990 NORMAL)

DATA SUPPLIED BY NOAA
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTRE,
US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

A blizzard known as 'Winter Storm Nemo' affected the northeastern United States and parts of Canada between February 8th and 9th. Connecticut experienced the highest snowfall since the iconic Blizzard of 1888 (125 years) with a peak snowfall of 102 cm measured at Hamden, Connecticut, the greatest single-storm snowfall in the state since the 140 cm snowfall was recorded at Middletown, Connecticut between March 12th and 14th, 1888.

Torrential rainfall due to a series of thunderstorms caused flash flooding in Athens, Greece on February 22nd depositing up to 60mm of rain in a 3-hour period. Flash flooding swamped portions of the city resulting in one fatality and the destruction of homes, shops and agricultural fields.

Unusually hot weather was reported in the Arabian Peninsula and southeast Asia. Makah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia reported its highest February maximum ever on February 24th and 25th with 39.2°C. Bangkok, Thailand experienced its 2nd warmest February on record with Klong Toey city reporting a monthly mean temperature of 30.5°C, just 0.5°C below its all time record of 31.0°C.

Extreme heat persisted in Namibia and southwestern South Africa for the third consecutive month. Several long-term records were broken, with the highest all-time maximum temperature recorded of 43.0°C at Vanwyksvlei, South Africa.

Cyclone Haruna formed in the Mozambique Channel (between Mozambique and Madagascar) before striking the southwestern coast of Madagascar near Morombe on February 22nd, with 10-minute windspeeds of up to 153 km/h. Thousands were made homeless with 26 deaths and over 120 injuries reported.

GLOBAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

