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Monthly Weather Bulletin Spring 2013

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SPRING 2013

Cold everywhere; dry, dull and windy in parts

Mean air temperatures for the season were below average everywhere, with differences of over -2.0°C in parts of the Northwest, West and Midlands. Mean temperatures ranged from 5.9°C at Knock Airport to 8.4°C at Sherkin Island. All three months of the season reported below average temperatures, with March reporting the coldest conditions, with differences of over -3.5°C in parts of the Midlands and East. Casement Aerodrome reported a seasonal mean of 6.7°C , -1.8°C below average and its coldest Spring since the station opened in 1965 (47 years), while Dublin Airport reported its coldest Springs since 1951 (62 years). A majority of remaining stations reported their coldest Spring in 15 to 34 years. Almost all seasonal highest maximum temperatures at stations* were recorded during the last week of May, however the season's highest maximum of 21.5°C was recorded at Cork (Clover Hill-climate station) on April 23rd. The highest maximum of 15.0°C at Valentia Observatory on May 29th, was its lowest Spring maximum since 1940 (73 years), with most other stations reporting lowest maxima in at least eight to 34 years. Seasonal lowest minimum temperatures were mainly recorded on March 12th and April 6th, with Spring's lowest minimum temperature of -7.6°C recorded at Markree, Co. Sligo on April 6th and with other lowest Spring minima across the country the lowest since 2006 (7 years).

Rainfall totals were below average for Spring in parts of the Midlands, West and Southeast, with above average values elsewhere. All three months showed variable rainfall across the country, with driest conditions generally recorded in parts during March and wettest conditions in May. Spring LTA values ranged from 75% at Gurteen to 116% at Cork Airport, which reported its wettest Spring since 2005 (8 years). Claremorris and Casement Aerodrome measured 285.3 mm and 162.5 mm respectively, their wettest Spring since 2006 (7 years) and 2008 (5 years). The wettest day of the season was at Cork Airport on March 21st with 41.2 mm, its wettest Spring day since 2003 (10 years). Belmullet's wettest day of 29.3 mm on May 18th, was its wettest day during Spring since records began there in 1957 (56 years). Number of wet days (*day with 1mm or more*) ranged from 26 at Carlow (Oak Park) to 53 at Valentia Observatory.

Sunshine totals were below average almost everywhere, except at Shannon Airport. Sunshine values were above average everywhere in April with variable sunshine across the country in March and May. Percentage of average sunshine values ranged between 88% at Casement Aerodrome and 108% at Shannon Airport, with all stations with below average sunshine reporting it was their dullest Spring in seven to 14 years. The sunniest Spring day was recorded at Cork Airport on May 23rd with 14.6 hours of sunshine.

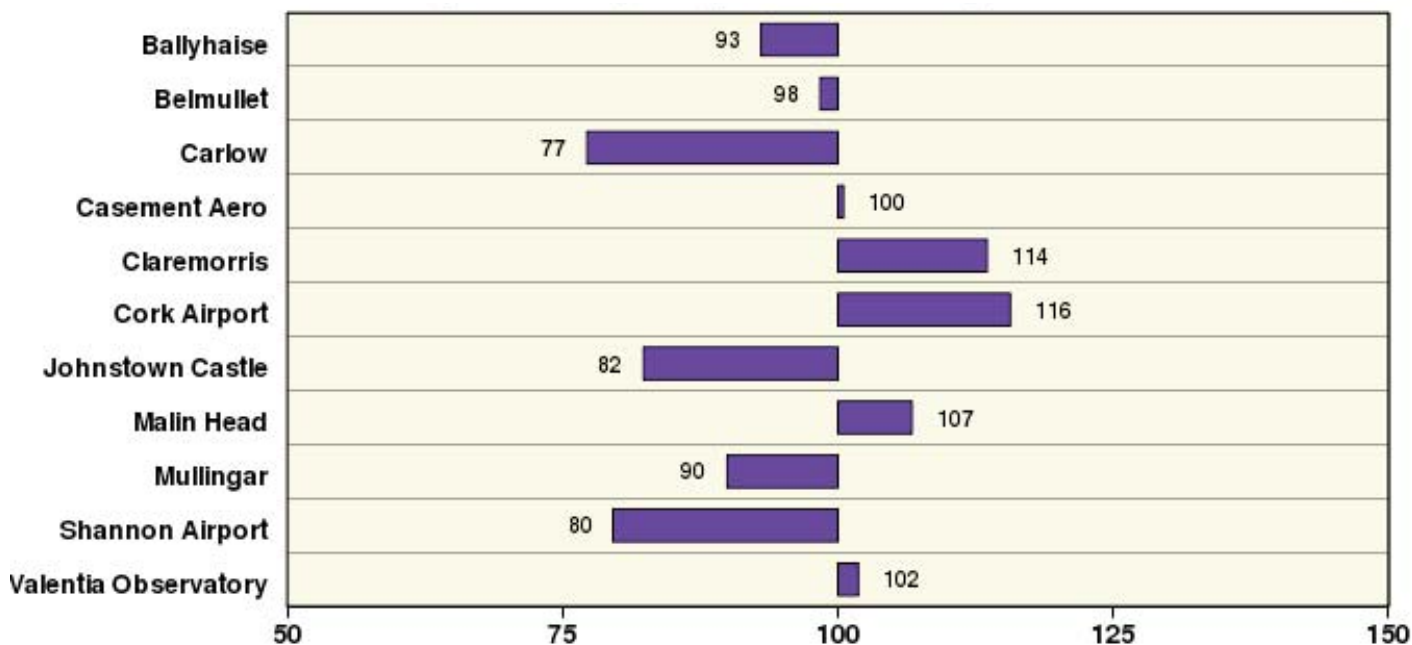
Winds were higher than normal for Spring, with above average windspeeds recorded in most parts during March and April, and in parts of the South during May. Windspeeds were the highest in five to 27 years across the country, with the season's highest gust of 65 knots (120 km/h) at Mace head on April 15th.

EXTREME SEASONAL VALUES AT STATIONS (BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA UNTIL THE 31ST OF MAY)

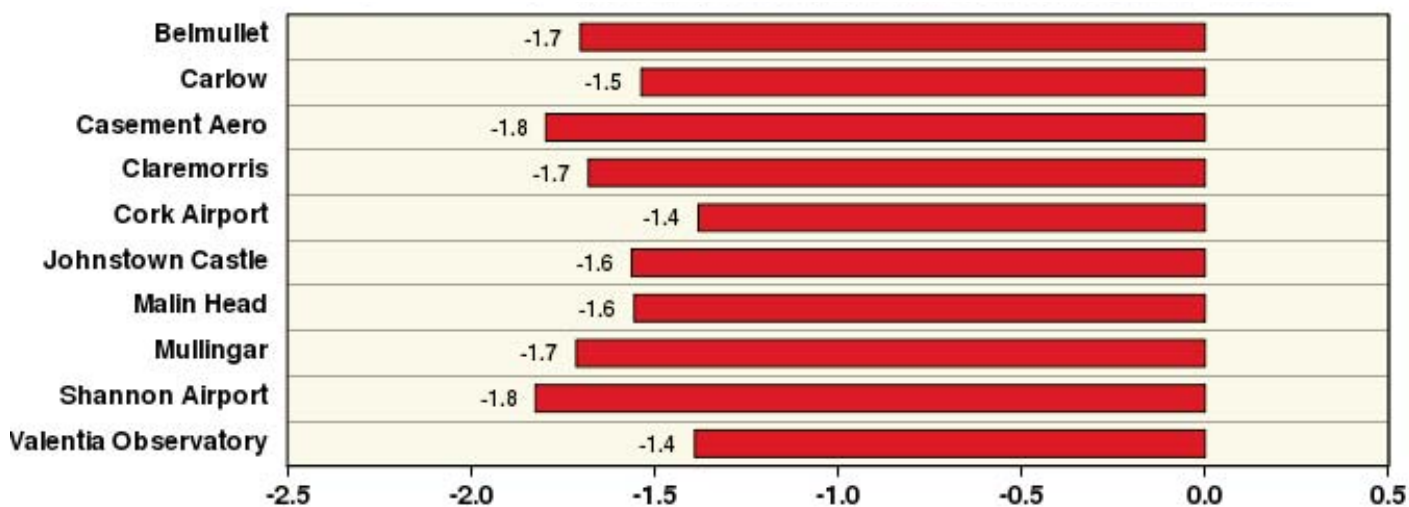
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 338.2 mm at Newport Lowest seasonal total: 138.3 mm at Carlow (Oak Park) Highest daily rainfall: 41.2 mm at Cork Airport on March 21st (<i>its highest for Spring since 2003</i>)
Temperature	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 8.4°C at Sherkin Island (<i>its lowest for Spring since 1986</i>) Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 5.9°C at Knock Airport (<i>its lowest for Spring since station opened in 1996</i>) Highest temperature: 21.5°C at Cork (Clover Hill) on April 23rd Lowest air temperature: -7.6°C at Markree on March 12th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -13.7°C at Markree on March 12th
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 469.7 hours at Shannon Airport Lowest seasonal total: 383.8 hours at Casement Aerodrome (<i>its dullest Spring since 1999</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 14.6 hours at Cork Airport on May 23rd

SPRING 2012 PERCENTAGE/DIFFERENCE FROM 1981-2010 SEASONAL AVERAGES

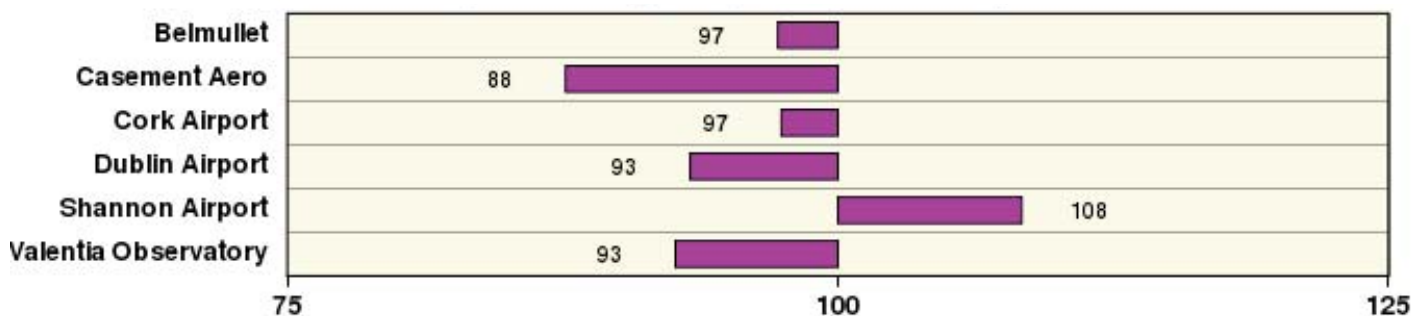
RAINFALL (% OF AVERAGE FOR PERIOD 1981-2010)



TEMPERATURE (°C) (DIFFERENCE FROM AVERAGE FOR PERIOD 1981-2010)



SUNSHINE (% OF AVERAGE FOR PERIOD 1981-2010)



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on 4th June 2013

* From all current available data from rainfall, climate and synoptic stations

This report is based on preliminary data from the weather stations operated by Met Éireann

A detailed summary is available in the **Monthly Weather Bulletin**

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