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Monthly Weather Bulletin Winter Review 2014/2015

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VARIABLE MEAN TEMPERATURES, RAINFALL AND SUNSHINE

Nearly all mean temperatures were below their LTA for winter, with the exception of isolated stations in Galway, Mayo, Clare and Donegal. Monthly mean air temperatures were variable in December and January with below LTA temperatures reported in February. Differences from seasonal LTA ranged from -1.1°C at Dublin (Merrion Square) with a winter mean temperature of 5.4°C to 0.3°C at Ballyshannon (Cathleen's Fall), Co Donegal with a winter mean temperature of 5.6°C. Seasonal mean air temperatures ranged from 4.0°C at both Slieve Bloom Mountains (Nealstown), Co Offaly (-0.3°C from LTA) and at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (-0.2°C from LTA) to 7.5°C at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (-0.1°C from LTA). The highest temperatures of winter were mainly recorded during the first two week of January and on February 25th, with the season's highest maximum temperature recorded at Ashford (Cronkeery), Co Wicklow on January 9th with 17.3°C, its highest January maximum since 2003 and its third highest winter temperature since the station opened 13 years ago. The lowest air and grass minimum temperatures were mainly recorded on December 29th, January 19th and between February 3rd and 5th. Winter's lowest air minimum temperature was recorded on February 3rd at Dublin Airport with -7.9°C, while the lowest grass minimum was recorded on January 19th at Thomastown (Mt Juliet), Co Kilkenny with -12.7°C, its lowest winter grass minimum in five years. The number of days with air frost ranged from zero at Roche's Point, Co Cork to 40 at Horseleap, Co Offaly, while the number of days with ground frost ranged from 13 at Sherkin Island to 76 at Edenderry (Ballinla), Co Offaly.

Rainfall for winter was variable with all three months of the season reporting variable percentage of LTA values. Percentage of seasonal LTA values ranged from 45% at Portlaw (Mayfield), Co Waterford with 133.5 mm, its driest winter since the station opened in 1994 to 176% at

Greencastle, Co Donegal with 566.9 mm, its wettest winter since 2000 and its second wettest since the station opened in 1948. Winter rainfall totals in low lying areas (areas below 200 m) ranged from 113.7 mm at Dublin (Ringsend) with 74% of its LTA to 1175.5 mm at Maam Valley, Co Galway with 158% of its LTA. The highest rainfall total was in the Maam Mountains at Rivanore Hill, Co Galway with 1238.4 mm, 163% of its LTA. The season's wettest day was reported at Cloone Lake (Caragh River area), Co Kerry on January 14th with 99.3 mm, its wettest January day and its fifth wettest winter day since the station opened in 1949. The number of wet days (*days with 1 mm or more rainfall*) ranged from 26 days at both Malahide Castle, Co Dublin and Ashford (Cronkeery), Co Wicklow to 76 days at Bloody Foreland and Derryhenny Doochary, Co Donegal, Cloone Lake (Caragh River Area), Co Kerry and Drummin (Tawnyard), Co Mayo.

Percentage of sunshine LTA values ranged from 79% at Knock Airport, Co Mayo with the season's lowest sunshine total of 116.8 hours to 145% at Dungarvan (Carriglea), Co Waterford with 242.9 hours of winter sunshine, its sunniest winter in five years. The highest amount of seasonal sunshine was reported at Dublin Airport where 253.5 hours was recorded, its sunniest winter since the station opened in 1942. The sunniest day was 8.5 hours reported at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare on February 4th and at Clonroche (Knoxtown), Co Wexford on February 20th. The number of dull days (*days with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine*) ranged from 28 days at Dublin Airport to 50 days at Knock Airport.

Seasonal mean wind speeds ranged from 6.4 knots (*11.9 km/h*) at Fermoy (Moore Park), Co Cork to 19.1 knots (*35.4 km/h*) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The season's highest gust was 76 knots (*141 km/h*) reported at Mace Head, Co Galway on February 23rd, while winter's highest 10-minute wind speed was recorded also on this date at Newport, Co Mayo with 54 knots (*100 km/h*).

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)	150.3	68	14.9	51	39	4.8	-0.8	16.2	-5.6	44	22					49	32	0	17
CO CAVAN BALLYHAISE	296.0	108	16.9	64	48	4.3	-0.8	13.6	-6.2	53	25					47	27	0	17
CO CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	337.0	119	20.0	66	58	5.9	-0.3	14.7	-3.3	42	14	181.0	112	8.5	38	57	41	7	28
CO CORK CORK AIRPORT	228.7	63	28.9	64	47	5.4	-0.4	13.8	-2.5	49	12	222.4	124	8.4	35	57	38	2	26
CO DONEGAL ROCHE'S POINT	173.6	63	13.6	58	37	6.6	-0.4	14.2	0.2	25	0					57	45	13	41
CO DONEGAL FINNER	468.5	131	38.5	71	62	5.5	0.0	13.9	-3.4	36	16					69	43	20	47
CO DUBLIN MALIN HEAD	414.9	128	20.8	79	66	5.8	-0.2	13.1	-1.0	23	4					70	52	36	66
CO DUBLIN CASEMENT AERODROME	158.0	84	12.8	52	37	4.4	-0.8	14.8	-7.2	57	21	189.9	110	6.9	32	59	41	6	35
CO DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	138.2	75	14.0	47	32	4.5	-0.9	14.4	-7.9	46	22	253.5	135	8.2	28	58	42	9	32
CO KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	447.4	97	25.6	79	72	7.3	-0.2	14.0	-2.2	24	6	154.2	105	8.0	41	53	36	4	36
CO MAYO BELMULLET	388.2	105	24.7	80	68	6.5	0.1	12.4	-1.1	20	2	118.9	80	8.0	40	66	49	14	49
CO MAYO KNOCK AIRPORT	491.0	129	32.3	76	66	4.0	-0.2	12.7	-3.0	52	24	116.8	79	7.6	50	60	42	5	33
CO TIPPERARY GURTEEN	258.4	102	24.0*	63*	54*	4.6	-0.8	14.1	-6.4	54	25					48	32	0	23
CO WESTMEATH MULLINGAR	247.5	96	14.7	62	47	4.1	-0.5	13.5	-6.9	60	31					44	24	0	12
CO WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	168.5	58	14.3	55	39	5.5	-0.6	12.5	-1.8	45	13					53	29	0	23