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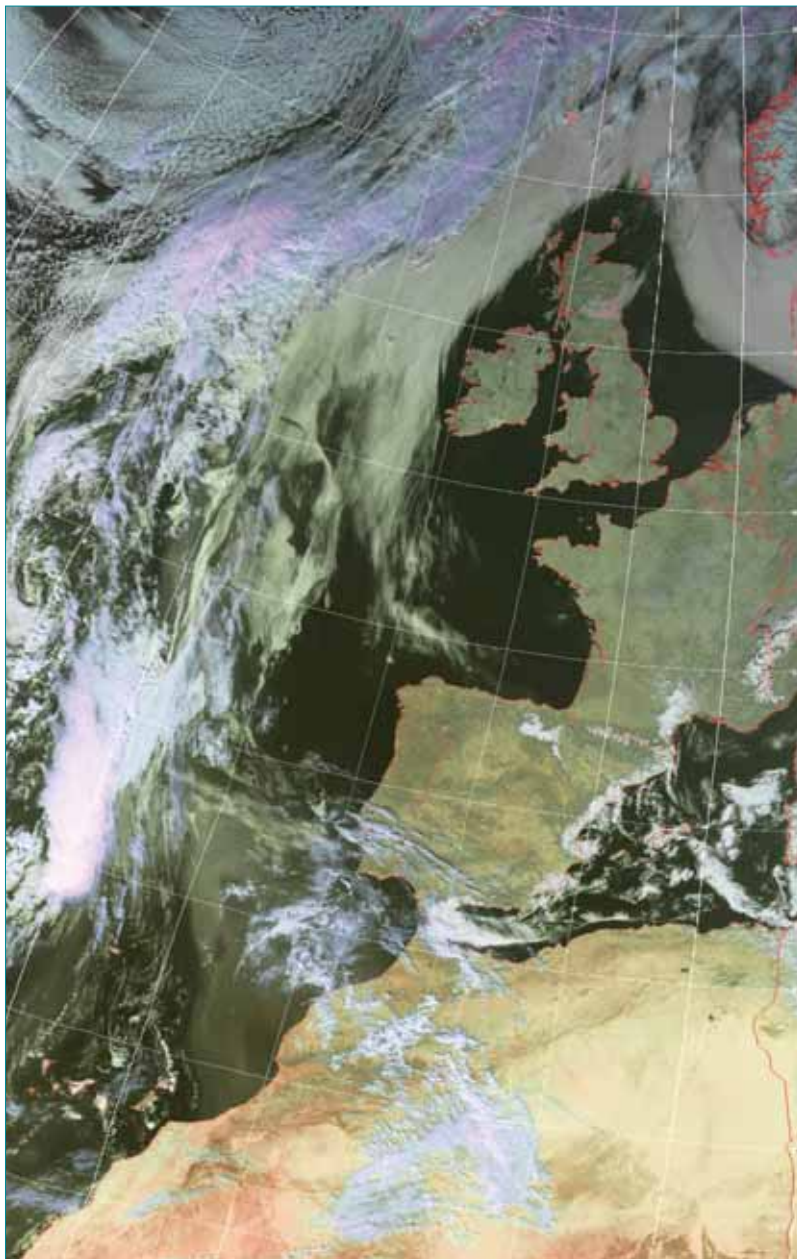
## Monthly Weather Bulletin February 2008

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# Monthly Weather Bulletin

No. 262

FEBRUARY 2008



High pressure during the middle part of the month over much of western Europe brought clear skies and light winds. This NOAA-18 combined visible and infrared satellite image was taken at 1345UTC on the 11th. (picture courtesy Wokingham Weather: [www.woksat.info/wos.html](http://www.woksat.info/wos.html))

## WET IN WESTERN HALF BUT VERY DRY IN EAST; MILD AND SUNNY

February began and ended with spells of wet and windy weather, but little or no rain fell between the 10th and 19th, when it was also very sunny. Deep Atlantic depressions to the northwest of Ireland during the first and final weeks brought frontal systems across the country, giving some heavy rain or showers in northern and western areas, but much smaller amounts in the east. Winds reached gale force during these periods also. In contrast, high pressure to the east of the country during the middle of February brought fine weather and light winds; these days were dry and sunny, but fog and frost were widespread at night. February rainfall totals were above normal over the west and north of the country, but it was a dry month further east, especially in coastal areas. While it was the wettest February since 2002 at some western stations, it was the driest since 1986 in parts of the east. There were between 14 and 20 raindays (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) during the month in most places, close to normal for February, but only between 8 and 13 raindays were recorded at many Leinster stations.



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**Warmest winter at  
Valentia Observatory  
since records began**

Produced by Met Éireann,  
Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9.  
Annual subscription 80 euro



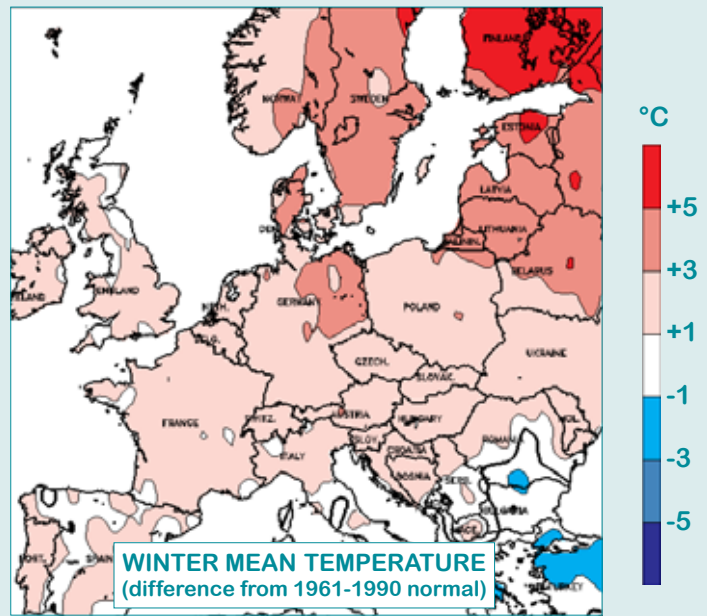
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Notes on the tables and map  
showing location of stations  
appear in January issue

## WARMEST SCANDINAVIAN WINTER ON RECORD

Mean winter temperatures (December to February) were above normal over almost all of Europe and were more than three degrees higher than average over Scandinavia and northeastern Europe. In Finland, the winter period was the warmest since records began there more than 100 years ago, with many parts of the country recording mean temperatures almost one degree higher than the previous mildest winter of 1924-1925. Sweden recorded its warmest winter since records began in 1756, while it was the third warmest in Norway's records. The main reason for the record mild winter was the unusually persistent flow across the area of south to southwesterly winds from the relatively mild Atlantic. According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, global warming also contributed to the record high temperatures; it has been estimated that climate change has raised the country's winter temperatures by over one degree. Sea ice in the Baltic was at historic lows, but precipitation was above normal over the area. Parts of Norway received record snowfalls; heavy late season snow was also recorded over high northern latitudes of Canada and the USA. Increased moisture in the atmosphere as a result of higher temperatures is thought to be responsible for the heavy falls.

*(text and image: NOAA Climate Prediction Centre, Finnish Meteorological Institute)*



**Much of the precipitation which fell between the 1st and 5th was in the form of wintry showers, with accumulations of snow on high ground and also at lower levels in southwestern, western and northern areas. Mean air temperatures for the month were more than a degree higher than normal generally and at most stations it was the warmest February for between 5 and 10 years. Frost became widespread between the 12th and 19th and was severe in places; there were between 9 and 12 air frosts during the month at most inland stations, around normal for February, but no air frost was recorded in the extreme south. Sunshine totals for the month were above normal except in the south; by far the sunniest period was between the 11th and 18th.**

**1st to 9th:** Deep depressions to the north of Ireland gave a spell of very unsettled weather, with some heavy falls of rain or

*Left*

*A large area of high pressure centred over or to the east of Ireland during the middle of the month brought dry, clear and calm conditions. Fog became widespread on several mornings and was slow to clear in some areas; this picture was taken in Glasnevin, Dublin, on the morning of the 13th.*





#### Above

The month began with cold weather and widespread wintry showers, giving accumulation of snow in some upland areas.

Pictured above is the scene on the 1st at the Cousane Gap, on the Cork-Kerry border.  
(picture Irish Examiner)

snow in western areas, especially early in the period. Strong northwesterly winds at first brought Arctic air across the country; temperatures were below normal and wintry showers of hail and snow were widespread. Southwesterly winds became established after the 4th and remained strong, bringing much milder conditions.

**10th to 19th:** An anticyclone to the east of Ireland gave dry weather throughout the period, apart from some light coastal showers at times. Mild south to southeasterly winds at first gradually backed to a cooler easterly direction. Clear skies brought long sunny periods, but frost and fog formed at night, with frost becoming severe in midland and eastern areas. Fog was persistent on several days.

**20th to 29th:** Atlantic depressions again moved close to the northwest, bringing a return to unsettled conditions over Ireland. Rainfall was heaviest in the west and north in the period 22nd to 25th and on the 29th.

Temperatures were above normal in a mostly southwesterly airstream, with gales at times and stormy conditions on the 25th and 29th.

**Wind and elements:** Mean windspeeds for the month of between 8 and 19 knots (15 and 35km/h) were higher than normal everywhere, although winds between the 10th and 20th were relatively light. Belmullet measured the highest gust of the month, 80 knots (148km/h) on the 25th, its highest February gust since 2000. Snow fell during the first five days of February and it was widespread on the 1st and 3rd, while hail showers fell in the period 1st to 4th and on the 22nd and 24th. Thunder was recorded early in the month and was particularly widespread in southern areas on the 5th; there were also isolated thunderstorms in the southwest on the 13th and 16th. Fog became widespread and dense in places around the middle of the month, especially in the periods 11th to 14th and 17th to 19th.

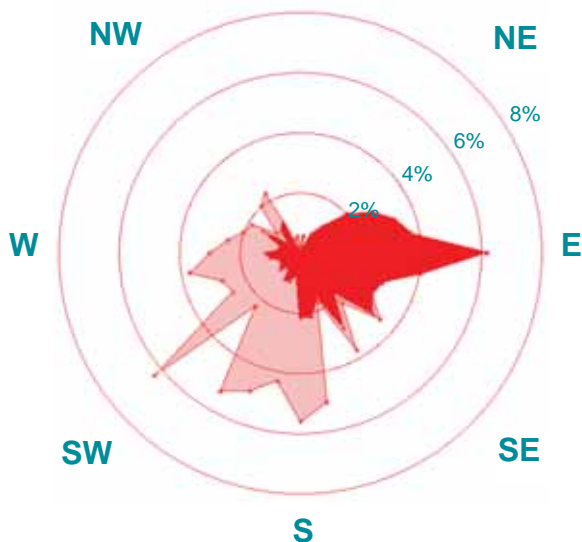
County / Station	WIND (KNOTS)										ELEMENTS				
	Mean speed	Max. dir.	10-min. speed	mean date/hour	Max. dir.	Gust speed	date/time	Days with gales	gale gusts	Hours with gale gusts	Snow	Snow Lying	Hail	Thunder	Fog
CO. CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	10.0	230°	35	5/03	240°	49	5/0257	2	8	39	2	0	0	0	3
					270°	49	29/2035								
CO. CORK CORK AIRPORT	9.9	170°	30	3/08	170°	50	3/0711	0	10	40	2	0	0	0	9
CO. DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	18.7	350°	50	1/04	260°	76	29/1433	10	18	276	3	0	5	1	0
CO. DUBLIN CASEMENT AERODROME	11.8	260°	38	29/21	260°	52	29/2005	3	13	103	2	0	1	0	4
DUBLIN AIRPORT	12.2	260°	40	29/22	270°	60	29/2125	4	10	88	2	0	0	0	3
CO. KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	9.7	210°	27	2/18	180°	47	3/0102	0	12	63	1	0	3	1	0
		210°	27	3/03											
CO. KILKENNY KILKENNY	7.5	290°	29	29/22	310°	44	29/2253	0	7	31	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
CO. MAYO BELMULLET	12.9	190°	45	25/11	190°	80	25/1107	5	17	203	1	0	5	0	0
KNOCK AIRPORT	11.5	260°	37	29/18	250°	53	29/1505	1	15	88	5	2	2	0	15
CO. MONAGHAN CLONES	9.1	280°	30	29/20	270°	51	29/1913	0	8	47	n/a	0	---	n/a	---
CO. OFFALY BIRR	8.0	170°	25	3/05	280°	41	29/2147	0	8	28	n/a	1	---	n/a	---
		200°	25	25/15											
CO. WESTMEATH MULLINGAR II	8.0	170°	26	3/07	310°	48	29/2310	0	7	27	n/a	1	---	n/a	---
CO. WEXFORD ROSSLARE	18.8	190°	30	3/13	190°	54	3/1214	0	12	84	n/a	0	---	n/a	---

Valentia Observatory

Dublin Airport

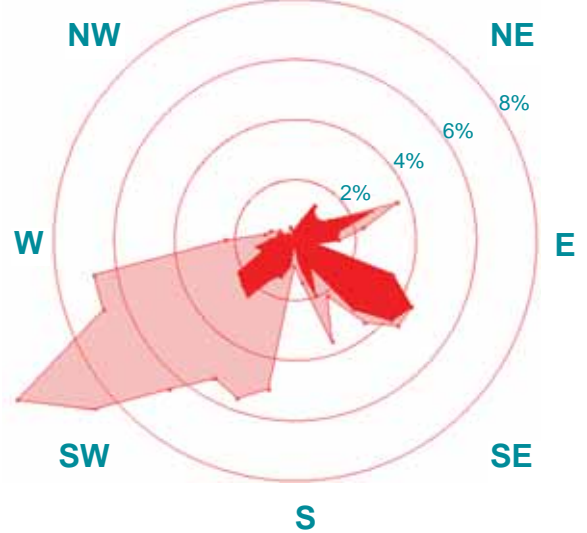
Calm: 0.0%

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Calm: 0.6%

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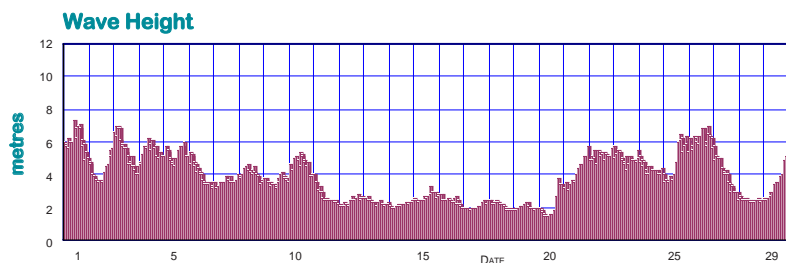
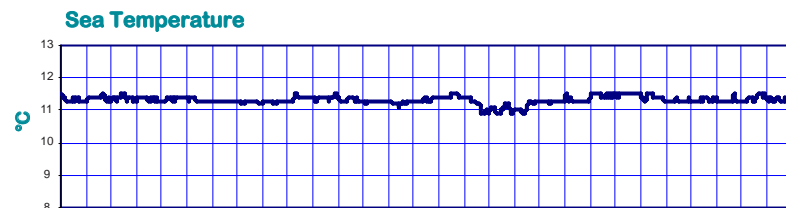
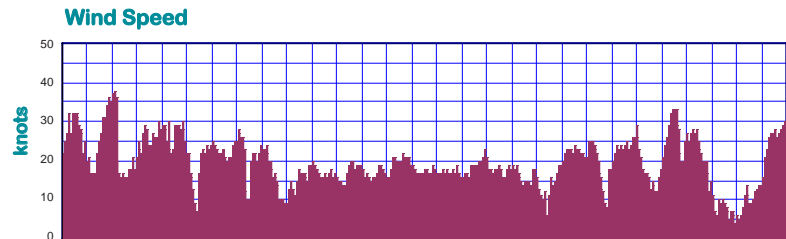
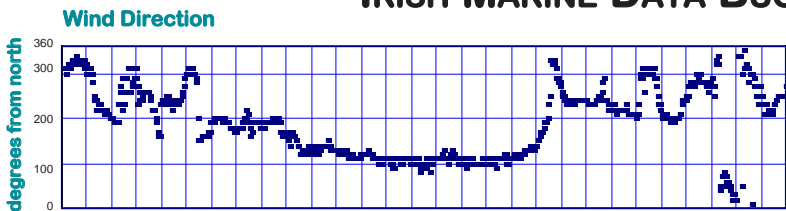


1-10 knots

>10 knots

PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY OF WIND DIRECTION

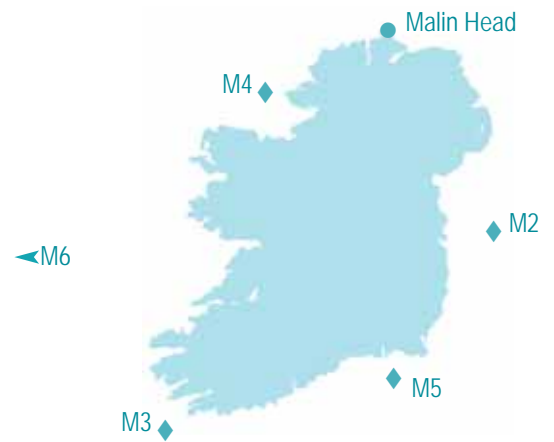
### MARINE OBSERVATIONS FROM IRISH MARINE DATA BUOY NETWORK



Hourly wind and wave conditions at M3 (51.22°N, 10.55°W)

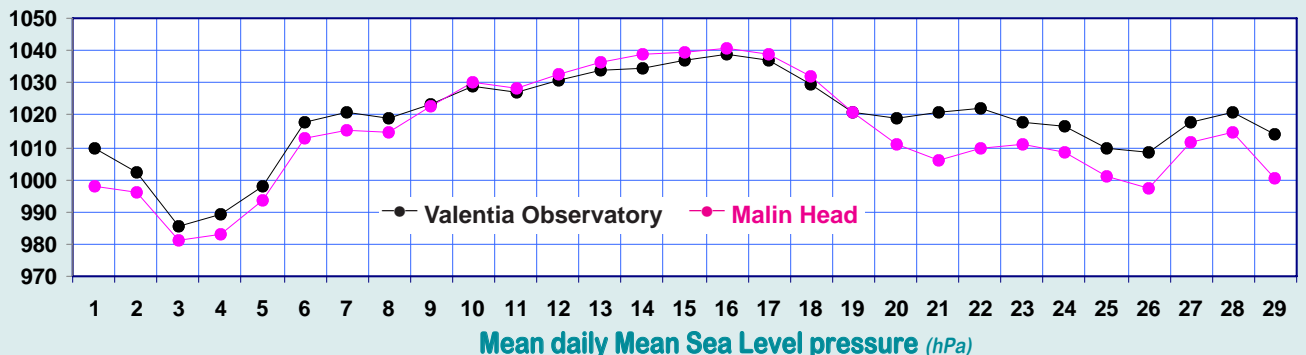
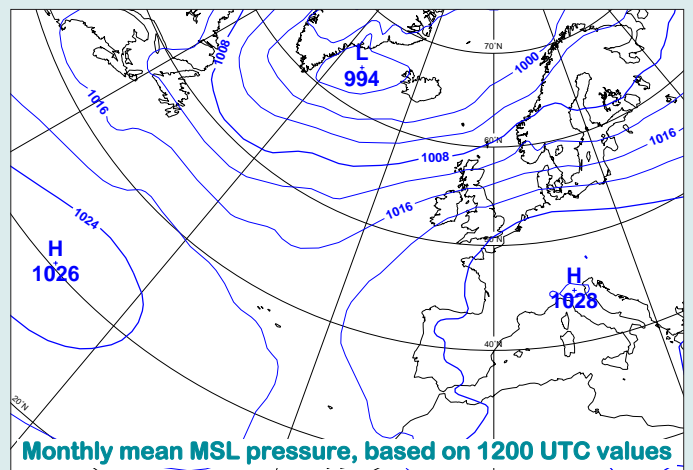
Buoy	Sea surface temp. (°C)	Mean wind speed (knots)	Max. 10-min wind (knots)	Mean wave height (m.)	Max. wave height (m.)
M2	9.1	17.6	40	1.4	4.6
M3	11.3	19.0	38	3.7	7.3
M4	10.4	20.4	41	4.2	10.4
M5	not available				
M6	11.4	18.3	38	4.6	9.6
Malin Head	7.8				

#### Summary of Mean Monthly Values

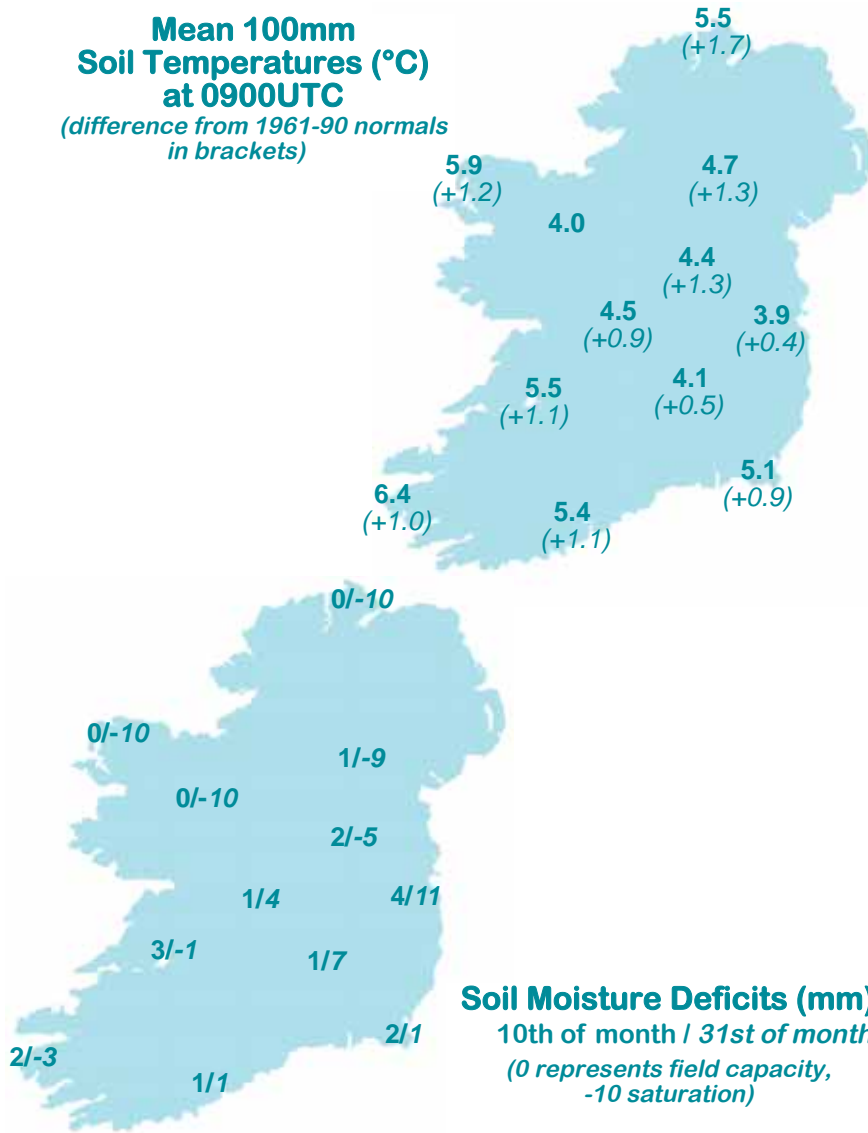


### MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE

Mean sea level pressure values for the month were above normal everywhere, by between 4 and 7hPa generally; they ranged between 1015hPa in the north and close to 1020hPa in the south and southeast. Pressure values were below normal during the first week, but rose well above normal subsequently. The lowest pressure value, 978.0hPa, was measured at Malin Head on the 3rd, as a depression moved near the northwest coast. Dublin Airport recorded the highest value of 1042.5hPa on the 16th.



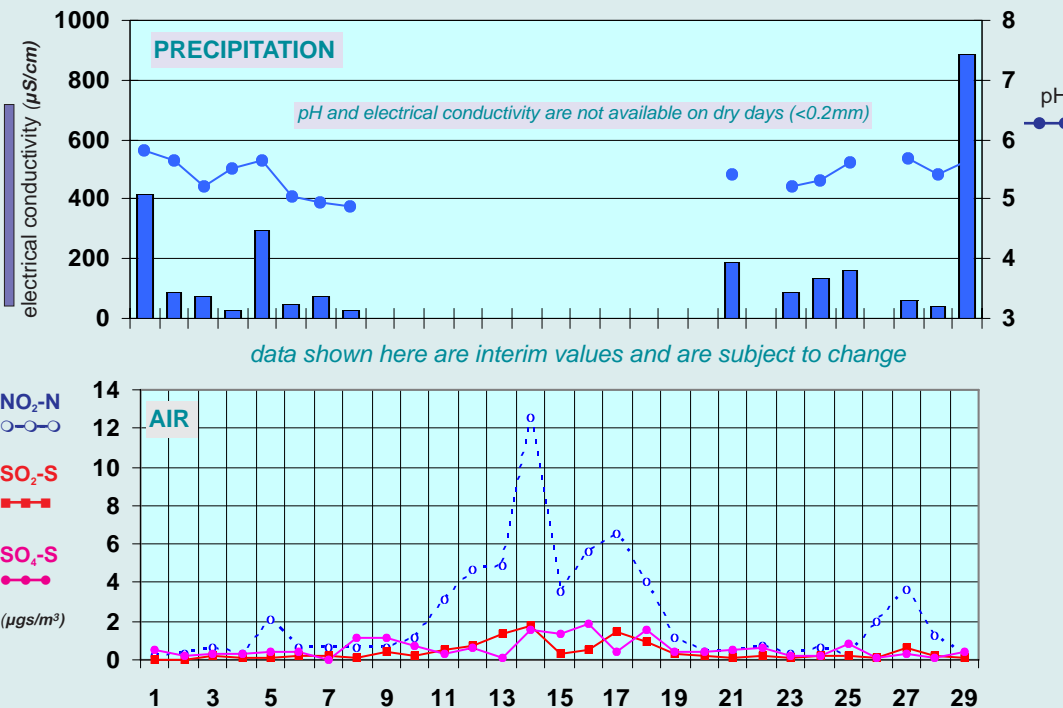
**Mean 100mm Soil Temperatures (°C) at 0900UTC**  
(difference from 1961-90 normals in brackets)



**Soil Temperatures at 0900UTC**

County/ Station	°C		
	100mm	200mm	300mm
CO. CLARE			
SHANNON AIRPORT	5.5	6.1	6.8
CARRON	5.9		6.4
CO. CORK			
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	5.8	6.3	6.6
CORK AIRPORT	5.4	6.2	7.1
SHERKIN ISLAND	7.9		8.6
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	5.2	6.0	6.5
CO. DONEGAL			
MALIN HEAD	5.5	6.3	7.2
CO. DUBLIN			
DUBLIN AIRPORT	4.2	4.8	5.2
CASEMENT AERODROME	3.9	4.7	5.7
CO. KERRY			
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	6.4	7.1	8.2
CO. KILKENNY			
KILKENNY	4.1	5.0	5.7
CO. LIMERICK			
MOUNT RUSSELL	4.8	5.5	
CO. LOUTH			
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	4.7	4.6	5.3
CO. MAYO			
BELMULLET	5.9	6.7	7.5
STRAIDE	5.4		
KNOCK AIRPORT	4.0	4.8	5.5
CO. MEATH			
WARRENSTOWN	3.9	4.8	5.3
CO. MONAGHAN			
CLONES	4.8	5.3	5.8
CO. OFFALY			
BIRR	4.5	5.5	6.5
CO. TIPPERARY			
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	4.8	5.7	
CO. WATERFORD			
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)		6.5	6.9
CO. WESTMEATH			
MULLINGAR II	4.4	5.1	5.6
CO. WEXFORD			
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	5.1	5.8	6.1
ROSSLARE	5.9	6.5	7.2
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	5.0	6.1	7.3
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	5.3	5.8	6.5

**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.

10-DAY VALUES FOR SELECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL STATIONS		RAINFALL (MM)				TEMPERATURE (°C)													SUNSHINE (HOURS)		
Station	period	amount	% of average	rain days	wet days	mean max.	mean min.	mean daily	diff. from average	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 average
Cavan (Loreto)	11-20	1.6	-	1	1	8.1	-1.8	3.2	-	-5.4	17	7	12	2	-9.5	19	8	-	-	25.2	-
	21-end	33.4	-	9	6	11.0	3.9	7.5	-	1.3	27	0	30	3	-3.2	27	3	-	-	19.4	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Co. Cork</b>	1-10	23.6	-	8	6	9.6	3.4	6.5	-	-2.5	4	3	30	3	-7.5	4	6	6.0	6.7	15.2	-
Fermoy	11-20	0.2	-	1	0	8.9	0.3	4.6	-	-4.5	18	5	19	1	-8.7	18	7	4.9	6.2	26.0	-
	21-end	11.9	-	6	2	11.7	3.5	7.6	-	-0.2	25	1	33	5	-4.5	25	6	6.8	7.0	16.2	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Co. Donegal</b>	1-10	86.7	-	9	9	9.4	3.4	6.4	-	-1.1	2	1	26	2	-1.5	2	4	-	-	-	-
Glenties	11-20	5.0	-	2	1	9.8	0.0	4.9	-	-4.6	18	5	19	3	-6.9	18	8	-	-	-	-
	21-end	56.4	-	9	8	10.4	4.2	7.3	-	1.8	27	0	28	1	-1.3	27	2	-	-	-	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>148.1</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Co. Kerry</b>	1-10	59.8	-	8	6	11.0	3.7	7.4	-	0.4	2	0	34	7	-4.7	2	7	-	-	21.6	-
Ardfert	11-20	0.3	-	1	0	10.9	1.3	6.1	-	-1.4	17	3	25	3	-8.4	18	10	-	-	52.2	-
	21-end	16.9	-	6	4	12.4	5.4	8.9	-	2.8	28	0	41	7	-4.4	25	6	-	-	23.6	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Co. Louth</b>	1-10	20.1	-	na	na	9.6	2.3	6.0	-	-0.9	2	1	24	3	-3.2	4	7	4.9	5.5	-	-
Ardee	11-20	0.7	-	1	0	9.4	-1.7	3.9	-	-4.7	17	8	15	2	-5.6	17	9	3.3	4.5	-	-
	21-end	7.3	-	4	3	10.8	4.0	7.4	-	0.1	21	0	30	3	-1.9	21	3	5.9	6.0	-	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Co. Waterford</b>	1-10	25.9	-	na	na	9.9	3.5	6.7	-	-2.5	4	2	30	2	-5.0	4	3	-	6.9	15.2	-
Dungarvan	11-20	0.5	-	1	0	9.2	2.3	5.8	-	-3.2	17	1	21	2	-6.0	17	6	-	6.3	25.9	-
	21-end	12.0	-	5	4	11.9	3.5	7.7	-	-1.5	25	1	34	6	-3.4	25	3	-	7.5	19.1	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Co. Wexford</b>	1-10	17.9	-	6	5	9.9	3.7	6.8	-	-2.1	2	1	29	1	-6.3	2	5	5.6	6.3	17.7	-
Johnstown Castle	11-20	0.0	-	0	0	8.6	2.8	5.7	-	-0.3	17	1	18	1	-5.8	19	9	3.4	5.2	44.2	-
	21-end	11.0	-	4	3	11.2	4.5	7.9	-	1.6	25	0	33	4	-2.0	25	4	6.4	6.8	16.9	-
	<b>month</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>117</b>

**MEASURED POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (P.E.) AND SOIL MOISTURE**

County/ Station	Period	P.E. (mm)		Soil Moisture (mm)	
		Amount	Deficit	Accum'td	Surplus
<b>Co. Kerry</b>					
Valentia Obs.	1-10	7.3	-	0	75
	11-20	11.6	12	12	-
	21-end	8.7	-	0	20
	<b>month</b>	<b>27.6</b>			
<b>Co. Wexford</b>					
Johnstown Castle	1-10	0.0	-	0	18
	11-20	0.0	-	0	-
	21-end	0.0	-	0	9
	<b>month</b>	<b>0.0</b>			

**MONTHLY EVAPORATION (MM) FROM CLASS A PAN**

County	Station	Monthly Rainfall (mm)	Monthly Evaporation (mm)
<b>Clare</b>	Kilmaley	n/a	n/a
<b>Cork</b>	Fermoy (Moorepark)	35.7	17.2
<b>Kerry</b>	Valentia Observatory	108.3	30.1
<b>Kildare</b>	Poulaphuca	42.7	11.1
<b>Mayo</b>	Newport (Furnace)	137.5	1.6
<b>Offaly</b>	Derrygreenagh	38.0	7.7
<b>Waterford</b>	Dungarvan (Carriglea)	38.4	14.4
<b>Wexford</b>	Johnstown Castle	28.9	27.6

**P.E. (Penman)**

County/ Station	total for month(mm)		<b>GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION (MJ/sq. m.)</b>			
			10-day totals			Total for month
			1-10	11-20	21-end	
<b>Co. Clare</b>	Shannon Airport	17				
<b>Co. Cork</b>	Cork Airport	12				
<b>Co. Donegal</b>	Malin Head	33	27.85	56.91	36.44	121.20
<b>Co. Dublin</b>	Dublin Airport	21	34.04	61.84	n/a	n/a
	Casement Aerodrome	26				
<b>Co. Kerry</b>	Valentia Obs.	28	34.05	68.54	45.48	148.07
<b>Co. Kilkenny</b>	Kilkenny	15	36.17	60.79	49.69	146.65
<b>Co. Mayo</b>	Belmullet	18	28.69	65.72	41.72	136.13
	Knock Airport	13				
<b>Co. Monaghan</b>	Clones	16	34.48	48.88	40.80	124.16
<b>Co. Offaly</b>	Birr	16	32.56	61.92	44.54	139.02
<b>Co. Westmeath</b>	Mullingar	15				
<b>Co. Wexford</b>	Rosslare	n/a				

**SEE BACK PAGE OF JANUARY ISSUE FOR NOTES ON THE DATA**

**Friday 1st:** Very cold during the night with sharp to severe frost and wintry showers in many areas. The showers continued during the day, but became well scattered by late evening. Feeling bitterly cold in the northwesterly flow. A few sunny spells between the showers in many areas. Winds were northwesterly, strong to gale force in northern areas, moderate in southern areas, backing westerly during the period and becoming light.

**Rainfall:** nil to 9mm, heaviest at Knock Airport, nil at Dublin Airport

**Temperature:** max. 3°C to 7°C, min. -2°C to 3°C, ground temperatures down to -9°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** trace to 4 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, trace at Birr and Knock Airport

**Saturday 2nd:** Wintry showers near Atlantic and northern coasts at first. Light rain and drizzle spread from the Atlantic during the morning, giving a damp day. More persistent and heavy rain pushed into the west during the evening. Mostly cloudy. Winds were light southwesterly, backing southerly and increasing to become strong to near gale for the rest of the day.

**Rainfall:** nil to 17mm, heaviest at Belmullet, nil at Dublin Airport

**Temperature:** max. 6°C to 10°C, min. -3°C to 3°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -10°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to 1 hour, sunniest at Malin Head and Casement Aerodrome

**Sunday 3rd:** A band of heavy rain reached the west and southwest in the early hours and slowly crossed the country, falling as sleet or snow in places. Heavy wintry showers followed into the west during the afternoon and evening, some thundery. A little sunshine in the south and southwest. Winds were southerly, strong, up to gale force in the north, becoming light after the showers.

**Rainfall:** 2 to 28mm, heaviest at Valentia, 2mm at Dublin Airport

**Temperature:** max. 7°C to 11°C, min. -2°C to 3°C, ground temperatures down to -8°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to 2 hours, sunniest at Valentia

**Monday 4th:** Dry in all but western coastal areas to start. During the late morning, showers spread eastwards to all parts, passing quickly in the strong westerly winds. Long sunny spells in most parts. A band of rain reached the southwest by late afternoon and moved northeastwards, bringing outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Winds were westerly, strong and gusty, backing southerly.

**Rainfall:** 1 to 28mm, heaviest at Valentia, 1mm at Clones

**Temperature:** max. 8°C to 10°C, min. -3°C to 4°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -10°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** 2 to 6 hours, sunniest at Kilkenny, 2 hours at Valentia

**Tuesday 5th:** Cold with outbreaks of rain in the northern half of the country and a slight ground frost in places overnight. Slightly milder and windier in southern areas with scattered showers, some of which were heavy and thundery. Some short sunny spells also with southern areas faring best. Southwesterly winds were moderate to fresh and gusty in the southern half of the country for most of the day, light and variable further north.

**Rainfall:** 1 to 13mm, heaviest at Mullingar, 1mm at Kilkenny

**Temperature:** max. 5°C to 12°C, min. 1°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to 3 hours, sunniest at Rosslare

**Wednesday 6th:** Very cold overnight with sharp ground frost and some scattered showers in places. The morning was cold and it was a dry day with sunny spells generally. Dull, wet and milder weather moved into the southwest in mid-afternoon and moved northeastwards to all areas during the evening. Winds were northwesterly, moderate to fresh and gusty, decreasing light to moderate by morning and turning southerly, increasing again by evening.

**Rainfall:** <1 to 6mm, heaviest at Clonmorris, <1mm at Rosslare

**Temperature:** max. 8°C to 13°C, min. -1°C to 5°C, ground temperatures down to -7°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** 1 to 7 hours, sunniest at Casement Aerodrome, 1 hour at Valentia

**Thursday 7th:** A strong and very mild south to southwesterly airflow persisted over Ireland. Scattered showers overnight, heavy and persistent in northern areas. Dry in most parts by mid-afternoon. Generally overcast with the most sunshine in the south midlands. Mild. Winds were south to southwesterly, moderate to strong and gusty, strongest in the north and northwest.

**Rainfall:** trace to 10 mm, heaviest at Malin Head, trace at Casement Aerodrome

**Temperature:** max. 11°C to 16°C, min. 7°C to 12°C, no ground frost

**Sunshine:** nil to 2 hours, sunniest at Shannon Airport

**Friday 8th:** Showers in the west overnight spread eastwards, gradually dying

out as they did so. Overcast in many parts throughout the day apart from the north and northwest, which had some sunshine. A band of heavy rain approached the west coast by mid-afternoon and moved northwards, giving some heavy falls. Winds were south to southwesterly, moderate to strong and gusty.

**Rainfall:** nil to 6 mm, heaviest at Valentia, nil at Dublin Airport and Rosslare

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 13°C, min. 7°C to 10°C, no ground frost

**Sunshine:** nil to 5 hours, sunniest at Belmullet

**Saturday 9th:** Most of the country had a dry and relatively mild day with variable cloud amounts and some mist patches. Some sunny spells also, mainly in the midlands and east. Dull, damp weather in the northwest pushed slightly more inland in the evening. Moderate to fresh and gusty southerly winds became light and variable by evening.

**Rainfall:** nil to 4mm, heaviest at Belmullet

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 15°C, min. 2°C to 11°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Dublin Airport

**Sunshine:** nil to 8 hours, sunniest at Mullingar, nil at Belmullet

**Sunday 10th:** Rain and drizzle near north and northwest coasts overnight, otherwise dry throughout the day. The day turned quite mild in the south and west, but it was cooler in the midlands, east and north. Sunny in the west and southwest. Winds were light, east or southeasterly in direction throughout.

**Rainfall:** nil to trace generally, <1mm at Malin Head

**Temperature:** max. 7°C to 12°C, min. 0°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Casement Aerodrome

**Sunshine:** nil to 6 hours, sunniest at Belmullet

**Monday 11th:** An intense anticyclone of 1046hPa covered much of northern continental Europe, maintaining a mainly southeasterly airflow over Ireland. Early frost and fog cleared to give a mild, dry day with sunshine in most places. Winds were moderate, southeasterly in direction.

**Rainfall:** nil to trace

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 15°C, min. -3°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -6°C at Casement Aerodrome and Dublin Airport

**Sunshine:** 4 to 9 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, 4 hours at Cork Airport

**Tuesday 12th:** Clear spells overnight with a slight to sharp frost everywhere, except along south and southeast facing coasts. Early fog cleared and the day was fine with long sunny spells everywhere. Very cold again after dark with frost returning and some mist patches in places also. Winds were light throughout, southeasterly in direction.

**Rainfall:** nil to trace generally, <1mm at Cork Airport

**Temperature:** max. 8°C to 15°C, min. -3°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -7°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** 5 to 9 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, 5 hours at Shannon Airport

**Wednesday 13th:** Fog became widespread during the night and was slow to clear, persisting into the afternoon in places. A sunny day after the fog dispersed. Becoming warm in the afternoon with temperatures up in the mid-teens in many parts. Frost and fog returned shortly after dark. Winds were quite light, from an east or northeasterly direction.

**Rainfall:** nil generally, <1mm at Cork Airport

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 16°C, min. -2°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -9°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** 5 to 9 hours, sunniest at Kilkenny, 5 hours at Casement Aerodrome

**Thursday 14th:** Very cold overnight. A cloudy, overcast day in the east while the west was sunny. Generally dry throughout. Winds were light, east to southeasterly in direction.

**Rainfall:** nil to trace

**Temperature:** max. 6°C to 12°C, min. -4°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -9°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** nil to 9 hours sunniest at Belmullet, nil at Dublin Airport

**Friday 15th:** Some severe frost overnight in parts of the midlands. Cloudy during the morning with the exception of Atlantic coasts, where there were long spells of sunshine. Dry throughout. Generally cloudy everywhere during the evening except in the east where there was a sharp frost where the skies were clear. Winds were light, southeasterly throughout.

**Rainfall:** nil

**Temperature:** max. 4°C to 9°C, min. -5°C to 5°C, ground temperatures down to -11°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** nil to 7 hours, sunniest at Malin Head

**Saturday 16th:** Temperatures rose only slowly in the morning and it was a cold, dry and misty day with varying cloud amounts. North Leinster and east Ulster had a fine day with hazy sunshine. Becoming bitterly cold after dark away from Atlantic coasts with a sharp to severe ground frost setting in. Winds were generally light, southeasterly or variable in direction.

**Rainfall:** nil

**Temperature:** max. 6°C to 9°C, min. -4°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -11° at Birr

**Sunshine:** nil to 8 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport

**Sunday 17th:** Very cold during the night with sharp to severe frost in all but southeastern areas. Fog, very dense in many inland areas. Dry throughout. Sunny periods during the afternoon with above normal temperatures; however, frost and fog set in again after dark with temperatures falling quickly. Winds were light and variable in all areas.

**Rainfall:** nil

**Temperature:** max. 2°C to 11°C, min. -6°C to 2°C, ground temperatures below zero at all stations, down to -13°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** trace to 9 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, trace at Clones

**Monday 18th:** Dry and very cold during the night with sharp to severe frost in most areas. Dense fog in many places. Fog, slow to clear during the morning and temperatures only slowly rising in these regions. Some long sunny periods during the day but cool in many areas. Frost and fog set in quickly again after dark. Light and variable winds throughout.

**Rainfall:** nil to trace

**Temperature:** max. 4°C to 11°C, min. -6°C to 5°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -13°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** trace to 9 hours, sunniest at Belmullet, trace at Cork Airport

**Tuesday 19th:** Very cold overnight with severe frost and fog. The frost and fog cleared during the morning in most areas but persisted into the afternoon in a few places. Dry throughout, with sunny spells in parts of the west and the east but overall mostly cloudy. Frost returned to the east after dark. Winds were light, east or southeasterly in direction throughout.

**Rainfall:** nil

**Temperature:** max. 4°C to 10°C, min. -7°C to 6°C, ground temperatures below zero at all inland stations, down to -11°C at Birr

**Sunshine:** nil to 8 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, nil at Knock Airport

**Wednesday 20th:** Cold with severe frost in the east early in the night, milder with rain and drizzle further west. This damp weather spread eastwards during the night, bringing a rise in temperatures. The outbreaks of rain and drizzle became patchy as they crossed the country and died out altogether over the southeast by the afternoon. Some sunshine in the southeast, generally cloudy elsewhere. Winds were light variable, increasing moderate to strong southwesterly.

**Rainfall:** nil to 3mm, heaviest at Belmullet

**Temperature:** max. 7°C to 11°C, min. -3°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -8°C at Casement Aerodrome

**Sunshine:** nil to 3 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, nil at Mullingar and Clones

**Thursday 21st:** Light rain or drizzle in many areas during the night, giving poor visibility in many areas. Very strong winds also. The winds continued strong during the afternoon, with light rain and drizzle also; rainfall amounts were small except in the extreme north. Mild and dull throughout. Winds were southwest to westerly, gale to strong gale force with severe gusts at times.

**Rainfall:** nil to 4mm, heaviest at Malin Head

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 14°C, min. 5°C to 10°C, no ground frost

**Sunshine:** nil to trace

**Friday 22nd:** Windy and mild overnight with rain in most areas, heaviest in the northwest and north. Rain continued during the morning and afternoon, eventually dying out by late evening. A few sunny spells developed, mainly in the east. Some mist in places during the evening. Winds were southwesterly, strong and gusty, decreasing in all areas by evening.

**Rainfall:** trace to 9mm, heaviest at Malin Head, trace at Johnstown Castle

**Temperature:** max. 11°C to 14°C, min. 2°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -4°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** trace to 3 hours, sunniest at Dublin Airport, trace at Knock Airport

**Saturday 23rd:** Light and patchy rain and drizzle in the west overnight spread countrywide during the morning and continued on and off throughout the day.

More persistent rain spread from Atlantic in the late evening. A little sunshine in the south and east but mostly cloudy. Winds were southerly, light to moderate, veering southwesterly and increasing moderate to fresh or strong in the west. The wind decreased gradually through the evening.

**Rainfall:** nil to 6mm, heaviest at Valentia

**Temperature:** max. 10°C to 13°C, min. 3°C to 9°C, ground temperatures down to -1°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to 1 hour, sunniest at Cork Airport

**Sunday 24th:** Rain in the west moved eastwards across the country overnight, clearing the east around dawn. There were some heavy bursts in the west but the rain became lighter as it progressed eastwards. Sunny in the west and midlands, cloudier in the east and north. Winds were moderate southwesterly, becoming westerly for a while, easing southwesterly throughout by evening.

**Rainfall:** 1 to 6mm, heaviest at Malin Head, 1mm at Roches Point

**Temperature:** max. 7°C to 11°C, min. -1°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -8°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** 2 to 7 hours, sunniest at Knock Airport, 2 hours at Dublin Airport

**Monday 25th:** Rain moved into the west and northwest during the morning and turned heavy and persistent in most areas. Drier weather returned to the west and northwest in the early afternoon and this spread to all areas by late evening. Winds were light southwesterly, strong and gusty in the northwest, increasing strong to gale force, easing later.

**Rainfall:** trace to 13mm, heaviest at Valentia, trace at Dublin Airport

**Temperature:** max. 9°C to 12°C, min. -2°C to 7°C, ground temperatures down to -8°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to <1 hour, sunniest at Malin Head

**Tuesday 26th:** Very windy during the day with scattered showers and sunny spells. The eastern half of the country recorded most sunshine. Winds were southwesterly, moderate to fresh and gusty, strong to gale force on northwestern coasts, becoming westerly and increasing strong to gale force with stronger gusts before easing southwesterly by evening.

**Rainfall:** nil to 5 mm, heaviest at Knock Airport, nil at Rosslare

**Temperature:** max. 8°C to 11°C, min. 3°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -2°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** 3 to 9 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, 3 hours at Knock Airport

**Wednesday 27th:** Apart from a few scattered showers in the northwest, it was a mainly dry day with sunny spells, especially in the southern half of the country. Scattered showers continued in the northwest after dark and it became cold with ground frost setting in quickly. Winds were light to moderate southwesterly, fresh and gusty westerly at times on northwestern coasts.

**Rainfall:** nil to 3mm heaviest at Malin Head

**Temperature:** max. 8°C to 13°C, min. 0°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -6°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** 3 to 7 hours, sunniest at Rosslare, 3 hours at Belmullet

**Thursday 28th:** Dry during the night with sharp to severe frost in places and just the odd shower in western areas. A weak front passed over the northern half of the country but rainfall amounts were small. Mainly dry for the remainder of the period with just occasional rain or showers in western and northern areas. Just a few or sunny spells but generally cloudy. Winds were south to southwesterly, light to moderate.

**Rainfall:** nil to 4mm, heaviest at Belmullet

**Temperature:** max. 9°C to 11°C, min. 1°C to 6°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil to 5 hours, sunniest at Malin Head, nil at Shannon Airport

**Friday 29th:** It was a wet and very windy day generally with little or no sunshine. The rain was heavy at times, particularly in parts of Ulster and Connacht. Continuing mild and very windy after dark with the rain becoming more patchy. Winds were light to moderate, southerly, veering southwesterly and increasing strong to gale force and very gusty.

**Rainfall:** 1 to 16mm, heaviest at Belmullet, 1mm at Rosslare

**Temperature:** max. 11°C to 13°C, min. 2°C to 8°C, ground temperatures down to -5°C at Kilkenny

**Sunshine:** nil

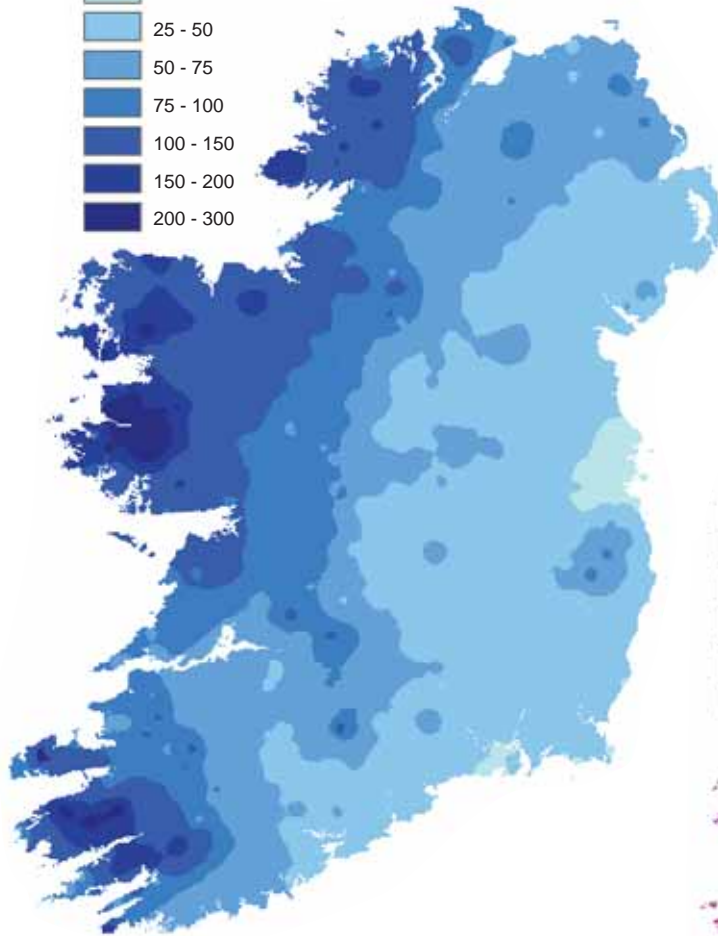
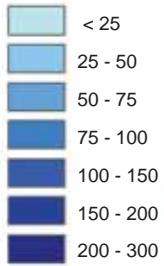
## Very dry in parts of east and south but wet in west

February rainfall totals varied very widely across the country, with heavy falls at times in the west and north, while eastern and southeastern areas were much drier. Monthly totals ranged from 13mm at Dublin (Merrion Square) to 289mm at Maam Valley, Co. Galway, with percentage of normal values between 22% at Waterford (Tycor) and 154% at Galway (University College). While it was the driest February since 1998 in parts of the east and southeast, it was the wettest since 2002 at some western stations.

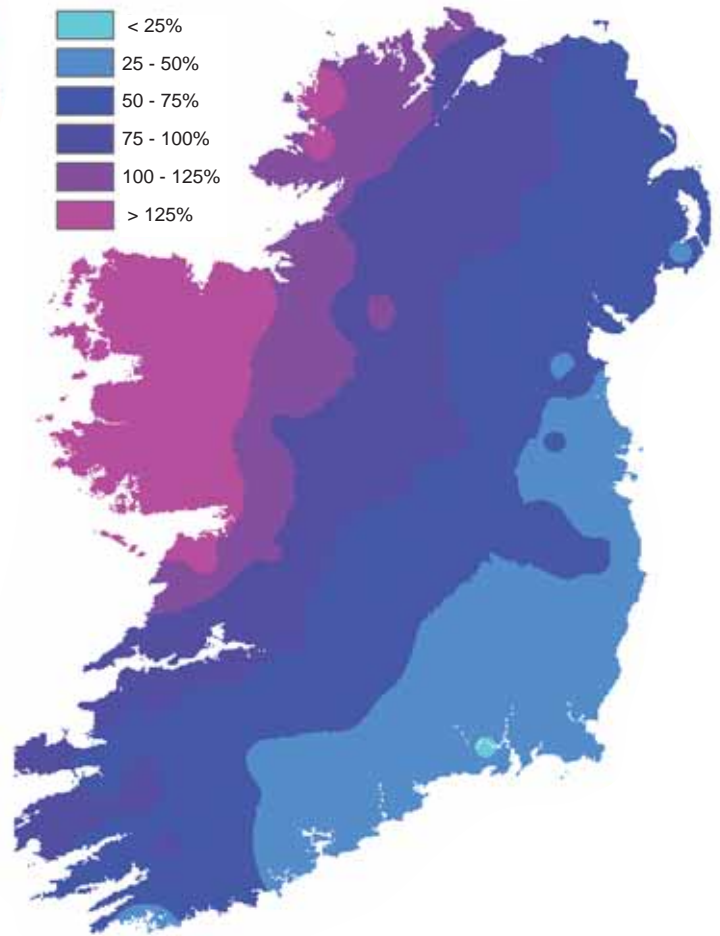
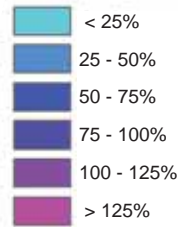
As shown by the chart of daily rainfall on page 11, almost all of the month's rainfall fell at the beginning and end of the month, with little or no rainfall recorded between the 9th and 19th. The month's heaviest falls were in the period 2nd to 5th and on the 29th, some of which were associated with thunderstorms, particularly on the 5th. The highest daily fall, 51.2mm, was measured at Maam Valley on the 2nd, its highest daily fall for February since 2002. Like the monthly totals, there was a wide variation in the amount of wetdays recorded during the month (*days with 1mm or more of rainfall*), with only between 5 and 8 wetdays measured in the east and southeast, but up to 20 wetdays recorded in parts of the west.

County/ Station	Total Amount (mm)	% of 1961-90 average	Most in a day / date		Number of Raindays (≥0.2mm)	Wetdays (≥1mm)
<b>CO. CAVAN</b>						
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	54.2		11.3	29	18	12
<b>CO. CLARE</b>						
SHANNON AIRPORT	58.0	81	14.3	2	14	11
CARRON	133.5	130	32.2	2	19	14
<b>CO. CORK</b>						
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	35.7	41	8.6	2	15	8
CORK AIRPORT	49.8	43	13.0	4	17	12
SHERKIN ISLAND	45.3	41	13.7	2	14	9
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	45.6		12.0	4	15	10
<b>CO. DONEGAL</b>						
MALIN HEAD	89.6	116	10.4	1	19	16
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	80.3	107	8.3	25	19	18
GLENTIES	148.1	132	32.2	2	20	18
<b>CO. DUBLIN</b>						
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	16.2	29	3.9	23	12	5
DUBLIN AIRPORT	14.7		3.3	4	11	6
CASEMENT AERODROME	18.4	38	6.0	3	9	7
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	13.2	26	3.2	3	8	5
<b>CO. GALWAY</b>						
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	123.3	154	26.5	2	19	17
MAAM VALLEY	289.4		51.2	2	20	20
CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK	140.3	125	29.5	2	20	18
BALLYGAR	71.8	94	9.4	4	19	15
<b>CO. KERRY</b>						
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	108.3	88	30.0	2	17	13
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	77.0		28.4	2	15	10
<b>CO. KILKENNY</b>						
KILKENNY	27.3	41	7.2	3	12	9
<b>CO. LIMERICK</b>						
MOUNT RUSSELL	44.0		9.0	2	15	11
<b>CO. LOUTH</b>						
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	28.1	46	8.7	4	10	7
<b>CO. MAYO</b>						
BELMULLET	116.4	146	31.3	2	20	19
STRAIDE	127.0	146	36.3	2	19	16
KNOCK AIRPORT	126.2		31.8	2	20	17
<b>CO. MEATH</b>						
WARRENSTOWN	32.6	53	7.7	4	11	9
<b>CO. MONAGHAN</b>						
CLONES	40.4	60	6.4	29	17	8
<b>CO. OFFALY</b>						
BIRR	30.8	57	7.6	3	12	11
DERRYGREENAGH	38.0	61	7.7	3	14	10
<b>CO. SLIGO</b>						
ARDTARMON	88.7		16.0	2	19	15
<b>CO. TIPPERARY</b>						
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	29.1		5.1	3	14	10
<b>CO. WATERFORD</b>						
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	19.9	22	5.2	25	10	5
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	38.4		9.3	4	11	8
<b>CO. WESTMEATH</b>						
MULLINGAR II	54.7	83	12.0	5	16	11
<b>CO. WEXFORD</b>						
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	28.9	36	7.2	4	10	8
ROSSLARE	23.4	33	6.3	25	9	8
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	31.4	37	8.0	4	10	6
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	38.9		10.0	3	10	8

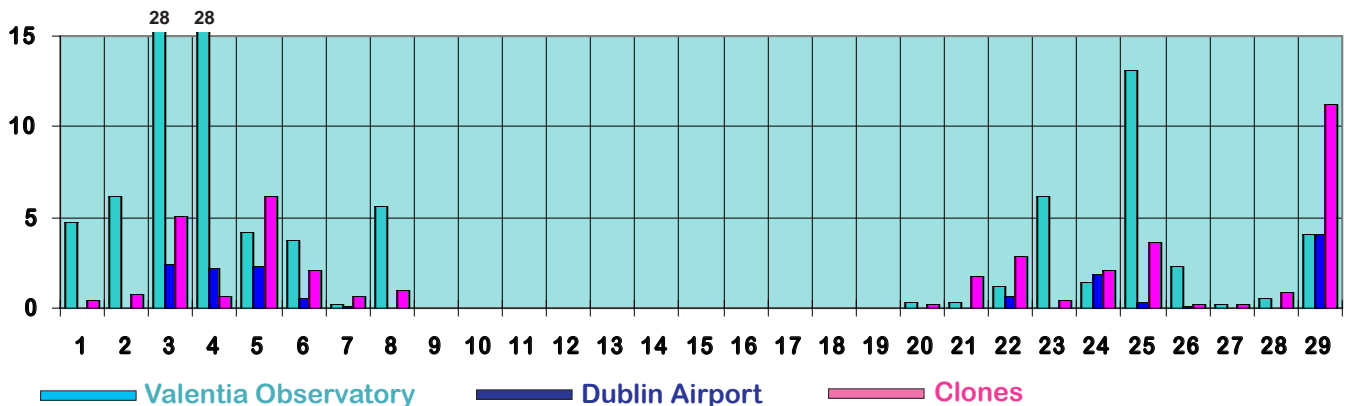
### Total rainfall (mm)



### Percentage of normal rainfall



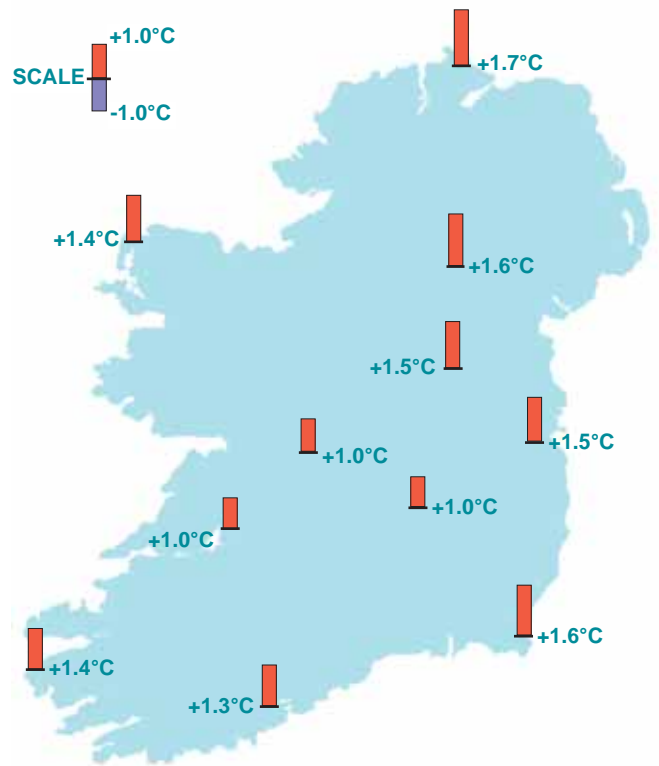
### Daily 0-24h rainfall values (mm)



## Very mild for most of month

Despite a spell of cold weather around the middle of the month, mean air temperatures overall were between one and two degrees higher than the February normal. They varied between 5.0°C at both Knock Airport and Derrygreenagh, Co. Offaly, and 8.3°C at Sherkin Island, Co. Cork. It was the warmest February at many stations since 2002, which was the warmest February on record in several places.

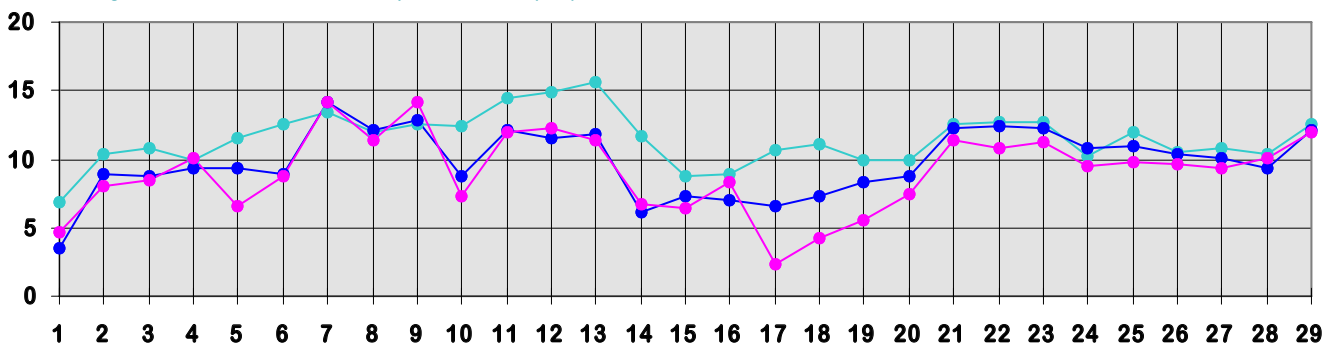
Temperatures were above normal for most of the month, but there was a short cold spell at the beginning of the month and also between the 17th and 19th, when frost became severe in places. Sherkin Island, Co. Cork, was the only station to avoid an air frost during this latter period, while grass minimum values of below -10°C were recorded in parts of the east and midlands. The month's lowest air temperature, -7.7°C, was recorded at Casement Aerodrome on the 19th, its lowest such value for February since 1991, while Birr measured the lowest grass minimum value of -12.8°C on the 18th. There was a total of between 13 and 22 ground frosts at most inland stations. The highest



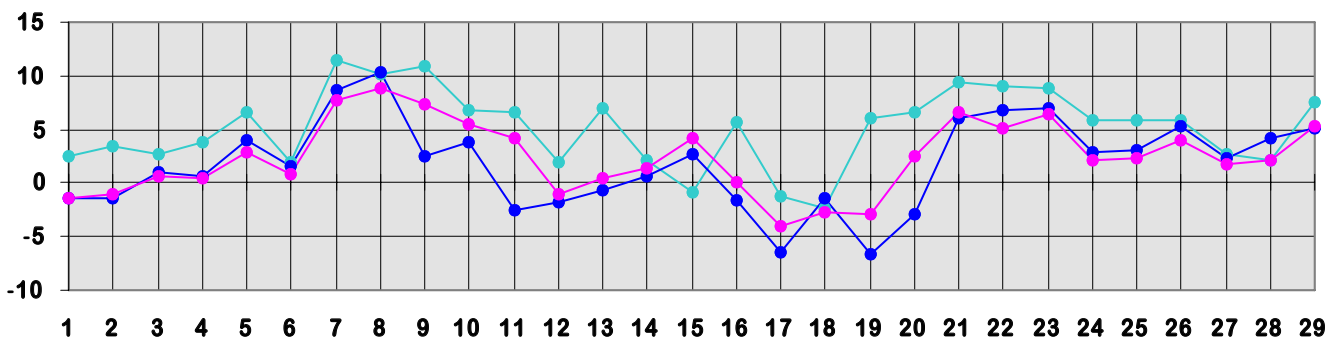
**Mean Temperature**  
(difference from 1961-90 normals)

temperature of the month, 16.3°C, was recorded at Connemara National Park, Co. Galway, on the 13th.

Daily 0-24h maximum temperatures (°C)



Daily 0-24h minimum temperatures (°C)



● Valentia Observatory

● Dublin Airport

● Clones

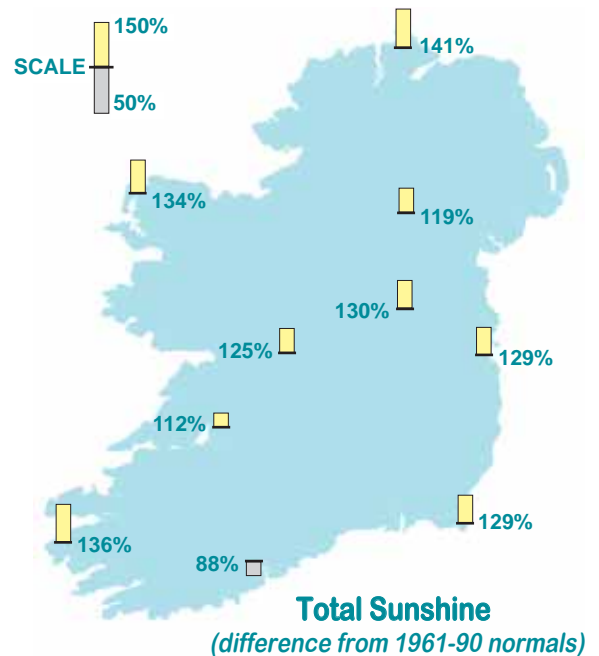
County/ Station	°C											
	Mean max.	Mean min.	Mean/ deviation from 1961-90 average		Highest max./date		Lowest min./date		Lowest grass min./date		Days with air frost ground frost	
<b>CO. CAVAN</b>												
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	9.6	1.3	5.5		15.0	7	-5.4	17	-9.5	19	10	17
<b>CO. CLARE</b>												
SHANNON AIRPORT	10.2	3.0	6.6	1.0	15.5	7	-3.6	18	-8.1	18 19	4	14
CARRON	9.2	2.7	6.0	1.7	14.5	7	-2.8	18	-7.9	2	4	18
<b>CO. CORK</b>												
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	10.0	2.4	6.2	1.0	13.2	22 29	-4.5	18	-8.7	18	9	19
CORK AIRPORT	9.0	3.7	6.4	1.3	12.4	22	-1.6	2	-5.5	4	2	13
SHERKIN ISLAND	11.0	5.6	8.3	1.7	13.4	23	2.3	18	-1.5	28	0	6
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	9.7	2.2	6.0		13.0	13 22	-3.0	2 4	-4.7	2	9	14
<b>CO. DONEGAL</b>												
MALIN HEAD	9.6	4.2	6.9	1.7	13.3	12	-1.8	19	-5.1	19	3	7
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	9.3	3.6	6.5	1.9	14.0	7	-0.7	17			4	
GLENTIES	9.8	2.5	6.2	1.9	14.4	13	-4.6	18	-6.9	18	6	14
<b>CO. DUBLIN</b>												
DUBLIN (PHOENIX PARK)	10.3	1.4	5.9	1.2	15.5	7	-5.8	19	-9.8	19	10	20
DUBLIN AIRPORT	9.8	1.8	5.8		14.1	7	-6.7	19	-9.2	17	8	14
CASEMENT AERODROME	10.6	1.5	6.1	1.5	14.8	9	-7.7	19	-10.5	19	11	19
DUBLIN (MERRION SQUARE)	10.1	3.9	7.0	1.2	15.6	7	-1.5	19			3	
<b>CO. GALWAY</b>												
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	10.3	2.9	6.6	1.1	15.0	7	-3.2	19	-6.4	19	7	17
MAAM VALLEY	9.9	3.6	6.8		14.1	7	-1.7	13	-6.6	18	4	9
CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK	10.2	3.9	7.1		16.3	13	-1.9	18			2	
BALLYGAR	9.7	2.2	6.0		14.0	7 9	-3.4	19	-6.1	19	8	16
<b>CO. KERRY</b>												
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	11.5	4.4	8.0	1.4	15.6	13	-2.4	18	-8.3	18	5	13
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	11.4	3.4	7.4	1.6	15.6	7	-1.4	17	-8.4	18	3	23
<b>CO. KILKENNY</b>												
KILKENNY	10.5	1.0	5.8	1.0	15.9	13	-6.2	18	-11.4	18	12	22
<b>CO. LIMERICK</b>												
MOUNT RUSSELL	9.8	3.3	6.6		14.4	13	-5.3	18	-9.6	18	5	13
<b>CO. LOUTH</b>												
ARDEE (BOHARNAMOE)	9.9	1.4	5.7	1.3	14.0	7	-4.7	17	-5.6	17	9	19
<b>CO. MAYO</b>												
BELMULLET	10.3	3.6	7.0	1.4	15.1	13	-1.4	19	-6.2	18	4	13
STRAIDE	9.5	2.8	6.2	1.4	14.8	7	-2.3	17	-8.8	18	5	14
KNOCK AIRPORT	7.8	2.1	5.0		12.0	13	-3.2	2	-5.7	17	7	7
<b>CO. MEATH</b>												
WARRENTOWN	9.8	1.4	5.6	1.3	13.6	7	-5.5	17	-8.0	17	10	19
<b>CO. MONAGHAN</b>												
CLONES	9.3	2.2	5.8	1.6	14.2	7	-4.0	17	-7.7	17	8	16
<b>CO. OFFALY</b>												
BIRR	10.0	1.6	5.8	1.0	14.9	13	-6.2	18	-12.8	18	9	19
DERRYGREENAGH	9.7	0.2	5.0	1.0	13.6	7	-7.0	19	-12.0	19	16	20
<b>CO. SLIGO</b>												
ARDTARMON	9.4	4.0	6.7		13.7	13	-1.9	18	-5.4	18	2	7
<b>CO. TIPPERARY</b>												
FETHARD (PARSONSHILL)	9.4	2.1	5.8		13.0	7	-3.6	17	-4.5	17	6	15
<b>CO. WATERFORD</b>												
WATERFORD (TYCOR)	10.7	3.7	7.2	1.9	15.5	29	-1.1	2			2	
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	10.3	3.1	6.7	1.1	14.4	22	-3.2	17	-6.0	17	4	12
<b>CO. WESTMEATH</b>												
MULLINGAR II	9.4	1.7	5.6	1.5	13.8	7	-5.8	19	-8.8	17	8	18
<b>CO. WEXFORD</b>												
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	9.8	3.6	6.7	1.5	13.4	22	-2.1	2	-6.3	2	2	18
ROSSLARE	9.9	5.0	7.5	1.6	13.6	22	-1.1	2	-3.7	2	1	7
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	9.8	2.9	6.4	1.4	14.0	13	-2.8	2	-5.0	2	3	21
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	9.4	1.6	5.5		13.7	29	-3.6	17	-8.0	17	9	21

County/ Station	Daily mean (hours/day)	% of average	% of possible	Most in a day/date
<b>CO. CAVAN</b>				
CAVAN (LORETO COLLEGE)	2.19		23	6.5 12 13
<b>CO. CLARE</b>				
SHANNON AIRPORT	2.61	112	26	8.8 13
<b>CO. CORK</b>				
FERMOY (MOORE PARK)	1.98	82	20	7.7 13
CORK AIRPORT	2.00	88	20	8.4 13
SHERKIN ISLAND	2.16	95	22	8.2 13
BALLINCURRIG (PEAFIELD)	2.24			8.6 13
<b>CO. DONEGAL</b>				
MALIN HEAD	3.05	141	32	8.3 12
BALLYSHANNON (CATHLEEN'S FALL)	2.53	118	26	8.5 12
<b>CO. DUBLIN</b>				
DUBLIN AIRPORT	3.33	133	34	8.6 12 17
CASEMENT AERODROME	3.17	129	32	8.1 12 18
<b>CO. GALWAY</b>				
GALWAY (UNIV. COLL.)	2.57	113	26	7.9 11
<b>CO. KERRY</b>				
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	2.91	136	29	8.4 12 13
ARDFERT (LISCAHANE)	3.36		34	8.4 13 17
<b>CO. KILKENNY</b>				
KILKENNY	3.09	136	31	8.9 13
<b>CO. MAYO</b>				
BELMULLET	3.21	134	33	9.2 18
STRAIDE	2.39			8.7 13
CONNAUGHT AIRPORT	2.18			8.9 13
<b>CO. MONAGHAN</b>				
CLONES	2.48	119	26	8.1 12 13
<b>CO. OFFALY</b>				
BIRR	2.90	125	30	8.5 13
<b>CO. WATERFORD</b>				
DUNGARVAN (CARRIGLEA)	2.08	90	21	8.0 13
<b>CO. WESTMEATH</b>				
MULLINGAR II	3.00	130	31	8.6 12
<b>CO. WEXFORD</b>				
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	2.72	117	27	8.2 13
ROSSLARE	3.17	129	32	9.0 17
JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK	2.95	139	30	8.1 12
CLONROCHE (KNOXTOWN)	2.71			8.6 27

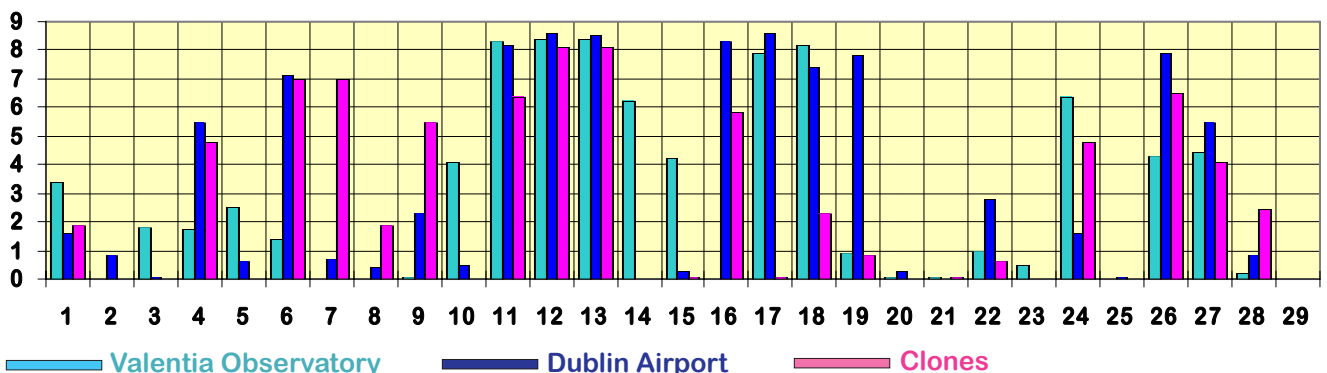
## Sunnier than normal except in south

Sunshine totals for February were above normal except in parts of the south and southeast and it was a particularly sunny month relative to normal in the north. Totals ranged from 57 hours at Fermoy (Moorepark), Co. Cork, to 97 hours at Ardfert (Liscahane), Co. Kerry, with percentage of normal values between 82% of normal at Fermoy and 141% at Malin Head.

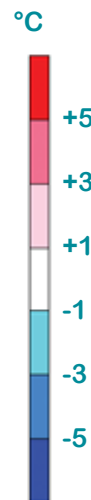
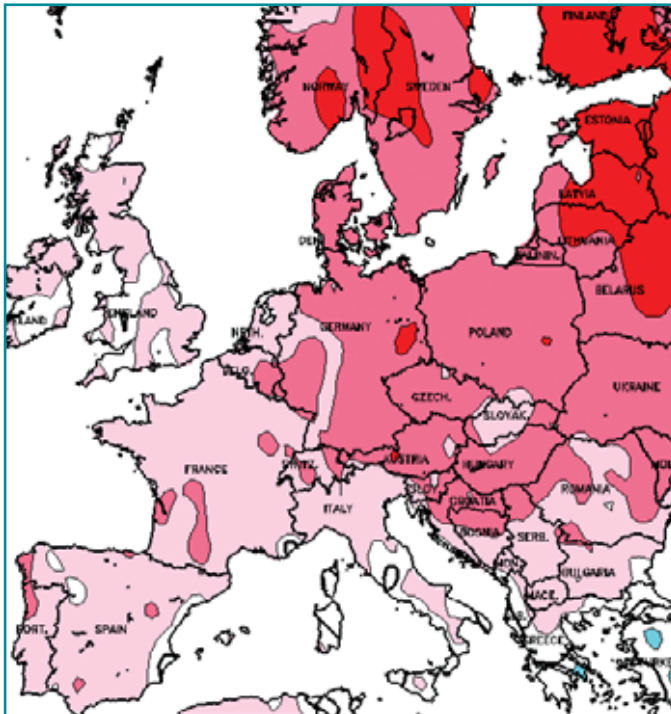
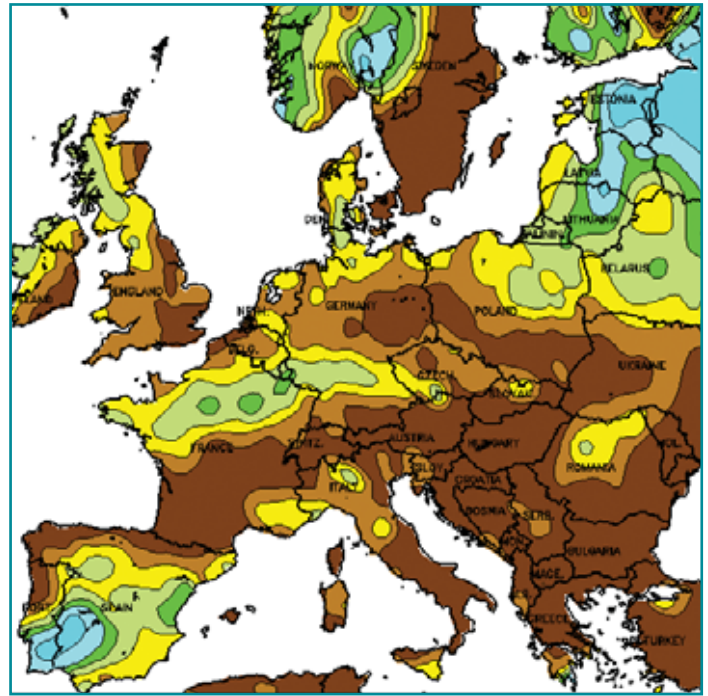
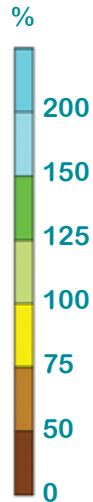
Most sunshine was recorded around the middle of the month, particularly in the periods 11th to 13th and 16th to 19th. The highest daily value of the month, 9.2 hours, was measured at Belmullet on the 18th. Global solar radiation totals were above normal for February everywhere, ranging from 106% of normal at Birr to 120% at Kilkenny.



Daily sunshine values (hours)



**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

Severe weather and tornadoes occurred overnight on the 5th across the southeastern U.S. There were 131 reported tornadoes on the 5th, along with many reports of hail and wind damage. These storms caused widespread damage across Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The death toll of 57 was the highest since May 1985, when 76 people lost their lives.

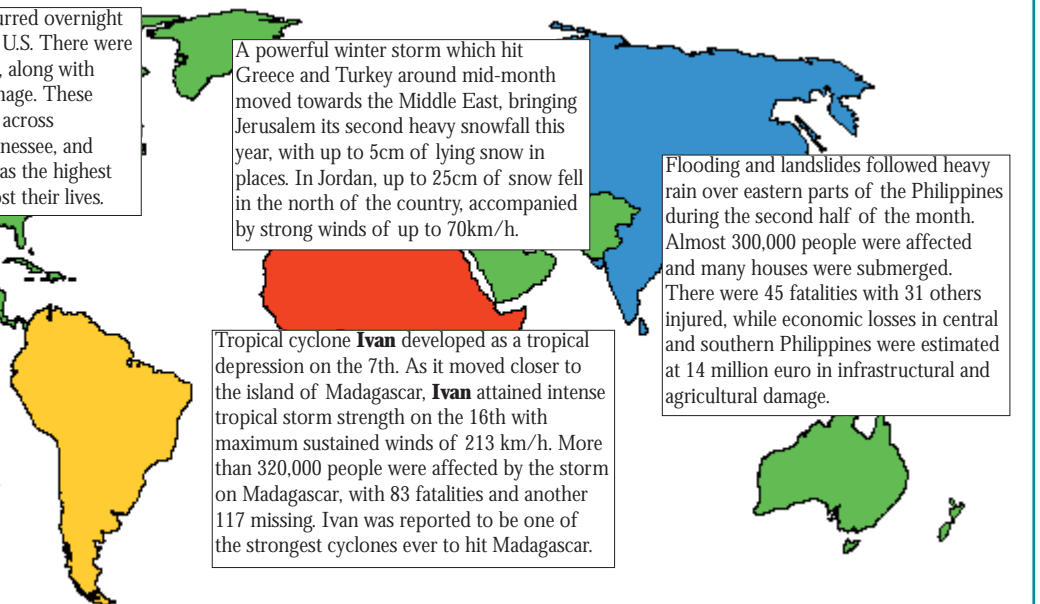
Intense rain fell during the first week over the Hawaiian islands caused widespread floods and prompted several areas of the Big Island to be declared disaster areas. On the 2nd, Hilo recorded a total of 275 mm in a 24-hour period, breaking its previous record set in 1969 by 89mm.

A powerful winter storm which hit Greece and Turkey around mid-month moved towards the Middle East, bringing Jerusalem its second heavy snowfall this year, with up to 5cm of lying snow in places. In Jordan, up to 25cm of snow fell in the north of the country, accompanied by strong winds of up to 70km/h.

Tropical cyclone **Ivan** developed as a tropical depression on the 7th. As it moved closer to the island of Madagascar, **Ivan** attained intense tropical storm strength on the 16th with maximum sustained winds of 213 km/h. More than 320,000 people were affected by the storm on Madagascar, with 83 fatalities and another 117 missing. Ivan was reported to be one of the strongest cyclones ever to hit Madagascar.

Flooding and landslides followed heavy rain over eastern parts of the Philippines during the second half of the month. Almost 300,000 people were affected and many houses were submerged. There were 45 fatalities with 31 others injured, while economic losses in central and southern Philippines were estimated at 14 million euro in infrastructural and agricultural damage.

**Global weather highlights of the month**



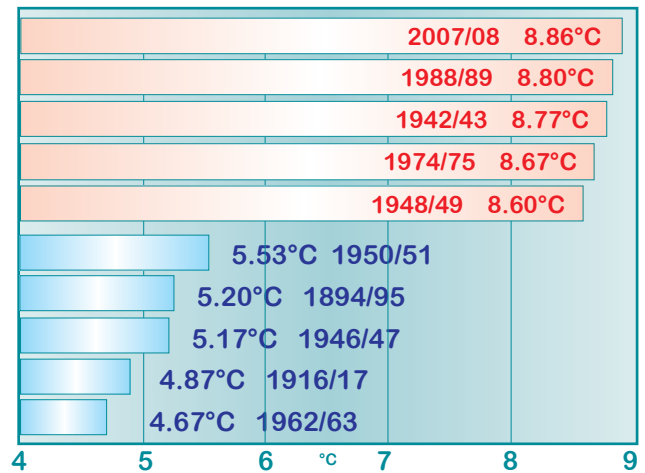
The Weather of December, January and February

**WET EXCEPT IN THE SOUTHEAST;  
MILD AND SUNNY EVERYWHERE**

Despite a drier than normal February almost everywhere, the winter season was wetter than normal except in the southeast. There was a wide range in seasonal totals across the country, with western and southwestern areas measuring over twice the rainfall recorded in the east. At many stations it was the wettest winter for between 8 and 13 years. Spells of heavy rain during December and January brought flooding in parts of the south and west, but much of February was dry. The total number of raindays during the season (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) ranged between 45 and 69 generally, close to normal for winter.

Temperatures were well above normal throughout most of the season, but there were also short spells of cold weather during early January and mid-February, when frost was severe in places. Overall, mean air temperatures were between one and two degrees above normal for the 1961-90 period and it was the warmest winter for between 6 or 10 years at many stations, while it was the warmest winter at Valentia Observatory since records began there in 1892 (see chart right). The total number of air frosts during the winter season ranged from 4 or 5 at some coastal stations to 30 at Kilkenny, with most inland stations recording between 18 and 26 air frosts, compared with a range of between 25 and 30 air frosts in these areas

during an average winter. Almost all stations measured their lowest temperatures of the season on either January 4th or in the period between February 17th and 19th. Winter sunshine totals were above normal everywhere, especially in the east. The season's highest daily values at all stations were measured during mid-February. There were spells of stormy weather at times during the winter, especially during early January and late February. Mean windspeeds for the season of between 8 and 19 knots (15 and 35 km/h) were above normal everywhere and were the highest for winter for between 6 and 14 years in many places. The highest gust of the season, 91 knots (168 km/h), was measured at Malin Head on January 9th, the highest gust there since December 1998.



Warmest and coldest winters on record at Valentia Observatory

County/ Station	RAINFALL (mm)			TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (HOURS)			NO. OF DAYS WITH:					
	Total	% of average	Most in a day amount date(s)	Mean	diff. from average	Extremes Highest Lowest	Daily mean	% of average	Most in a day amount date(s)	Rain	Snow	Air frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale/gusts
<b>CO. CLARE</b>																
SHANNON AIRPORT	449.1	166	33.6 6 Dec	7.4	1.8	15.5 -3.8	1.77	101	8.8 13 Feb	60	4	6	9	4	6	36
<b>CO. CORK</b>																
CORK AIRPORT	379.6	94	24.3 9 Jan	6.9	1.6	13.8 -4.3	1.87	102	8.4 13 Feb	62	3	4	1	1	23	40
<b>CO. DONEGAL</b>																
MALIN HEAD	392.2	133	32.8 21 Jan	6.9	1.3	14.0 -2.4	1.62	115	8.3 12 Feb	66	7	5	18	3	1	63
<b>CO. DUBLIN</b>																
DUBLIN AIRPORT	175.9		14.7 8 Dec	6.3		14.7 -6.7	2.41	122	8.6 12 Feb	45	3	17	1	1	5	41
CASEMENT AERODROME	197.3	106	13.8 10 Jan	6.5	1.8	14.8 -7.7	2.17	121	8.1 12 Feb	48	6	21	2	1	4	47
<b>CO. KERRY</b>																
VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	576.9	127	31.1 12 Dec	8.9	2.0	15.6 -2.9	1.81	116	8.4 12 Feb	69	2	6	17	4	0	50
<b>CO. KILKENNY</b>																
KILKENNY	259.8	107	18.7 9 Jan	6.2	1.4	15.9 -6.2	2.08	115	8.9 13 Feb	53	n/a	30	--	n/a	--	28
<b>CO. MAYO</b>																
BELMULLET	437.5	135	23.7 8 Dec	7.4	1.3	15.1 -3.0	1.90	117	9.2 18 Feb	69	5	8	24	4	0	59
KNOCK AIRPORT	463.6		29.4 8 Dec	5.2		12.7 -5.1	1.52		8.9 13 Feb	67	11	16	7	0	43	48
<b>CO. MONAGHAN</b>																
CLONES	301.9	121	22.3 21 Jan	5.7	1.5	14.2 -4.0	1.59	110	8.1 12 Feb	61	n/a	19	--	n/a	--	25
<b>CO. OFFALY</b>																
BIRR	275.8	132	19.8 8 Dec	6.5	1.7	15.2 -6.2	1.97	112	8.5 13 Feb	53	n/a	17	--	n/a	--	27
<b>CO. WESTMEATH</b>																
MULLINGAR II	322.7	127	24.4 27 Dec	5.8	1.7	13.9 -5.8	2.15	117	8.6 12 Feb	59	6	24	1	1	8	19
<b>CO. WEXFORD</b>																
JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	233.0	78	16.1 8 Dec	6.9	1.4	13.3 -4.3	n/a		n/a	51	n/a	5	--	n/a	--	22