



March 2019

Wet overall with above average temperatures for most

The dry and settled weather from the end of February broke at the beginning of March. The first two weeks of March were wet and often windy, dominated by Atlantic low pressure systems and associated weather fronts, giving heavy falls of rain and some snow in places. Storm Freya, a deepening area of low pressure, moved north-eastwards along the south coast of Ireland on the 3rd. This resulted in a spell of heavy rain for Munster and Leinster, which turned to snow in places. Storm Gareth, a deep Atlantic low pressure system moved close to the Northwest of Ireland on the 12th and 13th giving the windiest spell of the month. The weather stayed unsettled up to the 18th with further spells of heavy rain and showers, sometimes thundery. High Pressure to the south of Ireland became the dominant feature from the 19th and stayed close to or over Ireland up to the end on the month. This brought mostly dry conditions. It was mild at times with sunshine, but there were cloudy and cool periods also with weak weather fronts breaking through.

Rainfall: Above average at all stations

All monthly rainfall totals across the country were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 109% (monthly rainfall total of 116.2 mm) at Mace Head, Co Galway to 225% (monthly rainfall total of 177.2 mm) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from 86.2 mm (percentage of its LTA 170%) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin (*its wettest March since 2008*) to 228.5 mm (percentage of its LTA 162%) at Newport, Co Mayo (*its wettest March since 2008*). The highest daily rainfall total was 33.8 mm at Sherkin Island, Co Cork on the 5th. The number of rain days ranged from 17 days at Roches Point, Co Cork to 26 days at Finner, Co Donegal. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 13 days at Dublin (Phoenix Park), Dublin Airport, Co Dublin and Roches Point, Co Cork to 22 days at both Newport, Co Mayo and Belmullet, Co Mayo. The number of very wet days³ ranged from 2 days at Dublin (Phoenix Park), Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 11 days at Newport, Co Mayo.

Temperature: Nearly all monthly mean temperatures were above average

Nearly all mean air temperatures were above their Long-Term Average (LTA) for the month. Deviations from mean air temperature for the month ranged from -0.2 °C (6.8 °C mean temperature) at Markree, Co Sligo to 1.2 °C (7.9 °C mean temperature) at Dublin (Phoenix Park). Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 6.0 °C (0.3 °C above its LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 8.6 °C (0.2 °C above its LTA) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork. The month's highest temperature was reported at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 20th with a temperature of 17.7 °C (6.9 °C above its LTA). The month's lowest air minimum was recorded on the 31st at Markree, Co Sligo with -3.1 °C (6.4 °C below its LTA), while the lowest grass minimum was -7.8 °C reported at both Dunsany, Co Meath and Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon, both on the 31st. More than half of stations reported ground frost. The number of days with ground frost ranged from zero days at a few stations to 19 days at Claremorris, Co Mayo. More than half of stations reported air frost. The number of days with air frost ranged from zero days at a few stations to 7 days at Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

Sunshine: Above average in the South and East

Percentage of Long-Term Average (LTA) sunshine values were variable across the country. Percentage of monthly sunshine values ranged from 71% (the month's lowest monthly sunshine total of 64.7 hours) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (*its dullest March since 1998*) to 130 % (the month's highest monthly sunshine total of 134.8 hours) at Cork Airport (*its sunniest March since 2011*). The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this month was 11.9 hours at Gurteen, Co Tipperary* on the 28th. The number of dull days² ranged from 3 days at both Dublin Airport and Gurteen, Co Tipperary to 9 days at Belmullet, Co Mayo.

Wind: Windier first half of the month

Monthly mean wind speeds ranged from 7.1 knots (13.2 km/h) at Mullingar, Co Westmeath to 18.5 knots (34.3 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Gales were reported on 18 days or more during the month with strong gales reported on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th. Storm force winds were reported on the 12th. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 12 days at Mace Head, Co Galway. The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 5 days at both Mace Head, Co Galway and Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of days with storm force winds was 1 day at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Both the month's highest gust and 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at Malin Head, Co Donegal on the 12th. The highest gust was 70 knots (130 km/h) while the month's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 49 knots (91 km/h).

EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall

Highest total: 228.5 mm (162% of its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo (*its wettest March since 2008*)
Lowest total: 86.2 mm (170% of its LTA) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin (*its wettest March since 2008*)
Highest daily rainfall: 33.8 mm at Sherkin Island, Co Cork on the 5th (*its wettest March day since 1996*)

Temperature

Highest mean monthly temperature: 8.6°C at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (0.2°C above its LTA)
Lowest mean monthly temperature: 6.0°C at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (0.4°C above its LTA)
Highest Air temperature: 17.7°C (6.9 °C above its LTA) at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 20th
Lowest air temperature: -3.1°C (6.4 °C below its LTA) at Markree, Co Sligo on the 31st
Lowest grass minimum: -7.8°C at both Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon and Dunsany, Co Meath on the 31st

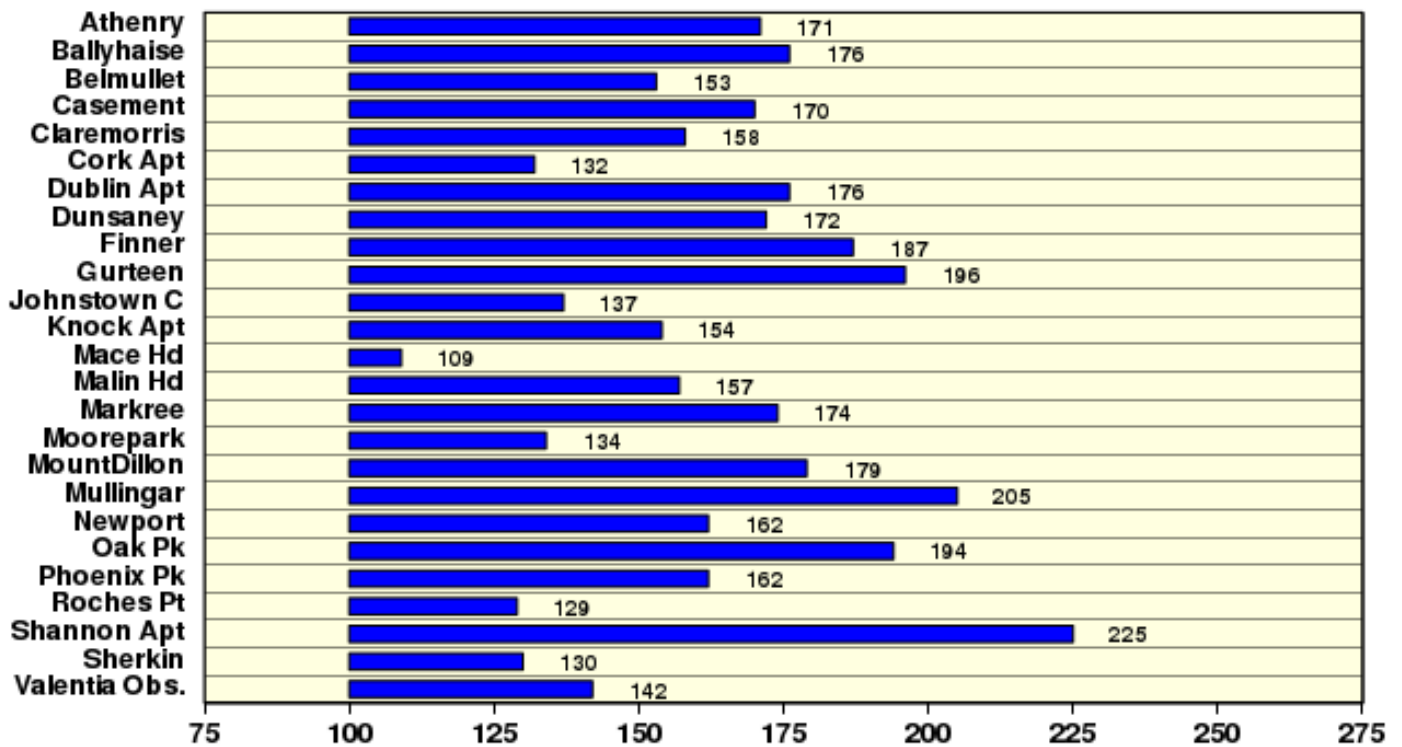
Sunshine

Highest monthly total: 134.8 hrs (daily mean 4.35 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork (*its sunniest March since 2011*)
Lowest monthly total: 64.7 hrs (daily mean 2.09 hrs/day) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (*its dullest March since 1998*)
Highest daily sunshine: 11.9 hrs at Gurteen, Co Tipperary* on the 28th

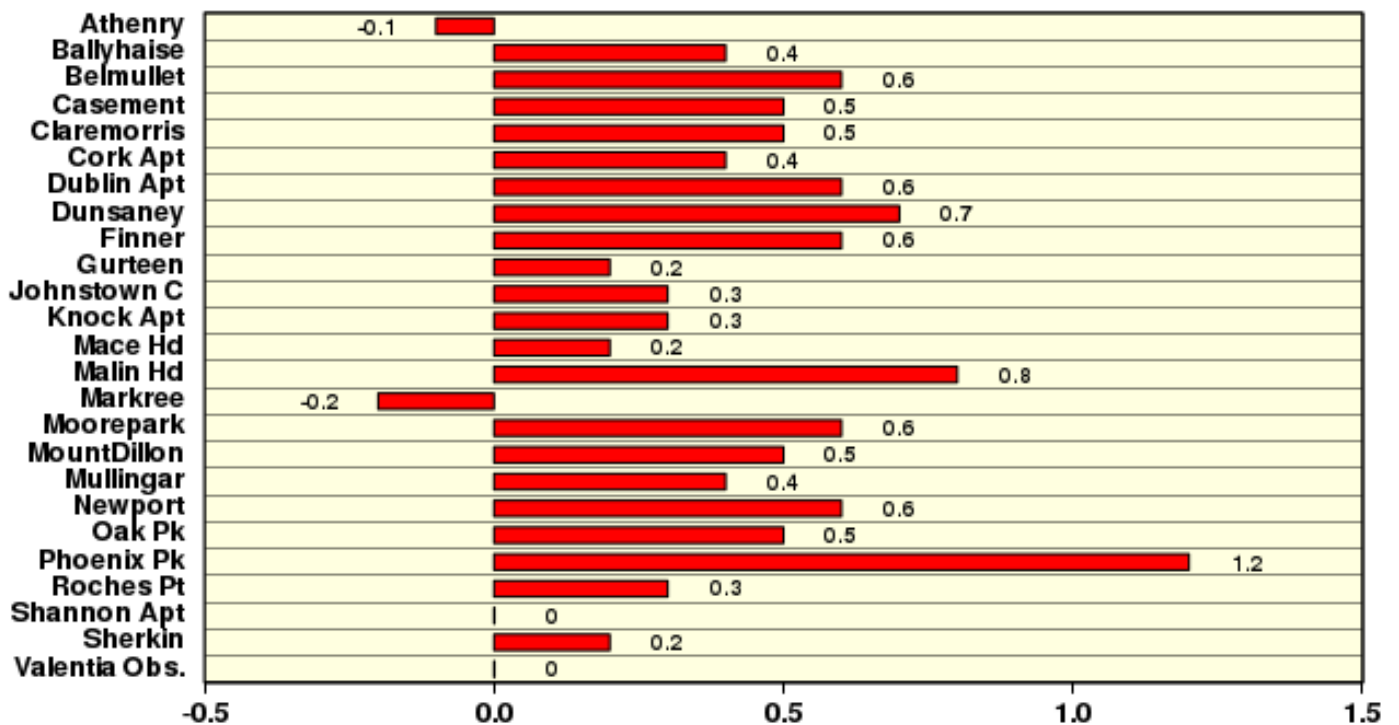
March 2019

Based on Data from 1-31 March 2019 on whole month basis

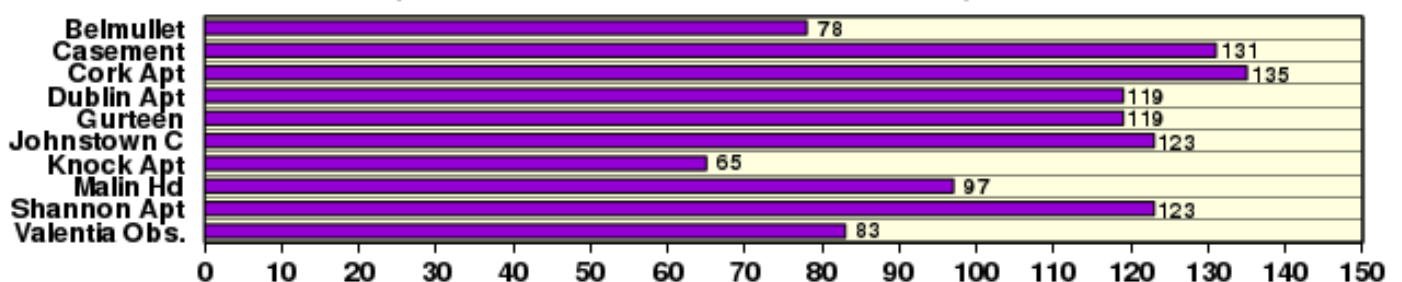
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole month basis



Temperature (°C) difference from average for period 1981-2010)



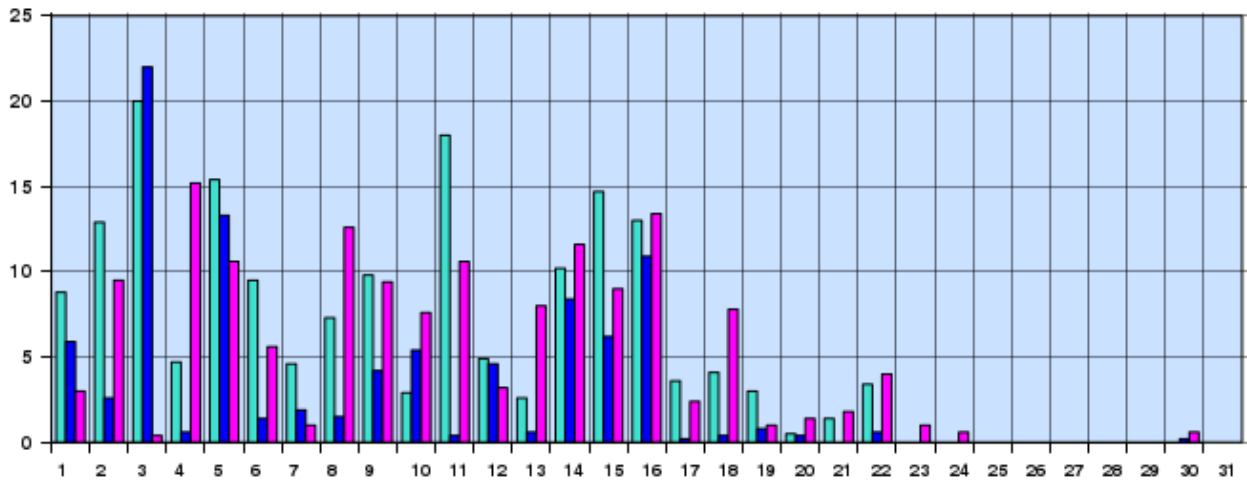
Sunshine (Number of monthly sunshine hours)



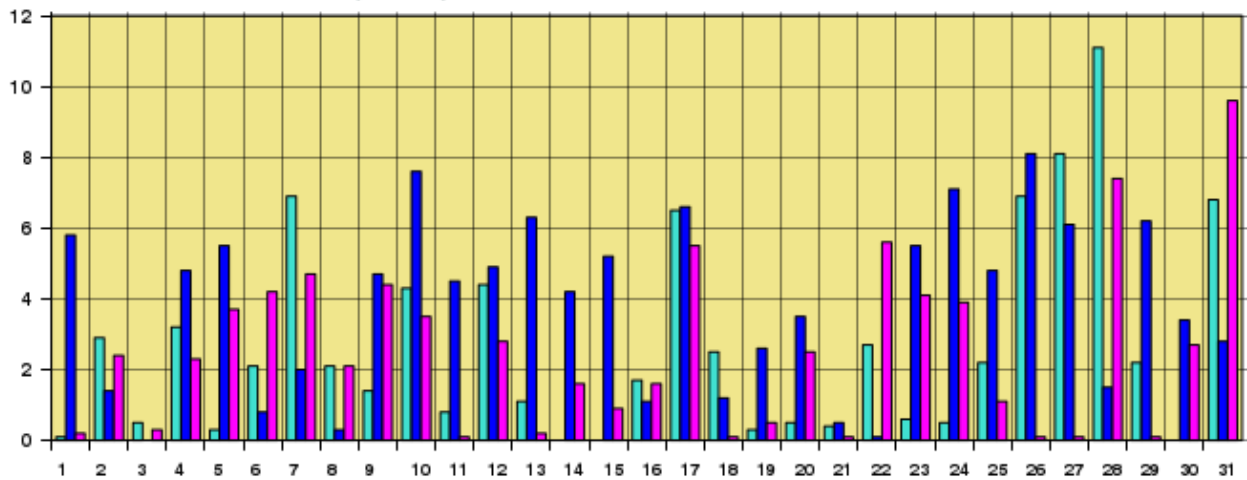
March 2019 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

Based on data from 1-31 March 2019 on a pro rata basis

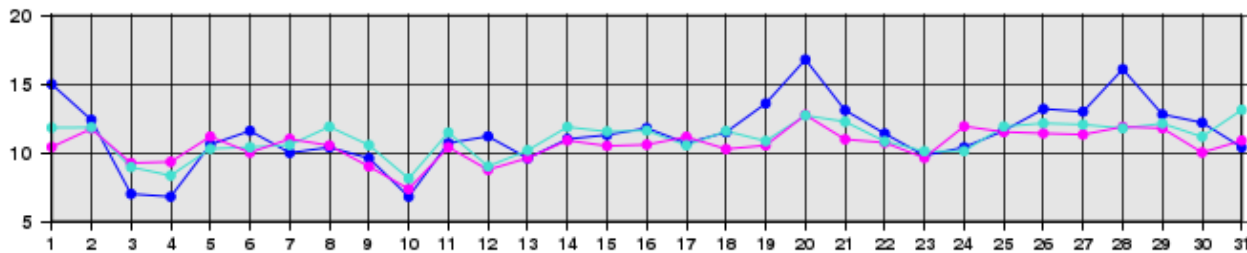
Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



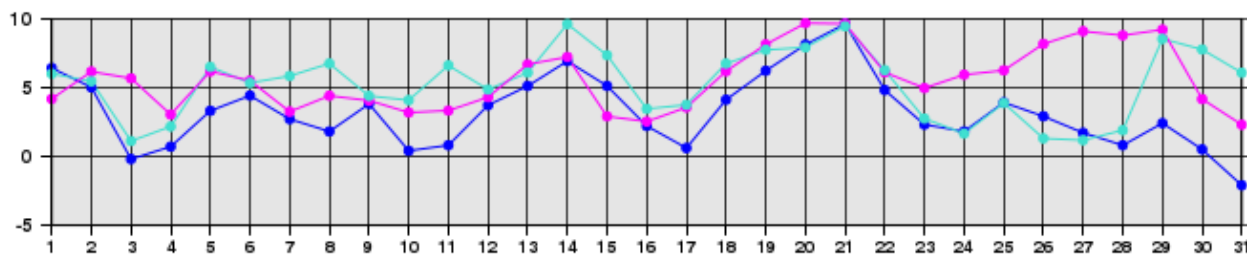
Daily sunshine values(hours)



Daily 00-24h maximum temperature (°C)



Daily 00-24h minimum temperature (°C)



- Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport - Belmullet

Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on Tuesday April 2nd 2019. This report is based on available preliminary data from 25 principal weather stations operated by Met Éireann. Synoptic station data is midnight to midnight UTC. Long-Term Averages (LTAs) and "average" refer to the period 1981-2010. ¹ Dry spell is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 1.0 mm or more of precipitation (i.e. daily tot < 1.0 mm). ² A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall. ³ A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine. ⁴ A very wet day is a day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall. *Sunshine data is from the Autosol Network. LTAs for these sites are currently not used for comparison purposes. For more information, contact Met Éireann at 01-8064200 or e-mail: enq@met.ie