



May 2019

A dry month for most, near average temperatures

The first two days of May had slack westerly winds with patchy rain. For the rest of the first week, high pressure over Greenland steered down a cool, dry, polar maritime air mass over the country in a northerly airflow. The flow veered easterly for a time on the 8th as a low pressure system moved eastwards to the south of Ireland. This brought bands of rain or showers over the country, some thundery, between the 7th and 10th. High pressure developed over Ireland from the 12th and moved towards Scandinavia, introducing a south-easterly airflow over the country. This brought a dry and settled spell of weather up to the 15th and it gradually warmed up. The high pressure system moved further away to the north, introducing a cool, unstable easterly/north-easterly airflow between the 16th and 20th, which brought bands of rain or showers in from the east. A few dry days followed as a transient area of high pressure passed over the country. The final week of the month was unsettled with Atlantic weather fronts bringing bands of rain or showers, some thundery, interspersed with some dry pleasant weather in a westerly airflow.

Rainfall: Below average for most

Nearly all rainfall totals were below their Long-Term Average (LTA) for the month. Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 24% (the month's lowest monthly rainfall total of 14.1 mm) at Oak Park, Co Carlow (*its driest May since 1991*) to 137% (monthly rainfall total of 79.9 mm) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Monthly rainfall totals were as much as 112.5 mm (119% of its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo. The highest daily rainfall was also recorded at Newport, Co Mayo with 26.8 mm on the 30th (*its wettest May day since 2004*). The number of rain days ranged from 10 days at both Oak Park, Co Carlow and Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford to 19 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 4 days at both Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 14 days at Knock Airport, Co Mayo. The number of very wet days³ ranged from no days at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 4 days at both Newport, Co Mayo and Malin Head, Co Donegal.

Temperature: Near normal

Difference from Long-Term Average (LTA) mean air temperatures were variable across the country. Deviations from mean air temperature for the month ranged from -0.7 °C (10.1 °C mean temperature) at Markree, Co Sligo to 0.7 °C (11.5 °C mean temperature) at Dublin (Phoenix Park). Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 10.0 °C (0.3 °C below its LTA) at Malin Head, Co Donegal to 11.8 °C (0.2 °C below its LTA) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare. All the month's highest and lowest temperatures were recorded at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon with both lowest air and grass minimum reported on the 5th, with the minimum air temperature of -3.1 °C while the lowest grass minimum was -7.3 °C. The highest maximum was reported on the 15th with a temperature of 21.9 °C. All stations reported ground frost during the month. The number of days with ground frost ranged from 2 days at both Malin Head, Co Donegal and Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford to 15 days at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon. Less than half of stations reported air frost. The number of days with air frost ranged from zero days at a few stations to 5 days at Markree, Co Sligo.

Sunshine: Sunniest in the Southwest

Percentage of monthly sunshine values ranged from 85% (monthly sunshine total of 149.1 hours) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 111% (the month's highest monthly sunshine total of 214.1 hours) at Cork Airport (*its sunniest May since 2007*). Monthly sunshine totals were lowest at Dublin Airport* with 139.0 hours (No LTA comparison*). The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this month was 14.6 hours at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Johnstown Castle*, Co Wexford on the 21st and 13th. The number of dull days² ranged from 3 at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Cork Airport to 6 at Gurteen, Co Tipperary.

Wind: Not significantly strong

Monthly mean wind speeds ranged from 4.9 knots (9.1 km/h) at Ballyhaise, Co Cavan and Mullingar, Co Westmeath to 11.3 knots (20.9 km/h) at Mace Head, Co Galway. There were no days with gales, strong gales or storms reported this month. The month's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at both Roche's Point, Co Cork and Malin Head, Co Donegal on the 27th and 26th respectively, with 29 knots (54km/h). The highest gust was 39 knots (72 km/h) reported at Malin Head, Co Donegal on the 26th.

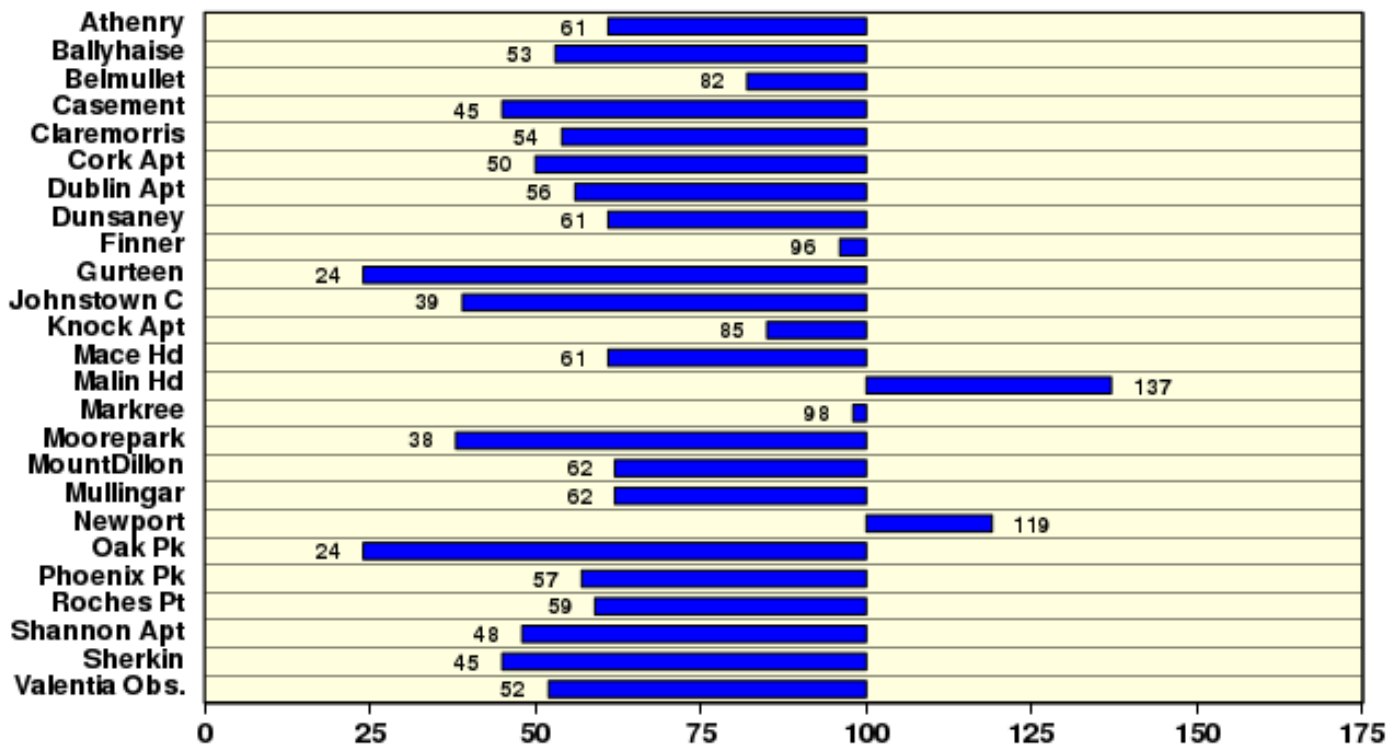
EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall	Highest total: 112.5 mm (119% of its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo Lowest total: 14.1 mm (24% of its LTA) at Oak Park, Co Carlow (<i>its driest May since 1991</i>) Highest daily rainfall: 26.8 mm at Newport, Co Mayo on the 30th (<i>its wettest May day since 2004</i>)
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 11.8°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare (0.2°C below its LTA) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 10.0°C at Malin Head, Co Donegal (0.3°C below its LTA) Highest Air temperature: 21.9°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on the 15th Lowest air temperature: -3.1°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on the 5th Lowest grass minimum: -7.3°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on the 5th
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 214.1 hrs (daily mean 6.91 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork (<i>its sunniest May since 2007</i>) Lowest monthly total: 139.0 hrs (daily mean 4.48 hrs/day) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin Highest daily sunshine: 14.6 hrs at both Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford* on the 13th and Shannon Airport, Co Clare on the 21st

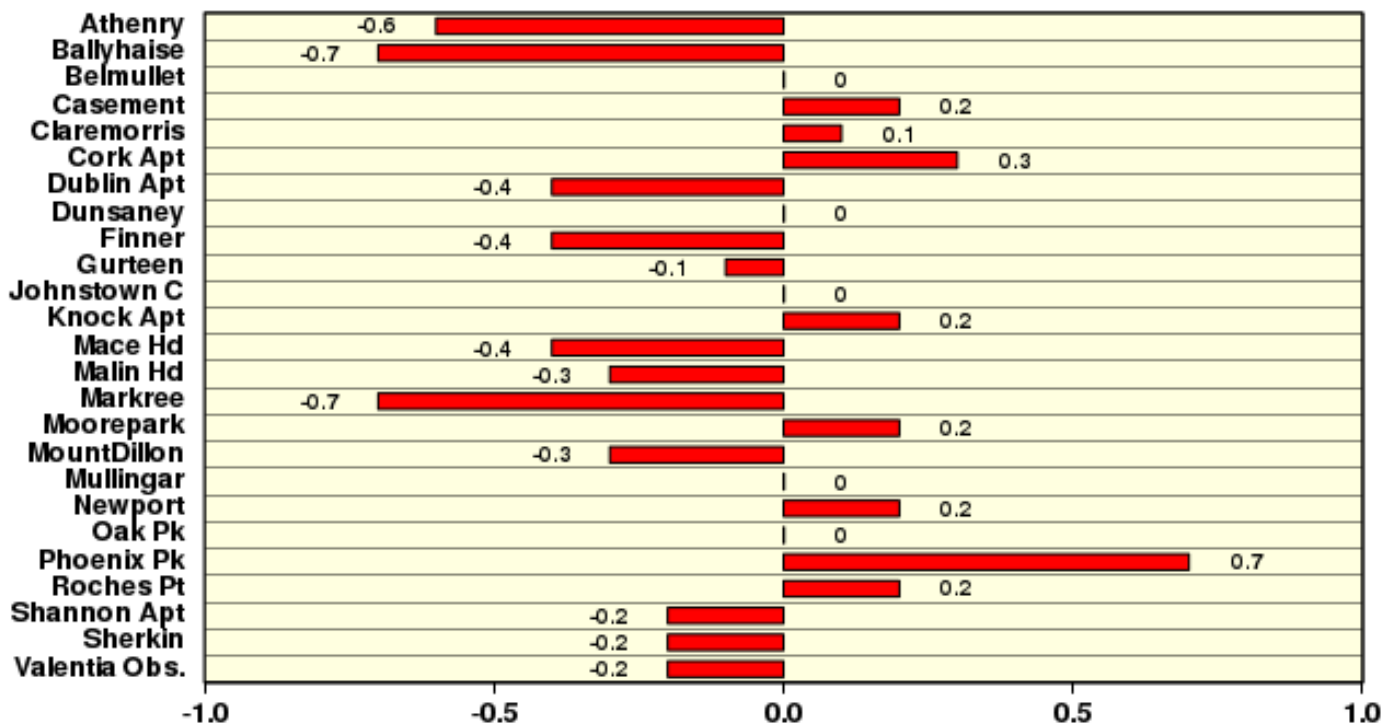
May 2019

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

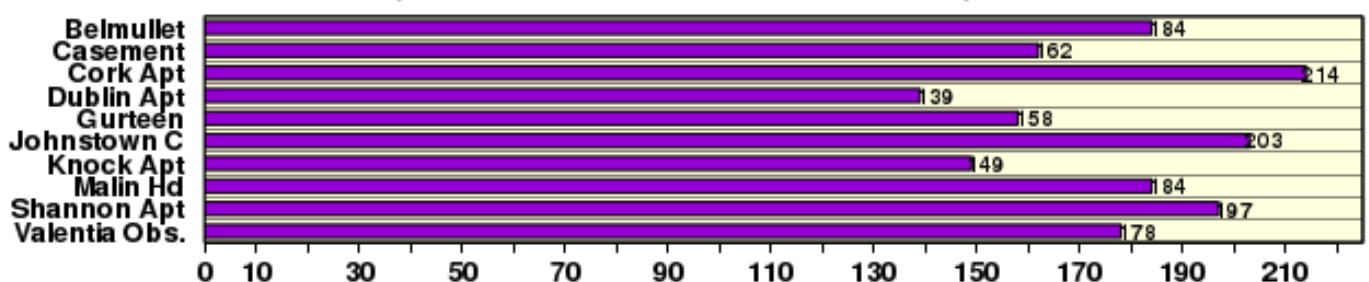
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole month basis



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



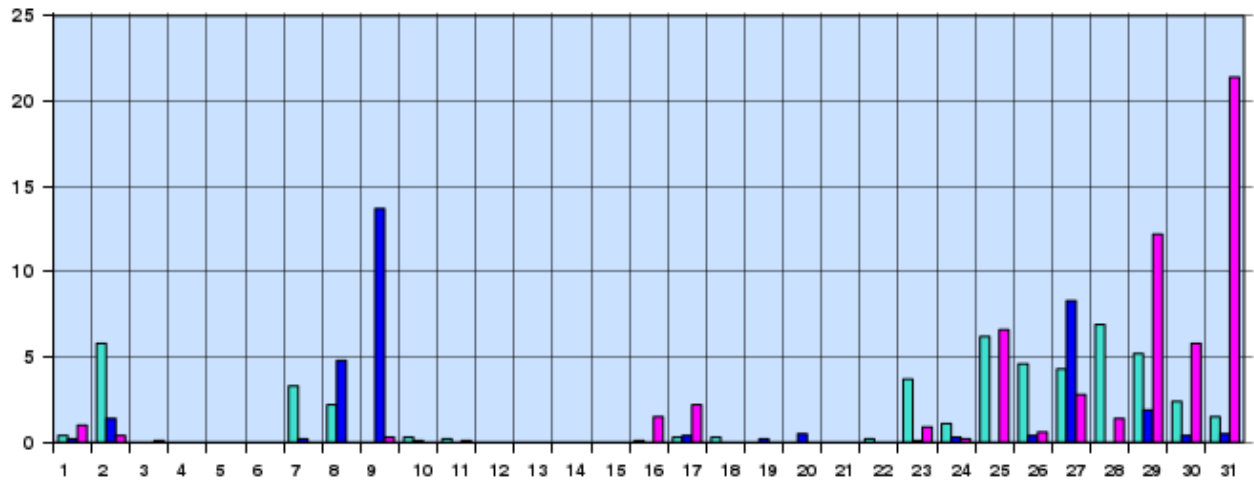
Sunshine (Number of monthly sunshine hours)



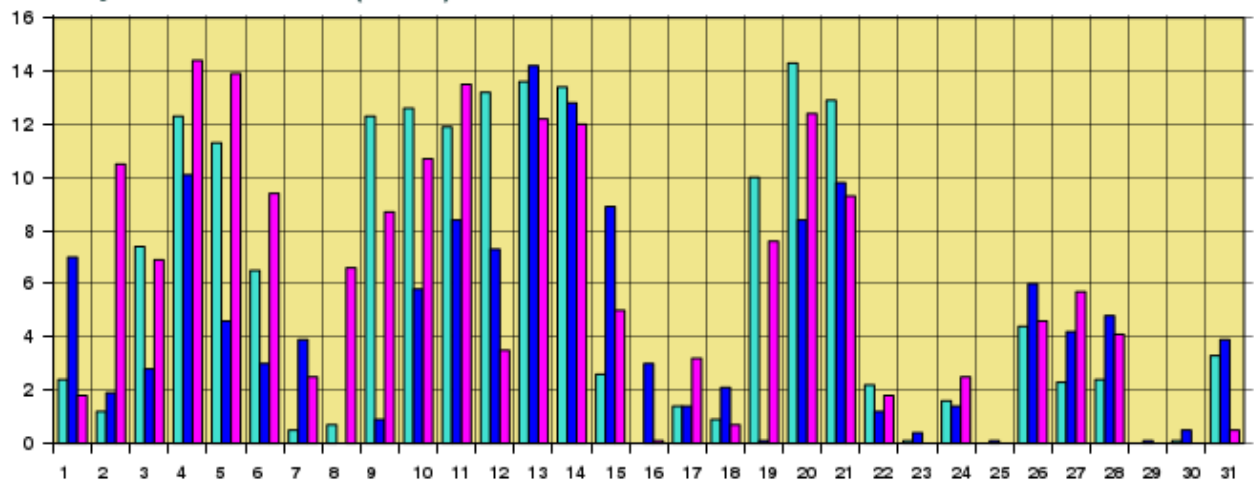
May 2019 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

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

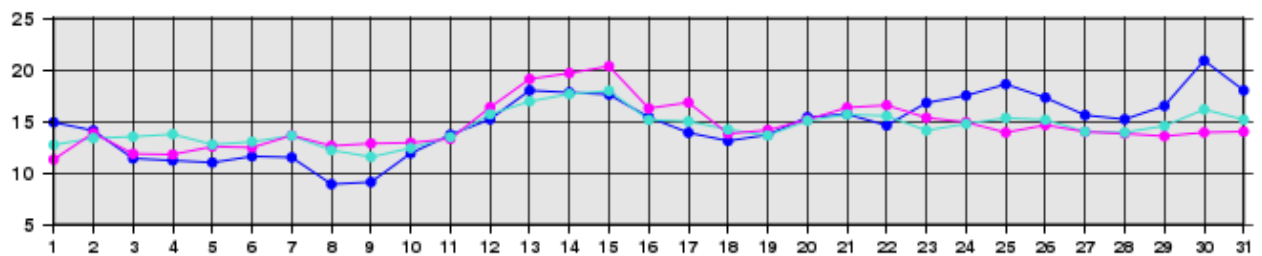
Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



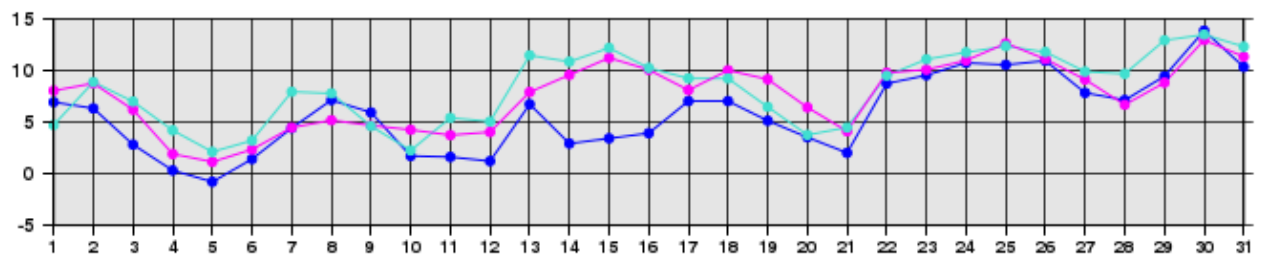
Daily sunshine values(hours)



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 Wednesday June 5th 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. ¹Dry spell¹ 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). ²A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall. ³A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine. ⁴A 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