



Spring 2019

(March, April, May)

Wet and mild overall, cooler and drier May

A mobile westerly regime prevailed across the country for most of March with Atlantic low-pressure systems and associated fronts never too far away. Storm Freya moved along the South coast of Ireland on the 3rd giving heavy falls of rain and snow in places. Storm Gareth, a deep Atlantic low-pressure system brought strong winds on the 12th and 13th. It settled down for the final third of the month with high pressure building from the South, keeping it mostly dry. The first week of April saw low pressure move in from the northwest, introducing a cool, unstable air mass over the country. A Scandinavia high-pressure system brought mostly dry conditions for the second and third weeks, including the Easter weekend, in a mostly easterly airflow, apart from a few days between the 13th and 15th when Atlantic weather fronts pushed in and gave some heavy falls of rain. The month finished unsettled, with Storm Hannah bringing the windiest spell of the season on the 26th and 27th. The first week of May was mostly dry and cool in a slack northerly airflow. Low pressure to the south brought a few unsettled days between the 7th and 10th, but most of the second week was dry and settled with high pressure building over Ireland and moving towards Scandinavia. A cool unstable easterly airflow brought bands of rain or showers from the East between the 16th and 20th. It settled down again for a few days but the end of the month finished unsettled in a westerly airflow with Atlantic weather fronts crossing the country from time to time.

Rainfall: Above average nearly everywhere

Nearly all rainfall totals were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of rainfall values ranged from 96% (rainfall total of 252.9 mm) at Mace Head, Co Galway to 136% (rainfall total of 276.3 mm) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare. Rainfall totals ranged from 182.1 mm (113% of its LTA) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 441.7 mm (133% of its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo. The highest daily rainfall total was 54.6 mm at Cork Airport on the 15th April (*its wettest spring day on record (length 56 years)*). Roches Point, Co Cork also had its wettest spring day on record (*length 13 years*) on the 15th April with 49.8 mm. The number of rain days ranged from 45 days at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 61 days at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 31 days at a few stations to 49 days at Knock Airport, Co Mayo. The number of very wet days³ ranged from 3 days at Casement Aerodrome to 20 days at Newport, Co Mayo.

Temperature: Warmer than average in most places

Nearly all mean air temperatures were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). Deviations from mean air temperature ranged from -0.1 °C (8.6°C mean temperature) at Markree, Co Sligo to 0.8 °C (9.4 °C mean temperature) at Dublin (Phoenix Park). Mean temperatures ranged from 8.2 °C (0.5°C above its LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 10.0°C at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (0.1°C above LTA). The lowest temperatures were recorded on the 5th April with the lowest air minimum reported at Fermoy (Moore Park), Co Cork with a temperature of -3.4 °C and the lowest grass minimum reported at Cork Airport with -8.6 °C (*its lowest grass min for spring since 2001*). The highest maximum was reported on the 20th April at Carlow (Oak Park) with a temperature of 22.9 °C. All stations reported ground frost. The number of days with ground frost ranged from 4 days at Sherkin Island, Co Cork to 49 days at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon. More than half of stations reported air frost. The number of days with air frost ranged from zero days at several stations to 11 days at both Markree, Co Sligo and Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon.

Sunshine: Above average in the South and Southwest, below average elsewhere

Sunshine totals varied across the country. Percentage of sunshine values ranged from 77% of Long-Term Average (LTA) (the lowest sunshine total of 317.1 hours) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 111 % of Long-Term Average (LTA) (the highest sunshine total of 504.5 hours) at Cork Airport. The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded was 14.6 hours at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Johnstown Castle*, Co Wexford on the 21st May and 13th May. The number of dull days² ranged from 13 days at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 20 days at a few stations.

Wind: Three named storms

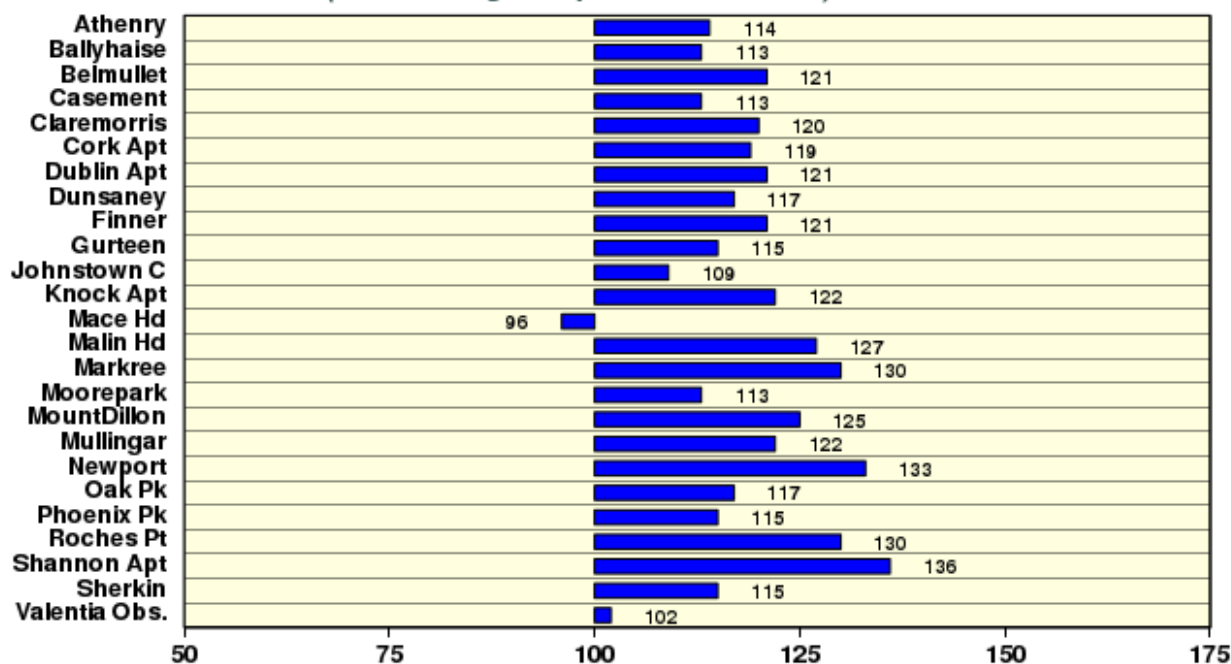
Mean wind speeds ranged from 6.3 knots (11.7 km/h) at Mullingar, Co Westmeath to 15.0 knots (27.8 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Gales were reported on numerous days with strong gales reported on 5 days or more. Storm force winds were reported on the 12th March due to Storm Gareth and the 26th April due to Storm Hannah. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 18 days at Mace Head, Co Galway. The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 8 days at Mace Head, Co Galway. The highest gust was reported at Malin Head, Co Donegal on the 12th March with 70 knots (130 km/h). The highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 52 knots (96 km/h) at Mace Head, Co Galway on the 26th April. The strongest winds from Storm Freya affected the UK mostly. The highest 10-minute mean wind speed associated with Storm Freya on the 3rd of March was 34 knots (63 km/h) and the highest gust was 44 knots (82 km/h), both at Sherkin Island, Co Cork.

EXTREME VALUES FOR SPRING AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

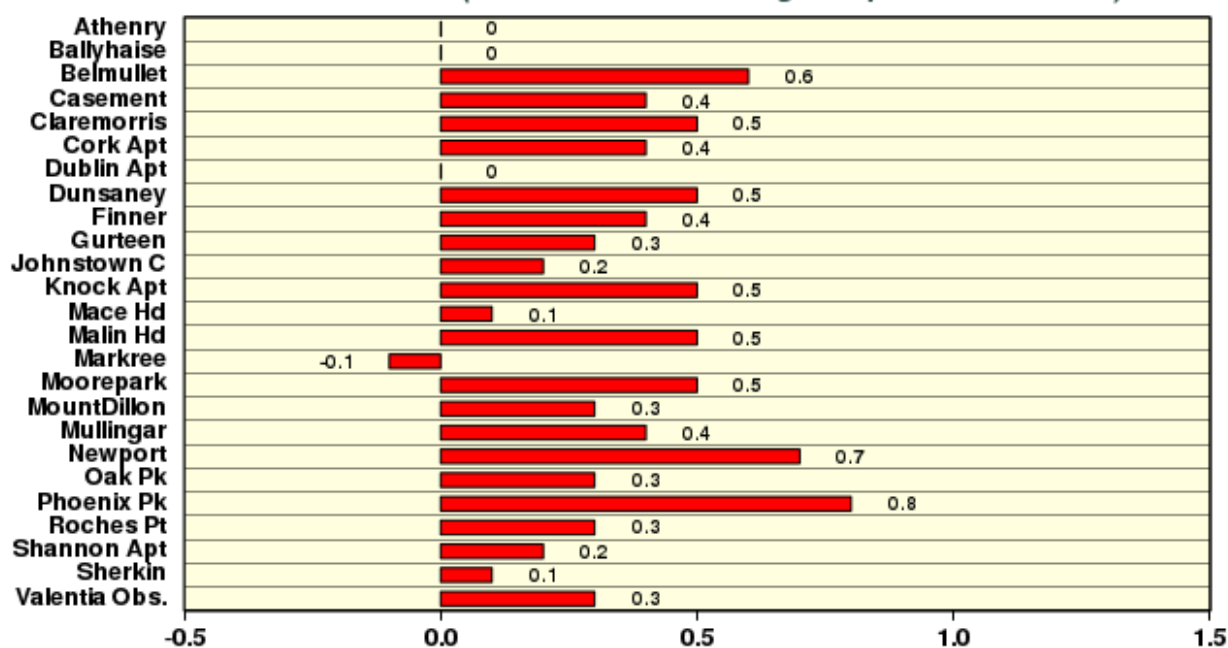
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 441.7 mm (133% of LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo Lowest seasonal total: 182.1 mm (113% of LTA) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin Highest daily rainfall: 54.6 mm at Cork Airport, Co Cork on April 15th (<i>its wettest spring day on record (length 56 years)</i>)
Temperature	Highest seasonal mean temperature: 10.0°C at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (0.1°C above LTA) Lowest seasonal mean temperature: 8.2°C at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (0.5°C above LTA) Highest Air temperature: 22.9°C at Oak Park, Co Carlow on April 20th Lowest air temperature: -3.4°C at Moore Park, Co Cork on April 5th Lowest grass minimum: -8.6°C at Cork Airport, Co Cork on April 5th (<i>its lowest grass min for spring since 2001</i>)
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 504.5 hrs (daily mean 5.48 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork Lowest seasonal total: 317.1 hrs (daily mean 3.45 hrs/day) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (<i>its dullest spring since 2014</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 14.6 hrs at both Johnstown Castle*, Co Wexford on May 13th and Shannon Airport, Co Clare on May 21st

SPRING 2019

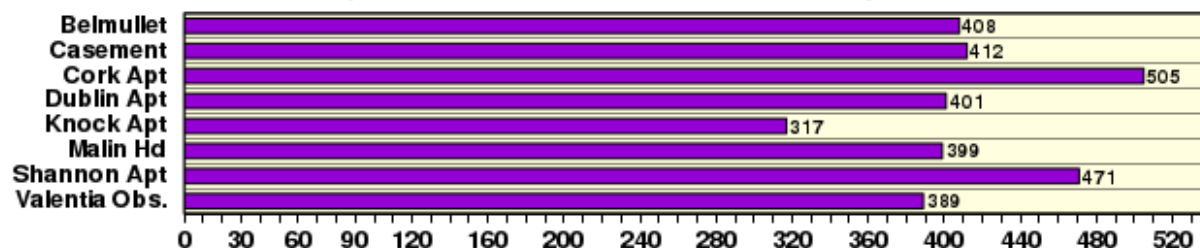
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole season basis



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



Sunshine (Number of seasonal sunshine hours)



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on Thursday June 6th 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. ‘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). ¹A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall. ²A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine. ³A 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