



April 2020

Very dry, mild and sunny

The very dry weather, which started in the final third of March, with high pressure dominating, continued through most of April. This led to absolute drought⁴, partial drought⁵ and dry spell⁶ conditions being reported at many stations between the 18th March and the 29th April, most especially in the Northwest and East. Atlantic weather fronts broke through from the south and southwest at times, such as on Sunday the 5th, between Friday the 10th and Easter Sunday the 12th and between Friday the 17th and Sunday the 19th, but pressure stayed relatively high and rainfall amounts relatively low, apart from a few heavy falls in the South and Southwest. It was cool and cloudy at times, especially at the start of the month, in a northerly airflow, when high pressure was located to the west of Ireland. There were also numerous warm sunny days, especially during the mid-week periods, when high pressure built directly over or to the northeast of Ireland. It was warmest in the western half of the country during these periods, as the winds were mostly from the east off a cool Irish sea. The weather finally broke on the 29th as a complex area of low pressure brought active weather fronts across the country from the south and southwest, followed by showers on the 30th.

Rainfall: Below average everywhere, lowest in the East and Northwest

All monthly rainfall totals across the country were below their Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 21% (monthly rainfall total of 16.3 mm) at both Markree, Co Sligo and Finner, Co Donegal to 99% (monthly rainfall total of 64.8 mm) at Moore Park, Co Cork. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from 12.8 mm (24% of its LTA) at Dublin Airport to 72.3 mm (95% of its LTA) at Cork Airport, Co Cork. Newport and Belmullet, Co Mayo had their driest April for 40 years, while Malin Head, Co Donegal had its driest April for 46 years. Knock Airport, Co Mayo had its driest April on record (record length 23 years). The highest daily rainfall total was 25.6 mm at both Sherkin Island, Co Cork and Athenry, Co Galway both on the 29th. The number of rain days ranged from 7 days at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 13 days at both Roche's Point, Co Cork and Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 4 days at a few stations to 9 days at Moore Park, Co Cork. The number of very wet days³ ranged from zero days at Dublin (Phoenix Park) to 3 days at a few stations in the Southwest.

Temperature: Above average everywhere, highest in Mayo

All mean air temperatures across the country were above their Long-Term Average (LTA) for the month. Deviations from mean air temperature ranged from 0.4 °C (8.5 °C, the month's lowest mean temperature) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin to 2.0 °C (9.3 °C and 11.0 °C mean temperature) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo and Newport, Co Mayo respectively. The month's highest mean temperature was 11.1 °C (2.0 °C above its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo. The month's highest temperature was reported at Newport, Co Mayo on the 24th with a temperature of 21.6 °C (8.5 °C above its LTA). Both the month's lowest air and grass minimum temperature were recorded on the 14th at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon. The lowest air minimum was -3.2 °C while the lowest grass minimum was -9.6 °C. All stations reported ground frost during the month. The number of days with ground frost ranged from 1 day at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 16 days at both Markree, Co Sligo and Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon. More than half of stations reported air frost. The number of days with air frost ranged from zero days at a few stations to 6 days at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin.

Sunshine: Above average everywhere, lowest in Munster

All available sunshine totals were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of monthly sunshine values ranged from 103% (the month's lowest monthly sunshine total of 164.2 hours) at Cork Airport, Co Cork to 124% (monthly sunshine total of 188.0 hours) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin. Monthly sunshine totals were as much as 204.4 hours (No LTA comparison*) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this month was 13.9 hours at Malin Head, Co Donegal on the 20th. The number of dull days² ranged from 1 day at Malin Head, Co Donegal to 6 days at Cork Airport.

Wind: Not significantly strong

Monthly mean wind speeds ranged from 5.4 knots (10.0 km/h) at Moore Park, Co Cork to 12.4 knots (23.0 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. There were zero days with gales, strong gales or storm force winds reported this month. The month's highest gust was reported at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry on the 5th with 50 knots (93 km/h). The month's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 33 knots (61 km/h), reported at Malin Head, Co Donegal on both the 4th and 5th.

EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall

Highest total: 72.3 mm at Cork Airport, Co Cork (95% of its LTA)
Lowest total: 12.8 mm at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (24% of its LTA)
Highest daily rainfall: 25.6 mm at both Sherkin Island, Co Cork and Athenry, Co Galway on Wed 29th

Temperature

Highest mean monthly temperature: 11.1°C at Newport, Co Mayo (2.0°C above its LTA)
Lowest mean monthly temperature: 8.5°C at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (0.4°C above its LTA)
Highest Air temperature: 21.6°C at Newport, Co Mayo (8.5°C above its LTA) on Fri 24th
Lowest air temperature: -3.2°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon (6.8°C below its LTA) on Tue 14th
Lowest grass minimum: -9.6°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on Tue 14th

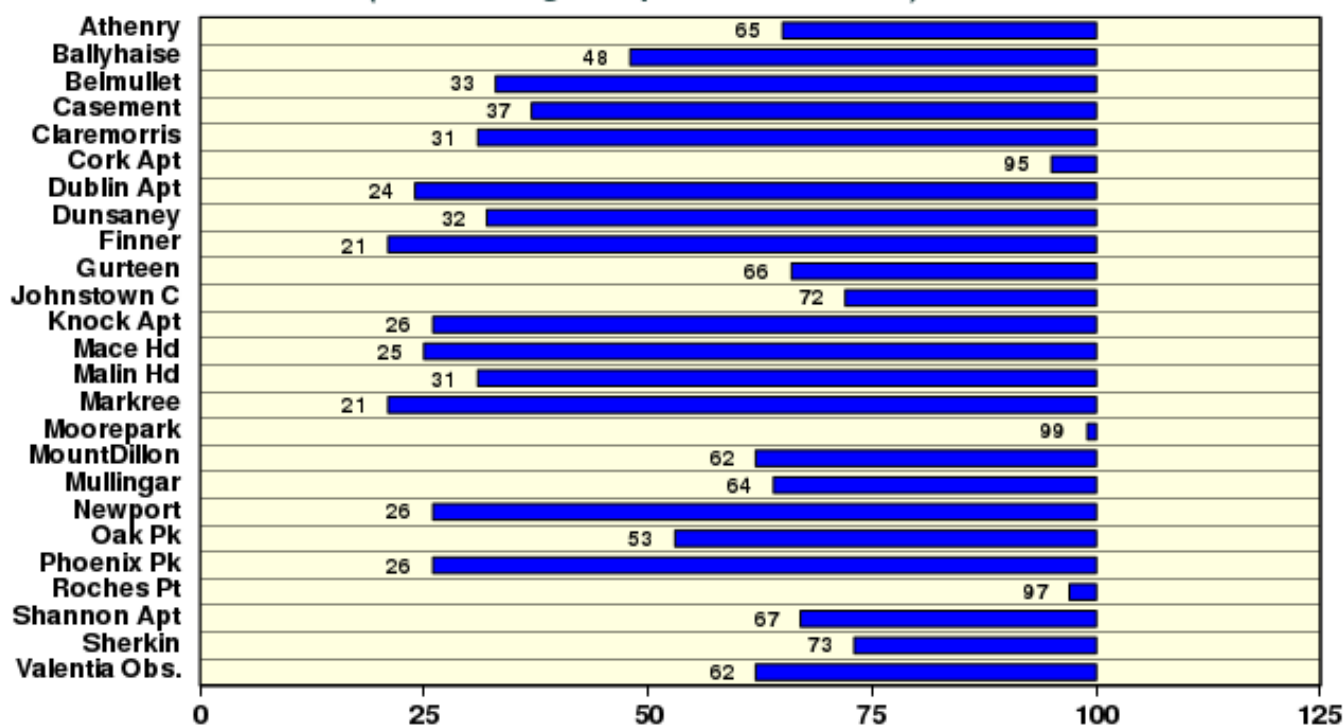
Sunshine

Highest monthly total: 204.4 hrs (daily mean 6.81 hrs/day) at Malin Head*, Co Donegal
Lowest monthly total: 164.2 hrs (daily mean 5.47 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork
Highest daily sunshine: 13.9 hours at Malin Head*, Co Donegal on Mon 20th

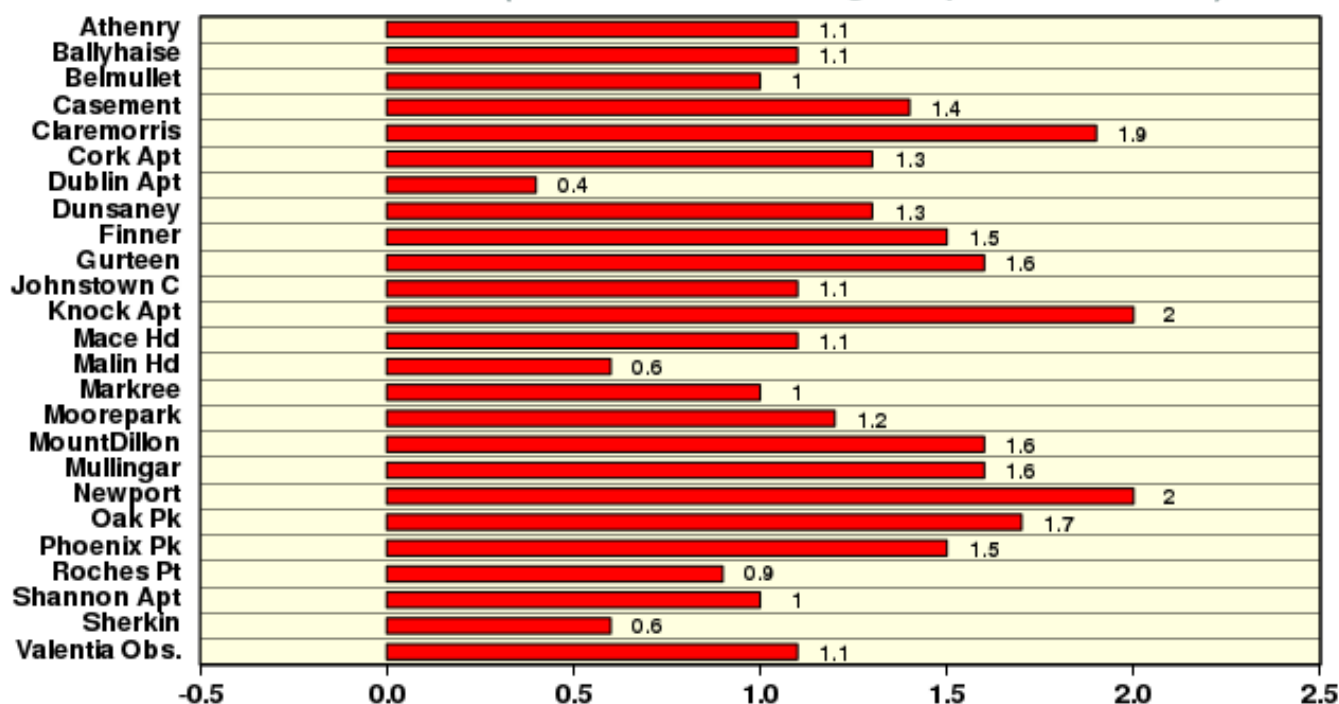
April 2020

Based on Data from 1-30 April 2020 on whole month basis

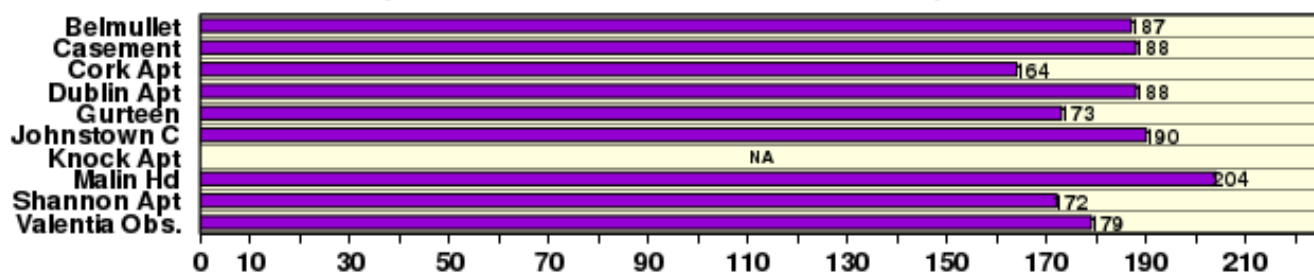
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole month basis



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



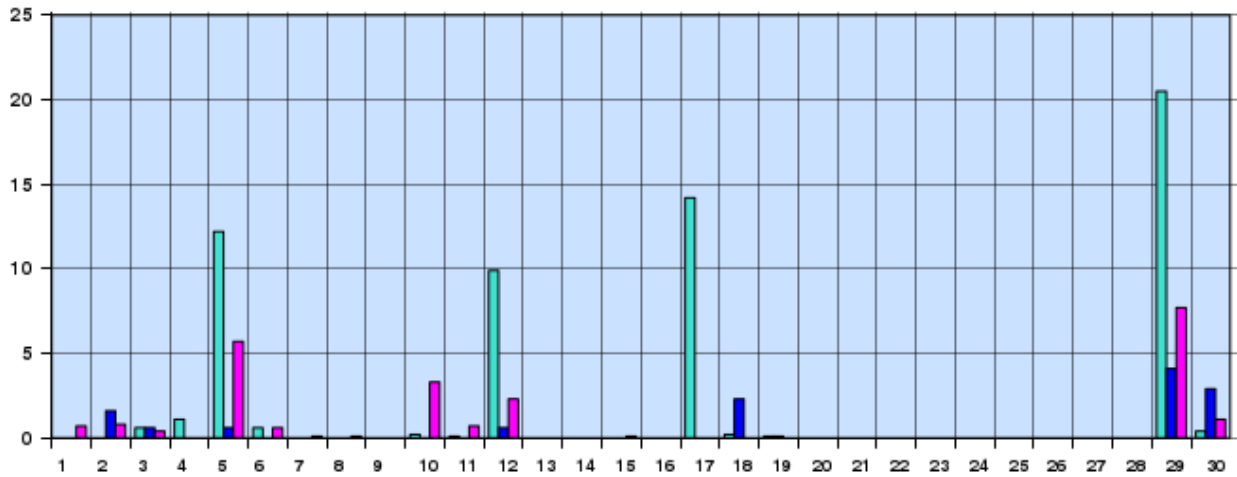
Sunshine (Number of monthly sunshine hours)



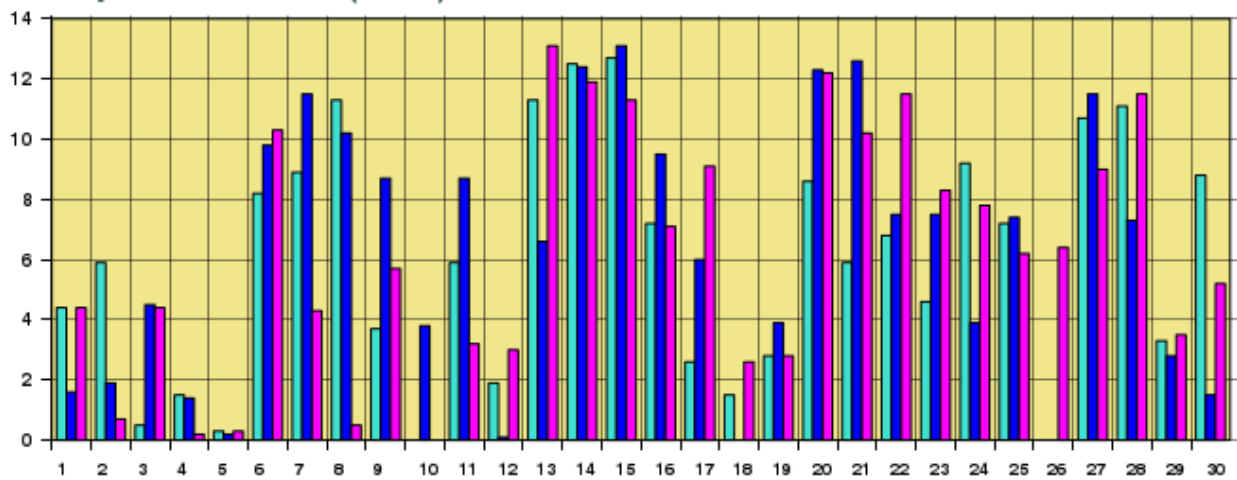
April 2020 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

Based on data from 1-30 April 2020 on a pro rata basis

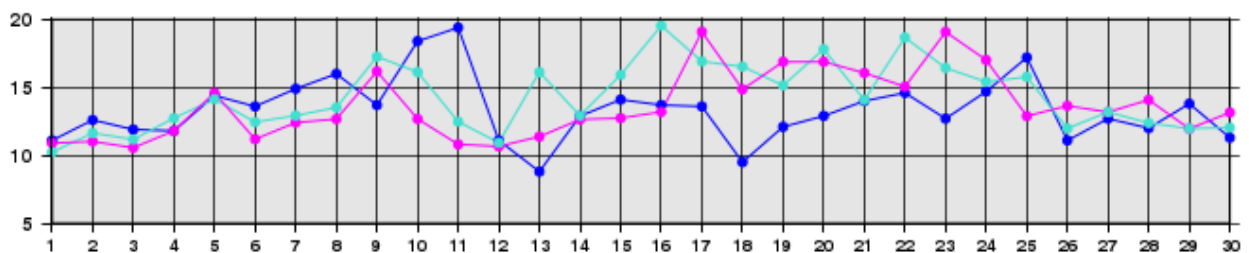
Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



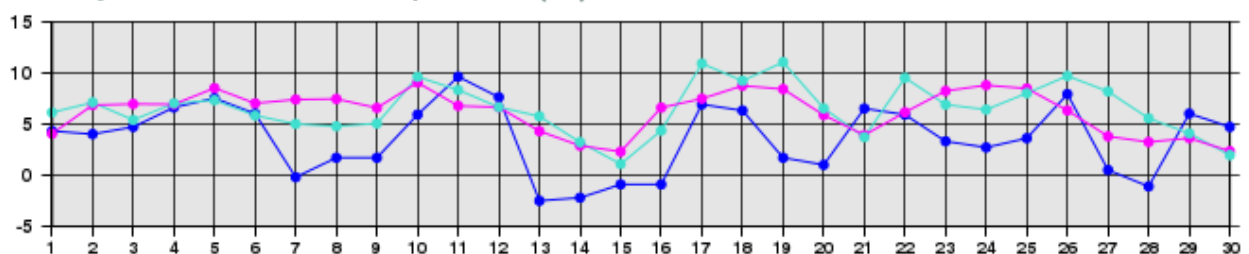
Daily sunshine values(hours)



Daily 00-24h maximum temperature (°C)



Daily 00-24h minimum temperature (°C)



- Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport - Belmullet

Source: newR/WXBULL/CurrentMonthlyTemp.R Plotted Fri May 1 11:53:11 2020

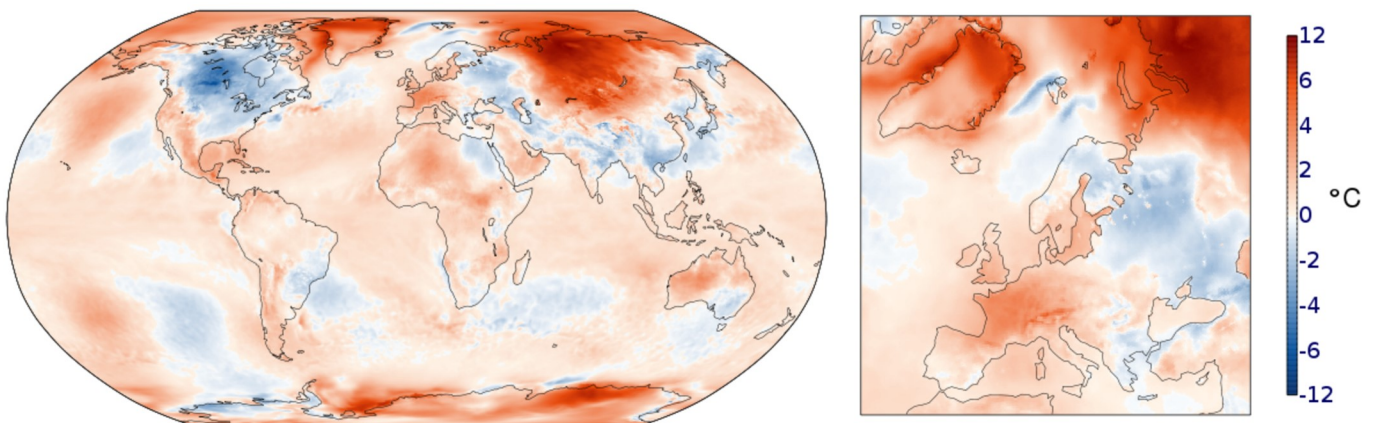
Issued by Met Éireann on Tuesday 5th May 2020. This report is based on available preliminary data from 25 principal weather stations operated by Met Éireann. Synoptic station data is midnight to midnight UTC. Long-Term Averages (LTAs) and “average” refer to the period 1981-2010. ‘Dry spell’ is a period 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. ⁴An absolute drought is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 0.2 mm or more of precipitation. ⁵A partial drought is a period of at least 29 consecutive days, the mean daily rainfall of which does not exceed 0.2 mm. ⁶A dry spell is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 1.0 mm or more of precipitation. *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

April 2020 Global

Surface air temperature for April 2020

Globally, April 2020 was on a par with the previous warmest April on record (April 2016), with temperatures particularly above average over northern and central Eurasia, parts of Greenland and Antarctica, but markedly below average over large parts of North America. In Europe, temperatures were well above average in a number of western countries, but below average in the northeast.

Surface air temperature anomaly for April 2020 relative to 1981-2010

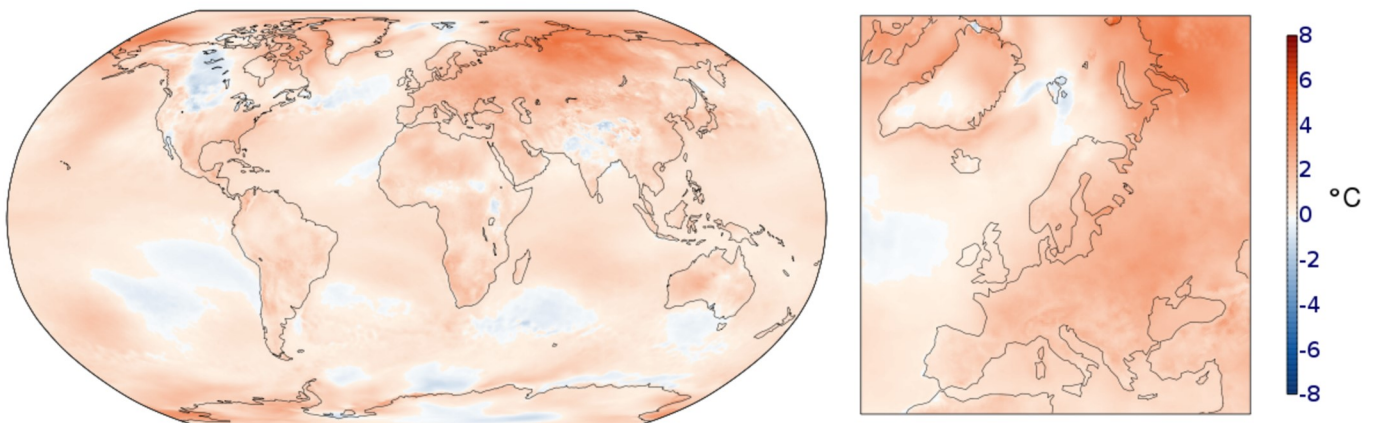


Surface air temperature anomaly for April 2020 relative to the April average for the period 1981-2010. Data source: ERA5. Credit: Copernicus Climate Change Service/ECMWF. <https://climate.copernicus.eu/surface-air-temperature-april-2020>

The last 12 months - May 2019 to April 2020

Temperatures averaged over the twelve-month period from May 2019 to April 2020 were above the 1981-2010 average over most land and ocean areas. They were well above average to the north of Alaska, over the far northeast of Canada, over central northern Siberia and the Arctic Ocean to the north, and over the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. They were below average over a few land areas, particularly central Canada, and some oceanic areas, predominantly in the southern hemisphere

Surface air temperature anomaly for May 2019 to April 2020 relative to 1981-2010



Surface air temperature anomaly for May 2019 to April 2020 relative to the average for 1981-2010. Data source: ERA5. Credit: Copernicus Climate Change Service/ECMWF. <https://climate.copernicus.eu/surface-air-temperature-april-2020>