



Spring 2022

(March, April & May)

Dry and mild overall, sunny in March and April

Overall spring 2022 was dry and mild with all three months having mostly above average temperatures and below average rainfall. March and April were very sunny months, but May was rather dull. High pressure to the east over mainland Europe kept Ireland on the warmer southern side of the jetstream, with the airflow between southerly and easterly through most of March, the driest of the spring months. March finished cool across northern Europe as the jetstream shifted to the south and high pressure built to the northwest of Ireland. High pressure, mostly to the north of Ireland, continued to influence the weather through April. However, there were several periods where low pressure encroached from the west bringing frontal rain or showers. High pressure to the north led to an easterly airflow for the final third of April. May was a warm, relatively dry month overall, with a lot of cloud. The airflow was mostly between southerly and westerly, coming off the Atlantic where sea surface temperatures were above normal. High pressure to the south and east of Ireland dominated at times, interspersed with periods where low pressure to the west and northwest brought bands of rain or showers across the country.

Rainfall: Below average everywhere

All seasonal rainfall totals across the country were below their 1981-2010 Long-Term Average (LTA) for spring. Percentage of seasonal rainfall values ranged from 63% (seasonal rainfall total of 162.5 mm) at Cork Airport, Co Cork (*its driest spring since 2000*) to 91% (seasonal rainfall total of 146.6 mm) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin. Seasonal rainfall totals ranged from 122.2 mm (74% of its LTA) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin to 258.8 mm (78% of its LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo. The highest daily rainfall total was 41.5 mm at Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford on Wednesday 9th March (*its highest daily fall for spring on record, record length 81 years*). The number of rain days ranged from 36 days at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 59 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 23 days at Sherkin Island, Co Cork to 44 days at both Markree, Co Sligo and Finner, Co Donegal. The number of very wet days³ ranged from 2 days at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 8 days at both Newport, Co Mayo and Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry. Nineteen stations had dry spells⁶ during spring lasting between 15 and 21 days, with Sherkin Island, Co Cork having two dry spells⁶. Six stations had absolute droughts⁴ between 18th March and 2nd April lasting between 15 and 16 days. These were Shannon Airport, Co Clare, Athenry, Co Galway, Mace Head, Co Galway, Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry, Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon and Markree, Co Sligo. Roches Point, Co Cork had its driest spring on record with 135.3 mm (68% of its LTA) (record length 17 years).

Temperature: Above average everywhere, warmest in the West and Southwest

All mean air temperatures across the country were above their LTA for the season. Deviations from mean air temperature ranged from 0.2 °C (8.7 °C, 8.9 °C mean temperature) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin and Markree, Co Sligo respectively to 1.2 °C (9.8 °C mean temperature) at Phoenix Park, Co Dublin. Mean temperatures for the season ranged from 8.7 °C (0.2 °C above its LTA) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin to 10.2 °C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare, Sherkin Island, Co Cork, Newport, Co Mayo and Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (0.5°C, 0.4°C, 0.9°C and 0.6°C above their LTA respectively). The season's highest temperature was reported at Shannon Airport, Co Clare on Saturday 28th May with a temperature of 21.0 °C. The season's lowest air and grass minimum was recorded at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon with the lowest air temperature reported on Sunday 6th March with -5.7 °C while the lowest grass minimum was -11.9 °C reported on Thursday 31st March. All stations reported ground frost during the season. The number of days with ground frost ranged from 15 days at Belmullet, Co Mayo to 58 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 a few stations to 29 days at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon.

Sunshine: Above average, sunny in March and April, dull in May

All available sunshine totals were above their LTA for the season. Percentage of seasonal sunshine values ranged from 120% (seasonal sunshine total of 522.3 hours) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 126% (the season's highest seasonal sunshine total of 555.6 hours) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin. Seasonal sunshine totals were lowest at Belmullet, Co Mayo with 497.5 hours (No LTA comparison*). The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this season was 15.2 hours at Cork Airport, Co Cork on Saturday 28th May. The number of dull days ranged from 11 days at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 16 days at both Gurteen, Co Tipperary and Belmullet, Co Mayo.

Wind: Gales and strong gales reported, no named storms

Seasonal mean wind speeds ranged from 6.0 knots (11.1 km/h) at Ballyhaise, Co Cavan to 13.7 knots (25.4 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Gales were reported on 9 days during the season with up to strong gale winds reported on Tuesday 8th March and Wednesday 6th April. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to 8 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero at most stations to 1 day at a few stations. The season's highest gust was reported at both Mace Head, Co Galway and Newport, Co Mayo, both on Wednesday 6th April with 59 knots (109 km/h). The highest 10-minute wind speed was 45 knots (83 km/h) reported at Mace Head, Co Galway on Wednesday 6th April.

EXTREME VALUES FOR SPRING AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall

Highest seasonal total: 258.8 mm at Newport, Co Mayo (78% of its LTA)
Lowest seasonal total: 122.2 mm at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (74% of its LTA)
Highest daily rainfall: 41.5 mm at Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford (53% of its monthly LTA) on Wed 9th Mar (*its highest daily fall for spring on record*)

Temperature

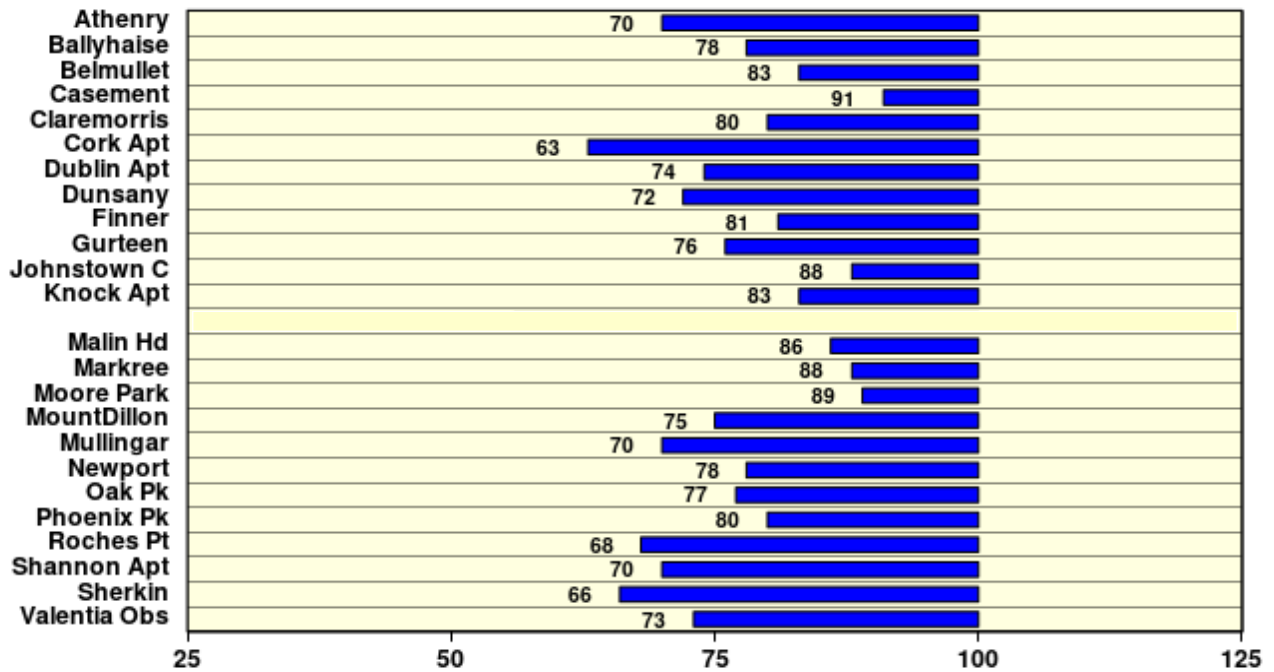
Highest mean seasonal temperature: 10.2°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare, Sherkin Island, Co Cork, Newport, Co Mayo and Valentia Obs., Co Kerry (0.5°C, 0.4°C, 0.9°C and 0.6°C above their LTA respectively)
Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 8.7°C at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (0.2 above its LTA)
Highest air temperature for the season: 21.0°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare (5.0°C above its monthly LTA) on Sat 28th May
Lowest air temperature for the season: -5.7°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon (8.3°C below its monthly LTA) on Sun 6th Mar
Lowest grass minimum for the season: -11.9°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on Thu 31st Mar

Sunshine

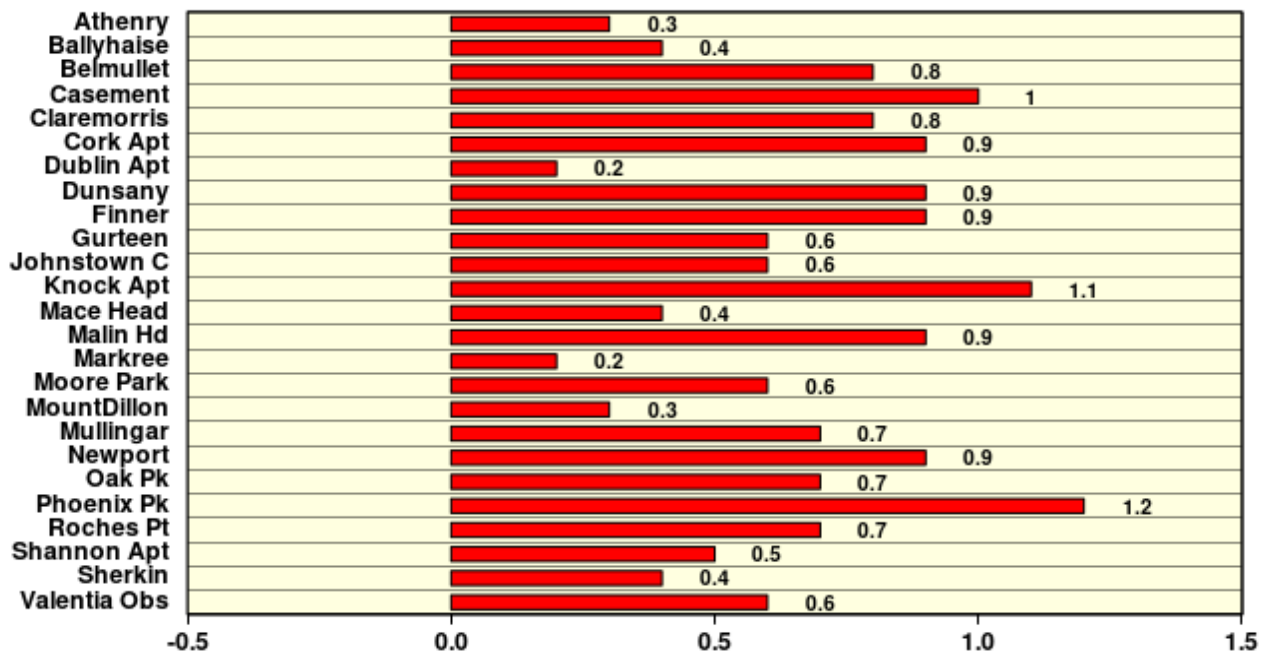
Highest seasonal total: 555.6 hrs (daily mean 6.04 hrs/day) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin
Lowest seasonal total: 497.5 hrs (daily mean 5.41 hrs/day) at Belmullet, Co Mayo
Highest daily sunshine for the season: 15.2 hours at Cork Airport, Co Cork on Sat 28th May

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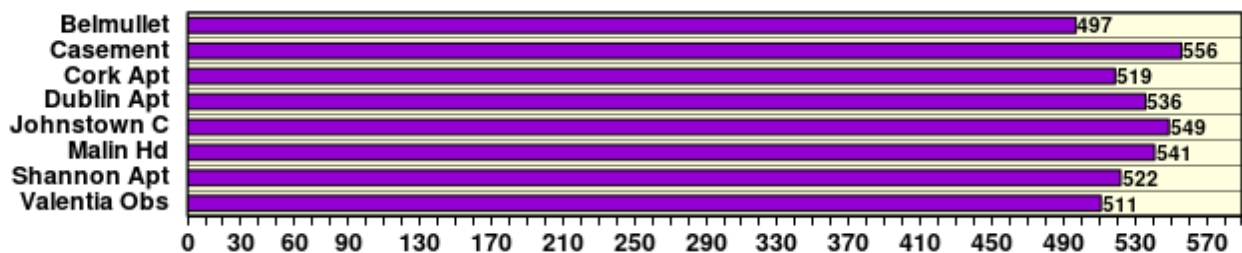
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole season basis



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 Friday 3rd June 2022. 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. 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 (i.e. daily tot < 1.0 mm). ⁷A heatwave occurs where there are 5 consecutive days or more with maximum temperature over 25°C (that is, a daily maximum screen air temperature > 25° C). *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