



# August 2023

## ***Mild and changeable, two named storms***

August 2023 was dominated by Atlantic low pressure systems. Two named storms, storm Antoni, named by the UK Met Office and storm Betty, named by Met Éireann, were the significant weather events of the month. The first week saw two low pressure systems crossing the south of the country from west to east, bringing bands of rain or showers. The second more active low pressure system, named storm Antoni, crossed the country on the 4th and 5th. This brought a period of very heavy rain to the northern half of the country, causing some flooding, with the strongest winds confined mostly to the South. The second week saw low pressure to the west and northwest of Ireland bringing further bands of rain or showers across the country, interspersed with drier and sunnier periods. A transient area of high pressure brought a few mostly dry days at the beginning of the third week, before storm Betty, developed to the southwest of Ireland and moved rapidly towards the country on Friday 18th. This brought widespread heavy rain and strong winds, with embedded thunderstorm activity causing some flash flooding. The centre of the storm crossed the country from south to north in the early hours of Saturday 19th causing some coastal flooding and downing numerous trees, especially in the South and East. The rest of the month saw low pressure to the north of Ireland, bringing further bands of rain or showers, sometimes thundery, interspersed with drier sunnier periods.

## **Rainfall: Above average in most places, wettest in the Northeast and Southwest**

The majority of monthly rainfall totals were above their 1981-2010 Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 78% (monthly rainfall total of 92.2 mm) at Mace Head, Co Galway to 163% (monthly rainfall total of 119.4 mm) at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from 62.9 mm (87% of its LTA) at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 177.2 mm (154% of its LTA) at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry. The month's wettest day was on Friday 18th during storm Betty. The highest daily fall was recorded at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry with 74.0 mm (*its highest daily fall in August since 1986*). Also on Friday 18th, Roches Point, Co Cork had its highest daily fall for August on record with 59.6 mm (record length 19 years) and Cork Airport, Co Cork has its highest daily fall for August since 1998 with 63.0 mm. The number of rain days ranged from 15 days at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 29 days at Newport, Co Mayo. The number of wet days<sup>1</sup> ranged from 12 days at Phoenix Park, Co Dublin to 22 days at a few stations. The number of very wet days<sup>3</sup> ranged from 1 day at a few stations to 6 days at Knock Airport, Co Mayo.

## **Temperature: Above average nearly everywhere**

Nearly all mean air temperatures were above their LTA for the month. Deviations from mean air temperature ranged from -0.1 °C (15.6 °C mean temperature) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork to 0.9 °C (15.6 °C, 15.7 °C, 16.1 °C mean temperature) at Gurteen, Co Tipperary, Belmullet, Co Mayo and Phoenix Park, Co Dublin respectively. Mean temperatures for the month ranged from 14.2 °C (0.5 °C above its LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 16.3 °C (0.3 °C above its LTA) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare. The month's lowest temperatures were recorded on Thursday 24th with the lowest air minimum of 5.0 °C reported at Markree, Co Sligo (5.7 below its LTA) and the lowest grass minimum reported at Claremorris, Co Mayo with 2.8 °C. The highest maximum was reported on Wednesday 9th at Shannon Airport, Co Clare with a temperature of 26.6 °C (7.0°C above its LTA) . There was no air or ground frost reported this month.

## **Sunshine: Below average in most places**

Nearly all available sunshine totals were below their LTA. Percentage of monthly sunshine values ranged from 98% (the highest monthly sunshine total of 148.4 hours) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin to 101% (monthly sunshine total of 142.5 hours) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare. Monthly sunshine totals were lowest at Belmullet, Co Mayo with 99.5 hours (No LTA comparison\*). The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this month was 13.2 hours at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Thursday 17th. The number of dull days<sup>2</sup> ranged from 2 days at a few stations to 5 days at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry.

## **Wind: Strong gales reported and two named storms**

Monthly mean wind speeds ranged from 5.6 knots (10.4 km/h) at Ballyhaise, Co Cavan to 14.4 knots (26.7 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. Gales were reported on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th during storm Betty with up to strong gale winds reported on Saturday 5th during storm Antoni. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at most stations to 2 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal. The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero days at most stations to 1 day at Roche's Point, Co Cork. Both the month's highest gust and 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at Roche's Point, Co Cork on Saturday 5th during storm Antoni. The highest gust was 55 knots (102 km/h) while the month's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 43 knots (80 km/h). During storm Betty, Dunsany, Co Meath had its highest gust for August on record with 40 knots (74 km/h) late on Friday 18th (record length 17 years) and Dublin Airport, Co Dublin had its highest gust for August since 1988 with 47 knots (87 km/h) early on Saturday 19th.

## **EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS**

### **Rainfall**

Highest monthly total: 177.2 mm at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (154% of its LTA)  
Lowest monthly total: 62.9 mm at Oak Park, Co Carlow (87% of its LTA)  
Highest daily rainfall: 74.0 mm at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (64% of its monthly LTA) on Fri 18th (*its highest daily fall in August since 1986*)

### **Temperature**

Highest mean monthly temperature: 16.3°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare (0.3°C above its LTA)  
Lowest mean monthly temperature: 14.2°C at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (0.5°C above its LTA)  
Highest air temperature: 26.6°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare (7.0°C above its LTA) on Wed 9th  
Lowest air temperature: 5.0°C at Markree, Co Sligo (5.7°C below its LTA) on Thu 24th  
Lowest grass minimum: 2.8°C at Claremorris, Co Mayo on Thu 24th

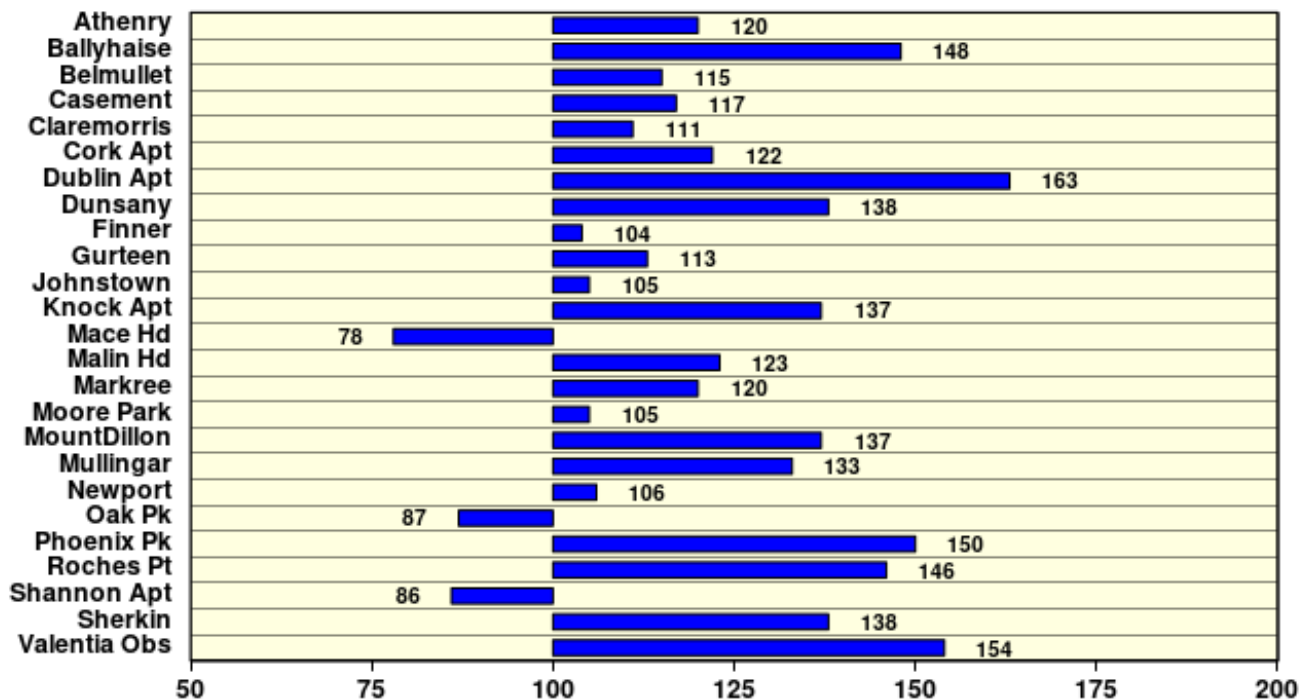
### **Sunshine**

Highest monthly total: 148.4 hrs (daily mean 4.79 hrs/day) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin  
Lowest monthly total: 99.5 hrs (daily mean 3.21 hrs/day) at Belmullet, Co Mayo  
Highest daily sunshine: 13.2 hours at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Thu 17th

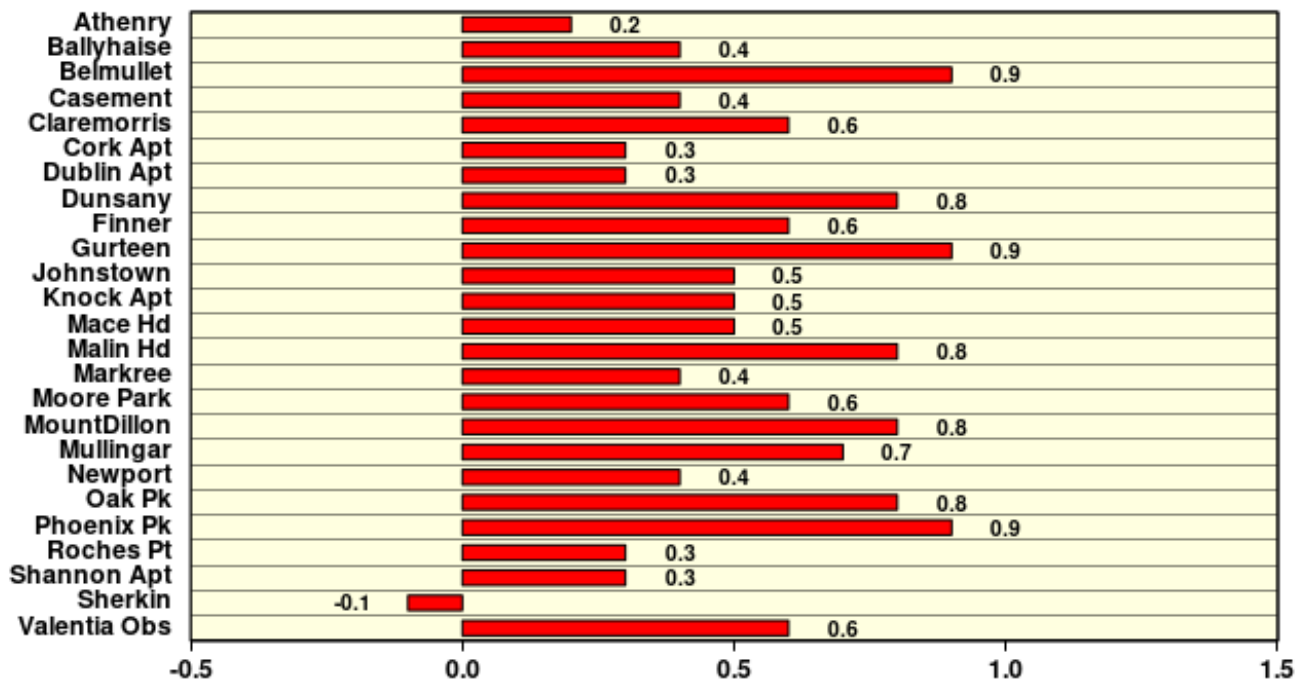
## August 2023

Based on Data from 1-31 August 2023 on whole month basis

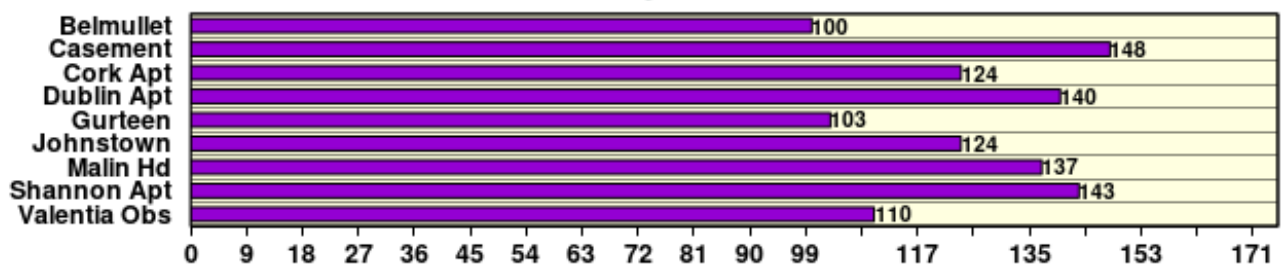
### Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole month basis



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



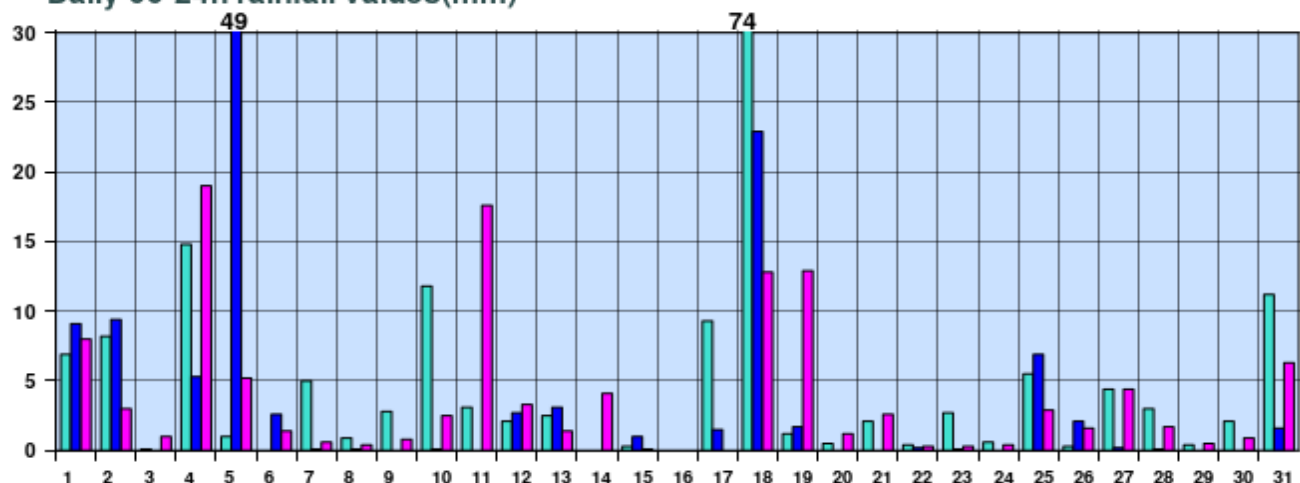
### Sunshine (Number of monthly sunshine hours)



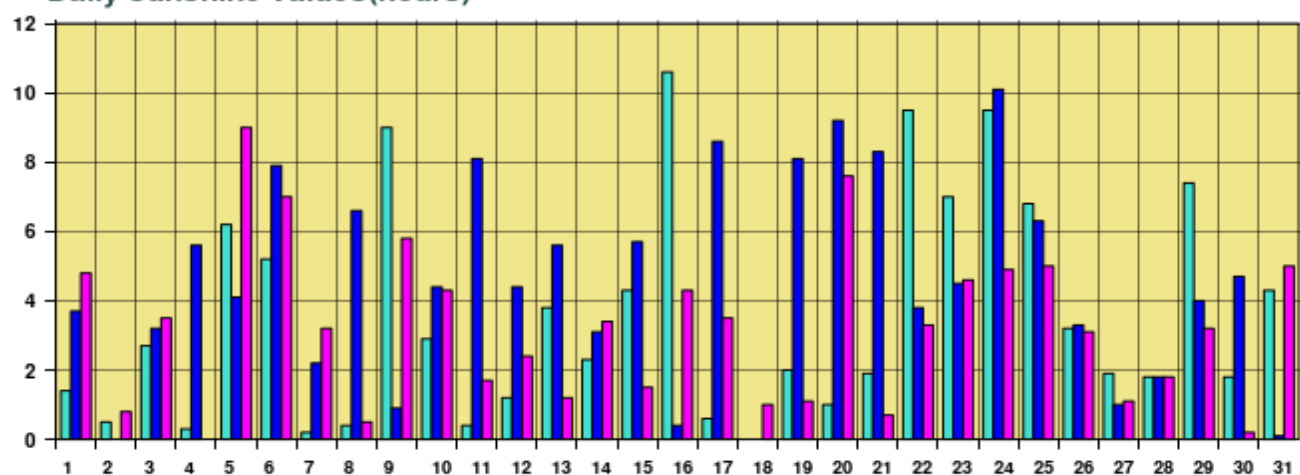
## August 2023 Daily Values at selected synoptic stations

Based on data from 1-31 August 2023 on a pro rata basis

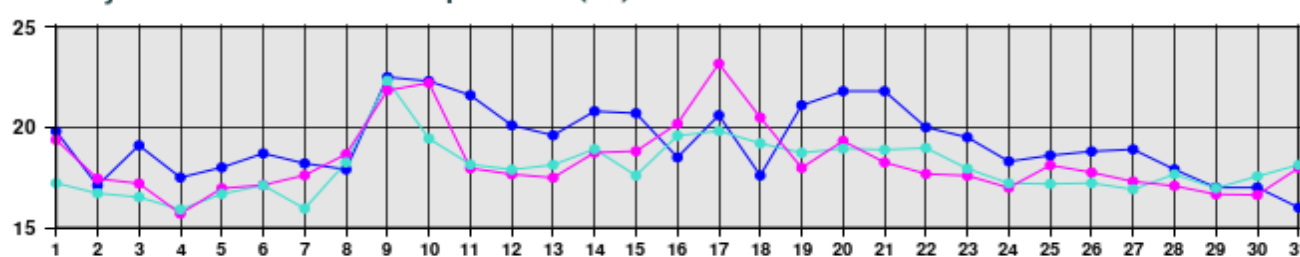
### Daily 00-24h rainfall values(mm)



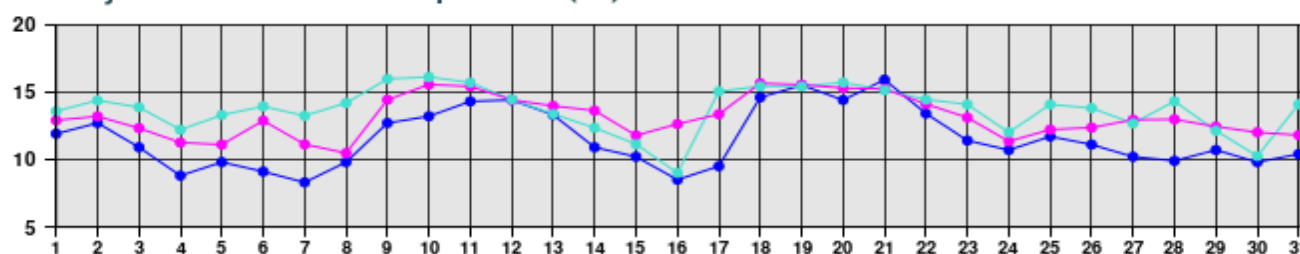
### Daily sunshine values(hours)



### Daily 00-24h maximum temperature (°C)



### Daily 00-24h minimum temperature (°C)



- Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport - Belmullet

Issued by Met Éireann on Monday 4th September 2023. 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. <sup>1</sup>A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall. <sup>2</sup>A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine. <sup>3</sup>A very wet day is a day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall. <sup>4</sup>An absolute drought is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 0.2 mm or more of precipitation. <sup>5</sup>A partial drought is a period of at least 29 consecutive days, the mean daily rainfall of which does not exceed 0.2 mm. <sup>6</sup>A 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). <sup>7</sup>A 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