



Spring 2023

(March, April & May)

Mild overall, wet start, dry finish

Spring 2023 began with a very wet month and finished very dry. March was wet and dull overall after a dry and cool beginning. Low pressure to the southwest of Ireland dominated after the first week. Storm Larisa, named by Météo-France, brought heavy rain and snow at the beginning of the second week. The rest of the month was milder with numerous bands of frontal rain or showers crossing the country in a relatively mild cyclonic airflow. April was mild overall. The month fluctuated between Scandinavian high pressure dominance, bringing some dry periods and Atlantic low pressure dominance, bringing some wet periods. A deep depression, named storm Noa by Météo-France, gave widespread wet and windy weather towards mid-month. A period of easterly winds followed with high pressure to the north. The month finished showery with some heavy and thundery downpours. May was warm and calm overall. During the first half of the month, low pressure brought bands of frontal rain and heavy thundery showers in places. The second half of the month was very dry everywhere and dominated by blocking high pressure. This led to drought conditions in the East.

Rainfall: Above average nearly everywhere, wet March, average April, dry May

Nearly all rainfall totals were above their 1981-2010 Long-Term Average (LTA) for the season. Percentage of seasonal rainfall values ranged from 76% (seasonal rainfall total of 194.8 mm) at Finner, Co Donegal to 142% (seasonal rainfall total of 342.8 mm) at Athenry, Co Galway. Seasonal rainfall totals ranged from 176.1 mm (98% of its LTA) at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 374.4 mm (119% of its LTA) at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry. The highest daily rainfall total was 34.7 mm at Cork Airport on Thursday 9th March. The number of rain days ranged from 50 days at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin to 59 days at a few stations. The number of wet days¹ ranged from 37 days at Oak Park, Co Carlow to 49 days at both Newport, Co Mayo and Knock Airport, Co Mayo. The number of very wet days³ ranged from 1 day at Finner, Co Donegal to 15 days at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry. Phoenix Park, Co Dublin had its wettest spring since 1998 with 225.6 mm (134 % of its LTA) and Dublin Airport had its wettest spring since 2002 with 232.6 mm (140 % of its LTA). By the end of May, there were five on-going dry spells⁶ lasting between 17 and 20 days and four on-going absolute droughts⁴ lasting 17 days, all in the East of the country (*see May climate statement for more details*).

Temperature: Above average everywhere, warmest in the Southwest

All mean air temperatures across the country were above their LTA for the season. Deviations from mean air temperature for the season ranged from 0.4 °C (9.1 °C mean temperature) at Markree, Co Sligo to 1.5 °C (10.1 °C mean temperature) at Phoenix Park, Co Dublin (*its warmest spring since 2011*). Mean temperatures for the season ranged from 8.9 °C (1.2 °C above its LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 10.5 °C (0.8, 0.9 °C above their LTA) at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare and Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (*Valentia's warmest spring since 1997*). The season's highest temperature was reported at Shannon Airport, Co Clare on Tuesday 30th May with a temperature of 24.9 °C. The season's lowest air minimum was recorded on Monday 27th March at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin with -4.3 °C while the lowest grass minimum was -11.2 °C reported at Markree, Co Sligo on Wednesday 8th March. All stations reported ground frost during the season. The number of days with ground frost ranged from 4 days at Sherkin Island, Co Cork to 44 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 Mace Head, Co Galway to 13 days at both Markree, Co Sligo and Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon. Four stations had their warmest spring on record. These were Oak Park, Co Carlow with 10.0 °C (1.2 °C above its LTA) (record length 16 years), Moore Park, Co Cork with 10.1 °C (1.2 °C above its LTA) (length 31 years), Athenry, Co Galway with 9.7 °C (0.7 °C above its LTA) (length 13 years) and Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin with 9.6 °C (1.1 °C above its LTA) (length 59 years).

Sunshine: Near average, sunniest in the Northwest

Percentage of LTA sunshine values varied across the country. Percentage of seasonal sunshine values ranged from 99% (seasonal sunshine total of 432.1 hours) at Shannon Airport, Co Clare to 102% (seasonal sunshine total of 450.4 hours) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin. Seasonal sunshine totals ranged from 367.6 hours (No LTA comparison*) at Cork Airport, Co Cork to 454.5 hours (No LTA comparison*) at Belmullet, Co Mayo. The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this season was 16.0 hours at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Tuesday 30th May. The number of dull days² ranged from 14 days at Malin Head, Co Donegal to 24 days at Cork Airport, Co Cork.

Wind: Gales reported in all three months. Storm force winds reported during storm Noa

Seasonal mean wind speeds ranged from 5.6 knots (10.4 km/h) at Ballyhaise, Co Cavan to 12.7 knots (23.5 km/h) at Mace Head, Co Galway. Gales were reported on 11 days during the season, 7 in March, 2 in April and 2 in May. Strong gales and storm force winds were reported on 1 day during the season. The number of days with gales ranged from zero days at a few stations to five 5 days at Mace Head, Co Galway and Malin Head, Co Donegal. Strong gales and storm force winds were reported on Wednesday 12th April during storm Noa at Sherkin Island, Co Cork. Both the season's highest gust and 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at Sherkin Island, Co Cork on Wednesday 12th April. The highest gust was 66 knots (122 km/h) while the season's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 48 knots (89 km/h).

EXTREME VALUES FOR SPRING AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

Rainfall

Highest seasonal total: 374.4 mm at Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (119% of its LTA)
Lowest seasonal total: 176.1 mm at Oak Park, Co Carlow (98% of its LTA)
Highest daily rainfall: : 34.7 mm at Cork Airport, Co Cork (36% of its monthly LTA) on Thu 9th Mar

Temperature

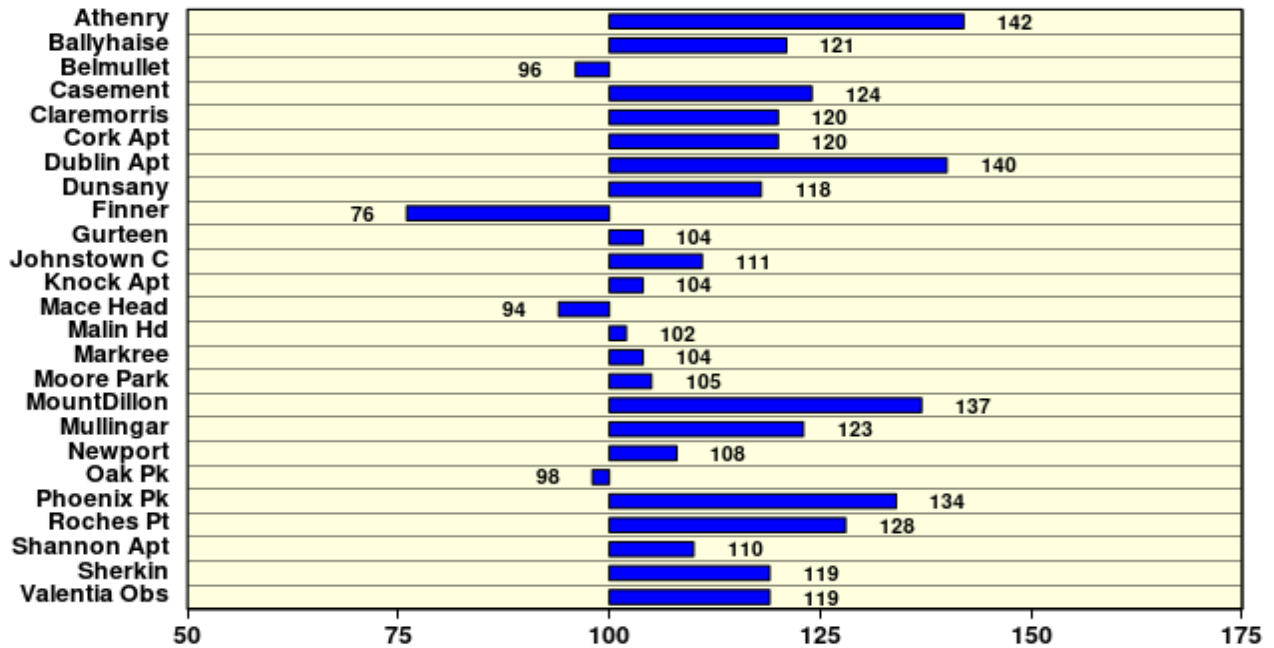
Highest mean seasonal temperature: 10.5°C at both Shannon Airport, Co Clare (0.8°C above its LTA) and Valentia Observatory, Co Kerry (0.9°C above its LTA) (*Valentia's warmest spring since 1997*)
Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 8.9°C at Knock Airport, Co Mayo (1.2 above its LTA)
Highest air temperature for the season: 24.9°C at Shannon Airport, Co Clare (8.9°C above its monthly LTA) on Tue 30th May
Lowest air temperature for the season: -4.3°C at Dublin Airport, Co Dublin (7.5°C below its monthly LTA) on Mon 27th Mar
Lowest grass minimum for the season: -11.2°C at Markree, Co Sligo on Wed 8th Mar

Sunshine

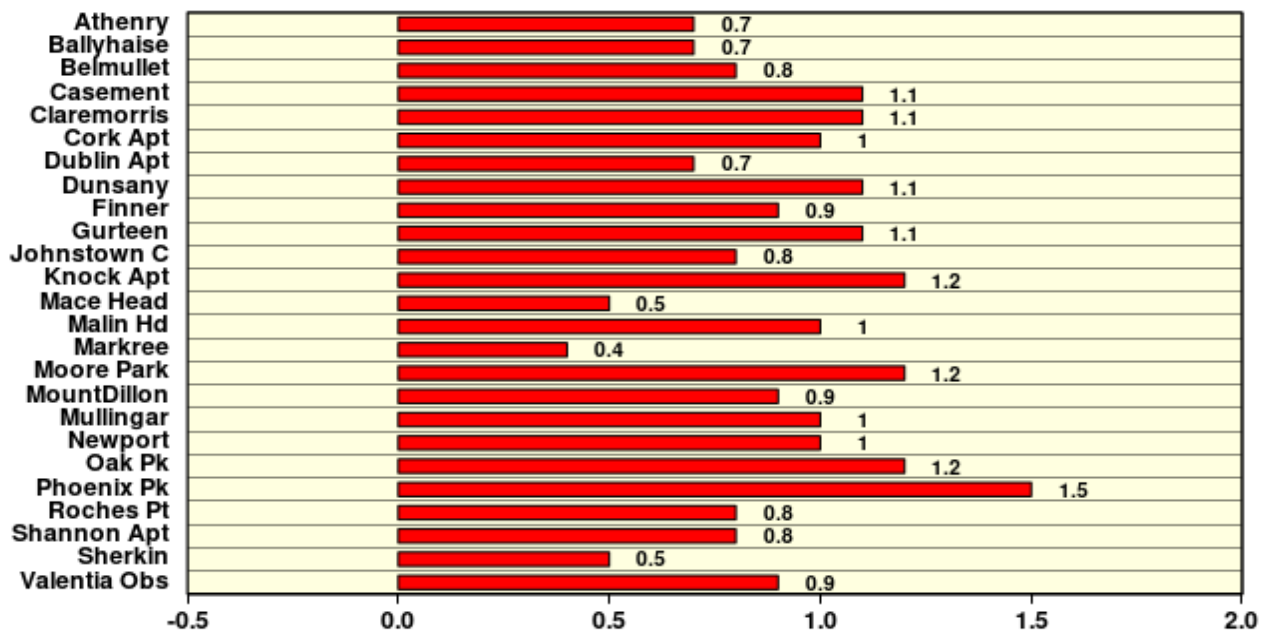
Highest seasonal total: 454.5 hrs (daily mean 4.94 hrs/day) at Belmullet, Co Mayo
Lowest seasonal total: 367.6 hrs (daily mean 4.00 hrs/day) at Cork Airport, Co Cork
Highest daily sunshine for the season: 16.0 hours at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Tue 30th May

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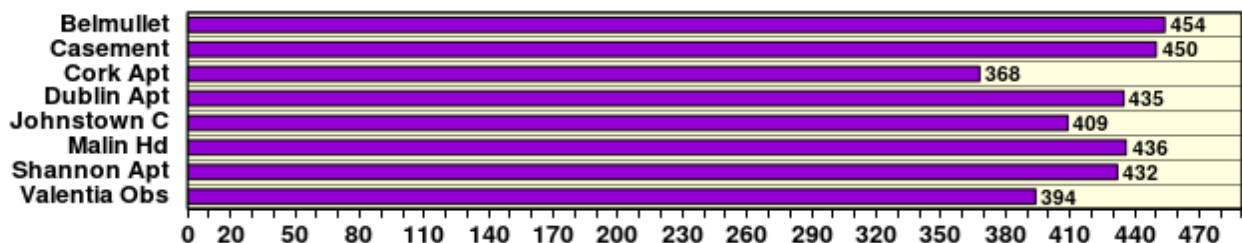
Rainfall (% of average for period 1981-2010) on whole season basis



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 Tuesday 6th 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 Auto-sol 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