

The Weather of Summer 2007

(June, July and August summary)

Wettest summer for 50 years in east; temperature and sunshine a little above normal

Summer rainfall totals were above normal everywhere and were well above normal over the eastern half of the country. It was the wettest summer for at least nine years generally and the wettest for around fifty years at stations in Leinster; both Kilkenny and Casement Aerodrome had their wettest summer since rainfall records began in 1957 and 1954 respectively. Rainfall was recorded over some parts of the country on each day between June 11th and July 29th, with a spell of 33 successive raindays (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) recorded in Dublin during this period. A total of between 55 and 65 raindays was recorded generally for the 3-month period compared with the normal range for summer of between 45 and 55. Many of the season's highest daily falls were associated with thunderstorms, with several reports also of tornadoes or funnel clouds (tornadoes with circulation not reaching the ground), particularly during July.

Mean air temperatures for the season were around half a degree higher than normal for the 1961-90 period at most stations, but a degree above normal in the northwest. Despite the relatively high mean temperatures, however, almost all stations had their coolest summer since 2002. June was a relatively warm month, but temperatures were close to normal in both July and August. While mean minimum temperatures for the season were around one degree above normal, mean maximum values were close to the average, reflecting an absence of high daily values; the only days during the summer when maxima exceeded 25°C were on June 10th and 11th.

Sunshine totals for the season were above normal at most stations but were near or below normal in the east. While it was the dullest summer at eastern stations since 2002, it was the sunniest at Belmullet since 1995. The season began with a spell of very sunny weather between June 4th and 11th, with almost all stations recording their highest daily values of the season during this period. July was a sunny month everywhere but August was dull.

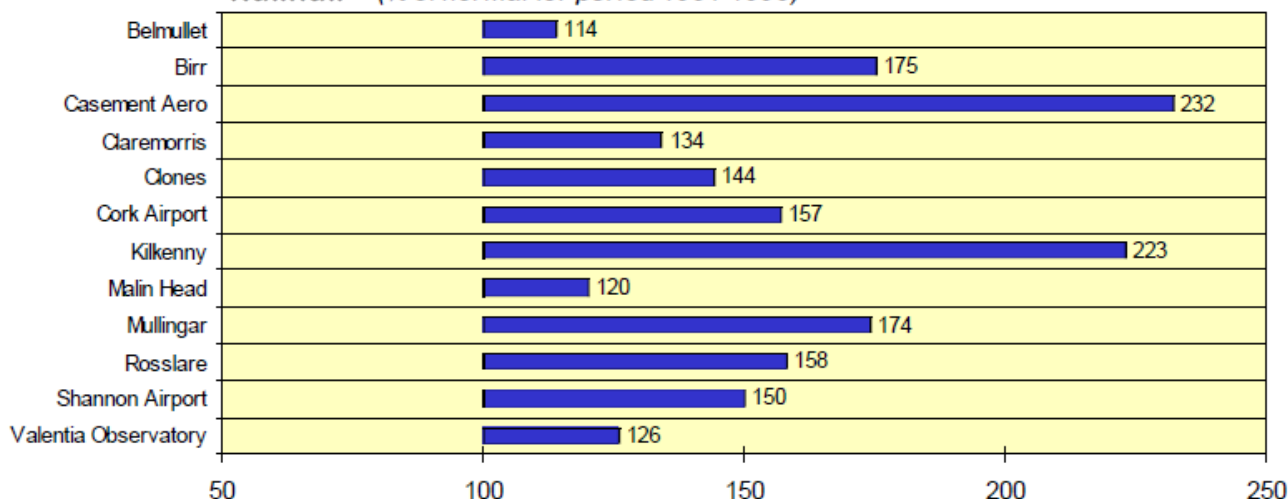
Poulter indices at long-term stations were above normal at Malin Head and Valentia Observatory, but well below normal at Birr and Dublin (Phoenix Park). The Poulter index is a method of quantifying summer weather (June to August), using a formula based on mean temperature, rainfall and sunshine for each station, i.e. the higher the index, the 'better' the summer weather. Dublin (Phoenix Park)'s value was its lowest since the summer of 1986, while Birr's value was the fourth lowest at the station in a series extending back to 1915.

Extreme values

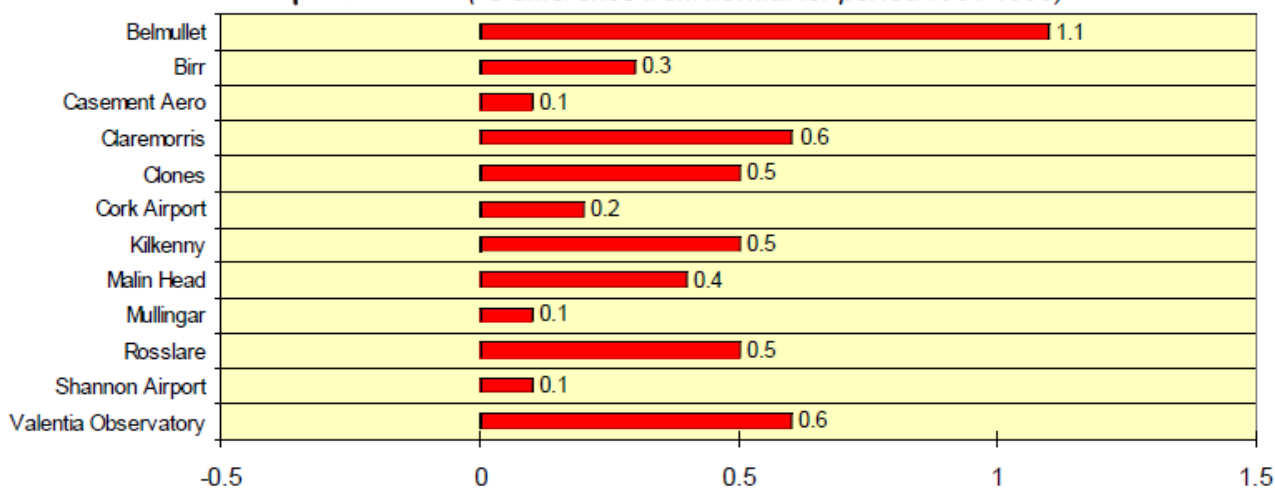
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 391mm at Casement Aerodrome (<i>its wettest summer since rainfall records began there in 1954</i>) Lowest seasonal total: 261mm at Belmullet (<i>its wettest summer since 2002</i>) Highest daily rainfall: 53.3mm at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on June 22nd (<i>its highest daily fall for summer since June 1993</i>)
Temperature	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 15.2°C at Shannon Airport Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 13.4°C at Knock Airport Highest temperature: 25.9°C at Casement Aerodrome on June 11th Lowest air temperature: 3.8°C at Mullingar on June 27th & 28th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -0.7°C at Mullingar on June 28th
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 578 hours at Rosslare Lowest seasonal total: 399 hours at Birr Highest daily sunshine: 15.6 hours at Knock Airport on June 4th and at Malin Head on June 6th

Summer 2007 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

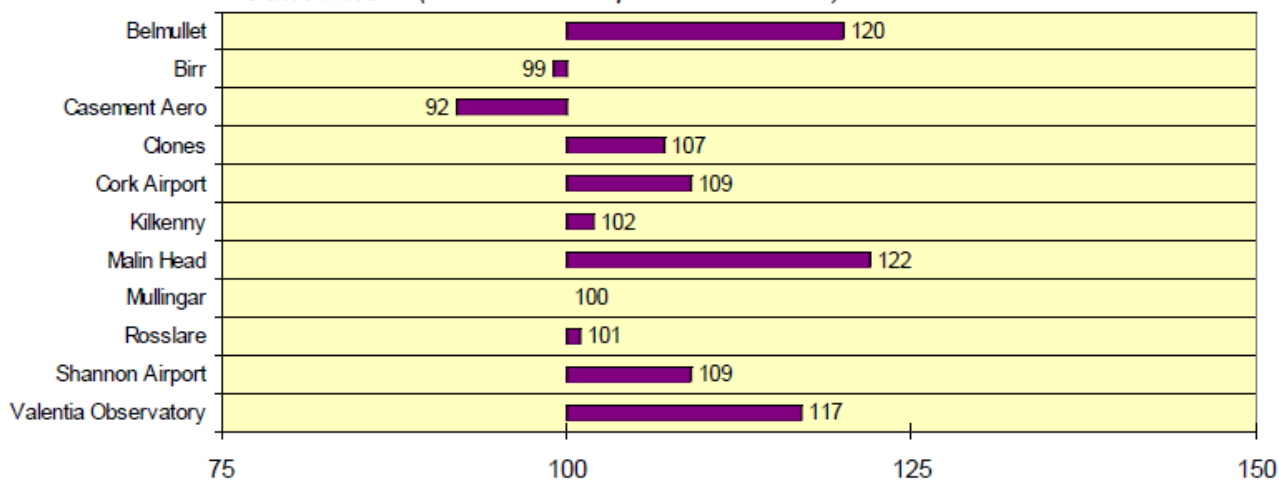
Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



Temperature (°C difference from normal for period 1961-1990)



Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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 A detailed summary is available in the Monthly Weather Bulletin

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