WETTER THAN NORMAL EVERYWHERE; MILD AND SUNNY

Annual rainfall totals were well above normal for the second successive year. They ranged from 918mm at Dublin Airport to 2175mm at Valentia Observatory, between 12% and 55% higher than the 30-year annual average amounts. Like the previous two years, the summer period of June to August was extremely wet, while November 2009 was the wettest November since records began at most stations and the wettest of any month on record in several places. Annual totals were the highest in over 50 years of record at both Mullingar and Johnstown Castle, while Valentia Observatory's total was its highest since observations began in the area in 1866, considerably higher than its previous highest total of 1923mm in 2002. The exceptionally heavy rainfall brought extensive flooding during the late summer and again during November, especially in the west and south. The driest months relative to normal were March and September, but the annual number of raindays (days with 0.2mm or more rainfall) was above normal everywhere, by between 10% and 20% generally; there were between 202 raindays at Casement Aerodrome and 272 at Valentia Observatory. Most stations measured their highest daily fall of the year during November, but there were also very heavy falls locally over short periods during the summer months, usually associated with thunderstorms.

Despite very cold weather at the end of the year, mean annual air temperatures were around half a degree above normal for the 1961-90 period at most stations. Mean values were close to those of 2008, but Valentia Observatory had its coolest year since 2002, while it was the coolest since 1996 at Cork Airport. Mean air temperatures for most months were slightly higher than normal, while values for January were near normal and December was colder than normal everywhere. The highest temperatures of the year were observed during early summer at most stations, with both Birr and Claremorris measuring 27.5°C on June 2nd. The lowest values were recorded during early January and late December. Mullingar's air and ground temperatures of -10.0°C and -13.0°C respectively on December 25th were the lowest at the station for almost 30 years. The total number of air frosts during the year of between 38 and 58 at inland stations was close to normal.

Annual sunshine totals were above normal everywhere, with Malin Head having its sunniest year since 1960. The sunniest months relative to normal were March, May and particularly June, which was the sunniest for over 50 years in places; August was the only relatively dull month generally. All stations measured their sunniest day of the year during June. Mean windspeeds for the year of between 7 and 12 knots generally (13 and 22km/h) were above normal and were the highest annual values for up to 15 years in places. Belmullet observed the highest gust of the year, 94 knots (174km/h) during a storm on January 17th, matching the previous highest gust at the station, recorded in January 1957.

	RAINFALL (mm)				TEMPERATURE (°C)				SUNSHINE (HOURS)				No. of days with:						
County/ Station	Total	% of average		in a day date(s)	Mean	diff. from average	Ex Highest	tremes Lowest	Daily mean	% of average		in a day date(s)	Rain	Snow	Airfrost	Hai	Thunder	Fog	Gale gusts
CO. CARLOW																			\neg
Carlow (Oak Park) CO. CAVAN	1124.1	143	32.1	19 Nov	9.8	+0.4	26.8	-7.0					217		47				30
Ballyhaise CO. CLARE	1167.9	126	43.3	19 Nov	9.4		26.5	-9.7					243		46				20
Shannon Airport CO. CORK	1165.7	127	26.7	19 Nov	10.7	+0.6	26.9	-5.6	4.02	110	15.3	4 Jun	236	9	27	9	2	28	51
Cork Airport	1578.5	128	51.2	19 Nov	9.6	+0.1	23.8	-3.3	4.24	108	15.5	1 Jun	237	14	26	5	1 1	00	66
Roche's Point CO. DONEGAL	1166.4	125	39.0	30 Jan	10.6	+0.3	23.2	-1.6					215		12				95
Malin Head CO. DUBLIN	1171.7	112	38.1	16 Nov	10.2	+0.8	24.4	-3.0	4.13	117	15.2	24 Jun	246	25	8	38	11	8 :	151
Dublin Airport	917.7		42.4	2 Jul	9.7		24.5	-6.6	4.28	107	15.7	24 Jun	209	16	45	5	4	29	72
Casement Aerodrome CO. KERRY	925.5	127	44.7	6 Jun	9.8	+0.5	24.9	-8.3	4.09	107	16.0	24 Jun	202	21	38	15	4	18	74
Valentia Observatory CO. MAYO	2174.9	155	50.4	19 Nov	11.1	+0.5	26.1	-3.6	3.63	102	15.4	1 Jun	272	4	13	30	5	7	86
Belmullet	1326.3	120	25.7	7 Apr	10.6	+0.6	23.9	-2.7	4.15	112	15.0	4 Jun	274	25	15	54	10	8 :	149
Knock Airport CO. TIPPERARY	1436.5		30.6	16 Nov	8.8		25.2	-6.1	3.64	102	15.7	3 Jun	277	34	42	12	4 1	46	71
Gurteen CO. WESTMEATH	1076.8		30.0	30 Jan	9.6		26.6	-6.6					235		41				25
Mullingar CO. WEXFORD	1177.5	126	32.4	23 Jul	9.4	+0.6	26.6	-10.0					243		53				7
Johnstown Castle	1452.6	144	44.3	6 Oct	10.2	+0.6	24.2	-4.1					224		26				25