

WETTER AND WINDIER THAN NORMAL; NEAR OR ABOVE AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN MOST PLACES

Almost all seasonal winter rainfall totals were above average with most stations reporting above Long-Term Average (LTA) rainfall during the three months of winter. The highest monthly LTAs were recorded in February where areas in the southern half of the country reported monthly LTAs of over 250%. Seasonal percentage of LTA values ranged from 91% (245.9 mm) at Kingscourt Gypsum, Co Meath to 250% (902.2 mm) at Headford, Co Galway, its highest winter total since the winter of 1992/1993. Seasonal rainfall totals ranged between 177.7 mm (97% of its LTA) at Dublin (Glasnevin) and 1911.9 mm (220% of its LTA) at Cloone Lake (Caragh River Area), Co Kerry, its wettest winter since it opened in 1949. Valentia Observatory reported its wettest winter since 1866/1867 with 847.8 mm and 183% of its LTA. The wettest day of winter was recorded at Cloone Lake on 29th December with 98.4mm, its wettest winter day since the winter 1978/1979, while Castleisland (Coom), Co Kerry reported its wettest winter day since the 1960/1961 season with 48.8 mm on January 23rd. The number of seasonal wet days (*days with 1 mm or more of rainfall*) were as much as 86 at isolated stations in Mayo, Donegal, Cork and Kerry while, Keenagh Beg, Co Mayo recorded 84 winter wet days, its highest for winter since the station opened in 1944.

Nearly all mean temperatures were near or above their LTA for winter, with monthly mean temperatures mainly above their monthly LTAs in December and January and the eastern half of the country in February. Only a small number of isolated stations in Cork and Wexford reported mean temperatures below their winter LTA with values below of -0.1°C. Differences above LTA were up to 1.2°C at Dooks, Co Kerry with a seasonal mean temperature of 7.8°C. Winter mean temperatures ranged from 4.5°C at Knock Airport (0.4°C above its LTA) to 7.9°C at Sherkin

Island (0.3°C above its LTA). Nearly all highest maxima of the season were recorded between the 8th and 12th of December, with the season's highest temperature recorded at Dublin (Glasnevin) on the 12th December with 16.8°C, its highest during winter since the winter of 1997/1998. Seasonal lowest air and grass temperatures were measured at various times with both the season's lowest air and grass minima of -4.8°C and -10.0°C, respectively recorded at Thomastown (Mt Juliet), Co Kilkenny on Christmas day. Over half of stations reported their winter minima were the highest on record, with Shannon Airport reporting its highest winter minimum of 0.0°C since it opened in 1945.

Sunshine totals were above their LTA mainly in the East, Southeast and parts of the South. Percentage of LTA values were lowest at Sherkin Island, Co Cork with 70% (123.4 hours). Dublin Airport reported the season's highest amount of sunshine hours and percentage of LTA with 217.0 hours and 116%, respectively. Dublin Airport also measured winter's sunniest day on the 27th February with 8.8 hours. Knock Airport reported the lowest seasonal sunshine total with 114.8 hours (77% of its LTA) and the highest number of dull days (*days with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine*) with 48 days.

Seasonal mean wind speeds ranged from 7.5 knots (14 km/h) at Fermoy (Moore Park), Co Cork to 20.8 knots (38 km/h) at Mace Head, Co Galway (both their highest for winter since they started recording wind in 2008). The season's highest gust and the highest mean 10-minute wind speed were both recorded on February 12th, with Shannon Airport recording the highest gust of 86 knots (159km/h) it highest February gust and third highest gust on record since 1946. Mace Head recorded the highest mean 10-minute wind speed of 65 knots (120 km/h), its highest mean 10-minute wind speed at site since it opened 2008. On the 12th February also, the Kinsale Energy Platform recorded its highest individual wave height on record (since 1993) with 25 metres.

COUNTY/STATION	RAINFALL (mm)					TEMPERATURE (°C)					SUNSHINE (HRS)				WIND				
	TOTAL	% OF LTA	MOST IN A DAY	NO. OF RAINDAYS	NO. OF WETDAYS	MEAN	DIFFERENCE FROM LTA	EXTREMES MAXIMUM	EXTREMES MINIMUM	NO. OF DAYS GROUND FROST	NO. OF DAYS AIR FROST	TOTAL	% OF AVERAGE	MOST IN A DAY	NO. OF DULL DAYS	HIGHEST GUST (KNOTS)	HIGHEST 10-MIN WIND SPEED (KNOTS)	NO. OF DAYS GALES	NO. OF DAYS GUSTS ≥34 KNOTS
CO CARLOW CARLOW (OAK PARK)	460.1	208	32.8	72	63	5.9	0.3	13.3	-2.2	41	8					68	48	3	38
CO CAVAN BALLYHAISE	415.4	151	29.1	79	66	5.5	0.4	14.3	-2.1	26	4					50	29	0	28
CO CLARE SHANNON AIRPORT	531.1	188	28.2	78	67	6.5	0.4	15.0	0.0	21	0	153.3	95	7.4	27	86	61	7	47
CO CORK CORK AIRPORT	653.1	180	32.8	75	63	5.7	-0.1	12.3	-0.7	52	6	178.6	100	6.9	32	70	50	10	51
CO CORK ROCHE'S POINT	484.7	176	28.7	73	60	7.1	0.1	13.0	1.1	13	0					77	54	34	64
CO DONEGAL FINNER	508.6	143	27.0	83	70	6.2	0.7	15.2	-0.6	15	n/a					68	48	11	50
CO DONEGAL MALIN HEAD	529.6	164	20.3	81	70	6.3	0.3	15.3	0.2	10	0					73	54	36	67
CO DUBLIN CASEMENT AERODROME	337.0	179	25.5	68	58	6.1	0.9	14.4	-1.1	37	3	187.1	108	6.8	33	65	46	16	52
CO DUBLIN DUBLIN AIRPORT	273.1	148	19.4	66	51	6.1	0.7	15.0	-2.5	38	3	217.0	116	8.8	27	66	48	11	49
CO KERRY VALENTIA OBSERVATORY	847.8	183	38.1	86	81	7.6	0.1	13.6	0.6	12	0	141.8	97	6.6	33	74	53	16	60
CO MAYO BELMULLET	592.5	161	29.8	87	79	7.0	0.5	13.8	0.6	11	0					70	48	25	60
CO MAYO KNOCK AIRPORT	655.3	173	24.9	85	77	4.5	0.4	12.8	-1.1	42	13	114.8	77	5.8	48	62	44	8	47
CO TIPPERARY GURTEEN	386.6	152	25.7	73	62	5.7	0.2	14.6	-2.5	41	9					65	46	2	39
CO WESTMEATH MULLINGAR	443.9	172	28.5	77	65	5.2	0.6	14.0	-4.3	58	18					58	27	0	21
CO WEXFORD JOHNSTOWN CASTLE	463.4	161	24.8	74	65	6.5	0.4	12.0	-0.7	27	2					63	40	2	44