



# Monthly Weather Summary

## The Weather of July 2006

### **Warmest July on record in places; sunny and mainly dry**

July was another very warm, dry and sunny month, continuing the pattern of fine summer weather set in June. Temperatures were above normal throughout almost all of the month; they were around two degrees higher than normal overall at most stations and three degrees higher at Clones. It was the warmest July for between 11 and 17 years in most places and the warmest on record at Malin Head, Clones and Casement Aerodrome; records at Malin Head extend back to 1885. Kilkenny had a total of 29 days during the month where the maximum temperature exceeded 20°C, with 9 of these days exceeding 25°C. The period between the 16th and 20th was particularly hot, when daily maxima reached over 25°C generally and above 30°C in a few places, the highest temperatures recorded since the record-breaking month of August 1995. The values of 31.0°C and 29.9°C, recorded on the 19th at Casement Aerodrome and Belmullet respectively, were the highest temperatures for any month on record at these stations. In contrast, some very low ground temperatures were recorded just before this hot spell; grass minima of -1.3°C at Birr on the 13th and -0.6°C at Dublin Airport on the 14th were the lowest such values on record for July at both stations. Like the previous month, dry weather prevailed during most of July, although some heavy falls on individual days brought totals above normal in a few places. Little or no measureable rainfall was recorded over eastern and southern areas between the 9th and 27th; in the Dublin area, 2-month totals since the beginning of June are only around 30% of normal for the period. There were between 5 and 9 wetdays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) in the east and south, but between 12 and 14 wetdays in some other areas. Sunshine totals were well above normal everywhere and it was the sunniest July for 16 or 17 years at almost all stations.

**1st to 12th:** Weak frontal systems over Ireland produced outbreaks of showery rain at times, but amounts were generally small. An exception was on the 8th, when a band of heavy rain associated with a depression over the north of Ireland gave heavy falls in many areas, especially in the west and southwest, together with strong southwesterly winds. Despite most days during this spell being relatively dull, temperatures were near or above normal.

**13th to 21st:** High pressure over or to the east of the country brought dry and clear weather with very light winds. Nighttime temperatures were below normal early in the period, but daytime temperatures rose well above normal, especially between the 16th and 20th. There was almost continuous sunshine in places between the 13th and 18th, but cloud increased thereafter. The very high temperatures generated some localised thunderstorms late in period.

**22nd to 31st:** Pressure fell gradually over the country as depressions approached from the west, bringing more unsettled conditions to all areas. Dry, warm weather continued at first during this period in the east and south, but showery conditions elsewhere became more extensive towards the end of the month, giving some heavy and thundery outbreaks; a tornado developed near Thurles, Co. Tipperary, early on the 31st. Light winds at first during this period strengthened later from a southerly direction.

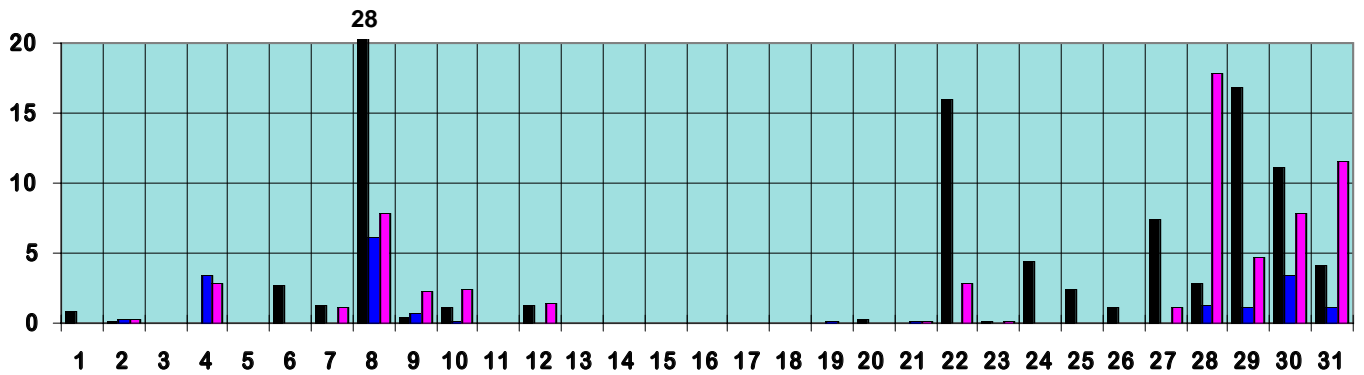
**Wind and elements:** Mean windspeeds for the month were between 6 and 10 knots (11 and 19 km/hour), lower than normal for July. The highest gust, 45 knots (83 km/hour), was measured at Belmullet on the 29th. Thunderstorms were recorded in the periods 2nd to 5th, 19th to 20th, 24th to 25th and 30th to 31st, but there were no reports of hail. Fog was widespread on the 5th, 6th and in the period 17th to 21st.

### **Extreme values**

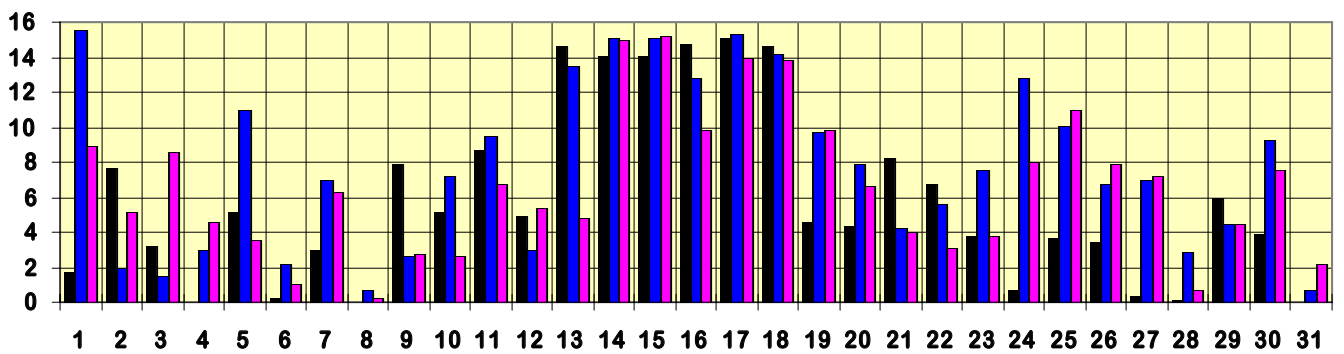
|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Rainfall</b>    | Highest total: 103mm at Valentia Observatory<br>Lowest total: 14mm at Casement Aerodrome ( <i>its driest July since 1989</i> )<br>Highest daily rainfall: 27.8mm at Valentia Observatory on 8th   |
| <b>Temperature</b> | Highest mean monthly temperature: 17.8°C at Shannon Airport ( <i>its warmest July since 1995</i> )<br>Lowest mean monthly temperature: 15.8°C at Knock Airport ( <i>its warmest July since records began there in 1997</i> )<br>Highest temperature: 31.0°C at Casement Aerodrome on 19th ( <i>its highest temperature since records began there in 1964</i> )<br>Lowest air temperature: 4.5°C at Mullingar on 13th<br>Lowest grass minimum temperature: -1.3°C at Birr on 13th ( <i>its lowest July value since records began there in 1954</i> ) |
| <b>Sunshine</b>    | Highest monthly total: 283 hours at Rosslare ( <i>its sunniest July since 1990</i> )<br>Lowest monthly total: 170 hours at Malin Head<br>Highest daily sunshine: 15.5 hours at Dublin Airport on 1st  |

# July 2006 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

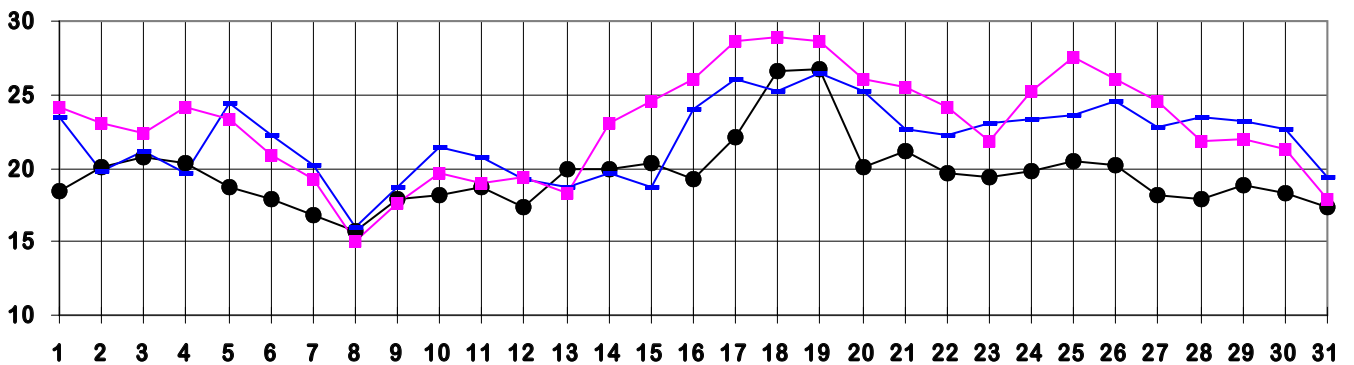
## Rainfall (mm)



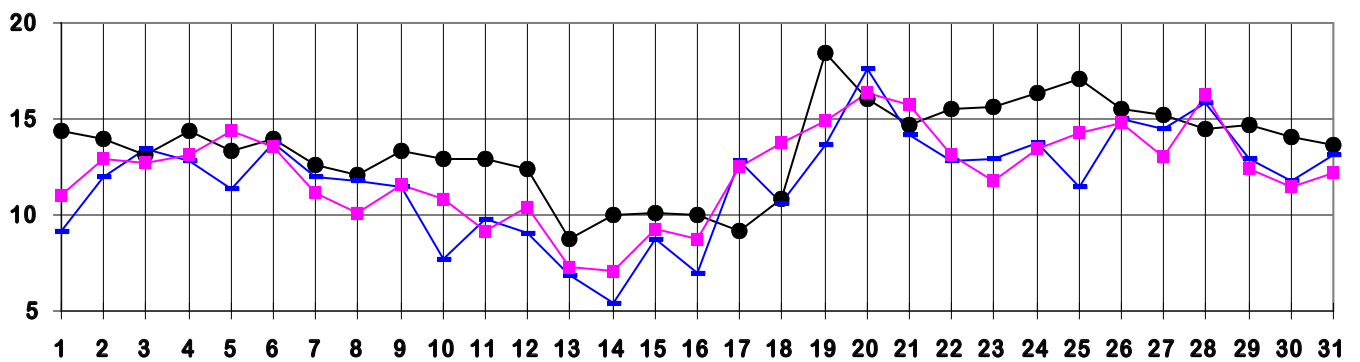
## Sunshine (hours)



## Maximum temperature (°C)



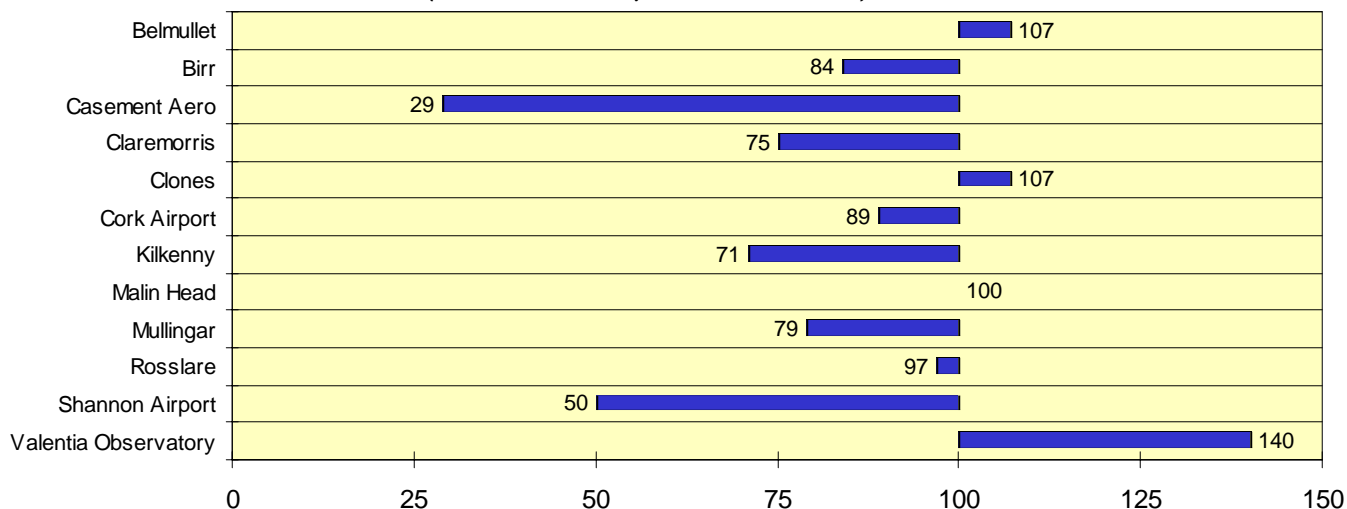
## Minimum temperature (°C)



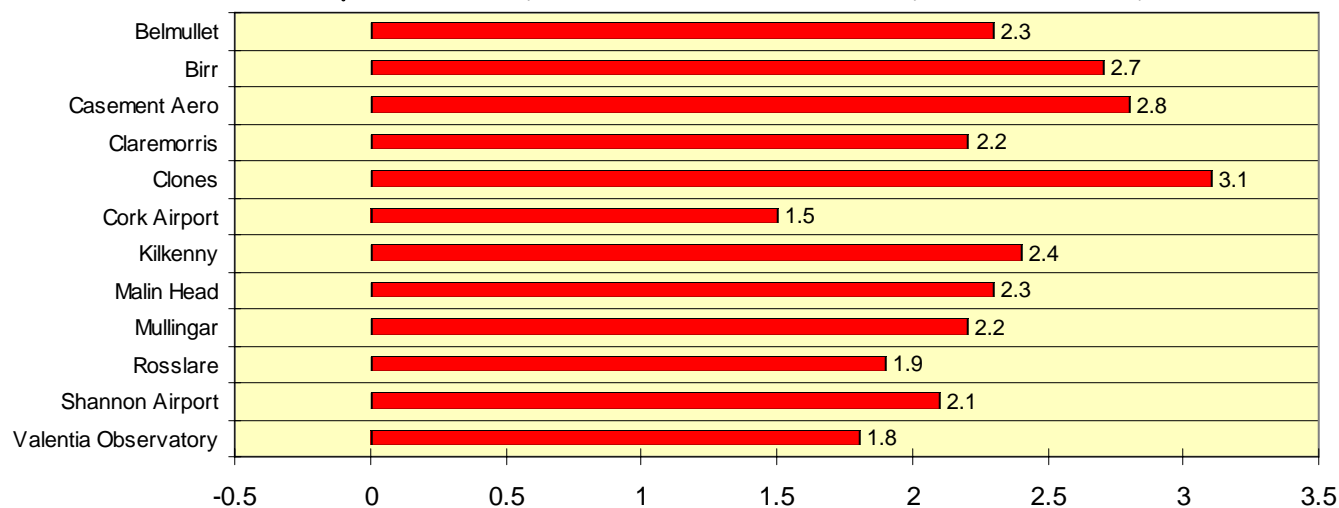
● Valentia Observatory      - Dublin Airport      ■ Clones

# July 2006 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

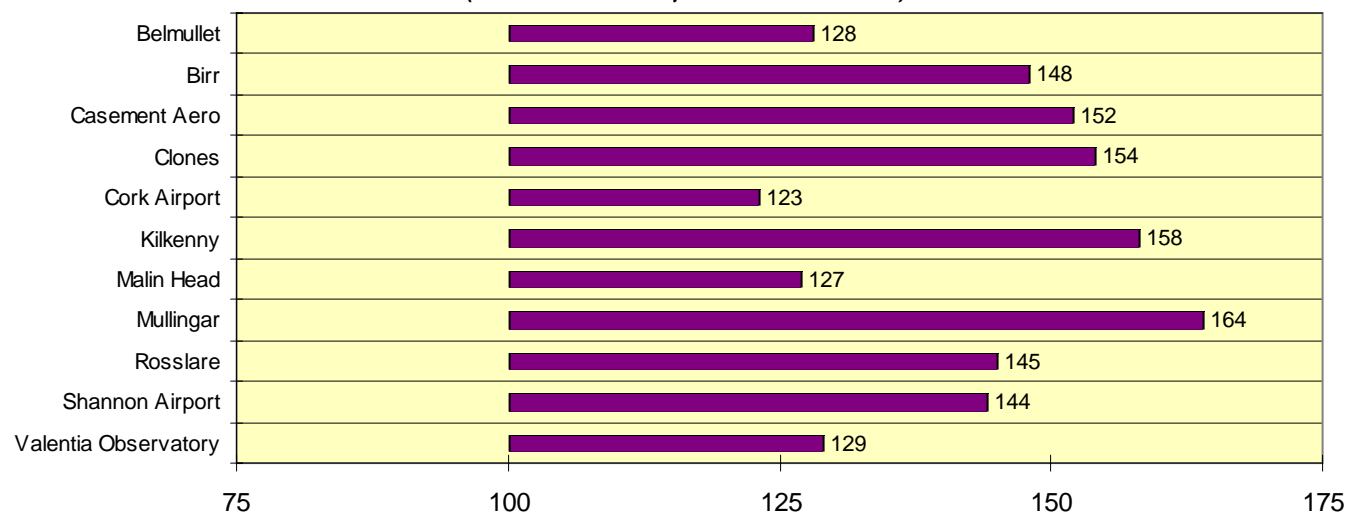
## Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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



## Sunshine (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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 This report is based on preliminary data from the synoptic weather stations operated by Met Éireann  
 A detailed summary is available in the **Monthly Weather Bulletin**

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