

The Weather of Summer 2006

(June, July and August summary)

Warmest, driest and sunniest summer since 1995

Mean air temperatures for the season were over one degree higher than normal for the 1961-90 period everywhere and were close to two degrees above normal in places. Each of the constituent months was warmer than normal and it was the warmest summer generally since the record-breaking year of 1995, while at Malin Head it was the warmest summer since temperature records began there in 1885. The hottest days of the season were on July 18th and 19th, except in the Cork area, which measured its highest values on August 5th. Many stations measured their highest summer maxima since August 1995, while both Belmullet and Casement Aerodrome recorded their highest temperatures in over forty years of record on July 19th.

Summer rainfall totals were below normal everywhere and were well below normal over most of the southern half of the country. It was the driest summer since 1995 at most stations and the driest on record at Shannon Airport, where measurements began in 1945. The number of wetdays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) recorded during the season was also well below normal; there were only between 20 and 30 wetdays at most stations compared with the normal range for summer of between 30 and 40.

Despite a relatively dull August, sunshine totals for the season were above normal everywhere and were well above normal in parts of the south. It was the sunniest summer since 1995 generally and the sunniest for around forty years at both Cork Airport and Valentia Observatory. Daily sunshine values of between 12 and 16 hours were recorded during the first week of June and again between July 14th and 18th.

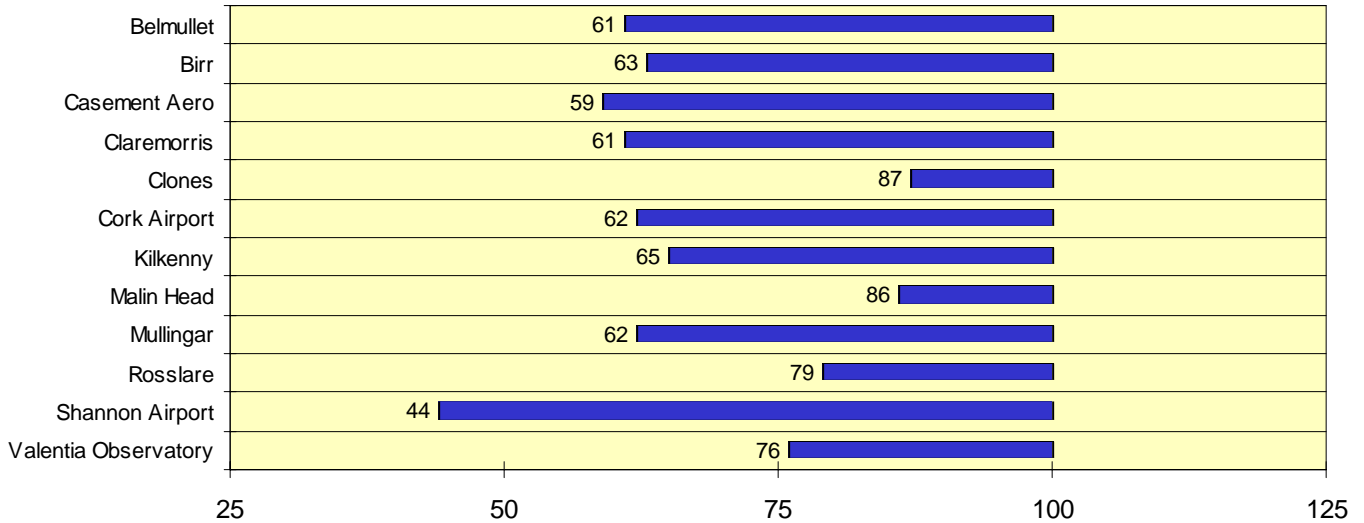
Poulter indices at long-term stations were much higher than normal for the season. The Poulter index is a method of quantifying summer weather (June to August), using a formula based on mean temperature, rainfall and sunshine for each station, i.e. the higher the index, the 'better' the summer weather. Taking the average of indices at the long-term stations of Valentia Observatory, Dublin (Phoenix Park), Malin Head and Birr, it was the third highest index of the series that extends back almost 100 years, slightly lower than that for 1976 but well below the value of the outstanding summer of 1995.

Extreme values

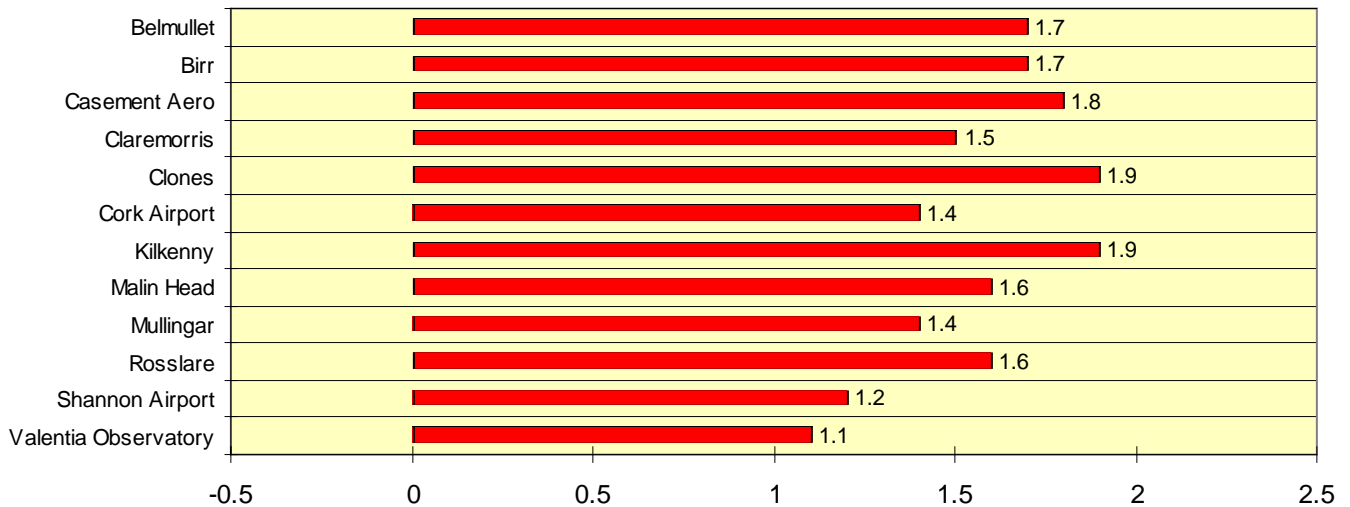
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 202mm at Valentia Observatory (<i>its driest summer since 1983</i>) Lowest seasonal total: 89mm at Shannon Airport (<i>its driest summer since records began there in 1945</i>) Highest daily rainfall: 27.8mm at Valentia Observatory on July 8th
Temperature	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 16.3°C at Kilkenny (<i>its warmest summer since 1995</i>) Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 14.4°C at Knock Airport (<i>its warmest summer since records began there in 1996</i>) Highest temperature: 31.0°C at Casement Aerodrome on July 19th (<i>its highest daily value since records began there in 1964</i>) Lowest air temperature: 3.8°C at Birr on June 23rd Lowest grass minimum temperature: -2.3°C at Birr on June 23rd
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 711 hours at Rosslare (<i>its sunniest summer since 1995</i>) Lowest seasonal total: 470 hours at Knock Airport (<i>its sunniest summer since records began there in 1996</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 15.8 hours at Malin Head on July 25th

Summer 2006 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

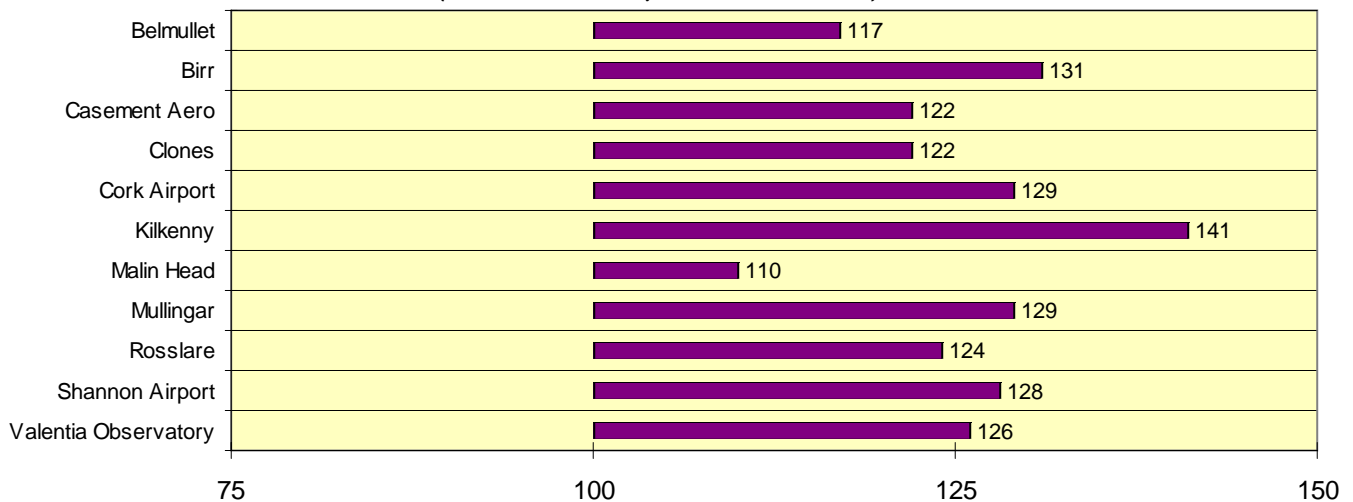
Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



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**

For more information, contact Met Éireann at 01-8064200 or e-mail: climate.enquiries@met.ie website: www.met.ie/climate