



# Monthly Weather Summary

## The Weather of September 2006

### **Warmest September on record in many places; rainfall and sunshine above normal**

Although there were some short dry spells during the month, deep Atlantic depressions close to the west coast were the dominant influence during September, bringing wet and windy weather, but also very mild conditions. Some of these depressions included former tropical storms or hurricanes, notably in the period between the 20th and 23rd. Temperatures were above normal throughout the month. Mean monthly values of between 15°C and 16°C generally were up to three degrees higher than normal for September; these values are even higher than those for a typical August. It was the warmest September for around 50 years of record in most places, while it was the warmest for over a century at some long-term stations; at Malin Head, it was the warmest September since 1895, while at Dublin (Phoenix Park) it was the warmest since 1865. Rainfall totals for the month were above normal everywhere and it was a particularly wet month in parts of the west and south. It was the wettest September for 6 or 7 years generally and the wettest since 1985 at Belmullet. The number of wetdays during the month (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) was only slightly higher than average for September, however, varying between 14 and 18 in most places. Two-day falls of more than 50mm were measured over the western half of the country in the period 20th-21st, while Shannon Airport's fall of 48mm on the 21st was its highest daily fall for September since the station opened in 1945. Sunshine totals were a little higher than normal, with most sunshine recorded in the periods 7th to 9th and 14th to 17th. Several stations had their sunniest September day for more than 20 years on either the 7th or 8th.

**1st to 5th:** Frontal systems over Ireland brought bands of heavy rain or showers, accompanied by strong southwesterly winds. Rainfall was particularly heavy on the 2nd in the southwest and on the 5th in the west and north. Both maximum and minimum temperatures were around five degrees higher than normal.

**6th to 10th:** Pressure rose as an anticyclone moved eastwards across the country. Apart from some showers near Atlantic coasts at first, this period was dry, warm and sunny with light winds.

**11th to 30th:** A return to very unsettled conditions, as deep Atlantic depressions moved close to or over the country. Rainfall was heavy in places on the 11th and 13th, but after a brief spell of fair weather on the 14th and 15th, the remainder of the month was very disturbed. Heavy rain over the western half of the country on the 21st and 22nd gave localised flooding, clearing to heavy and thundery showers on subsequent days. A tornado was observed near Aclare, Co. Sligo, on the 23rd. South to southwesterly winds reached gale force at times, particularly on the 21st/22nd as a depression- the former hurricane *Gordon*- moved northwards over the country. Very mild weather continued throughout almost all of the period, with ground frost confined to a few stations in the period 14th to 16th.

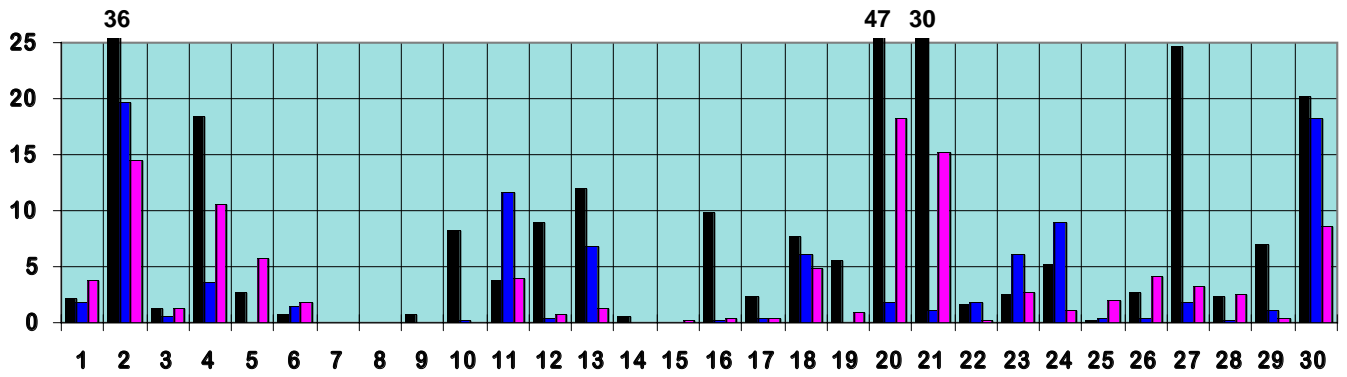
**Wind and elements:** Mean windspeeds for the month of between 7 and 13 knots (*13 and 24km/hour*) were close to normal, but there were spells of high winds at times, particularly between the 18th and 22nd and on the 27th. The strongest winds of the month were measured on the 21st/22nd, with the highest gust, 71 knots (*131km/hour*), recorded at Malin Head on the 22nd; this was the highest September gust at the station since 1983. Thunderstorms were recorded on the 1st, 11th and 18th and in the periods 22nd to 24th and 29th to 30th- they were widespread on the 23rd. Hail was recorded only on the 18th. Fog was most frequent during the periods 10th to 11th and 24th to 26th.

### **Extreme values**

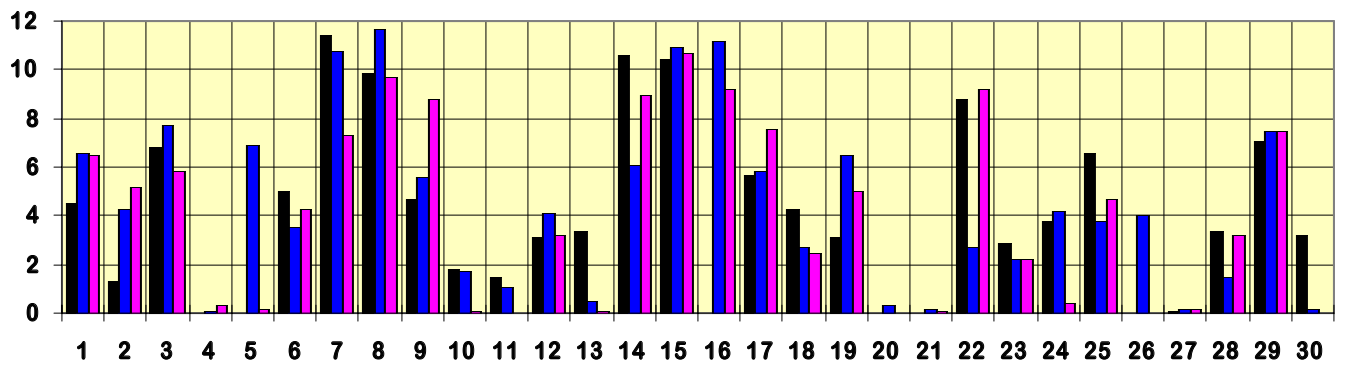
<b>Rainfall</b>	Highest total: 264mm at Valentia Observatory ( <i>its wettest September since 1999</i> ) Lowest total: 74mm at Casement Aerodrome ( <i>its wettest September since 2000</i> ) Highest daily rainfall: 50.4mm at Belmullet on 21st ( <i>its highest September daily fall since 1992</i> )
<b>Temperature</b>	Highest mean monthly temperature: 16.0°C at Rosslare ( <i>its warmest September since records began there in 1956</i> ) Lowest mean monthly temperature: 13.4°C at Knock Airport ( <i>its warmest September since records began there in 1997</i> ) Highest temperature: 23.1°C at Shannon Airport on 11th Lowest air temperature: 2.6°C at both Mullingar on 15th and at Kilkenny on 16th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -1.9°C at Dublin Airport on 16th ( <i>its lowest September value since 1990</i> )
<b>Sunshine</b>	Highest monthly total: 153 hours at Rosslare Lowest monthly total: 106 hours at Malin Head Highest daily sunshine: 12.2 hours at Rosslare on 7th

# September 2006 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

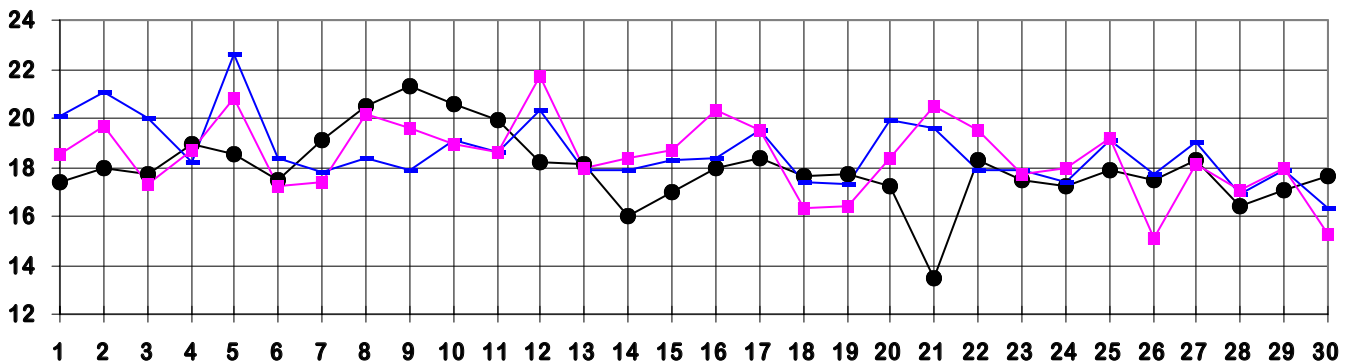
## Rainfall (mm)



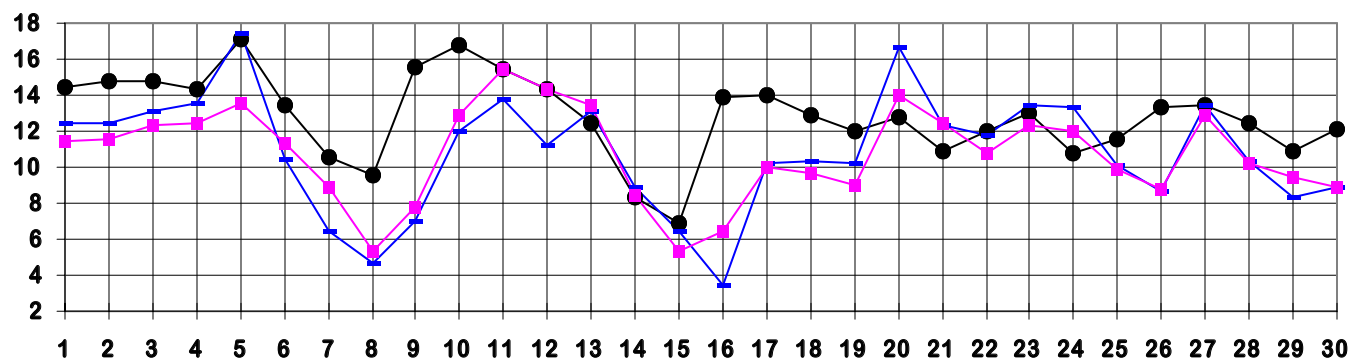
## Sunshine (hours)



## Maximum temperature (°C)



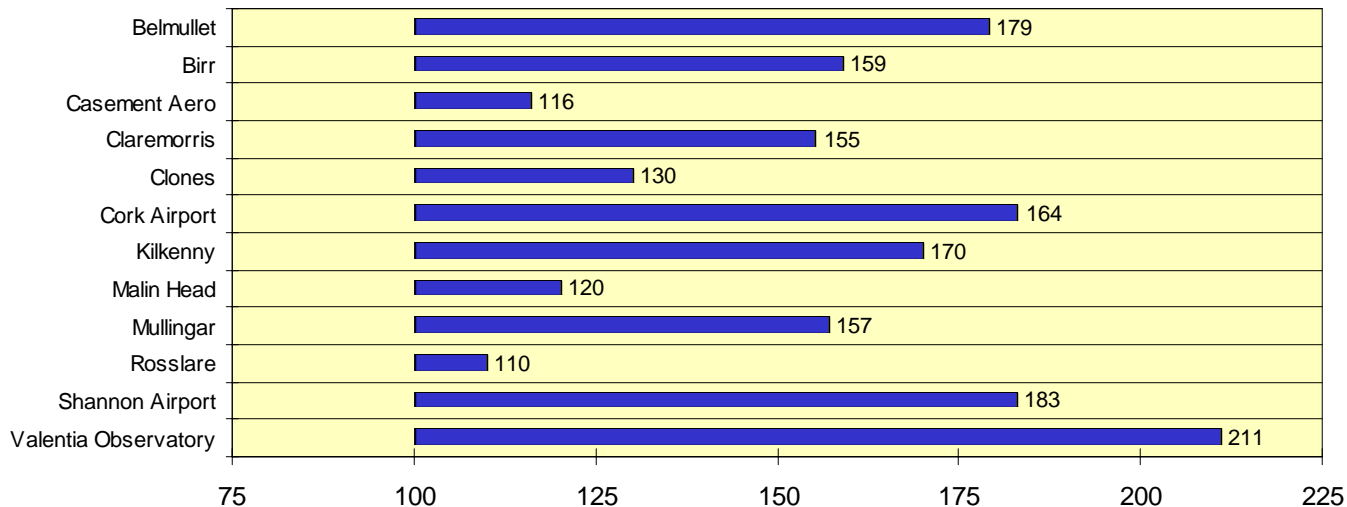
## Minimum temperature (°C)



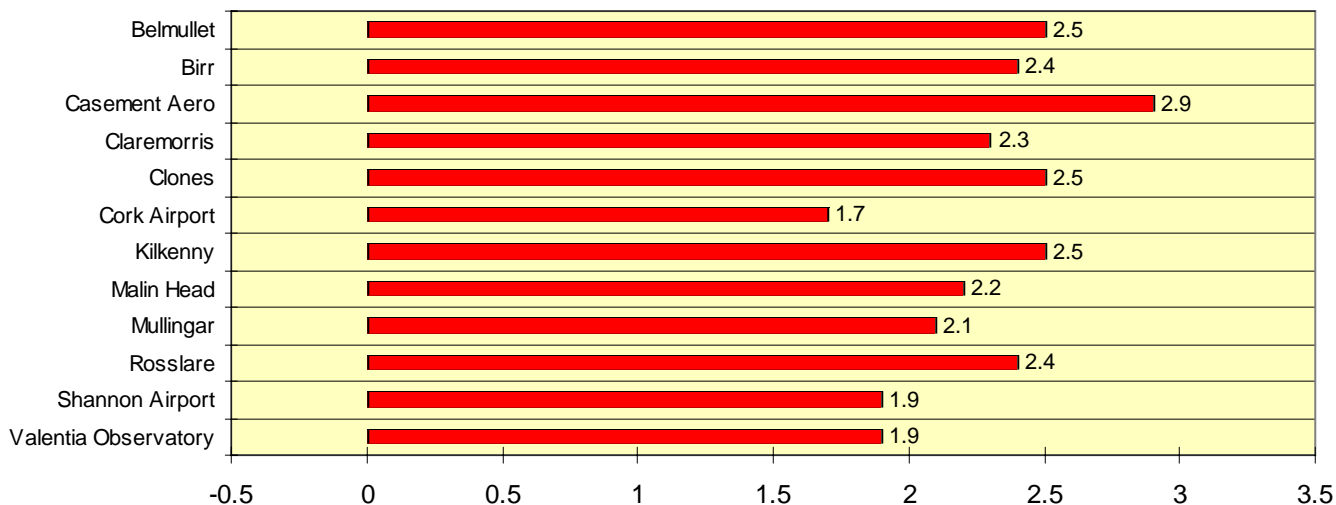
● Valentia Observatory      - Dublin Airport      ■ Clones

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

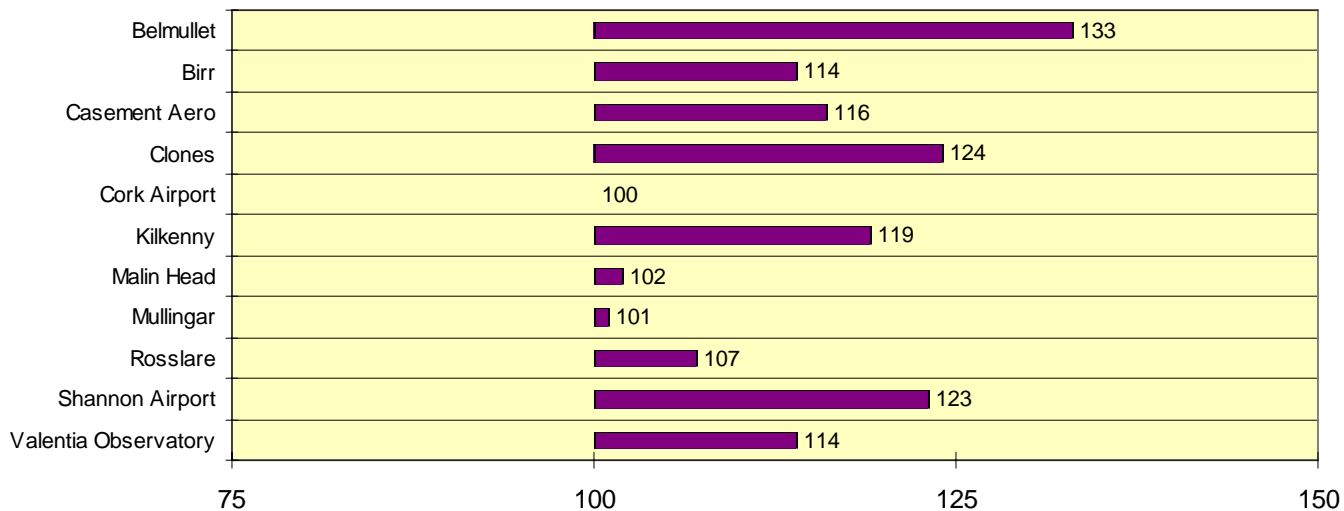
## Rainfall (% of normal for period 1961-1990)



## 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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