



Monthly Weather Summary

The Weather of August 2006

Warm and mainly dry; dull except in south

After a warm, sunny and mostly dry start to the month, the weather during the remainder of August became more unsettled, with rain on many days and generally cloudy conditions. Much of the month's rain was in the form of showers, however. While some of these showers were locally heavy and accompanied by thunder at times, rainfall totals for the month were below normal generally, making it the third successive summer month that was drier than normal. Unusually, the driest station in the country this month was Belmullet, where the total of 34mm was just over a third of its normal rainfall for August. There was a wide variation across the country in the number of wetdays (days with 1mm or more rainfall) recorded during the month; between 7 and 11 wetdays were measured in southern areas, while there were 20 such days at Clones. August was a warm month everywhere, with mean air temperatures of between a half and one degree above normal at most stations. The highest temperatures were recorded early in the month, with maximum values reaching over 25°C at many stations on the 5th. In contrast, some very low August temperatures were recorded on both the 8th and 24th, leading to slight ground frost in a few places. After a sunny start, much of the month was relatively dull and totals were the lowest for August for between 8 and 12 years at many stations. Cork Airport's daily value of 14.4 hours on the 7th, however, was the highest for August at the station since records began there in 1962.

1st to 5th: After the passage of a weak front across the country on the 1st, high pressure became established to the west or southwest of Ireland, bringing mainly dry weather. The first three days of the month were warm and sunny, but the highest temperatures were recorded on the 5th, which was generally cloudy except in the south. Moderate westerly winds at first became lighter and variable in direction.

6th to 21st: Ireland lay between areas of low pressure to the northeast and high pressure to the southwest during most of this period, giving a northwest to northerly airstream over the country. It was generally overcast with showers on most days. Frontal systems associated with a slow-moving depression near the country between the 15th and 19th brought spells of heavier and more persistent rain, especially to eastern and southern counties, accompanied by thunderstorms. A funnel cloud (a tornado not reaching the ground) was observed in Cork on the afternoon of the 18th, when Cork Airport measured a fall of 22.4mm within the space of an hour during a thunderstorm. Daytime temperatures were close to normal values, while nighttime values were a little above. The strongest winds were in the period 9th/10th, when there were gale gusts in a few places.

22nd to 31st: The unsettled weather continued as Atlantic depressions crossed the country in a moderate southwest to westerly airstream. There were showers or spells of rain on most days, but sunny periods also.

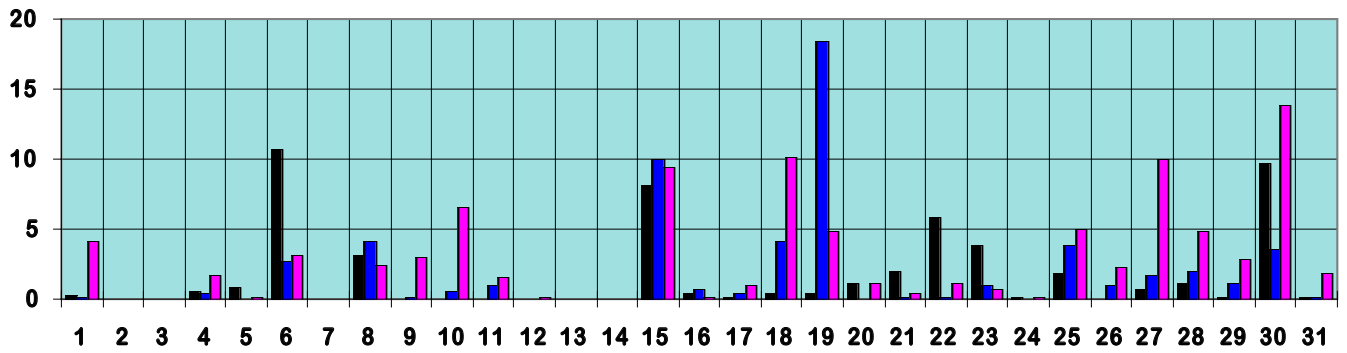
Wind and elements: Mean windspeeds for the month of between 6 and 14 knots (*11 and 26 km/hour*) were above normal generally and were the highest for August for between 7 and 14 years in many places. The highest gust of the month, 40 knots (*74 km/hour*), was measured at Malin Head on the 9th. Thunderstorms were confined to the second half of the month; they were recorded in the periods 16th to 19th and 27th to 28th and on the 23rd and 31st. There were no reports of hail. Most fog was recorded in the periods 4th to 8th and 30th to 31st.

Extreme values

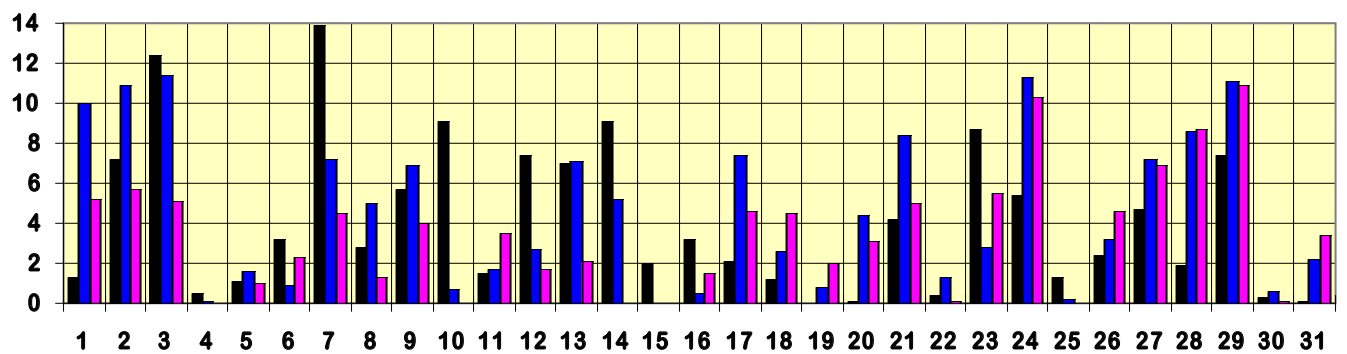
Rainfall	Highest total: 93mm at Clones (<i>its wettest August since 1998</i>) Lowest total: 34mm at Belmullet Highest daily rainfall: 27mm at Cork Airport on 18th
Temperature	Highest mean monthly temperature: 16.0°C at Rosslare Lowest mean monthly temperature: 13.8°C at Knock Airport Highest temperature: 27.9°C at Kilkenny on 5th Lowest air temperature: 4.5°C at Mullingar on 8th Lowest grass minimum temperature: -0.3°C at Birr on 24th
Sunshine	Highest monthly total: 182 hours at Rosslare Lowest monthly total: 95 hours at Knock Airport (<i>its dullest August since records began there in 1996</i>) Highest daily sunshine: 14.4 hours at Cork Airport on 7th (<i>its highest August daily value since records began there in 1962</i>)

August 2006 Daily values at selected synoptic stations

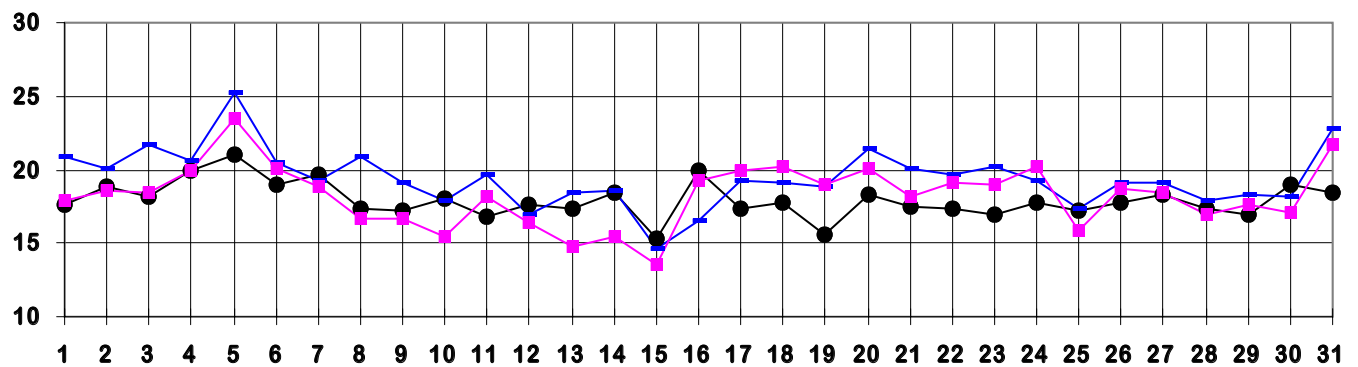
Rainfall (mm)



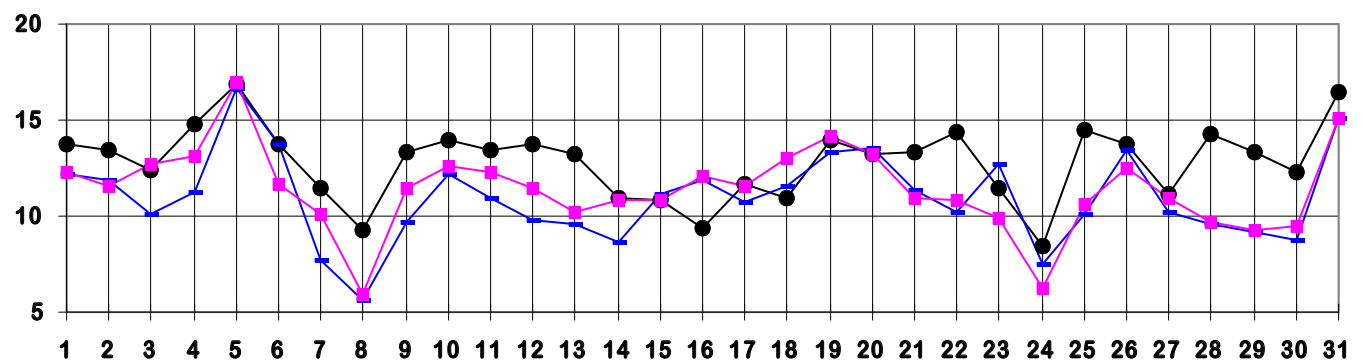
Sunshine (hours)



Maximum temperature (°C)



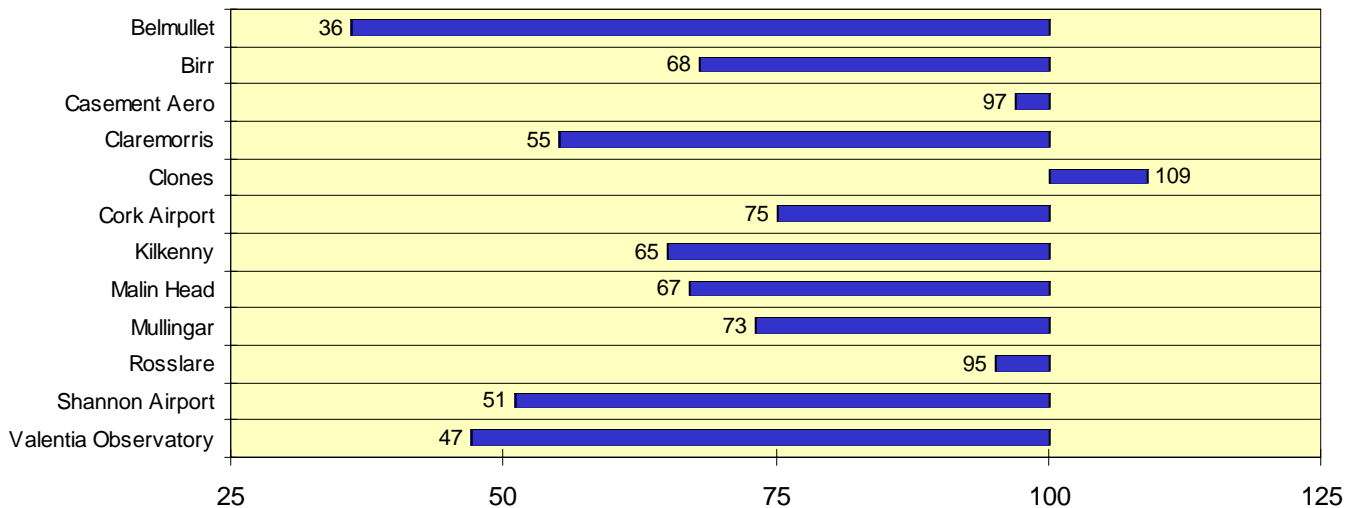
Minimum temperature (°C)



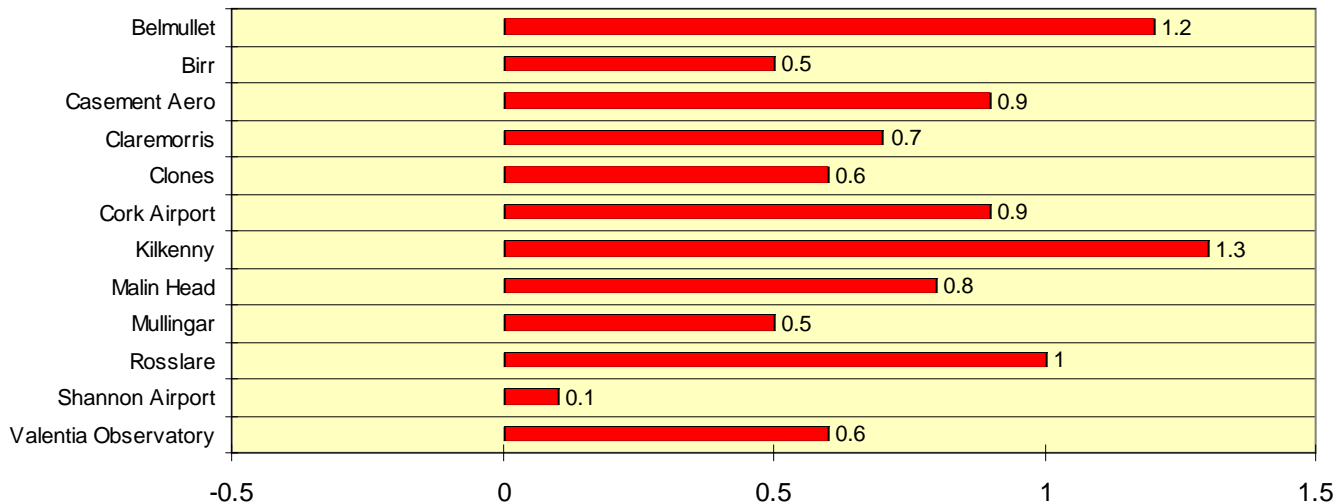
● Valentia Observatory - Dublin Airport ■ Clones

August 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)

