

The Weather of Autumn 2006

(September, October & November summary)

Warmest Autumn on record in many places; wetter, sunnier than normal everywhere

Autumn mean air temperatures were more than one degree above normal for the 1961-90 period everywhere and were close to two degrees above normal in places. It was the warmest autumn on record at many stations, the majority of which have records extending back to the 1950s. At long-term stations, it was the warmest autumn at Dublin (Phoenix Park) since temperature records began there in 1855, while at Malin Head it was the warmest since such readings began in 1885. September and October were particularly warm, while mean temperatures for November were slightly higher than normal. There was no air frost during the season in coastal areas, but 2 or 3 air frosts were recorded at most inland stations, while Kilkenny recorded 7; in all cases there were fewer than normal frosts during autumn.

Rainfall totals for the season were above normal everywhere, with around 50% more rainfall than normal at several stations. It was the wettest autumn in most places for between 6 and 8 years and the wettest on record at both Cork Airport and Kilkenny. Apart from a short spell of dry weather in early November, the season was a wet one throughout. There were heavy falls on a number of days, particularly in the south and southwest; falls of around 50mm were measured on September 20th/21st, October 25th and November 15th. Shannon Airport's fall of 48mm on September 21st was its highest daily fall for autumn in over 50 years of record. There were also more wetdays (*days with 1mm or more rainfall*) than normal during the season. Between 35 and 45 wetdays were measured in most eastern and southern stations, with up to 65 wetdays recorded in some western areas; this compares with the normal range for autumn of between 33 and 55 wetdays.

Sunshine totals for the season were above normal everywhere and it was the sunniest autumn for 20 years in the Dublin area. Each of the constituent months was sunnier than normal, while totals for November were the highest on record in places. Almost all stations recorded their sunniest day of the season on either September 7th or 8th.

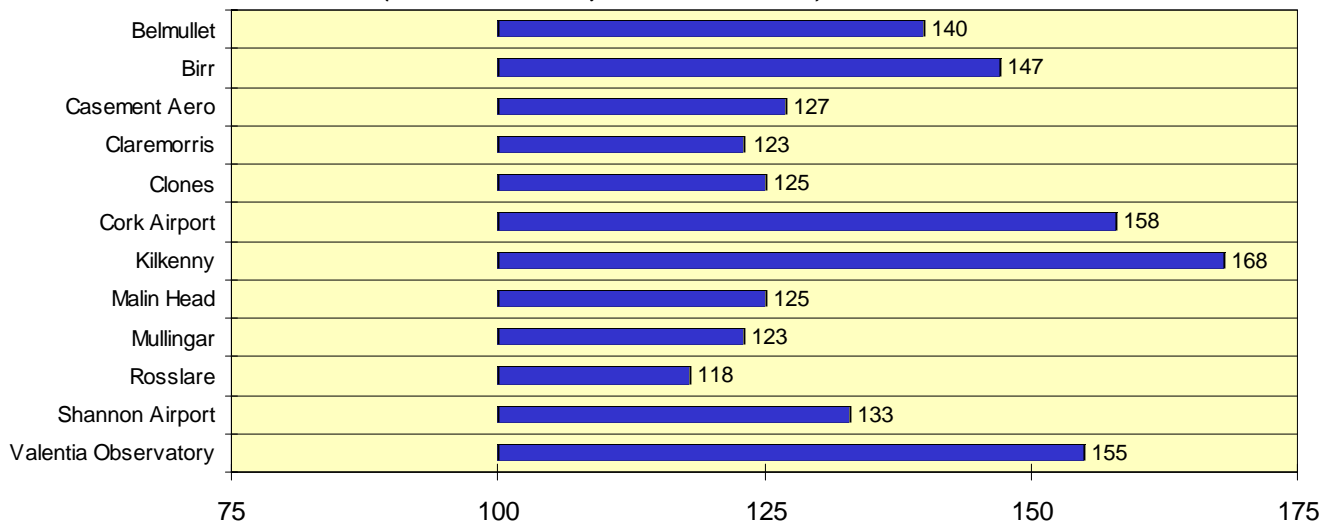
Mean windspeeds for the season of between 8 and 16 knots (*15 and 30 km/hour*) were close to normal at most stations. Malin Head measured a gust of 71 knots (*131 km/hour*) on September 22nd as the former hurricane *Gordon* passed over the country, but the highest gust of the season, 72 knots (*133 km/hour*), was measured at Belmullet on November 19th.

Extreme values

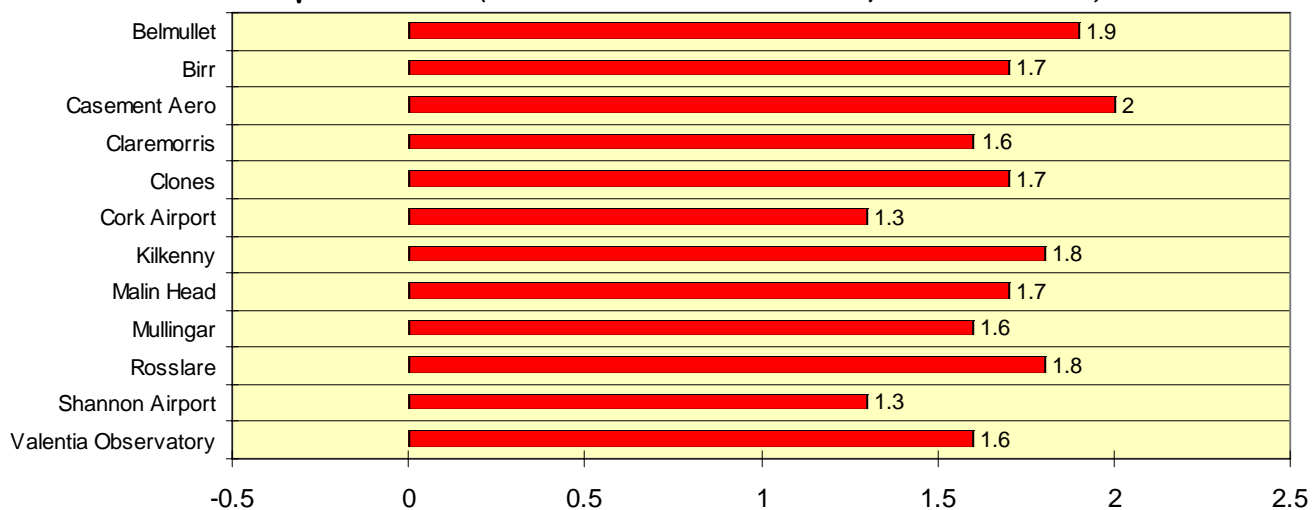
Rainfall	Highest seasonal total: 664mm at Valentia Observatory (<i>its wettest autumn since 2000</i>) Lowest seasonal total: 250mm at Casement Aerodrome Highest daily rainfall: 55.3mm at Valentia Observatory on October 25th (<i>its highest daily value for autumn since 1993</i>)
Temperature	Highest mean seasonal temperature: 12.9°C at both Rosslare and Valentia (<i>their warmest autumn for over 50 years</i>) Lowest mean seasonal temperature: 10.1°C at Knock Airport (<i>its warmest autumn since records began there in 1996</i>) Highest temperature: 23.1°C at Shannon Airport on September 11th Lowest air temperature: -4.0°C at Mullingar on November 3rd (<i>its lowest such value for autumn since 1996</i>) Lowest grass minimum temperature: -9.4°C at Birr on November 2nd and 3rd
Sunshine	Highest seasonal total: 382 hours at Rosslare Lowest seasonal total: 251 hours at Malin Head Highest daily sunshine: 12.2 hours at Rosslare on September 7th

Autumn 2006 Percentage / Difference from 1961-90 monthly normals

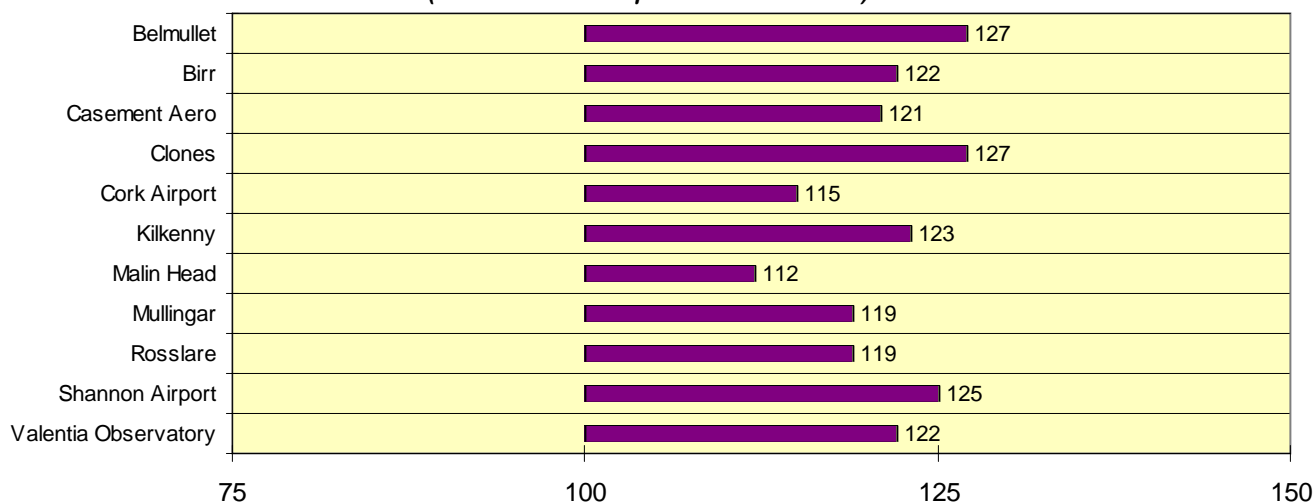
Rainfall (*% of normal for period 1961-1990*)



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



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



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on 1st December 2006
 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