



# ANNUAL 2017

## **Temperature and rainfall near average for year, storm Ophelia in October**

The year began mild and mainly dry but became unsettled at the end of January and for February with storm Doris bringing widespread gales and disruption on 23rd February. Changeable, mild weather continued through most of March, while April brought mainly dry and settled conditions until the last few days of the month, and May saw a good deal of dry weather but also some wetter interludes. The first half of June was changeable, with warm mostly dry weather for the second half of that month. July and August were unsettled and noticeably cool, brief high pressure ridges brought some fine days – especially to the south and east, while severe thundery downpours occurred in the North on August 23rd. The cool unsettled pattern continued during September. October was notable for storm Ophelia, an extra-tropical cyclone which made landfall on the 16th, bringing violent storm force winds to Munster, and strong gale force winds to many areas with destructive gusts widely. During November and December the unsettled pattern continued with some colder interludes, bringing some severe frosts and falls of snow to many parts on December 10th.

### **Temperature: mild first half of year, cooler second half**

Apart from Athenry, all annual mean air temperatures across the country were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). The first half of the year was milder than normal, whilst the second half of the year had below normal temperatures. Deviations from mean air temperature for the year ranged from 0.0 °C (9.9 °C mean temperature) at Athenry, Co Galway to 0.9 °C (10.5 °C mean temperature) at Dublin (Phoenix Park). Mean temperatures for the year ranged from 9.2 °C (difference from LTA 0.6 °C) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 11.3 °C (difference from LTA 0.1 °C) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork. The warmest monthly conditions were in June, which recorded the highest temperatures for the year, whilst the coolest monthly conditions were in late November and December, which recorded the lowest temperatures for the year. The year's highest temperature was reported at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on the 21st Jun with a temperature of 28.6 °C. The year's lowest air minimum was recorded on the 11th Dec at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin with -6.6 °C while the lowest grass minimum was -10.4 °C reported at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on the 21st Jan.

### **Rainfall: record breaking daily rainfall for Summer at Malin Head**

The majority of annual rainfall totals were below their Long-Term Average. The first half of the year was drier than normal, with a wetter than normal second half to the year. April was the driest month, with the majority of stations reporting less than 60% of their LTA, whilst the wettest monthly conditions were in September in parts of the South. Annual percentage of LTA values ranged from 83% at Mace Head, Co Galway with 1114.1 mm to 109% at Newport, Co Mayo with 1754.4 mm. A significant rainfall event affected the Northwest on August 22nd, where our station at Malin Head recorded 77.2 mm, the station's wettest Summer day in 62 years, with 63.0mm falling in a 6-hour period. This was the highest daily rainfall for the year.

### **Sunshine: duller year than normal**

None of the available annual sunshine totals were above their Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of annual sunshine values ranged from 81% (annual sunshine total of 972.4 hours) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 100% (annual sunshine total of 1370.9 hours) at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin. Annual sunshine totals ranged from 972.4 hours (81% of LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo to 1410.5 hours (no LTA comparison\*) at Johnstown Castle\*, Co Wexford. The highest number of daily sunshine hours recorded this year was 15.9 hours at both Johnstown Castle\*, Co Wexford and Cork Airport both on the 18th Jun.

### **Wind: Storm Ophelia brings violent storm force winds to South**

Annual mean wind speeds ranged from 6.0 knots (11.1 km/h) at Moore Park, Co Cork and Mullingar, Co Westmeath to 15.1 knots (28.0 km/h) at Malin Head, Co Donegal. There were numerous days with gales and strong gales with up to storm force winds on the 23rd Feb (due to Storm Doris), 16th Oct (due to Storm Ophelia) and 31st Dec (due to Storm Dylan). The number of days with up to strong gales ranged from zero at a few stations to 10 days at Mace Head, Co Galway. The number of days with storm force winds were up to 2 at both Mace Head, Co Galway and Malin Head, Co Donegal. Both the year's highest gust and 10-minute mean wind speed was reported at Roche's Point, Co Cork on the 16th Oct. This was due to Storm Ophelia. The highest gust was 84 knots (155.6 km/h) (its highest on record) while the year's highest 10-minute mean wind speed was 62 knots (114.8 km/h) (its highest on record).

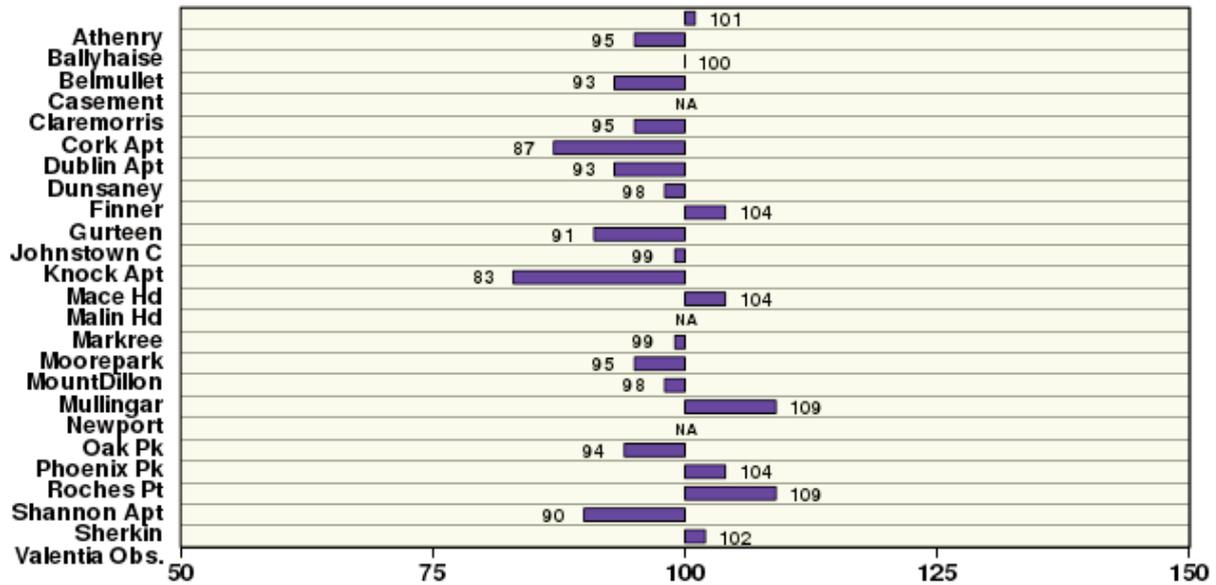
#### ANNUAL EXTREME VALUES AT SYNOPTIC STATIONS

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Rainfall</b>    | Highest annual total: 1754.4 mm (109% of LTA) at Newport, Co Mayo<br>Lowest annual total: 660.5 mm (87% of LTA) at Dublin Airport<br>Highest daily rainfall: 77.2 mm at Malin Head, Co Donegal on Aug 22nd ( <i>its wettest Summer day since 1955</i> )   |
| <b>Temperature</b> | Highest annual mean temperature: 11.3°C (0.1°C from LTA) at Sherkin Island, Co Cork<br>Lowest annual mean temperature: 9.2°C (0.7°C from LTA) at Knock Airport, Co Mayo<br>Highest air temperature: 28.6°C at Dublin (Phoenix Park) on Jun 21st ( <i>its hottest day since 1990</i> )<br>Lowest air temperature: -6.6°C at Casement Aerodrome, Co Dublin on Dec 11th<br>Lowest grass minimum temperature: -10.4°C at Mount Dillon, Co Roscommon on Jan 21st |
| <b>Sunshine</b>    | Highest annual total: 1410.5 hrs (daily mean 3.9 hrs/day) at Johnstown Castle*, Co Wexford<br>Lowest annual total: 972.4 hrs (daily mean 3.0 hrs/day, 81% of LTA) at Knock Airport ( <i>its dullest year since 1997</i> )<br>Highest daily sunshine: 15.9 hrs at Cork Airport ( <i>its highest daily sunshine since 2004</i> ) and Johnstown Castle*, Co Wexford, both on Jun 18th  |

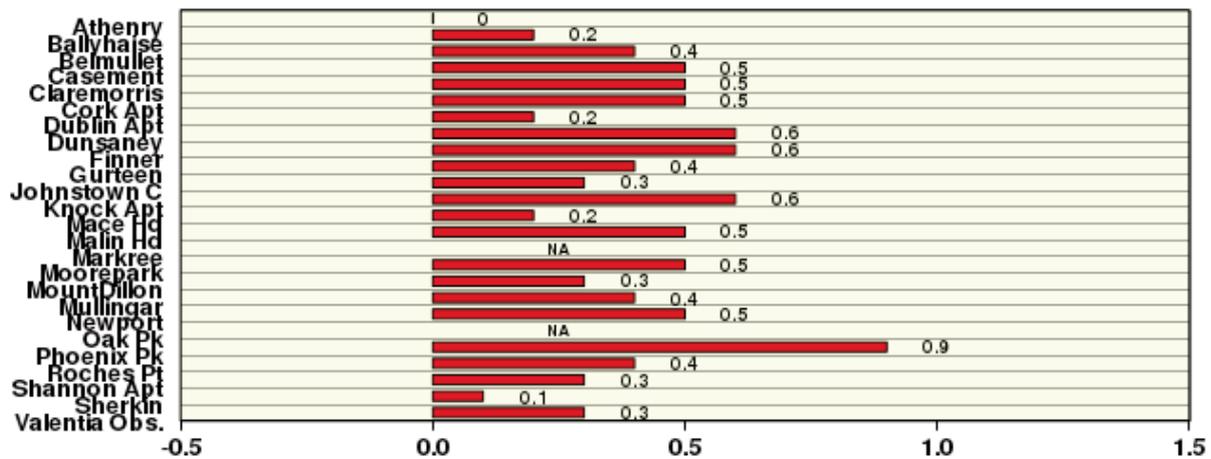
## 2017 Annual Percentage/Difference from 1981-2010 Normals

Based on Data from 1st January to 31 December 2017 on whole year basis

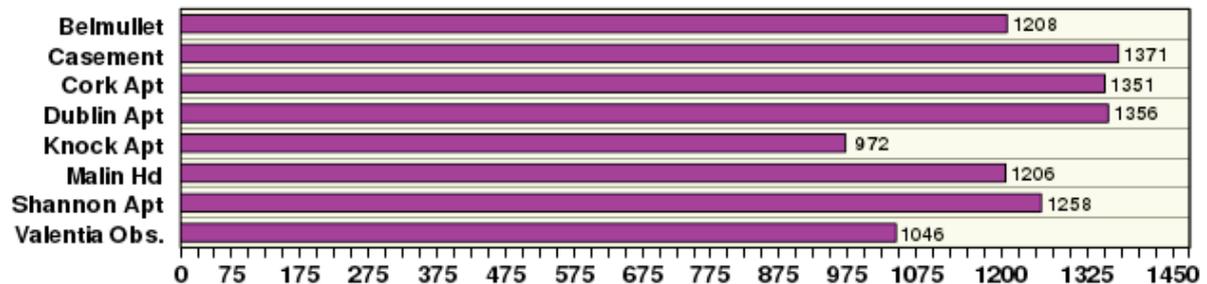
### Rainfall (% of normal for period 1981-2010) on whole year basis



### Temperature (°C) (difference from normal for period 1981-2010)



### Sunshine



Issued by the Climatology and Observations Division of Met Éireann on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018.

This report is based on available preliminary data from 25 principal weather stations operated by Met Éireann.

Long-Term Averages (LTAs) and "average" refer to the period 1981-2010. Synoptic station data is midnight to midnight UTC.

\*Sunshine data is from the Autosol Network. LTAs for these sites are currently not used for comparison purposes.

<sup>1</sup> A dull day is a day with less than 0.5 hours of sunshine.

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