

### IRELAND CLIMATE

Ireland's climate is normally mild due to the moderating influence of the Gulf Stream. This means that the island does not suffer the extremes of temperature experienced at similar latitudes in Europe and elsewhere.

#### RAINFALL

As south-westerly winds from the Atlantic tend to dominate Ireland, this gives a rainfall pattern where the highest figures are found in the northwest, west and southwest. The weather stations also show that rainfall tends to be highest in winter, and lowest in early summer. The southwest weather station of Ballaghbeama Gap recorded the greatest total annual rainfall in 1960 with 3964.9 mm (156 inches). There is a general impression that Ireland has a lot of rain, but two out of every three hourly observations do not report any measurable rainfall. The average number of wet days – with more than 1 mm of rain – varies from around 150 days a year on eastern and southeast coasts, to around 225 days a year in parts of the west.

#### TEMPERATURE

The average annual temperature for Ireland is about 9 °C. At the extremes there are areas with a summer mean daily maximum of around 19 °C and a winter daily mean minimum of around 2.5 °C. The weather stations show that the moderating influence of the Atlantic is felt right across Ireland. The inland stations do show more temperature variation than those on the coast, as on around forty days each year the minimum air temperature can fall below zero, while on the coast this becomes fewer than ten days. The inland air temperature can reach 18–20 °C during the day in summer and around 8 °C in winter.

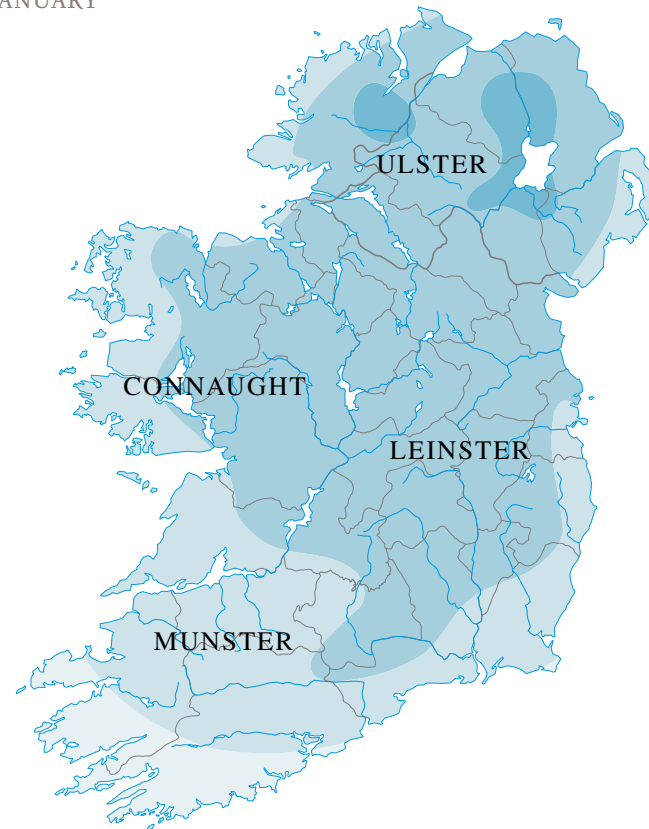


As Ireland has a mild climate this is not a common sight. At the end of December 2000 there was a cold snap and the 'Emerald Isle' became white as a heavy fall of snow covered the ground.

#### TEMPERATURE–JANUARY

scale 1:4 000 000

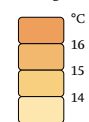
Average temperature



#### TEMPERATURE–JULY

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Average temperature

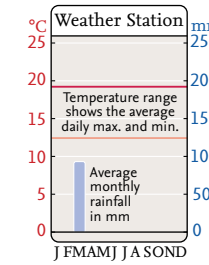


#### WEATHER EXTREMES

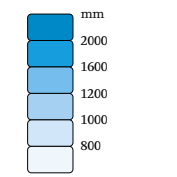
	Location
<b>Rainfall</b>	
Driest year	1887 – 356.6 mm (14 inches) of rain recorded at Glasnevin, Dublin
Greatest annual total	1960 – 3964.9 mm (156 inches) of rain recorded at Ballaghbeama Gap
<b>Temperature</b>	
Highest	26th June 1887 – 33.3°C (91.9°F) recorded at Kilkenny Castle
Lowest	16th January 1881 – -19.1°C (-2.4°F) recorded at Markree Castle
<b>Wind</b>	
Strongest low-level gust	11th – 12th January 1974 – gust of 199.5 km per hour (124 miles per hour) recorded at Kilkel

#### ANNUAL RAINFALL

scale 1:2 250 000



Average annual rainfall



- Location of places on climate graphs
- ▲ Location of weather extremes

