

# Monthly Weather Bulletin

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*White Christmas in many places- page 2*



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*Warmer, sunnier than normal*



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Notes on the tables and map showing location of stations appear in each January issue

## VERY SHOWERY FOR MOST OF MONTH; WARM EVERYWHERE

**Summary:** Temperatures were above normal during most of December, but a short spell of cold weather developed over the Christmas period, bringing falls of sleet or snow, especially over the north of the country. Mean temperatures overall were more than one degree higher than normal generally; it was the mildest December for 6 or 7 years at many stations and the mildest since 1988 at stations along the west and north coasts. There were only

between 3 and 5 air frosts recorded at inland stations compared with the normal range for December of 9 to 11. Rainfall totals for the month were below normal except in parts of the northwest and north, with just over half of the normal rainfall for December recorded at stations in the south and southeast. Rainfall amounts were small over most of the country until the 14th of the month, but showers or longer falls of rain were recorded on each day thereafter,

## FLOOD DAMAGE IN DUBLIN



### 50 years since Fairview flooding

*Fifty years ago this month, following a very wet autumn, heavy rainfall led to significant flooding in many parts of the country, especially in the Fairview area of Dublin city after the collapse of the railway bridge over the river Tolka- see page 3 (picture Irish Times)*

Roche's Point, Co. Cork measured the highest gust of the month, 71 knots (131km/hr) during the morning of the 17th. There were isolated thunderstorms on the 4th, 16th, 20th and in the period 24th to 27th. Snow fell in the periods 18th to 20th

and 24th to 28th; it was recorded at almost every station on the 25th. Hail showers were recorded on the 6th, 16th, 17th, 20th and in the period 23rd to 28th. Fog was most widespread in the periods 1st to 5th, 10th to 11th and on the 31st.

## Widespread floods of December 1954



The last quarter of 1954 was exceptionally wet, with more than 50% of normal rainfall for the 3-month period recorded in parts of the east and northeast (see map bottom left). Late November and early December brought a spell of particularly wet and windy weather; there were a number of ships sunk or run aground off the Irish coast in what were described in newspaper reports as "mountainous seas".

Flooding was already widespread in many parts of the country before a band of heavy rain moved eastwards late on December 6th, clearing for a while on the 7th before another band of persistent and heavy rain became established in all areas on the 8th. Rain was particularly heavy over eastern counties, with more than 80mm falling in the 3-day period between the 6th and 8th (see map centre left). Dublin Airport recorded a daily total of 49mm on the 8th, a value that has not since been exceeded at the station during December.

Early on the 9th, the swollen river Tolka undermined the foundations of the railway bridge across the river at Fairview (below). The collapsed bridge then formed a barrier across the river, causing water to flow out across a very wide area; approximately 1,500 houses accommodating 2,000 families were affected by the flood waters and several hundred people were forced to evacuate their homes. There was extensive flooding elsewhere across the city, particularly in the Kilmainham area along the river Camac, while the Shannon reached its highest level since 1925 and many thousands of acres of farmland were inundated. There were also reports of widespread power outages on the 8th, with further disruption caused by heavy falls of snow in parts of the midlands and northwest. (pictures Irish Times)

