

Forecast: Ireland

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Ireland – Thursday – Morning

Ireland's weather for Thursday begins on a very cold note with overnight temperatures slow to recover in the North-west of Ireland. Ireland will be situated in a ridge of high pressure in between two low pressure systems. One low pressure system will be situated to the south-east, whilst another system will be located in the Atlantic to the north-west of Ireland. Within North Ulster and also North Connaught a hard frost will persist for the entire morning, with lows of -6C and temperatures struggling to around freezing point by around mid-day. In the southern counties temperatures will rise to around 3C by mid-day, though the south and east coastal regions may see some low cloud or mist. Slightly milder conditions will affect the south-east of Ireland, with perhaps some lingering mist or fog patches off the coast of Leinster and south-east Munster after some overnight sleet and snow to these regions. For much of Ireland it will be a sunny morning, with exception to the south-eastern counties and winds will be very light or calm.

Ireland – Thursday – Afternoon

During the afternoon period Ireland will see sunnier conditions develop across the whole country. There will be little change in the synoptic conditions during the day, and a ridge of high pressure will dominate Ireland's weather. Any mist or low cloud will clear the south and east coasts, to leave cold but sunny conditions. Most counties will see a rapid return of frosty conditions by sunset with exception of the coastal regions, with temperatures inland reaching around freezing point by late afternoon. Fog or freezing fog will persist for much of Leinster and south-east Munster where it will feel rather chilly in the damp air. The mist will tend to clear to east Leinster coasts later in the period as a light south-westerly wind develops. Some misty patches may also form around the western valleys of Munster and Connaught after sunset. Northern Ireland will see a cold but sunny day as temperatures peak around 2C, though temperatures will struggle above freezing within any lingering fog patches in parts of Antrim.

Ireland – Thursday – Night

During the night Ireland will see a widespread hard frost with temperatures ranging typically from -6C within the inland districts to -1C at the coasts. Icy conditions will affect the south-east counties where Wednesday nights sleet and snow has fallen. Winds will be light or calm and variable with some high cloud lifting temperatures in the west of Ireland later in the night ahead of an Atlantic low pressure system slowly approaching from the west. In much of Munster and Connaught the night-time minimums of -2C to -5C will be reached by around mid-night, whilst an extreme frost will affect inland Ireland later in the night. Later in the night any mist or fog patches in the eastern counties will tend to lift allowing temperatures to fall to -5C in isolated spots of Leinster before dawn. A general band of high cloud will affect western counties of Connaught and

Munster leading to largely overcast conditions during sunrise. Northern Ireland will see also see a calm and cold night with temperature dipping to around -5C with perhaps some isolated mist or freezing fog patches around Antrim.

Ireland – Friday

Friday will see a much milder and damper scene across much of Ireland as a weak Atlantic low nudges into Ireland from the west. After a cold and hard frost to many counties of Ireland with light sleet or snow showers in the Eastern coasts, a band of sleet and snow will affect the western counties of Leister and Connaught. The band of precipitation will reach many western counties by later morning, with a region of heavy precipitation around Mayo. Maximum temperatures will climb to around 4C in the south during the late afternoon, although with a fresh Westerly to south-easterly wind it will feel very raw outside. Within the central districts of Ireland and higher routes temperatures may reach just 1C, with a biting wind and snowfall. Heavy snow over the higher ground of Connaught and inland Ireland will see some moderate accumulations of snow typically of around 2 inches. Freezing rain or wet snow falling initially onto frozen surfaces will lead to some treacherous icy patches on the roads during the morning period. Friday night will be mostly frost free for the entire country, with moderate westerly winds and broken cloud, with minimum temperatures falling to 0C within inland spots.

Ireland - Saturday

With a ridge of high pressure giving way to a weak region of low pressure on Saturday, the weather will turn much cloudier in Ireland with patchy rain or sleet. Most of the precipitation will affect the western slopes and counties of Munster and Connaught. There will be less in the way of snow and ice, although it will still feel rather cold and damp. The coldest weather will be in the northern districts of Leinster, South Ulster and Northern Ireland where the diurnal temperature range will be in the range of 0C to 4C. There may also be some patchy sleet and snow in North Ulster and Northern Ireland during Saturday night. In the remaining counties of Ireland temperatures will range from 2C to 5C, with just a small risk of frost under clearing skies. In the southern counties a fresh west or south-westerly wind will persist, strengthening into the evening. In the northern counties winds will be a light south-westerly. Overnight on Saturday a cooler north-westerly veering of the wind will make it feel rather raw outside, particularly in North Connaught and North Ulster which will be affected by the majority of the overnight rain or sleet.

Ireland – Sunday

A decaying low pressure system centred over Scotland will bring light north-westerly winds of 8mph to Ireland. Scattered showers and mostly overcast skies will bring rain to the north and western coasts of Ulster, Connaught and Northern Ireland where maximum temperatures will reach a chilly 5C. It will be yet another cool and damp day for Ireland with maximum temperatures reaching 7C in south-west districts of Wexford and

Waterford, whilst inland temperatures over much of Ireland will not exceed 4C. Low cloud, mist or fog patches may affect the south-west of Munster and county Antrim for much of the day. In these regions the maximum temperatures may be a degree or two cooler with intermittent light rain. Breaks in the cloud during Sunday evening around dusk allow the temperatures to fall enough for a widespread air frost for much of inland Ireland within 5 miles of the coast. Due to the residing dampness localised mist patches may form over many inland valleys. Some sleet and snow will affect the south-west of Ireland overnight on Sunday leaving some icy patches on untreated roads.

Ireland – Monday

During Monday patchy low cloud will break to allow some longer sunny periods. The brighter weather is associated with a decaying low pressure system that brought rainfall on Sunday, which will drift north-eastward giving rise to a lull in the weather conditions for Ireland. Ireland will therefore be mostly dry during Monday with maximum temperatures reaching 4 to 7C. Any lying snow in the south-west of Ireland will rapidly thaw to leave a rather pleasant day with light and variable winds of less than 5mph expected for much of the country. During the early evening temperatures fall to around freezing point in the majority of the country, although an approaching low pressure system from the Atlantic heralds more in the way of rain during Monday night for Munster and south Leinster. Overnight on Monday moderate to strong easterly winds with gusts up to 30mph associated with a deepening Atlantic low that will bring some moderate rainfall to these regions. Minimum temperature will be in the range of 0C in Northern Ireland, but rather milder in the southern counties at around 5C due to a bank of cloud.

Ireland – Tuesday

During Tuesday a deep Atlantic low pressure system will bring moderate rainfall to Munster and south Leinster for much of the day-time, whilst the northern counties will see a dry and mostly cloudy day. Maximum temperatures will range from 7C in south Munster to 4C in parts of Northern Ireland. Winds will tend to back from the east to the north-east later in the evening, whilst the band of precipitation in the southern Irish counties shifts southwards resulting in light or patchy rainfall for south Munster. The rainfall will persist until around mid-night whilst patchy fog and frost will affect the northern counties of Ireland with minimum temperatures of 0C in the lowlands. A light northerly wind will make North Ulster and Northern Ireland feel rather raw. Some mist and fog patches may form under clearing skies in the south of Ireland following the days' rainfall. During the night the winds veer to a light north-easterly for the majority of Ireland as patchy cloud moves into north Ulster and Northern Ireland.

Ireland 7-14 Day Outlook

Wednesday December 30 – Tuesday January 5

Early in this period a ridge of high pressure builds in the Atlantic, whilst low pressure systems over Europe drive a brisk northerly or north-easterly flow into the country. Temperatures are likely to be below average or well below average at times, and showers of hail, sleet and snow are likely for Northern Ireland and northern counties. In general the precipitation will be slightly above average in much of the northern counties, whilst cool but drier conditions will affect the south of the country. Overnight frosts will be frequent, though fog and mist will be less likely due to the domination of a cooler Arctic maritime air-stream. In contrast to the north, the south-west is likely to receive below average rainfall, as the frequency of passing Atlantic lows are below average.

Ireland 15-21 Day Outlook

Tuesday January 6 – Monday January 12

Temperatures are expected to be slightly below average for much of this period, with a north-easterly or continental air-stream dominating the weather of Ireland. During this week the risk of sleet and snow is mostly restricted to the more northerly counties of Ireland, though extremes of frost may affect much of Ireland. It is likely that conditions will return to a milder, windier and much more unsettled theme towards the end of this period. The onset of the milder period will be pronounced by strong south-westerly and heavy rainfall for southern counties of Ireland towards the second week of January.

Ireland 22-30 Day Outlook

Tuesday January 13 – Thursday January 21

With the Atlantic maritime weather systems dominating the weather during this period temperature are likely to be above average or well above average, with just a low risk of fog and frost expected for central inland regions. Periods of heavy and intense rainfall will dominate the weather of Ireland during this period. Strong south-westerly or westerly winds will affect the southern most counties. In general the weather will return to the normal Atlantic theme associated with a mild Irish winter, with a tropical maritime airflow.

Christopher Nankervis BSc (Hons) Met