

**The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during 2021 and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.**

2021 was slightly warmer than average for the UK overall, most notably in Northern Ireland. Rainfall was broadly close to average, though the western half of Scotland had a rather dry year. It was a sunnier than average year in many northern and western areas, although the Midlands, south-east England and East Anglia were duller than average.

Notable extreme events during the year included wintry weather with snowfalls during January and February, a hot spell in July leading to the issue of heat health warnings, heavy and persistent rain in northern England and southern Scotland in late October, and significant disruption caused by Storm Arwen in late November for which a rare Red weather warning was issued. Five named storms affected the UK during 2021.

The provisional UK mean temperature for 2021 was 9.3 °C, which is 0.1 °C above average. January was the UK's coldest month since March 2013, and April saw the most air frosts for the UK for at least 60 years. While January, April and May were notably cold, most of the other months were warmer than average, especially September which was 1.8 °C above average, with only the September of 2006 having been warmer in a series from 1884. There was a hot spell between 13 and 26 July, with temperatures exceeding 30 °C on six consecutive days from 17th to 22nd, the highest reading being 32.2 °C at Heathrow on the 20th. On 21st July, 31.3 °C was recorded at Castlederg, County Tyrone, a new all-time record for Northern Ireland. The lowest temperature of the year, -23.0 °C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on February 11th, was the lowest recorded anywhere in the UK since 1995.

Rainfall was variable through the year, with the overall annual figures unremarkable. May was the UK's wettest month relative to average, and January was also very wet over much of England. However, April and November were dry - April especially so, with only 28% of normal rainfall for the UK overall - and June was also rather dry with the exception of the south-east. The provisional UK rainfall total for 2021 was 1077 mm, which is 93% of the 1991-2020 average. Much of western Scotland had less than 80% of average rainfall for the year, with other areas closer to average.

April was an exceptionally sunny month for the second year in a row and for the UK provisionally the sunniest April on record in a series from 1919. However, May, August and December were much duller than average with only 27.6 hours for the UK for December overall. The provisional annual UK sunshine total was 1391 hours, which is 99% of average. Scotland and north-west England fared best relative to average, while most southern areas of the UK saw below-average sunshine totals.

### UK statistical summary

#### Mean temperature

The provisional mean is 9.3 °C, which is 0.1 °C above the 1991-2020 average.

#### Rainfall

The provisional total is 1077 mm, which is 93% of the 1991-2020 average.

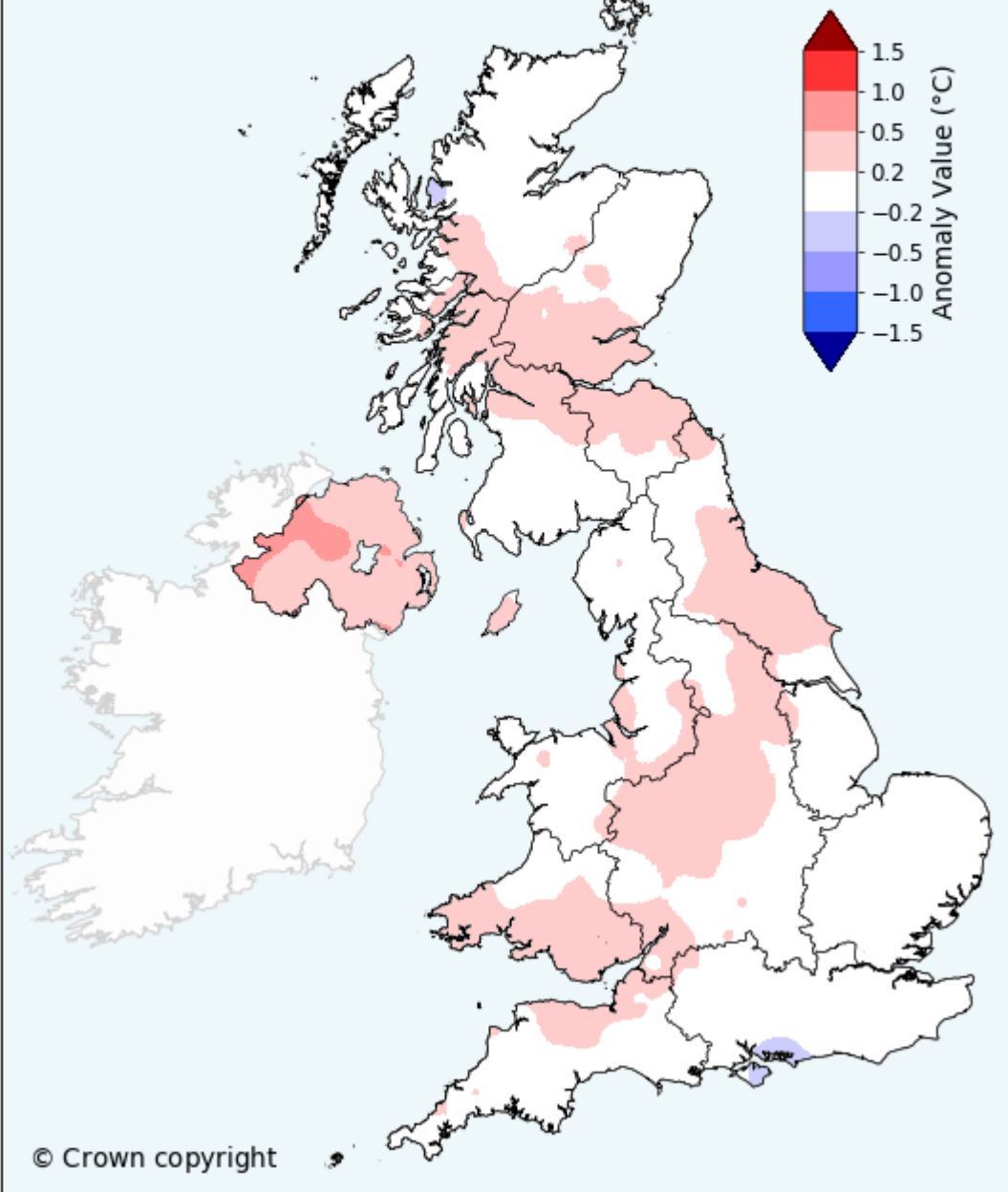
#### Sunshine

The provisional total is 1391 hours, which is 99% of the 1991-2020 average.

 **Met Office**

Year 2021

Mean Temperature  
1991-2020 Anomaly

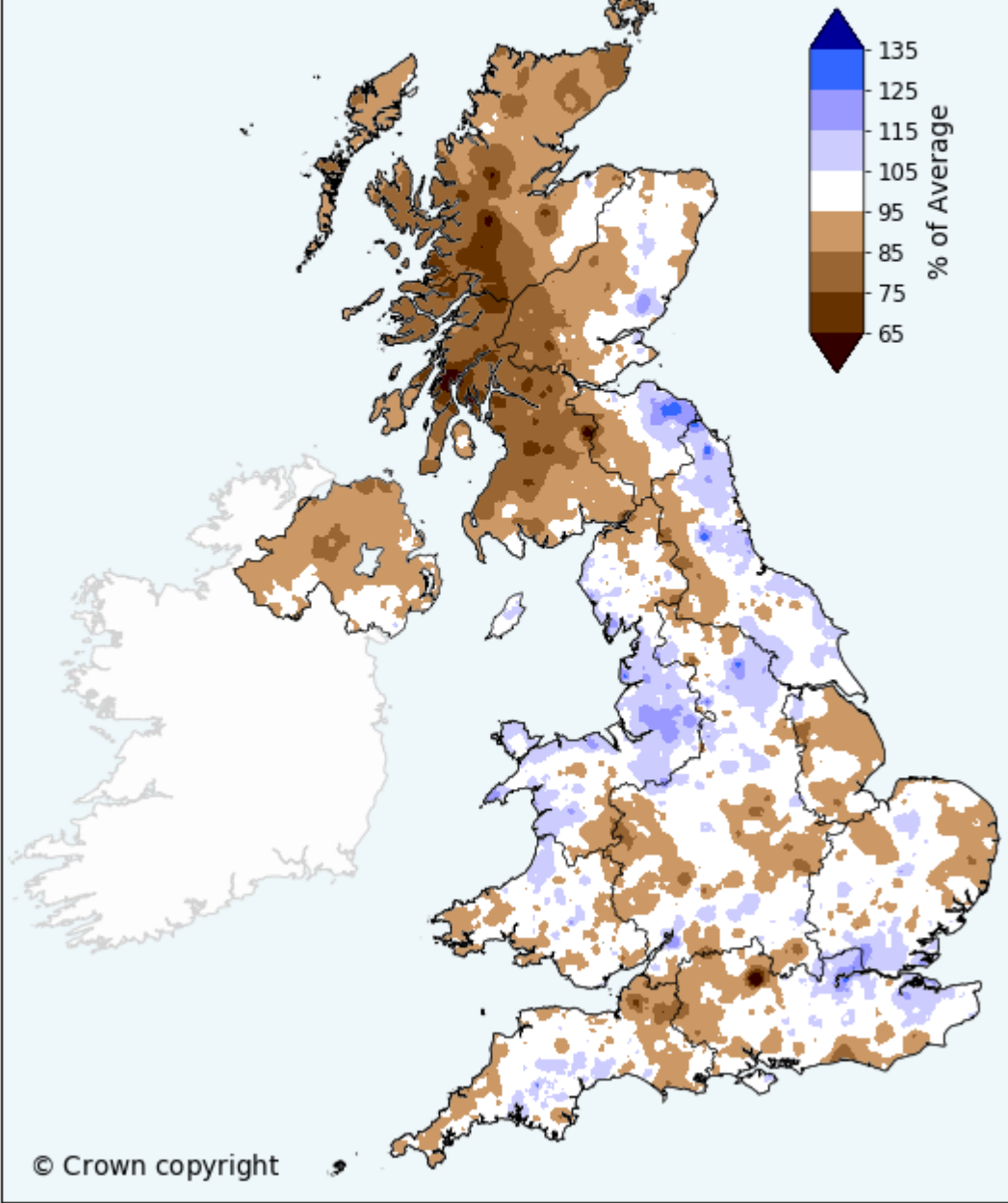


 **Met Office**

Year 2021

Rainfall Amount

% of 1991-2020 Average



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