

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Changeable but drier in the east than in the west.

Depressions and their associated fronts often approached the United Kingdom during the month but only occasionally crossed the country. High-pressure systems predominated for most of the third week and also affected the weather at other times.

### Weather

Spells of mostly dry and sunny weather and periods of frequent rainfall alternated during the month. Thunder and hail were reported and outbreaks of heavy rain, though few, were sometimes accompanied by hill fog especially in the west and north. A little snow or sleet (snow mixed with rain or drizzle) occasionally fell over high ground in Wales and Scotland.

### Wind

Although winds blew mostly from an easterly point, westerlies were often reported during the last 10 days. Winds were frequently fresh or strong particularly around coasts but there were few gales and most of these occurred in western districts during the first two weeks. On the 2nd a gust of 62 kt was measured at the exposed station at Gwennap Head (Cornwall). Gusts of 50 kt or more were recorded in western England on the 9th and 10th and at exposed places in eastern Scotland on the 28th.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were within 1 degC of average almost everywhere. They were near or above average in many parts of Scotland and in most of eastern and north-eastern England but other areas were mostly a little colder than normal. Until mid month, temperatures in many places were near or below average and frost occurred frequently at night particularly in England and Scotland. On the 8th a minimum temperature of -5.5°C was recorded at Stratford-upon-Avon, the lowest temperature there in May since records began in 1933. Another noteworthy minimum of -6.9°C occurred at Grizedale (Cumbria) on the 12th. During the second half of the month frosts were much less frequent and there were some warm days in eastern and central districts of Great Britain. On the 18th, East Dereham (Norfolk) had a maximum of 25.2°C and on the 26th the temperature rose to 24.6°C at Dundee (Angus).

### Rainfall (including melted snow)

The eastern half of Northern Ireland was mostly wetter than normal and some places had about twice their average rainfall. Parts of northern Scotland, western Wales and south-western England also received more than their average rainfall but remaining districts were drier than average. In eastern England and in the Midlands many places had less than half of their average rainfall and a few were very dry indeed. Cleethorpes (Humberside) and Gorleston (Norfolk) each recorded only 11 mm of rainfall during the month and at Tynemouth, 9 mm was the lowest rainfall total for May for at least 48 years. Rainy periods alternated with drier spells and although thunder and hail occurred at times there were only a few outbreaks of heavy rain, most of which occurred in the west and north. In the 24 hours from 09 GMT on the 1st, 85.7 mm of rain fell at Braich Dinas (Gwynedd) and Heatree (Devon) had 74.0 mm on the following day. Two weeks later during heavy rain in Northern Ireland, a fall of 62.6 mm was measured at Spelga Dam (Co. Down) in the 24 hours from 09 GMT on the 17th.

### Snow

Isolated falls of snow or sleet were occasionally reported over high ground in Scotland and Wales. Snow lay for

many days during the month on some of the higher peaks in the central Highlands and in the mountains of north-western England.

### Sunshine

Northern Ireland was generally rather dull. In most eastern, central and southern districts of Great Britain sunshine amounts were near or a little above average but elsewhere they were mostly a little less than average. There were no widespread and prolonged sunny spells but days with long periods of unbroken sunshine occurred most frequently around mid month and again during the last week. Squires Gate (Lancashire) had 14.6 hours on the 14th, Lerwick (Shetland) had 15.0 hours on the 16th and Eastbourne had 14.5 hours on the 19th. On the 26th there were 14.2 hours of sunshine at Manston (Kent) and on the 29th, Carlisle (Cumbria) had 15.4 hours of sunshine.

### Fog

In England and Wales scattered patches of morning fog occurred frequently but they were rarely reported in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Sea fog occasionally affected coasts bordering the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea and hill fog accompanied rain at times in some western and northern districts.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

Nil.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm earth temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max.*	Lowest Min.*	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average						
0 Scotland N	21.0	0.5	+0.3	+0.7	+0.5	+0.1	+1	99	89
1 Scotland E	24.6	-0.4	+0.4	+0.6	+0.5	+0.4	+1	73	97
2 England E & NE	22.8	-2.8	+0.4	-0.3	0.0	+0.3	-5	46	116
3 East Anglia	23.4	-0.9	-0.2	-0.6	-0.4	-0.6	-2	40	106
4 Midland Counties	21.3	-1.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1	-2	54	104
5 England SE & Central S	24.1	-2.0	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5	-0.2	-3	50	110
6 Scotland W	21.2	-1.9	0.0	+0.3	+0.1	+0.1	+2	88	99
7 England NW & Wales N	20.3	-0.5	-0.4	+0.1	-0.1	-0.5	-1	65	97
8 England SW & Wales S	19.6	1.2	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	0.0	0	88	105
N Ireland	18.3	-1.2	-0.9	+0.2	-0.4	-0.3	+1	118	74
Scotland	24.6	-1.9	+0.2	+0.5	+0.4	+0.2	+1	87	95
England & Wales	24.1	-2.8	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-2	57	106

\*Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations.