

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Changeable, but mainly dry; severe storms in places.

For about a week at the start of the month pressure was low to the south-west with frontal systems affecting the United Kingdom at times. Thundery lows moved north-eastwards over southern and central districts on the 1st and into France on the 5th, while during the 7th and 8th another came northwards over western and northern parts of Great Britain. On the 5th and 6th, however, an anticyclone advanced eastwards across Scotland and the North Sea. During the following week fronts crossed all areas, but they were mostly weak in the south and east; a rather vigorous depression passed north-eastwards over Scotland during the night of the 13th/14th.

Pressure then rose and an anticyclone drifted north-eastwards across the British Isles between the 16th and 20th. During the next three days low pressure over the continent encroached over southern districts while a cold front moved slowly south-eastwards to reach south-east England on the 24th. Further fronts followed during the remainder of the month, but except in the north on the 28th and in the south on the 29th and early on the 30th they were weak.

### Weather

For much of the month it was changeable and mostly rather cool and dull, but with a good deal of mainly dry weather, especially in the south. For a few days just after mid-month it was generally very warm and sunny.

Thunderstorms occurred in most areas at times, mainly during the first eight days and early in the fourth week, and over East Anglia on the 29th. On the 1st storms were widespread over England and Wales, except in Devon and Cornwall, particularly early in the day when they were severe in places; flooding was reported locally in north-eastern parts of the Midlands and in East Anglia. Later in the first week there were two occasions with unusually severe storms, in the south from Devon to Kent and in the Channel Islands on the 5th, and in the west and north from Cornwall across Wales to north-east England on the 7th. On both occasions large hail, typically 2 to 5 cm in diameter, fell along quite narrow tracks, especially near the coast from Dorset to East Sussex and on Jersey on the 5th, and from Powys to Greater Manchester on the 7th; 7.5 cm diameter hailstones were reported at Winfrith, Dorset, and in Greater Manchester. Considerable damage was caused to glasshouses and crops in places, while on the 5th yachts were sunk by the weight of hail at Christchurch, Dorset, and others capsized by squalls between the Isle of Wight and Hampshire. There was local flooding and in some areas electricity supplies were cut. Thunderstorms also occurred widely over East Anglia, southern England and parts of Wales from late on the 22nd to early on the 24th. Again they were severe in places with flooding, particularly in parts of South Wales and from Devon to Surrey and West Sussex.

### Wind

Winds were mostly light or moderate in strength. On some occasions, however, they were fresh or strong, particularly during the first half and towards the end of the month with gales in places, mainly

over coasts and hills in the north. The gales were severe for a time on 13th and 14th. After a week of rather variable wind directions winds became mainly south-westerly. Around mid-month they gradually veered to north-easterly and the month ended with about a week of west or north-westerly winds.

### Temperature

Mean temperatures were within about 1 °C of average everywhere, being generally below normal over Scotland, the northern half of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, but above normal in the Channel Islands and at most places in the southern half of England.

All areas were cool at times, particularly between the 9th and 17th and during the last week of the month. Earlier, the first few days were very cool in northern districts with temperatures failing to reach 10 °C in parts of Scotland, particularly in the far north on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. It was very warm, however, on the 7th and 8th, particularly in parts of the south, and from the 18th to the 22nd in most areas; maxima included 27.6 °C at St Helier, Jersey, on the 7th, 25.6 °C at Edenfel, Co. Tyrone, on the 19th, 26.8 °C at Onich, Highland Region, on the 20th and 26.9 °C at Rodney Stoke, Somerset, on the 22nd. Slight frost occurred locally on a few occasions in central and northern parts of Great Britain, the temperature falling to -1.8 °C at Grantown-on-Spey, Highland Region on the 6th, to -2.2 °C at Balmoral, Grampian Region, on the 7th and to -0.1 °C at Santon Downham, Norfolk, on the 16th.

### Rainfall

Monthly rainfall totals were generally below normal with less than half the average being recorded at most places in the Midlands, east England, North Yorkshire and the Channel Islands, in parts of East Anglia and south-west England and at a few places in Wales. Isolated areas in England had less than 25 per cent of average. Although not so very dry generally over England and Wales as in 1976 some specific locations had their driest June since a good deal earlier - 1925 at Greenwich and 1942 at

Hampstead, both in Greater London, and 1941 at Sheffield (Weston Park) and Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Only in parts of southern England from Devon to Kent, where more than twice the average fell locally, mainly in thunderstorms, in much of east Scotland and here and there elsewhere in Scotland, north-east England, Wales and Northern Ireland was rainfall above normal.

Although the weather was mostly changeable rainfall was often slight, especially in the south. It was particularly heavy, however, in parts of southern and central Scotland, north-east England and Northern Ireland on the 1st, the southernmost counties from Dorset, with 73.8 mm at Winfrith, to East Sussex on the 5th, Wales, with 66.9 mm at Meifod, Powys, and locally in Shropshire and northern England on the 7th, and the south of England and Wales, with 103.2 mm at Rotherfield Park, Hampshire, and 82.5 mm at Nant-yr-Ysfa near Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan, on the 23rd. Fresh snowfall was observed on a few peaks in the north of Scotland early in the month.

### Sunshine

Generally this was a rather dull month, particularly in some central and western areas with sunshine totalling less than 75 per cent of average in the western half of Northern Ireland and at a few places in Wales, south-west England, Cumbria and West Yorkshire. Only in parts of north and east Scotland was there more sunshine than normal with about 110 per cent of average here and there. All parts were dull at times, especially early and late in the month. The best of the month's sunshine occurred on the 6th and between the 12th and 22nd.

### Fog

Fog occurred rather frequently, especially over coasts and hills in the north and east. Patches of fog also formed at times overnight, particularly in the south-west. The fog was quite widespread at first on the 1st, 8th and 22nd.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

Table 1 District values

District	air temperature °C					mean 30-cm soil temp °C	rain- days	rainfall	sun- shine
	Highest Max*	Lowest Min*	max.	min.	mean				
			difference from average					% of average	
0 Scotland N	26.8	2.3	-0.7	-0.5	-0.6	+0.1	-1	81	100
1 Scotland E	25.7	0.2	-0.9	-0.2	-0.6	-0.3	-1	95	97
2 England E & NE	25.6	3.3	-0.8	0.0	-0.4	-0.1	-4	60	88
3 East Anglia	25.9	3.8	-0.3	+0.4	0.0	-0.2	-4	47	88
4 Midland Counties	25.5	4.1	-0.6	+0.3	-0.1	+0.2	-4	37	85
5 England SE & Central S	25.4	5.4	-0.2	+0.9	+0.3	-0.1	-2	76	91
6 Scotland W	26.8	1.8	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-2	81	90
7 England NW & Wales N	25.7	1.5	-0.6	+0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-3	67	82
8 England SW & Wales S	25.8	5.5	-0.3	+0.1	-0.1	+0.1	-2	68	78
N Ireland	24.1	2.9	-0.6	+0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-4	67	71
Scotland	26.8	0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.2	-1	86	96
England & Wales	25.9	1.5	-0.5	+0.3	-0.1	0.0	-3	59	85

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations