

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Mostly cool and changeable, but drier and warmer in latter part of month.

A depression over the western English Channel on the 1st moved across central England to the North Sea between the 2nd and the 4th, and a complex system of fronts continued to affect the British Isles during the next few days. A north to north-westerly airstream followed on the 7th, but a ridge of high pressure moved eastwards across the whole of Britain on the 10th and 11th. A series of Atlantic fronts then crossed all districts until the 16th. A ridge of high pressure moved eastwards across southern and central areas on the 17th and 18th and pressure remained high to the south during the next few days, although fronts affected northern and some western districts. On the 22nd a cold front moved south across all areas. Pressure then rose as an anticyclone developed to the west of Ireland, with a persistent ridge extending across the British Isles. Weak fronts occasionally moved south, but a more active frontal system from the north-west affected most districts on the 31st.

### Weather

Fog persisted around northern coasts at the beginning of the month and the weather was generally cool, with outbreaks of rain and scattered thunderstorms, until the early part of the third week. Although rain fell at times in northern and in some western parts of the United Kingdom between the 17th and the 21st, England and Wales were mainly dry. It also became warmer, particularly in eastern Britain. Many districts had some rain on the 22nd, but except for parts of the north, most areas were then dry until the 28th. Cloud amounts were rather variable, but prolonged sunny periods occurred in places. Rain spread southwards during the last few days, reaching most districts on the 31st. Large patches of snow were still apparent on the upper slopes of the higher Scottish mountains at the end of the month.

### Wind

Fresh or strong winds on exposed coasts and hills in the west and north occurred most frequently between the 14th and the 21st. Speeds were mainly light or moderate during the remainder of the month. Directions were generally rather variable until the 13th, except between the 7th and the 9th, when they were north to north-west. Winds were predominantly south to south-west from the 14th to the 22nd, but north-west winds prevailed during the last week, although there were occasional sea-breezes.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were generally a little above average in eastern Scotland between the Moray Firth and the Firth of Forth, and were about average in the Border counties. Temperatures were below average in all other parts of the United Kingdom, with departures from the normal mostly between 0 and 1 °C, exceeding 1 °C only at a few places in southern England and East Anglia. The highest temperatures during this generally cool month occurred mainly between the 18th and the 26th. Monthly maxima over England and Wales were mostly recorded on the 19th or on the 20th, when the temperature reached 26.5 °C at Scole in Norfolk and also at Gillingham and Herne Bay in Kent.

### Rainfall

Rainfall amounts were very variable. Monthly totals were above average in parts of eastern and southern Scotland, north-eastern England, North Wales, and in a few isolated areas elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Totals exceeded 130 per cent of average in places, and Colwyn Bay (Clwyd) recorded twice its normal rainfall for the month. In spite of the changeable weather, rainfall was below average in most remaining areas and some districts were very dry. Less than 50 per cent of the normal fell in parts of South Wales and southern England, and also over the south-western peninsula, where less than 25 per cent of the average fell along the south Devon coast between Torbay and Sidmouth. Parts of northern and north-western Scotland were dry too, with only about half their normal rainfall, and in Shetland, Lerwick, with a total of 24.2 mm, had its driest August since 1955. Outbreaks of rain, showers and thunderstorms occurred in many areas until around mid-month. On the 2nd thunderstorms disrupted electricity supplies in parts of Scotland, and on the 3rd a girl was injured by lightning in Lowestoft (Suffolk). Motorists in the Scottish Highlands were trapped in their cars on the 4th, when heavy rain caused flooding between Aviemore and Cairngorm. On the 5th 25.0 mm fell in 30 minutes during a thunderstorm at Broughshane Filters (Co. Antrim), and in Snowdonia 109.9 mm fell in the 24 hours beginning at 1545 GMT on the 13th. Showers of sleet and hail were reported in the Grampians around mid-month. England and Wales were mainly dry after the 16th and most areas became dry between the 23rd and the 28th. The end of the month was less settled.

### Sunshine

The only areas of any extent where sunshine totals were above average were along the south

coast of England, around the Severn Estuary, in the south-western peninsula and in the Channel Islands. Totals in Jersey and Guernsey, and in the Lizard (Cornwall) and Torbay (Devon) areas, exceeded 120 per cent of the normal and sunny intervals occurred fairly frequently in the south after the first week. Totals were mostly between 75 and 100 per cent of average over central England and eastern Scotland, and also in parts of Wales and southern Scotland. The month was very dull in most remaining areas, with less than 75 per cent of the normal sunshine. This was the dullest August in Northern Ireland as a whole since 1942 and at Armagh Observatory, with a total of 73.0 hours (55 per cent of average), since 1912. Parts of north-western Scotland also recorded not much more than half their normal sunshine for the month, and Onich, at the western end of the Great Glen, with only 60.2 hours (51 per cent of average), had its dullest August since 1943.

### Fog

Fog was often widespread and persistent around the coasts of northern Scotland and the Northern Isles during the first week, and it also affected the coasts of eastern Scotland, north-east and south-west England, and Wales. Coastal fog continued to occur from time to time throughout the month and hill fog was occasionally reported. Fog along coasts and on hills was frequently associated with precipitation. Overnight fog patches in inland areas mostly occurred during the middle two weeks of the month and usually dispersed around dawn. The fog chiefly affected the Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England, and it was fairly widespread and dense in places in these areas on the night of the 10th/11th.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

None reported.

**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	22.2	3.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	+1	67	65
1 Scotland E	23.0	1.9	-0.5	+0.7	+0.1	+0.4	+1	92	87
2 England E & NE	25.9	4.0	-1.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.0	+2	98	71
3 East Anglia	25.9	3.8	-0.9	-0.6	-0.8	-0.3	+1	73	89
4 Midland Counties	25.4	4.2	-1.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	+2	75	81
5 England SE & Central S	26.4	3.4	-0.8	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5	-2	57	101
6 Scotland W	22.2	1.9	-0.7	+0.3	-0.2	+0.1	+1	83	69
7 England NW & Wales N	24.7	5.2	-1.3	+0.1	-0.6	-0.7	+1	103	72
8 England SW & Wales S	24.6	6.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.8	-0.3	-5	46	103
N Ireland	21.2	5.1	-0.9	+0.5	-0.2	+0.1	-1	83	64
Scotland	23.0	1.9	-0.6	+0.3	-0.1	+0.1	+1	81	74
England & Wales	26.4	3.4	-1.0	-0.4	-0.7	-0.3	0	75	86

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