

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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## Dry and sunny in south; wet in north-west; gales at times.

An anticyclone to the west of Ireland moved south-eastwards to France during the first few days of the month, while fronts affected northern parts of the United Kingdom. Then, on the 5th and 6th, troughs of low pressure moved slowly eastwards across the British Isles. A mainly westerly airflow became established by the 7th, but fronts moving south-east on the 10th and 11th were followed by a strong north-westerly airstream. This was short-lived, however, as a ridge of high pressure moved eastwards across England and Wales on the 12th. A frontal system then moved quickly into north-western Britain, its cold front moving south-eastwards across all districts on the 14th. Further fronts, associated with a complex low-pressure area to the north of Scotland, mostly affected northern districts on the 15th and 16th, but another cold front moved south-east to clear all parts early on the 17th. An anticyclone which had developed off south-west Ireland then moved eastwards, and although fronts continued to affect northern areas from time to time, central and southern Britain remained within the influence of this anticyclone until it drifted to north-west France between the 22nd and the 24th. Fronts from the Atlantic then crossed all districts in a strengthening west to north-westerly airstream during the remainder of the month.

### Weather

Although southern counties had a mainly dry and sunny month, the weather was changeable over most of the United Kingdom. Periods of rain, scattered thunderstorms, occasional hail showers, but also sunny intervals, occurred in many areas, and there were gales around mid-month and during the last two days. Fog formed extensively at times along coasts and on hills. Patches of snow which were observed on the upper slopes of the Cairngorms disappeared during the third week, but sleet was reported in the area on the 23rd and 24th.

### Wind

Winds were frequently fresh or strong in exposed places between the 7th and the 17th, and from the 20th onwards. Wind strengths often reached gale force locally and gales were widespread at times. On the 11th, high winds over England and Wales caused loss of life: a driver was killed at New Milton (Hampshire) when a branch from a tree fell on to his car, and another man was killed by a falling tree in his garden at Ripley (Derbyshire). Severe gales swept northern areas during the early part of the third week. Gusts exceeded 80 kt in Orkney and Shetland on the evening of the 16th and the very strong winds disrupted sea and air communications. All the main roads in the Scottish Highlands were reported to be blocked by fallen trees on the night of the 16th/17th. Further gales affected exposed coasts and hills on the 29th and 30th. For much of the month the wind blew mainly from points between south-west and north-west, but during the first week directions were rather variable, with speeds generally light on the 3rd and 4th.

### Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were within 1 °C of average almost everywhere. Values were mostly above the normal, but were below average in the Northern Isles, the far north of mainland Scotland, the Channel Islands, in parts of Wales and south-west England,

and in a few places elsewhere. The month started rather cool, but it became very warm in some areas during the second week, particularly in eastern, central and southern England on the 10th, when temperatures reached 26 °C at one or two places in East Anglia. Most areas became cooler after the 16th, but it was warm again in many places between the 20th and the 24th. Monthly maxima in Northern Ireland and over most of Scotland were recorded during this period, the temperature reaching 22.3 °C on the 22nd at Banchory (Grampian Region). The weather became progressively cooler during the remainder of the month.

### Rainfall

Rainfall totals were above average in Scotland except in parts of the east and south-west, in Northern Ireland except in the south-east, and over most of north-western and parts of north-eastern England. Some places in the Welsh mountains also had more than their normal amount of rain for September. Rainfall was below average in all remaining areas in the United Kingdom. Monthly totals in the north contrasted sharply with those in the south, with values ranging from about 200 per cent of average in the south of Argyllshire to less than 20 per cent in parts of southern England. A number of places in western Scotland recorded over 150 per cent of their normal rainfall for the month, while less than half the average fell in South Wales and over all southern counties of England. Only 6 mm were recorded at Alderney Airport in the Channel Islands and at Taunton (Vivary Park) in Somerset. Periods of rain affected many areas from time to time until the early part of the third week, although amounts were often small in the south. Most districts were then dry for a few days, but while the dry spell

continued in the south, outbreaks of rain again occurred in the north. The weather became increasingly unsettled in all areas towards the end of the month.

### Sunshine

Sunshine in Scotland was above average in the north-east, but below average in other districts, with monthly totals ranging from over 115 per cent of the normal in parts of the Grampian Region to less than 60 per cent in places in western Scotland. Sunshine was also below average in Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, in a few places in North Wales, and over most of northern England, away from eastern coasts. Almost all remaining districts of England and Wales had above normal sunshine and monthly totals exceeded 130 per cent of average over much of the south-west. Parts of south Devon had about 140 per cent of their normal September sunshine. Sunny intervals occurred from time to time throughout the month, but most areas had their sunniest days from around mid-month until the early part of the last week.

### Fog

Most of the fog which formed during the month occurred between the 3rd and the 11th or between the 19th and the 25th. Over-night fog patches in inland areas occasionally became thick, but mostly cleared soon after sunrise. Fog was sometimes persistent along coasts and on hills and was associated with precipitation at times. Coastal fog chiefly affected northern Scotland, west Wales, south-west England and the Channel Islands.

### Miscellaneous Phenomena

A waterspout was observed off Jersey on the 26th.

**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	1.6	-0.7	+0.1	-0.3	-0.3	+5	141	81
1 Scotland E	21.4	0.5	-0.4	+0.8	+0.2	+0.5	+4	106	93
2 England E & NE	26.1	2.9	+0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.3	-2	84	106
3 East Anglia	26.1	3.8	+0.4	0.0	+0.3	-0.3	-3	60	113
4 Midland Counties	24.5	3.0	0.0	+0.3	+0.2	+0.1	-4	71	110
5 England SE & Central S	25.2	2.8	+0.4	-0.1	+0.2	-0.2	-4	30	117
6 Scotland W	21.0	1.6	-0.5	+1.0	+0.3	+0.4	+6	132	74
7 England NW & Wales N	22.5	2.9	-0.4	+0.7	+0.2	-0.1	0	103	92
8 England SW & Wales S	25.0	3.5	+0.2	-0.3	0.0	+0.2	-3	34	131
N Ireland	20.7	6.3	+0.1	+1.1	+0.6	+0.8	+1	101	86
Scotland	21.4	0.5	-0.5	+0.6	+0.1	+0.2	+5	126	83
England & Wales	26.1	2.8	+0.1	+0.2	+0.2	0.0	-3	64	111

\* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations