

Spring 2009

The following represents an assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Spring 2009 (March, April and May) and how it compares with the 1971 to 2000 long-term average (the averaging period used for the seasonal forecast).

The UK mean temperature for spring was 8.6 °C, which is 1.2 °C above the 1971-2000 average, making this the fifth warmest spring in a series from 1914. Mean temperatures over the UK were 0.9 °C above average during March, 2.0 °C above during April and 0.9 °C above in May. April was the third warmest over Scotland and equal third over England and the UK, in series from 1914, but not as warm as April 2007 (ranked first).

There was a notable absence of frost, particularly in April, and the total days with air frost for the season over the UK was the 5th lowest in a series from 1961 (but slightly more than spring 2007).

Spring rainfall was below normal over most of England and Wales, particularly over eastern and southern England where many areas recorded less than 70% of average. It was the driest spring over England and Wales since 1997. Less than 50% of monthly average rainfall was recorded in parts of north-east England, the Midlands and Wales in March and in parts of eastern England and the north-east of Scotland in April. In contrast, the spring rainfall was above normal over Northern Ireland and western Scotland.

Sunshine totals for the spring were well above the 1971-2000 average generally across the UK. March was a particularly sunny month, with 142% of normal. Overall, spring 2009 ranked sixth over the UK in a series that began in 1929.

UK statistical summary

Mean temperature

The mean value is 8.6 °C, which is 1.2 °C above the 1971-2000 average.

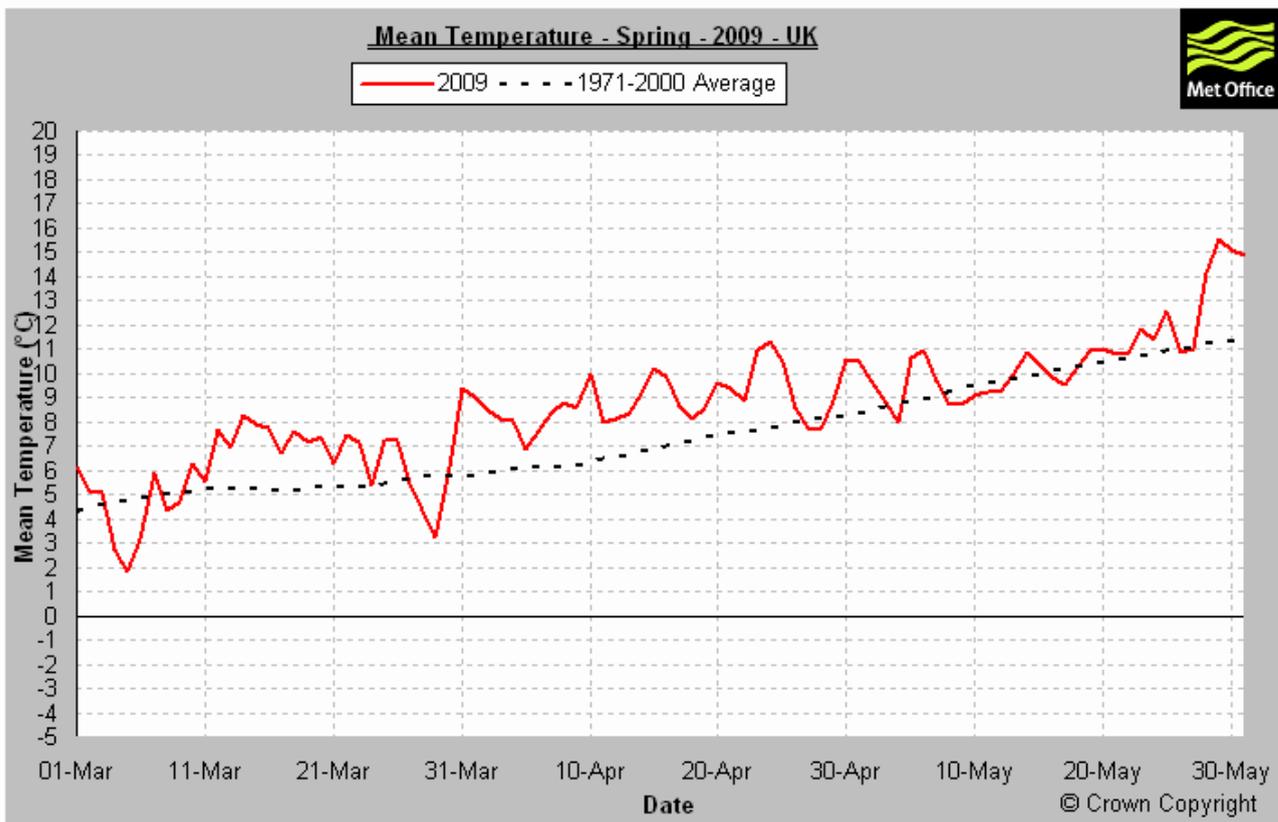
Rainfall

The total is 222 mm, which is 96% of the 1971-2000 average.

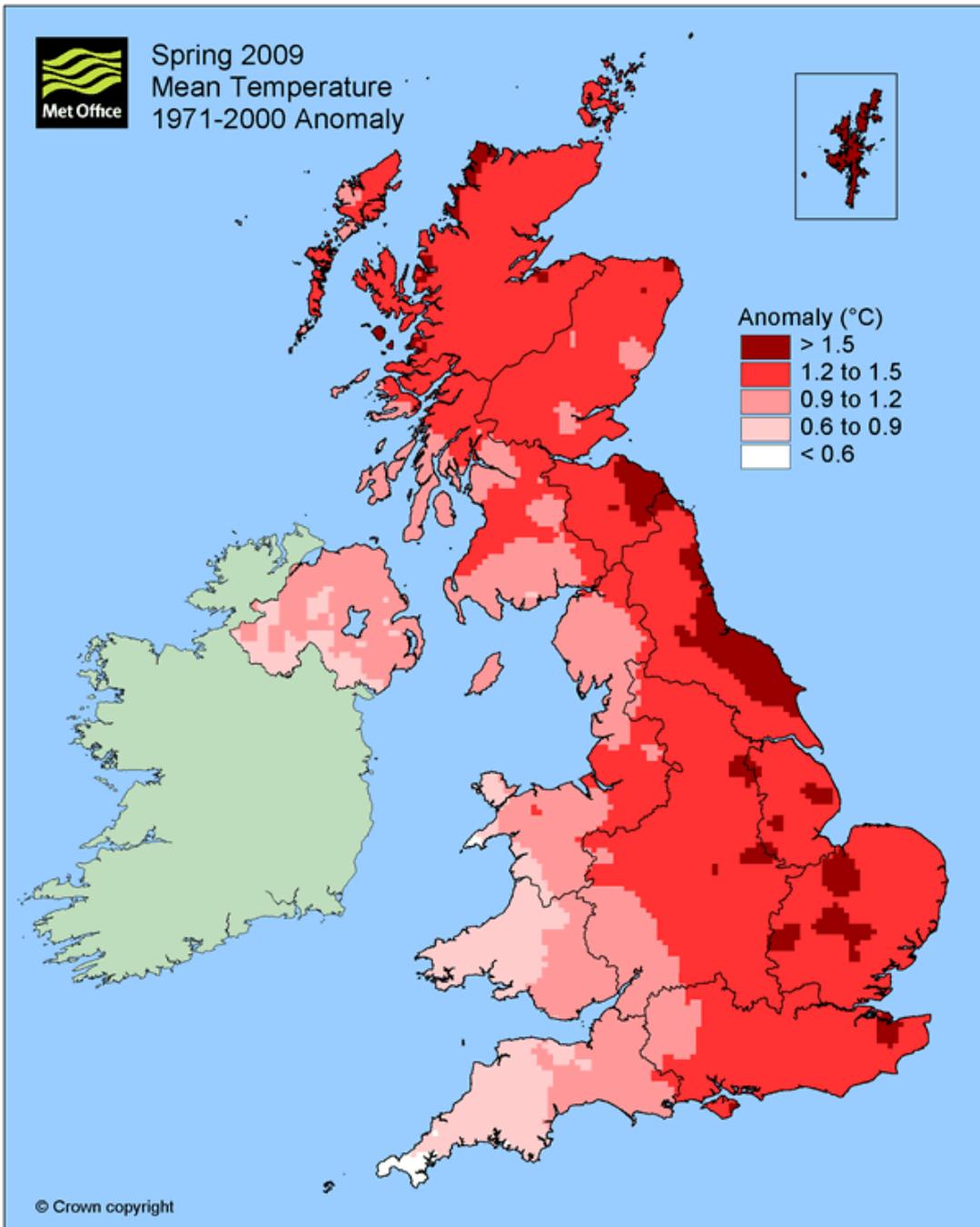
Sunshine

The total is 509 hours, which is 121% of the 1971-2000 average.

Provisional graph of UK daily mean temperature for Spring 2009



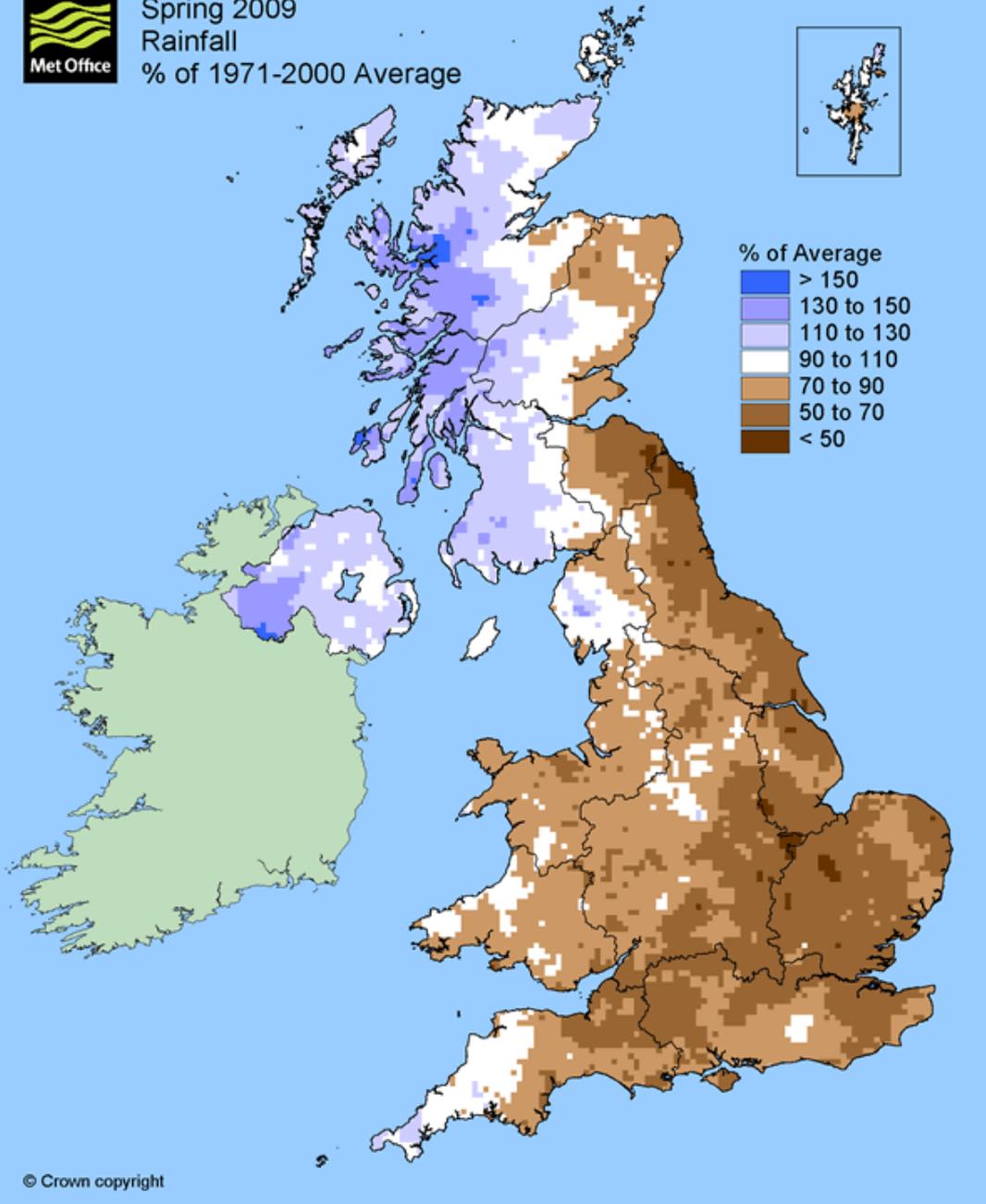
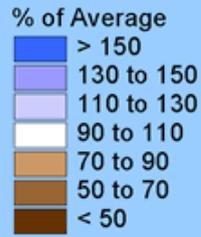
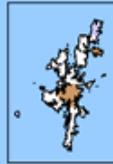
Mean temperature anomaly (difference from average) map for Spring 2009



Mean rainfall percent of average map for Spring 2009



Spring 2009
Rainfall
% of 1971-2000 Average



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