

# Monthly Weather Report

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

*Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers*

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### January 1967 — Cold at first, very mild during last week

Apart from minor cyclonic interludes on the 1st-2nd and 6th-7th, weather was mainly anticyclonic during the first half of the month and mainly cyclonic in character during the second half.

The month began bright and cold, a northerly airstream between low pressure over southern Scandinavia and high pressure to the north-west of the British Isles bringing wintry showers to Scotland and parts of northern and eastern England during the first three days. Many parts of England had six hours of sunshine on each of these days and weather became progressively colder with frost at night. In Cornwall and the Channel Isles, however, it was cloudy with rain at times.

On the 4th a depression off the west of Ireland moved southwards into the Bay of Biscay and weather was dull over most of the United Kingdom. The next day the main centre of high pressure moved southwards to a position to the west of Ireland and winds in Scotland backed towards the west as a depression from the Denmark Strait approached the Faroes. Widespread snow in the east, and rain in the west, accompanied this depression as it moved southwards over the British Isles on the 6th and 7th. On the morning of the 8th many eastern districts were snow-covered to a depth of 3 cm or more. Behind the depression winds over most of the country were light easterly or variable on the 8th and 9th, and these two days were the coldest of the month; on the 9th temperature at Carlisle failed to rise above  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and freezing fog covered much of Lancashire and Cheshire. The cold spell came to an end during the next two days as troughs moving round the periphery of a large anticyclone in mid-Atlantic brought milder air first to the north and then to the whole of the British Isles by the 11th.

During the 12-14th the Atlantic anticyclone moved slowly east-south-east towards the mouth of the English Channel. Further troughs gave slight rain or drizzle in places on the 12th but the 13th was mainly dry with sunny periods and with temperatures well above average, although fog patches that night persisted in parts of East Anglia for much of the 14th. By the 15th the anticyclone from the Atlantic was moving slowly eastwards along the English Channel, and southerly winds on its western side brought low cloud and drizzle to much of southern England. The 16th was also dull with southerly winds as the anticyclone moved away eastwards into Europe.

The pattern changed on the 17th and weather became more of a westerly type. Troughs associated with depressions to the west of Ireland gave fairly general rain on the 17th and 18th as they crossed the country, and weather continued dull and wet in Scotland for most of the 19th-21st but over England and Wales it was showery with bright periods though a belt of more continuous rain crossed the country on the night of the 20th/21st. An intense depression approaching the British Isles from mid-Atlantic brought gales to most districts on the 22nd and rain in western districts during the afternoon spread to most of the country during the evening and continued throughout the night and for much of the next day. The 24th was dull generally with rain at times as the depression filled over southern England, though there were good sunny periods in western Scotland.

For most of the remainder of the month pressure was high over Europe but weather over the British Isles was dominated by low pressure systems which remained to the west or north-west of the country. Associated troughs brought rain at times to most districts. During the last few days of the month winds from low latitudes brought very mild air to all parts of the country; in some places afternoon temperatures were as much as  $8^{\circ}\text{C}$  above the average.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was above the 1931-60 average everywhere, the excess ranging from 5.5 mb at Lerwick to 2.3 mb at Prestwick and Rhoose. Surface winds were mainly northerly during the first week and north-westerly during the second, though very variable on the 6th-8th and 14th-15th. South to south-west winds predominated during the remainder of the month. Winds reached gale force in England and Wales on 18 days, most frequently in south-west England and during the third week. In Scotland gales were reported on 14 days, but

were not widespread. A gust of 76 kt was recorded at Benbecula on the 27th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperature was generally below the average during the first 8-10 days but above the average during the remainder of the month. It was exceptionally mild during the last few days with afternoon temperatures exceeding  $13^{\circ}\text{C}$  at many places on the 27th to 29th.

Extremes included (England and Wales)  $14.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Dartford on the 29th,  $-10.6$  at Santon Downham on the 9th; (Scotland)  $13.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Lossiemouth on the 30th,  $-12.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Carnworth on the 6th; (Northern Ireland)  $13.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Ballykelly on the 27th,  $-7.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Lisnafillan on the 9th.

**Rainfall** — In Scotland rainfall was above the average in eastern districts north of the Tay but mostly below the average elsewhere. It was locally twice the average near the Moray Firth, but only half the average in some western and southern inland areas. In England and Wales rainfall was generally below the average except in counties bordering the English Channel from Cornwall to Hampshire. It was less than half the average over most of North Wales, Shropshire and Cheshire, over the east Midlands north of Oxfordshire and adjacent counties from Bedfordshire to Durham.

Thunder was heard in England and Wales on the 1st, 20th, 22nd, 23rd and 25th, mainly in the south-west. In Scotland thunder was reported on one day only.

Snow and sleet showers were fairly widespread in Scotland during the first and last weeks, but falls were mainly slight. In England and Wales they were reported during the first ten days and on the 22nd and 23rd, being most frequent in east and north-east England where in some places level snow was 8 cm deep on the 7th-9th. Ground was mostly clear of snow by the 10th except for the higher ground in the Pennines.

**Sunshine** — It was a sunny month generally except in northern Scotland where Forres had its dullest January since records began in 1933. In England and Wales some coastal areas, mainly in the south and west had less than their average sunshine. Percentage of local average ranged from 75 at Scilly to 223 at Nottingham.

**Fog** — Fog at 9h was reported from one place or another on 14 days in Scotland and almost daily after the 5th in England and Wales. It persisted for most of the day in parts of the north-west on the 9th, of East Anglia on the 14th and the north Midlands on the 15th and 24th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The Aurora was visible in Scotland on 8 nights.

TABLE 1—DISTRICT VALUES, JANUARY, 1967

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE °C					EARTH TEMP. °C		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 30 cm.	Mean 121 cm.			
								Difference from Average		
0 SCOTLAND, N.	11.7	-2.7	+0.3	+1.3	+0.8	+0.6	+0.4	+1	109	67
1 SCOTLAND, E.	11.1	-2.8	+0.7	+1.5	+1.1	+0.1	-0.5	0	105	101
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	11.7	-8.3	+0.7	+0.3	+0.5	-0.4	-0.8	-4	53	141
3 ENGLAND, E.	13.9	-7.2	+0.4	+0.9	+0.7	+0.1	-0.3	-2	59	117
4 MIDLANDS	12.8	-6.1	+1.1	+0.9	+1.0	+0.1	-0.3	-2	56	153
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	13.9	-7.8	+0.6	+1.0	+0.8	-0.1	-0.3	-4	86	123
6 SCOTLAND, W.	11.7	-8.4	+0.8	+1.4	+1.1	-0.1	-0.5	-2	74	133
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	12.4	-6.7	+0.7	+1.2	+0.9	+0.3	+0.1	-2	54	134
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	13.3	-7.8	+0.4	+0.8	+0.6	+0.7	+0.1	-3	70	97
N. IRELAND	13.0	-5.2	+1.0	+1.4	+1.2	-	-	-1	74	96
SCOTLAND	11.7	-8.4	+0.6	+1.4	+1.0	-	-	0	83	100
ENG. and WALES	13.9	-8.3	+0.7	+0.9	+0.7	-	-	-3	63	127

\*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.