

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT

COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL AND VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS

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Mostly very warm, dry and sunny.

During the first two days a depression over the North Sea moved away north-eastwards, a cold front having cleared the south-east early on the 1st. For the next two weeks pressure was high over the British Isles with an anticyclone centred just to the south-west between the 3rd and 6th and off eastern Scotland from the 7th to the 10th, while on the 14th another advanced across southern districts to central Europe. Mostly weak fronts crossed northern areas on the 3rd and 4th and between the 11th and 13th.

Between the 15th and 17th an active cold front moved slowly southwards to reach a line from mid-Wales to East Anglia before returning northwards to reach the north of Scotland on the 18th. During the following four days a shallow low filled as it drifted from south of Ireland across south-west England towards north-eastern France, while on the 23rd another came southwards from north-west of Scotland to south-west England. For the next few days a belt of high pressure extended north-eastwards across the British Isles although a weak cold front moved southwards over all parts between the 26th and 28th. On the 29th and 30th the highest pressure was transferred to central Europe while fronts affected the far north of Scotland and the month ended with a thundery trough advancing north-eastwards over England and Wales.

Weather

After a rather cool and showery first few days with some longer periods of rain in the north the weather was mainly very warm, dry and sunny, except in the far north-west and north where it was often dull. For about a week from early in the third week, it became more changeable from the north with heavy rain in places, especially in western parts of Great Britain. Thunderstorms, heavy in some areas, occurred widely on the 1st and 2nd, especially in south-eastern parts of England, in all districts between the 19th and 23rd, and over Wales and the western half of England late on the 31st. The fine weather resulted in an early and rapid cereal harvest, but root crops suffered from the lack of rain. Several hundred waterfowl died from botulism at various places in central and southern England as a result of low water-levels and the high temperatures.

Wind

Winds were mostly light or moderate in strength. On some occasions, however, they were fresh or strong, mainly in the far north and in the extreme south-east. Gales occurred in a few exposed localities in the north on the 3rd and 4th, around mid-month and on the 29th and 30th. Wind directions were rather variable being mostly from between north-west and north-east, but from the 14th to the 23rd and during the last two or three days they were mainly between south-east and south-westerly. Sea-breezes developed at times in coastal areas.

Temperature

Monthly mean temperatures were above average nearly everywhere ranging from more than 2°C above in much of Northern Ireland and east Scotland, and in parts of southern England to less than 1°C above average in places on or near the coasts of north Scotland, Tyne and Wear, Essex,

Lancashire and the Isle of Man; Shetland had about normal values. Generally, it was the warmest August since 1975 in Great Britain and since 1955 in Northern Ireland.

In marked contrast to much of July the first two days of the month were rather cool and much less humid. Temperatures then rose and, for the remainder of the month, it was mostly very warm, although coastal areas, particularly in the north and east, were quite cool at times. During the second and third weeks there were some occasional hot days with the temperature reaching 28.4°C at Strathclyde Park in Motherwell, Strathclyde Region, on the 10th, 30.0°C at Hull and Aldenham School, Hertfordshire, on the 14th and 32.1°C at Yeovilton, Somerset, on the 19th. However, it was cooler generally on the 28th and 29th with near-normal temperatures. Slight frost occurred at isolated places on a few occasions with minima of -0.6°C at Kinbrace, Highland Region, on the 1st, -1.2°C at Stonehaugh, Northumberland, on the 29th and -1.5°C at St Harmon, Powys, on the 30th.

Rainfall

In general, this was the driest August since 1976, with Northern Ireland having its second driest this century, while in most parts of the Midlands it was the driest since 1955 and in east England and East Anglia since 1947. Much of the United Kingdom had less than half the average rainfall with parts of northern East Anglia and the south of Lincolnshire, and here and there in east Scotland, the Midlands, central southern and south-east England having less than 10 per cent of average. Rather more rain was recorded in the far north-west of Scotland, Shetland, parts of Wales and north-west England and in isolated areas elsewhere, with scattered areas in Wales having above-average totals.

After widespread showers during the first two days and rain over much of Scotland on the 3rd the remainder of the month was mostly dry. However, most districts had some showers and one or two

longer periods of rain between the 15th and 23rd, although much of southern England remained dry until the 19th, while late on the 31st thundery rain moved north-eastwards over Wales and the western half of England. On some occasions the rainfall was heavy in places, particularly in Wales on the 16th, with 85.0 mm at Llwynon, near Barmouth, Gwynedd, and on the 19th, with 73.8 mm at Swyddffynnon, Dyfed, while flooding occurred locally in south-east England on the 22nd.

Sunshine

Sunshine totals were above the monthly average except in the far north and west of Scotland, parts of Northern Ireland and locally on the coast in Essex and Kent. More than 125 per cent of average was recorded over much of southern Scotland, the north and south of England, the Midlands and Wales, and at a few places elsewhere in Great Britain with more than one and a half times the average locally in Greater Manchester and Shropshire. In parts of the Western Isles less than 75 per cent of the normal sunshine occurred.

Except in the far north and north-west there was a good deal of sunshine during the first half of the month, especially during the second week. Northern Ireland was frequently cloudy between the 15th and 27th.

Fog

Apart from during the first four days of the month fog patches occurred frequently over coasts and hills, particularly in Shetland, and elsewhere in the north-east between the 19th and 24th. Fog formed overnight at times, especially in central and southern areas where it was rather widespread at first on the 18th and 23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena

On the 2nd a small tornado knocked a child off his feet at Thorpe, near Chertsey, Surrey, while funnel clouds were observed over the sea off Brighton and near Jersey Airport.

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				
0 Scotland N	27.4	3.5	+1.1	+1.0	+1.0	+1.0	-4	47	85
1 Scotland E	27.7	1.2	+2.7	+1.3	+2.0	+1.8	-9	26	127
2 England E & NE	30.0	3.9	+1.9	+1.0	+1.4	+1.8	-8	32	124
3 East Anglia	29.0	3.3	+1.6	+1.1	+1.4	+1.5	-9	21	115
4 Midland Counties	30.1	3.3	+2.5	+0.9	+1.7	+1.9	-8	32	138
5 England SE & Central S	30.9	4.5	+2.2	+1.2	+1.7	+1.3	-9	30	118
6 Scotland W	27.1	1.2	+2.6	+0.5	+1.6	+1.5	-8	32	125
7 England NW & Wales N	29.4	4.3	+2.1	+0.7	+1.4	+1.4	-6	49	130
8 England SW & Wales S	30.2	4.8	+2.7	+0.7	+1.7	+2.3	-10	47	131
N Ireland	27.3	5.1	+2.5	+1.8	+2.1	+1.9	-9	34	97
Scotland	27.7	1.2	+2.1	+0.9	+1.5	+1.4	-7	35	112
England & Wales	30.9	3.3	+2.2	+0.9	+1.5	+1.7	-8	35	126

* Highest maximum and lowest minimum of District Value Stations