

Seasonal Assessment – Spring 2021

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Spring 2021 (March, April and May) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

This spring was a season of contrasts. Overall it was colder than average, with notable warm spells only at the end of March and the end of May, and there were regular frosts in many areas. Most of March and April were relatively settled, and April was also notably sunny, but May was very unsettled and cold except for the final few days.

The first week of March was particularly cold, but a milder second half more than offset this, with a notably warm spell in the last three days of the month. The March monthly-mean temperature was 0.9 C above average. April was generally cold, especially regarding night-time temperatures, with the greatest number of air frosts of any April since 1960; monthly-mean temperatures were 1.7 °C below average, making it the coldest April since 1989. This was followed by the coldest May since 1996, at 1.3 °C below average, with only brief warmth around the 9th and again near month end.

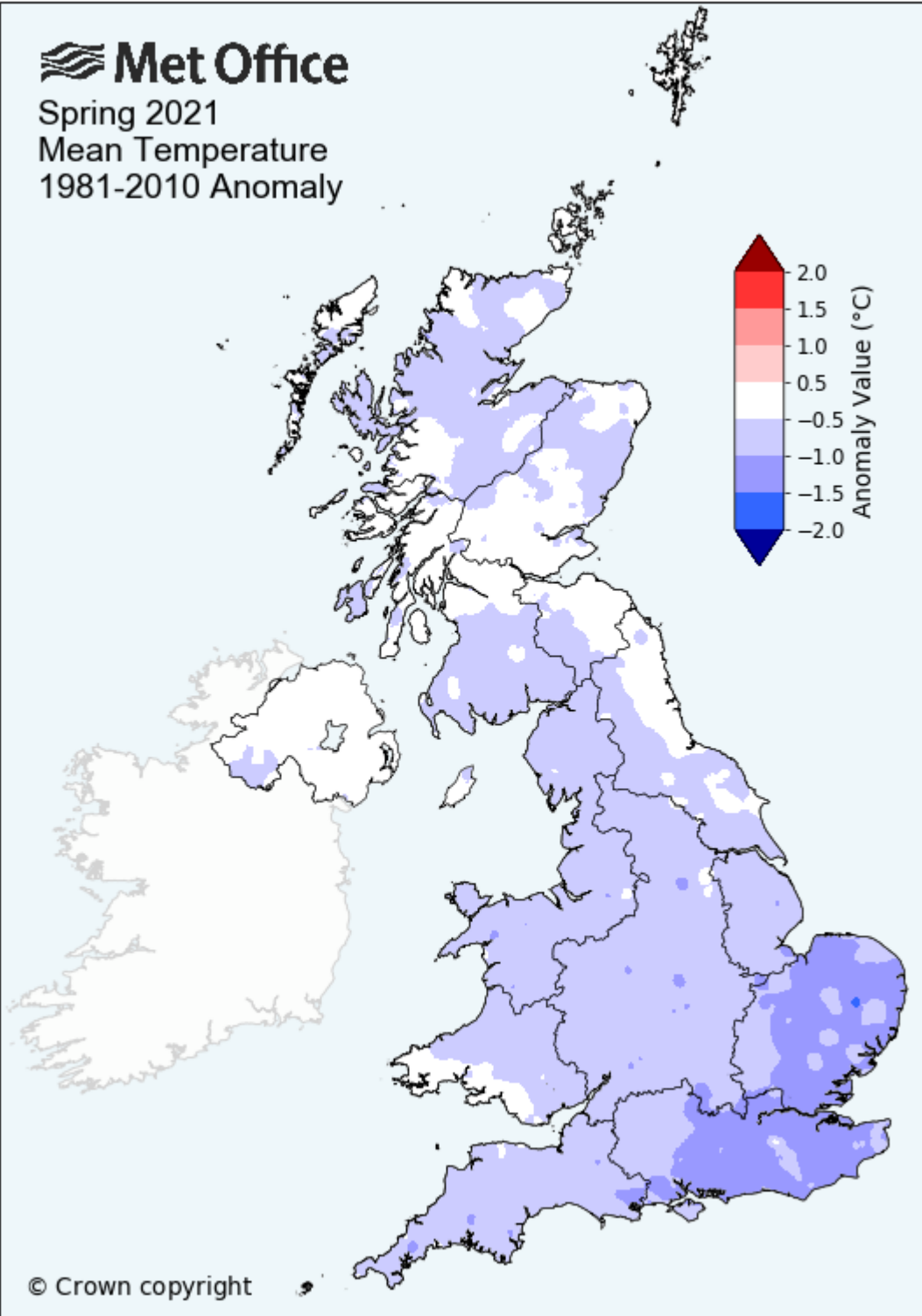
March rainfall totals were rather below average in most areas, despite wet and unsettled spells between 9th and 14th and between 23rd and 30th; overall the UK had 89% of average rainfall. April was predominantly dry, though with rainfall in some areas between 4th and 11th and again from 26th onwards. It was the driest April since 1980, with 28% of average rainfall for the UK. By contrast, May was very wet, characterised by bands of rain and heavy showers, especially in Wales and the south-west, with 171% of average overall.

North-western fringes of the UK were duller than average in March, with other areas near or just above average, giving an overall figure equal to the long-term average. April was a sunny month, for the second year in a row, giving 152% of the average total sunshine duration. May was on the dull side for most areas, giving 86% overall.

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value is 7.1 °C, which is 0.7 °C below the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total is 224 mm, which is 94% of the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total is 487 hours, which is 112% of the 1981-2010 average.

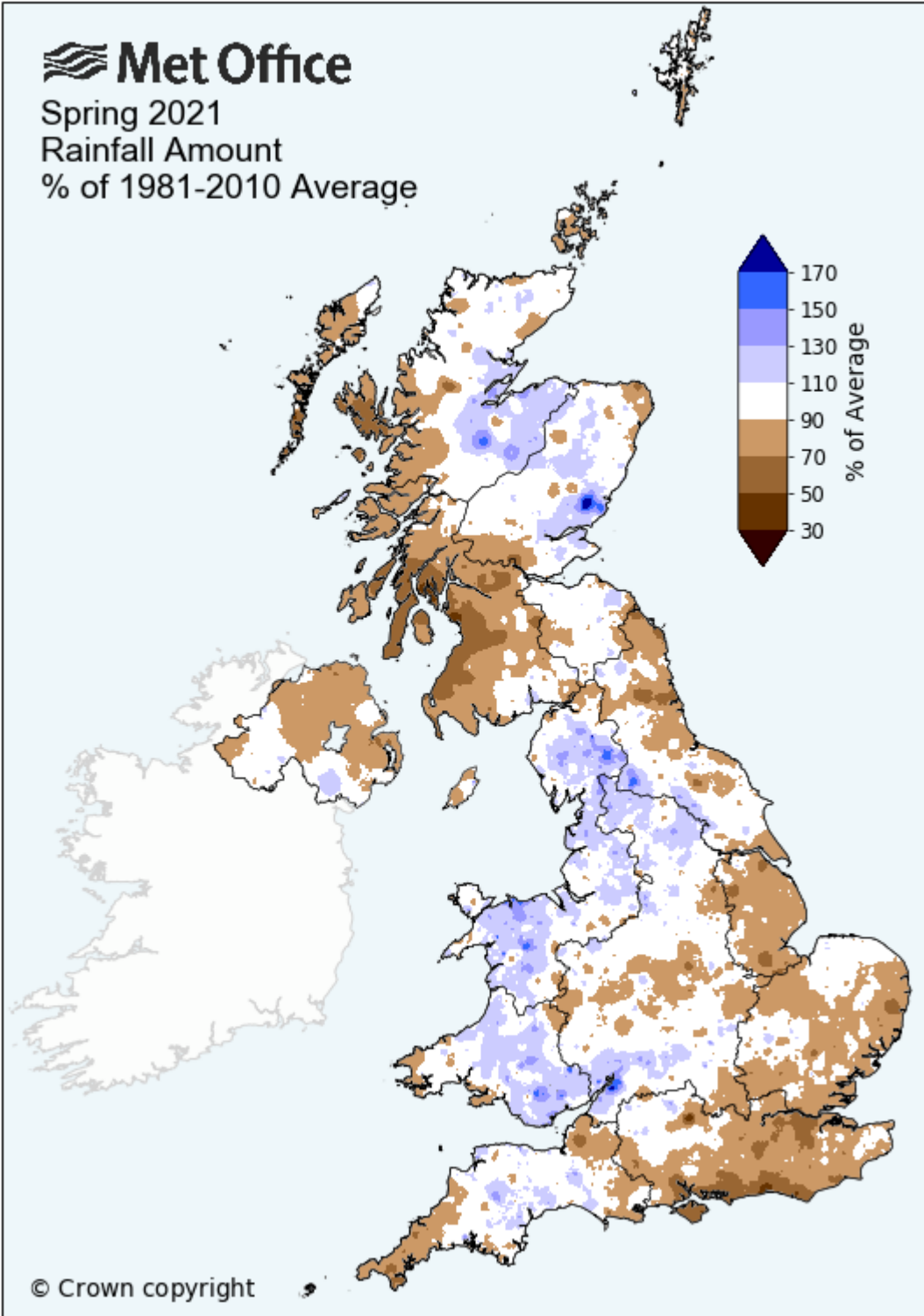
 **Met Office**

Spring 2021
Mean Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly



 **Met Office**

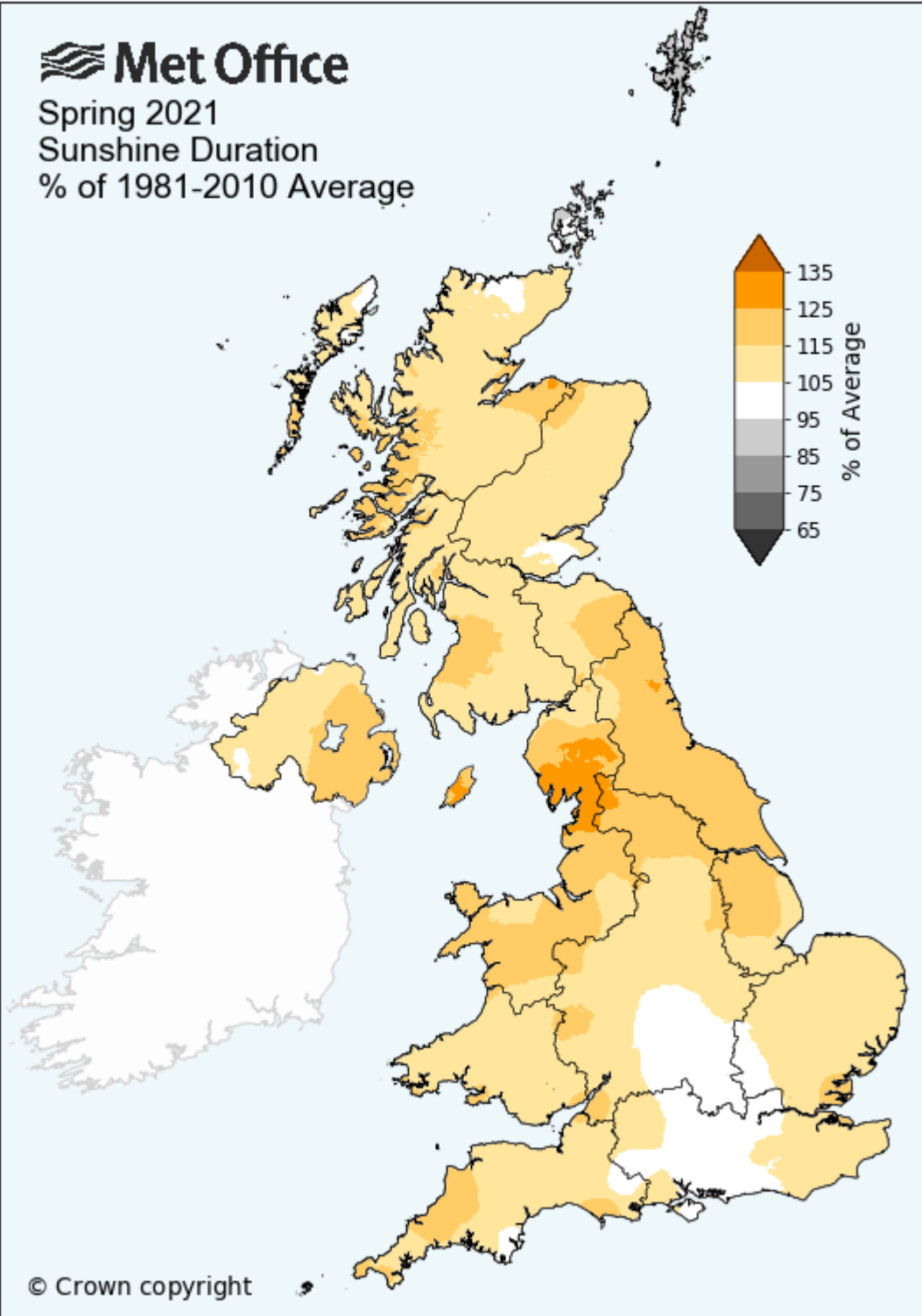
Spring 2021
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average



© Crown copyright

 **Met Office**

Spring 2021
Sunshine Duration
% of 1981-2010 Average



© Crown copyright

