

## Seasonal Assessment – Winter 2021

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Winter 2020/21 (December, January and February) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

The winter overall was slightly colder than average, though with contrasts between the cold spells of late-December/early-January and the first half of February, and much milder weather around mid-December and in the second half of February. Much of the winter was unsettled, though with a few spells of drier weather. December was slightly milder than average, but was followed by a cold January with frequent frosts, during which snowfall repeatedly affected certain areas. February saw sharp contrasts and further snowfalls but was slightly milder than average overall.

December 2020 saw maximum temperatures averaging out close to normal in most areas, but minima were up to 1½ degrees above the seasonal normal in some areas, with frosts fewer than average; the UK monthly mean temperature was 0.5 °C above the long-term average. Temperatures were below average in early December and again for the last week, but well above average during 10th-23rd. Most of January was distinctly colder than average, with some severe frosts in the north, and only brief milder spells which were most marked in the south; monthly-mean temperatures were 1.5 °C below average, making it the coldest January since 2010. The first half of February saw some severe frosts, and snowfall, but the second half was much milder, and the monthly mean temperature was 0.4 °C above average.

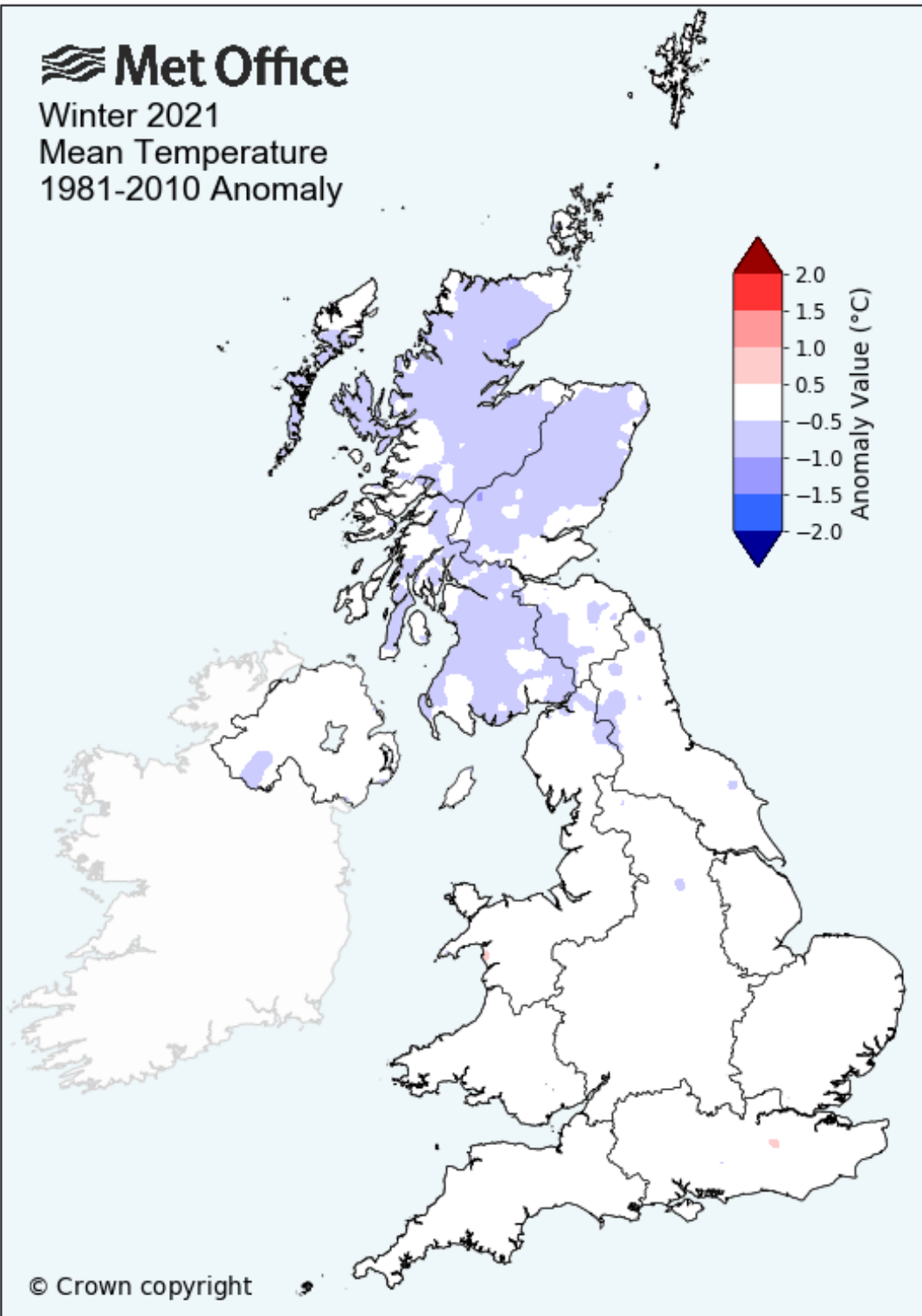
December rainfall totals were well above average in most areas, and above double the average in some places, but near normal in western Scotland and Northern Ireland; overall the UK had 135% of average rainfall. After a quiet start, January rainfall was also above average for most, with more than double the average for some places, but near average in Northern Ireland and rather below for the Highlands of Scotland; the UK overall had 113% of average rainfall for the month. February rainfall was above average in most areas away from northern Scotland, with again double the average for some places, and an overall figure of 116% of average.

Many areas were duller than average in December, but a few areas were rather brighter. January saw a remarkable contrast, being much duller than average for southern England and Wales but the fourth sunniest on record for Scotland and bright over Northern Ireland too. February was again rather dull in the south and west but brightest relative to average in northern Scotland. Sunshine totals for the UK overall were 93% of average in December, 95% in January, and 103% in February.

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value is 3.5 °C, which is 0.2 °C below the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total is 401 mm, which is 122% of the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total is 155 hours, which is 98% of the 1981-2010 average.

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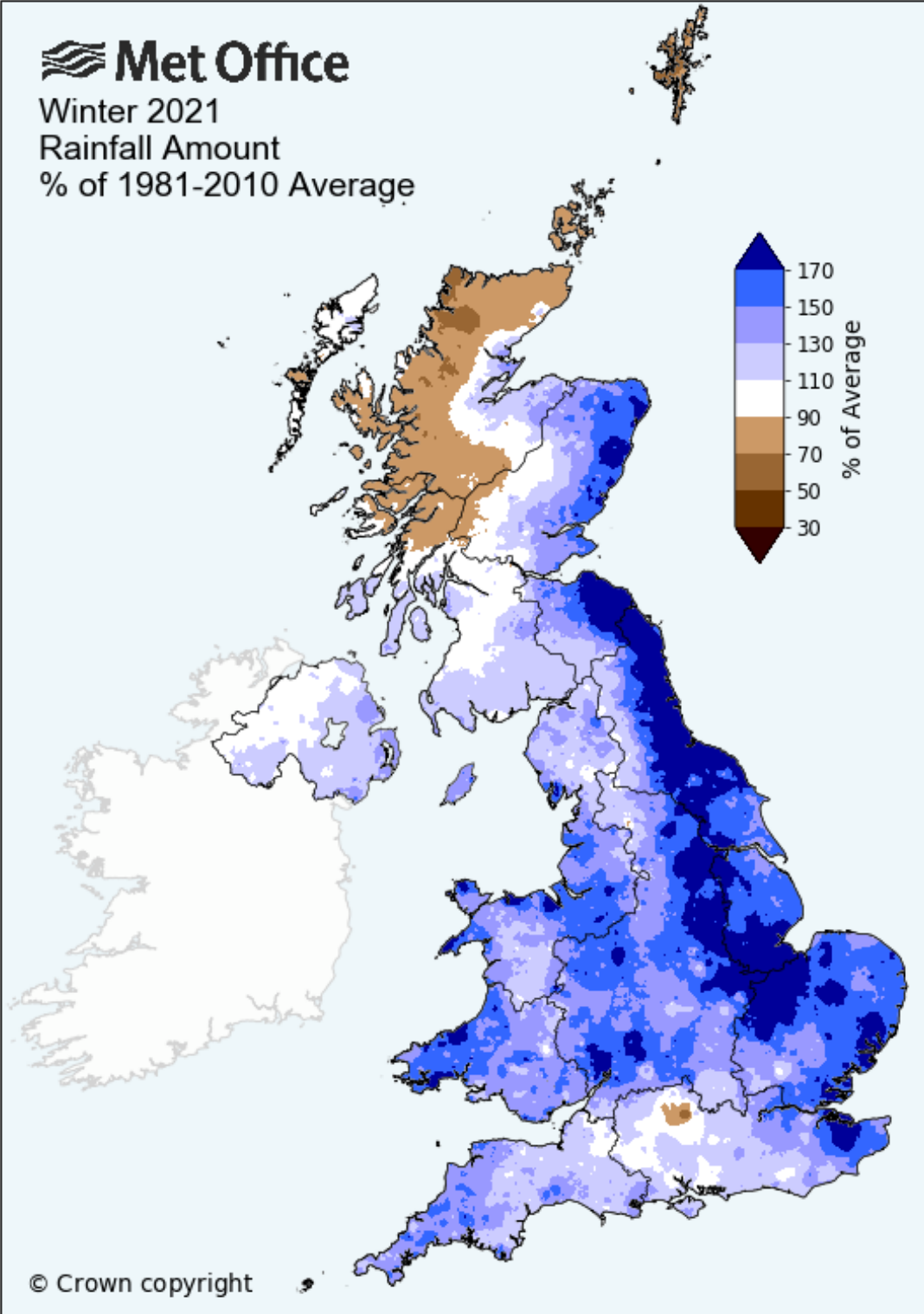
Winter 2021  
Mean Temperature  
1981-2010 Anomaly



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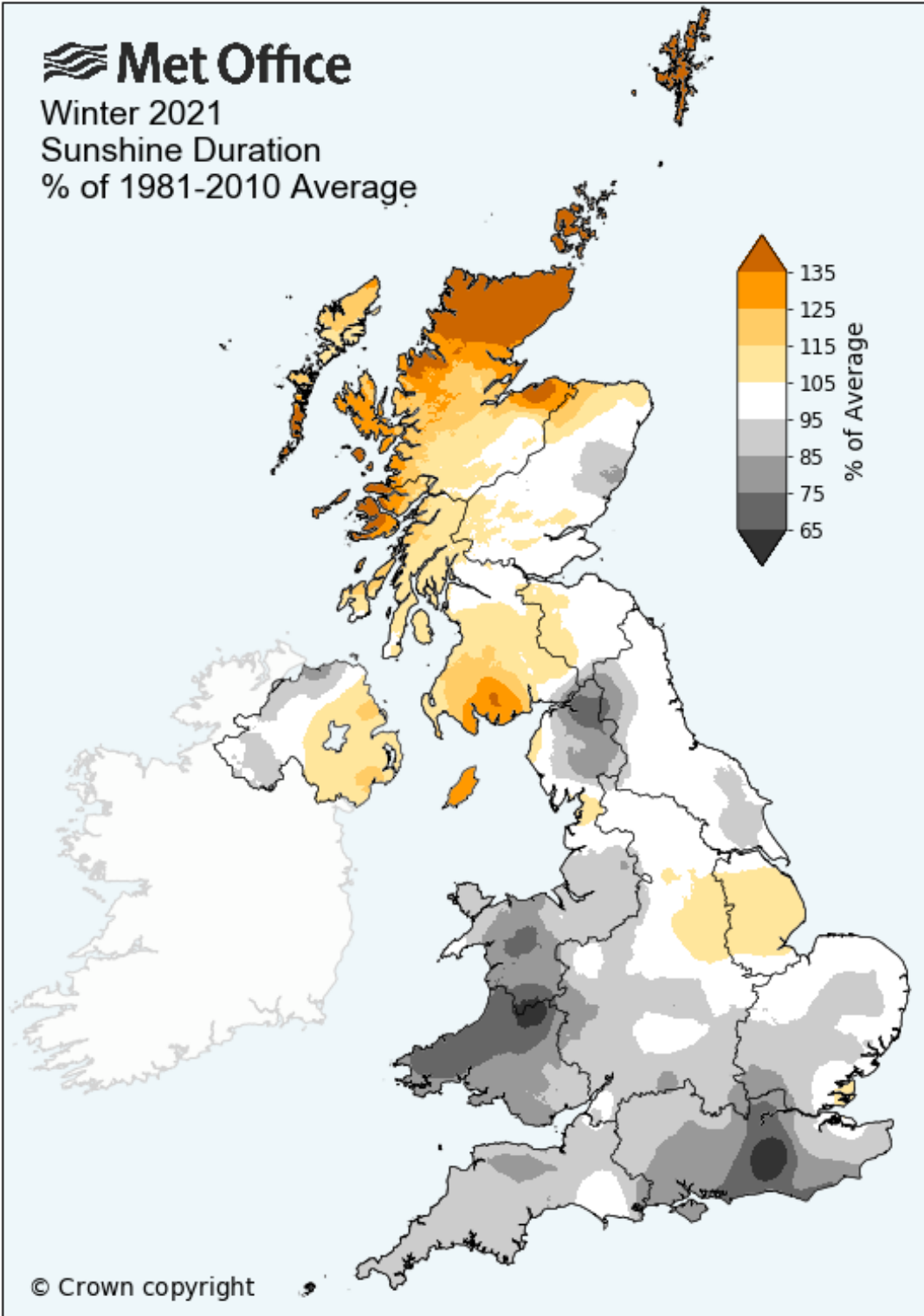
Winter 2021  
Rainfall Amount  
% of 1981-2010 Average



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Winter 2021  
Sunshine Duration  
% of 1981-2010 Average



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### Mean Temperature - Winter 2021 - UK

