

Seasonal Assessment – Autumn 2023

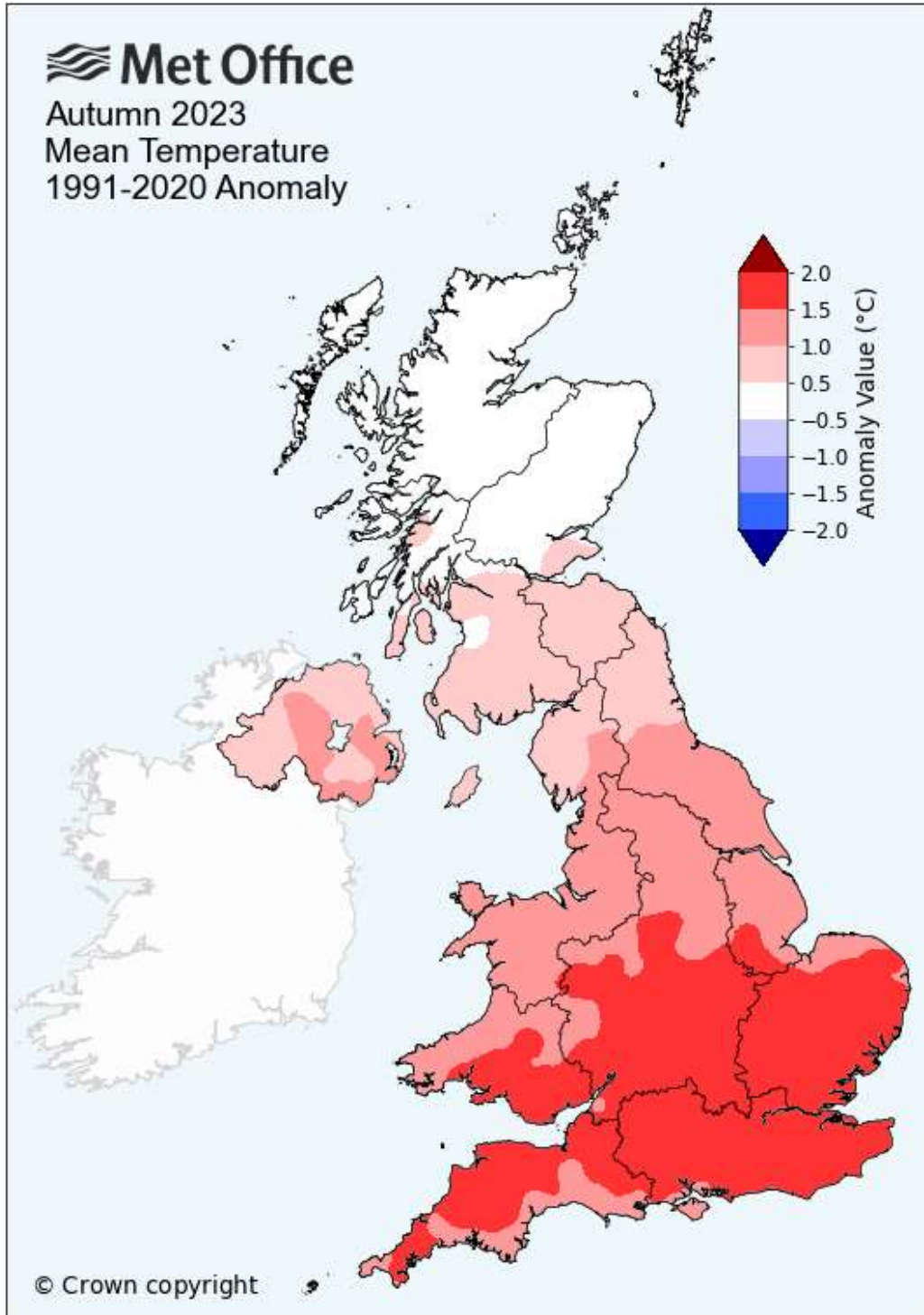
The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Autumn 2023 (September, October and November) and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.

Autumn 2023 was warmer and wetter than average - although overall neither quite as warm nor quite as wet as the previous autumn 2022. The three months of the autumn saw dramatic contrasts in the weather. Settled weather in early September brought many warm, dry, sunny days with a significant late-season heatwave. 30°C was reached on seven consecutive days (a September record), including, unusually, the UK's highest temperature of the year: 33.5°C at Faversham, Kent on 10th. It was the UK's equal-warmest September on record (with 2006). Early October saw some fine weather in the south with temperatures reaching 25°C in the south-east – the most significant October warm spell since 2011. However, overall this was an unsettled and very wet month. The UK recorded its 6th wettest October in the series from 1836 and Eastern Scotland recorded its wettest October by a wide margin. Much of eastern Scotland, eastern England, south-east England and the east of Northern Ireland received well over twice the monthly average rainfall. After a very wet first half, November overall was unremarkable although with some cold wintry weather, particularly in the last week.

Four named storms affected the UK during the autumn from late September to mid-November: – Agnes, Babet, Ciarán and Debi. These contributed to exceptionally wet and, at times, stormy weather. From 6th to 7th October, Scotland had its wettest 2-day period on record, while the Met Office issued two red warnings for rain from Babet from 18th to 20th for parts of Eastern Scotland. Babet also brought the third wettest 3-day period on record for England and Wales. Storm Ciarán, at the start of November, was an exceptionally powerful storm – comparable in severity with the 'Great Storm' of 16 October 1987 – but with the strongest winds further south across the Channel Islands and Northern France. These storms resulted in significant and widespread weather impacts, particularly from flooding - affecting all four nations, most notably the south-east of Northern Ireland, parts of eastern Scotland and parts of the South Pennines and north Midlands - but elsewhere too. The storms also caused damage from high winds and large waves around the coastline.

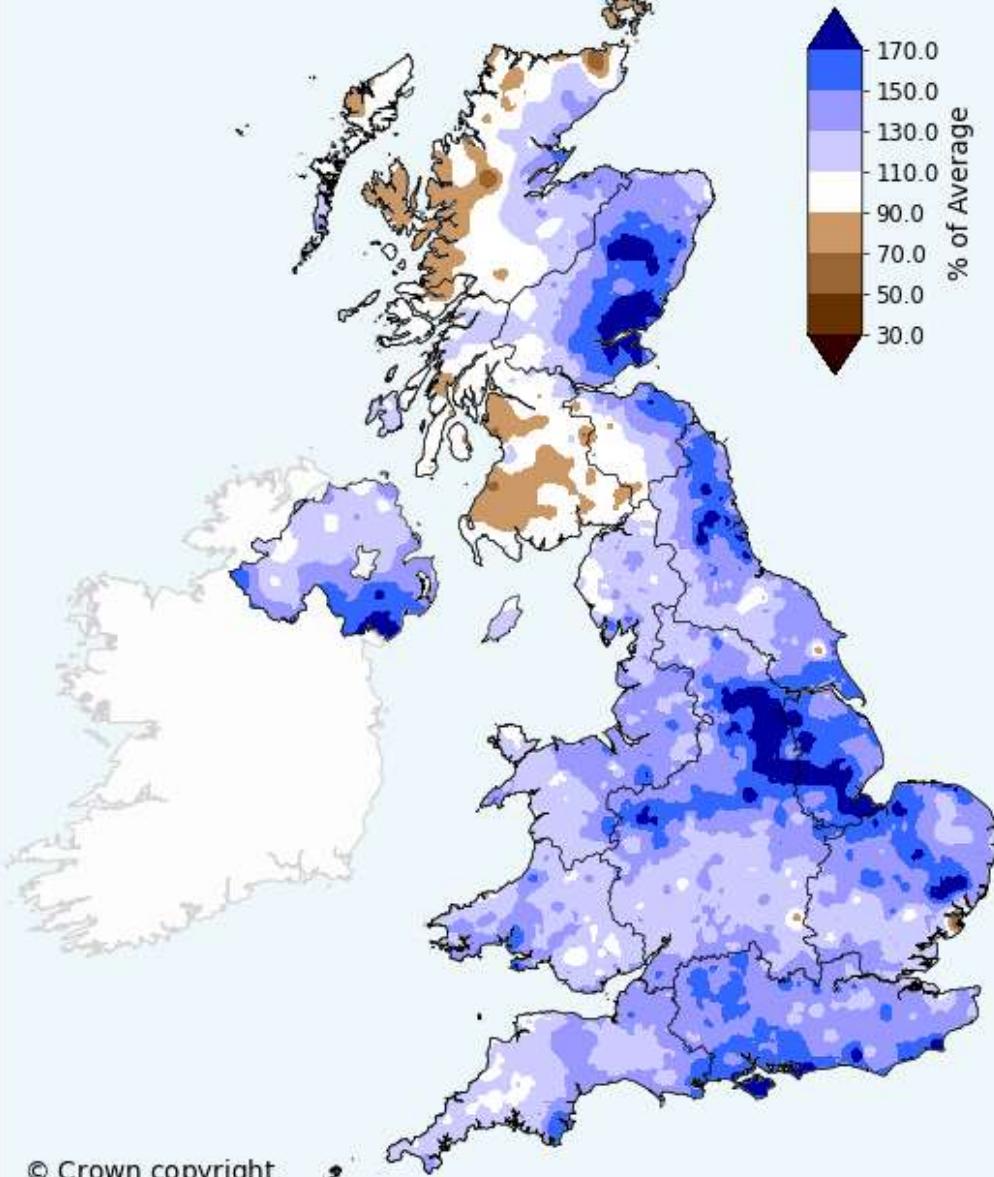
Temperatures for autumn overall were above average except for northern Scotland, with the highest anomalies, exceeding +1.5°C, across southern England. The UK recorded a seasonal mean temperature of 10.8°C, 1.0°C above the 1991-2020 long term average, making this the sixth warmest autumn on record in the series from 1884, although autumn 2022 (ranked 3rd) and 2021 (ranked equal-fourth) were both slightly warmer. The climate district of south-west England and South Wales had its warmest autumn on record (marginally ahead of 2011 and 2006). The UK recorded 409.8mm of rainfall, 122% of the 1991-2020 average. Rainfall totals were above average apart from western Scotland, with parts of eastern Scotland, north-east and eastern England, southern England and the east of Northern Ireland receiving over 150% of the 1991-2020 long term average. Areas such as Angus, South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, the Isle of Wight and County Down were particularly wet. This was a sunny autumn for much of Northern Ireland, Scotland, central and south-east England but dull across northern and south-west England and west Wales.

| UK statistical summary | | |
|--|---|--|
| Mean temperature | Rainfall | Sunshine |
| The provisional mean value for Autumn is 10.8°C, which is 1.0°C above the 1991-2020 average. | The provisional total for Autumn is 410 mm, which is 122% of the 1991-2020 average. | The provisional total for Autumn is 292 hours, which is 105% of the 1991-2020 average. |



 **Met Office**

Autumn 2023
Rainfall Amount
% of 1991-2020 Average



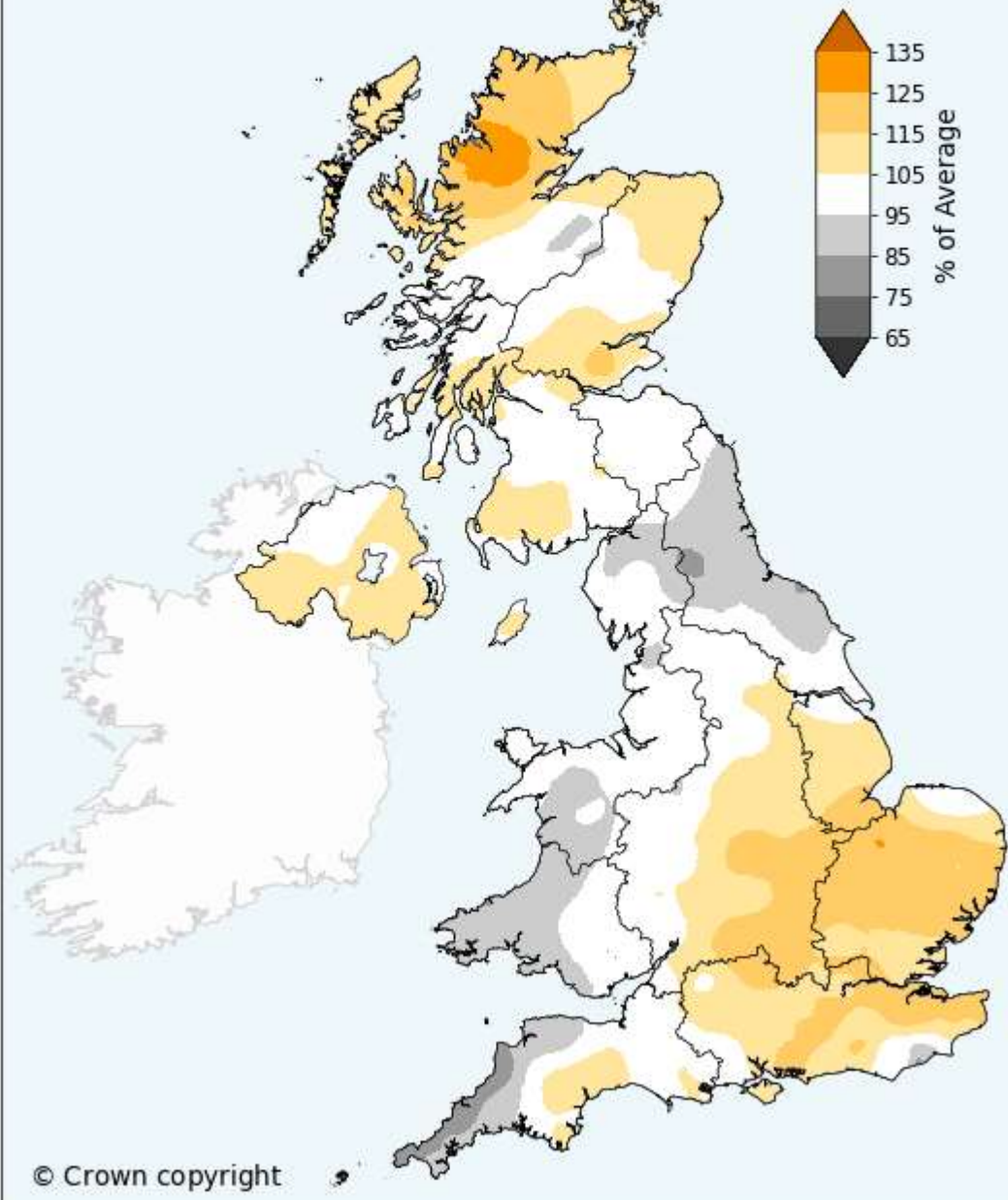
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Autumn 2023

Sunshine Duration

% of 1991-2020 Average



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Mean Temperature - Autumn 2023 - UK

