

Annual 2018

The following represents an assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during 2018 and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

2018 was warmer than average for the UK, although not as warm as 2017. May, June, July and December were all much warmer than average. It was also a relatively dry year, particularly across the north of the UK, with June a very dry month in the south. This was a very sunny year, particularly May, June and July. Notable extreme events during the year included a spell of severe winter weather in late February and early March. The Met Office issued two Red Warnings, and this was the most significant spell of snow and low temperatures for the UK since 2010. High pressure dominated the summer – the warmest for the UK since 2006, the driest since 2003 and the sunniest since 1995. Some rain gauges in southern England recorded more than 50 consecutive dry days and temperatures exceeded 30 °C fairly widely on 15 days during July and August. Nine named storms affected the UK during 2018. Storm Ali in mid-September brought very strong winds to the north and was one of the most notable early autumn storms of recent decades. Storm Callum in mid-October brought persistent heavy rain to western areas, especially south Wales.

The provisional UK mean temperature for 2018 was 9.5 °C, which is 0.6 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average, ranking as the seventh warmest year in the historical UK series from 1910. All top-ten warmest years in this series have occurred this century. Summer 2018 was equal-warmest in the UK series, with 1976, 2003 and 2006.

The provisional UK rainfall total for 2018 was 1064 mm, which is 92% of the 1981-2010 average, making this a dry year overall although not exceptionally so. However, parts of northern Scotland received only 75% of average rainfall. Southern England recorded its driest June since 1925.

The provisional UK sunshine total for 2018 was 1581 hours, which is 115% of the 1981-2010 average and making this the second sunniest year for the UK in a series from 1929, with only 2003 sunnier. East Anglia had its sunniest year on record. May was also the sunniest on record for the UK.

UK statistical summary

Mean Temperature

The provisional mean value is 9.5 °C, which is 0.6 °C above the 1981-2010 average.

Rainfall

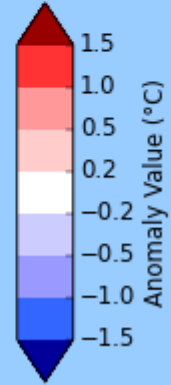
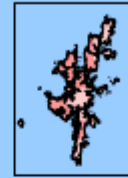
The provisional total is 1064 mm, which is 92% of the 1981-2010 average.

Sunshine

The provisional total is 1581 hours, which is 115% of the 1981-2010 average.

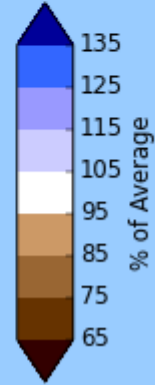
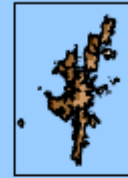


Year 2018
Mean Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly





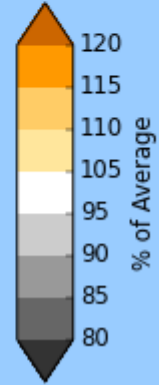
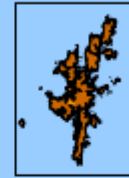
Year 2018
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average



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Year 2018
Sunshine Duration
% of 1981-2010 Average



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