

**The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during 2020 and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.**

2020 was warmer than average for the UK, and ranks as the third warmest year in a series from 1884. 2006 and 2014 were warmer, and 2011 was almost as warm. It was also the sixth wettest year in a series from 1862, and the eighth sunniest since 1919, so is remarkable for being ranked in the top ten for all three variables. Having said that, all top-ten warmest years in the historical series have occurred this century.

Notable extreme events during the year included several heavy-rainfall events in February, and numerous incidences of flooding in the autumn and early winter. Ten named storms affected the UK during 2020. Towards the end of the year flooding was exacerbated as further rainfall fell on already saturated ground. Also noteworthy were several short hot spells, including the Easter bank holiday weekend as well as during the summer.

The provisional UK mean temperature for 2020 was 9.6 °C, which is 0.8 °C above average. Much of the winter and spring were relatively warm, and July was the only month with temperatures generally below average. There were several short hot spells during the summer, and 31st July was the third warmest day on record for the UK with a temperature of 37.8 °C at Heathrow. On six consecutive days in August 34 °C was exceeded somewhere in southern England, and temperatures exceeded 30 °C somewhere in the UK on 13 days during the summer, including one final hot day on 15th September. There were several nights on which minimum temperatures of 20 °C or above were recorded somewhere. Fewer frosts were experienced than usual, and the lowest temperature of the year, -10.2 °C, was recorded on 30th December at Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire).

It was a rather wet year, with the wettest February on record, all summer months being wetter than average, and October and December also notably wetter than average. The provisional UK rainfall total for 2020 was 1308 mm, which is 114% of the 1981-2010 average. Western areas were generally wettest relative to average, especially western Scotland and north-west England. However, some eastern coastal fringes were slightly drier than average for the year.

A record sunny spring was a major contributor towards it being a sunnier year than average. The provisional annual UK sunshine total was 1495 hours, which is 109% of average. England fared best relative to average, with all areas boosted by the sunny spring – only three summers have actually been sunnier than this spring was.

### UK statistical summary

#### Mean temperature

The provisional mean is 9.6 °C, which is 0.8 °C above the 1981-2010 average.

#### Rainfall

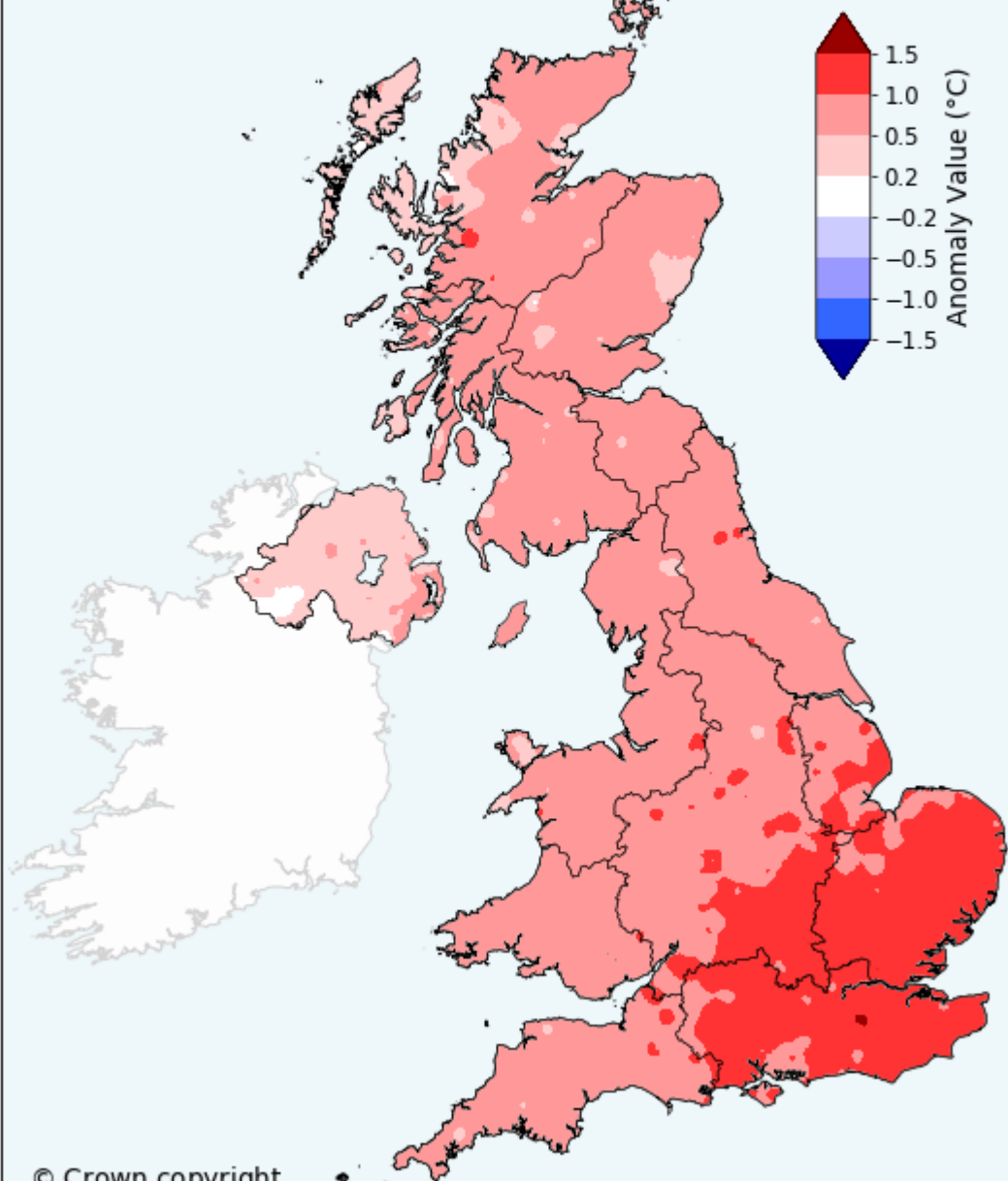
The provisional total is 1308 mm, which is 114% of the 1981-2010 average.

#### Sunshine

The provisional total is 1495 hours, which is 109% of the 1981-2010 average.



Year 2020  
Mean Temperature  
1981-2010 Anomaly



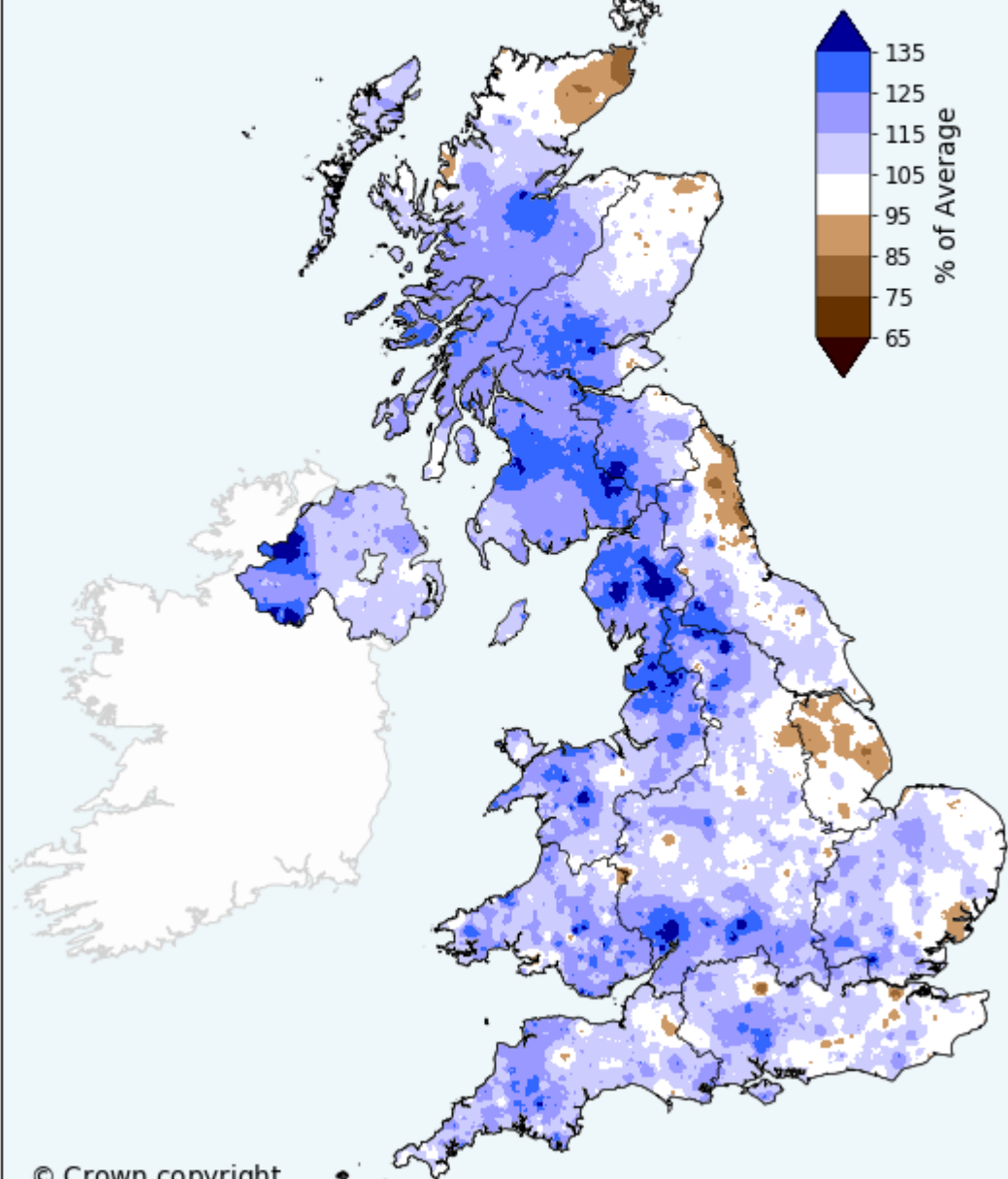
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 **Met Office**

Year 2020

Rainfall Amount

% of 1981-2010 Average



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Year 2020

Sunshine Duration

% of 1981-2010 Average

