

Seasonal Assessment – Summer 2026

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Summer 2026 (June, July and August 2026) and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.

Summer 2026 was the warmest summer on record for the UK. Mean temperatures exceeded 2025, the previous record holder by more than 0.3°C, with the top six warmest years now in the 21st century. The highest summer maximum, minimum and mean temperatures were seen in England and Wales, with Northern Ireland having its warmest summer in terms of mean temperature and second warmest minimum temperatures. Scotland saw its third highest minimum temperature and 7th highest mean temperature. The season was dominated by a long period of high pressure during July and August with heatwave conditions seen across the country and very dry conditions particularly in southern England and Wales. Only western Scotland saw close to average rainfall and slightly cooler temperatures than much of the rest of the country, although still well above the 1991-2020 average (+1°C).

The first half of June was wetter and cooler than average, but the second half saw exceptional heat. Wet and windy conditions in the first two weeks were caused by a series of low-pressure systems from the west with rain at times heavy and widespread. By mid-month parts of Northern Ireland, north-west England, southern England and south Wales had received their total average rainfall for a typical June. Temperatures then started to rise in the southeast as heatwave conditions moved in from the continent across southern England and Wales and this spread across the country in the final two weeks of the month. Red warnings for extreme heat were issued by the Met Office for three consecutive days in June, the longest period of red warnings since these were introduced to the weather warnings system in 2021. On the 26th a provisional new UK maximum June temperature of 38.0°C was recorded at Lingwood (Norfolk) and a provisional new Wales maximum temperature of 35.1°C was recorded at Hawarden Airport. Minimum temperatures were also much higher than average, and Hastings (East Sussex) recorded the UK's provisional highest daily minimum June temperature of 23.2°C on the 26th. Humidity was also extremely high during this heatwave period, combined with the high minimums this made conditions overnight uncomfortable with often severe effects on health. Hot, dry conditions continued across much of the country into July, with only Scotland seeing any significant rain. Heatwave conditions were again met across England and Wales with nearly two weeks of temperatures above 25°C in many areas. Although Scotland saw more rain than other parts of the UK, it still recorded below average rainfall, just 69% of the long-term average. Sunshine hours were well above average in July, leading to the sunniest July on record for the UK, England and Wales. The first three weeks of August saw continued hot and dry weather particularly in southern England and Wales with more unsettled conditions and some heavy rain arriving in the final week. Heatwave conditions were declared in parts of the country around 10-14 August. Wales saw a provisional new August maximum temperature of 35.3°C recorded at Gogerddan on the 12th. Wisley (Surrey) reported no rain for 62 consecutive days, with the run coming to an end on the 18th. August was the seventh consecutive month where UK monthly mean temperatures were more than 1°C above the long-term average. The 20th saw the end of 52 consecutive days where the temperature somewhere in the UK was greater than 25°C. Rainfall in August was still well below average in the south, despite rain and thunderstorms at the end of the month.

Summer 2026 UK mean temperatures were provisionally 1.91°C warmer than the 1991-2020 average. England and Wales were particularly warm (2.48 and 2.22°C above average, respectively). This record places the top three warmest Summers in terms of mean temperatures for the UK as 2026, 2025 and 2018 in a series from 1884. 2026 also overtakes 1976 as the warmest in terms of maximum temperature, with the top three spots for maximum UK summer temperatures now held by 2026, 1975 and 2025.

Overall, this was a dry summer with the UK recording 77% of average rainfall and only northern Scotland seeing above average with 109% of average. Tyne and Wear saw only 42% of average rainfall and Essex 50%. Overall southern England received 62% of average rainfall. The Environment Agency declared a drought over half of the regions in England during July.

The UK recorded 123% of average sunshine hours for summer overall with Scotland the only country seeing slightly less than normal sunshine at 99% of average.

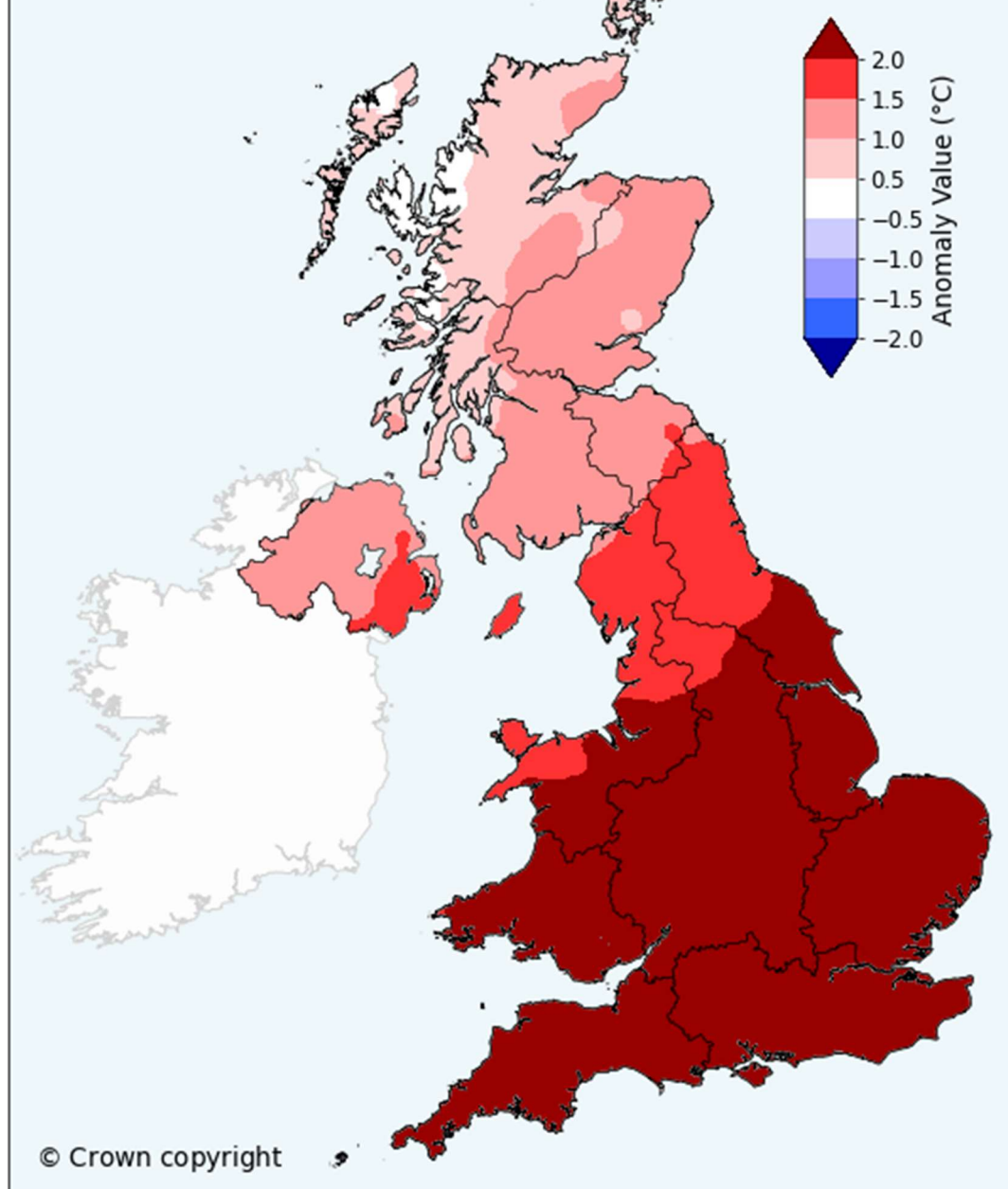
UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value for Summer 2026 is 16.51°C, which is 1.91°C above the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for Summer 2026 is 195.4mm, which is 77% of the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for Summer 2026 is 621.9 hours, which is 123% of the 1991-2020 average.

 **Met Office**

Summer 2026

Mean Temperature

1991-2020 Anomaly

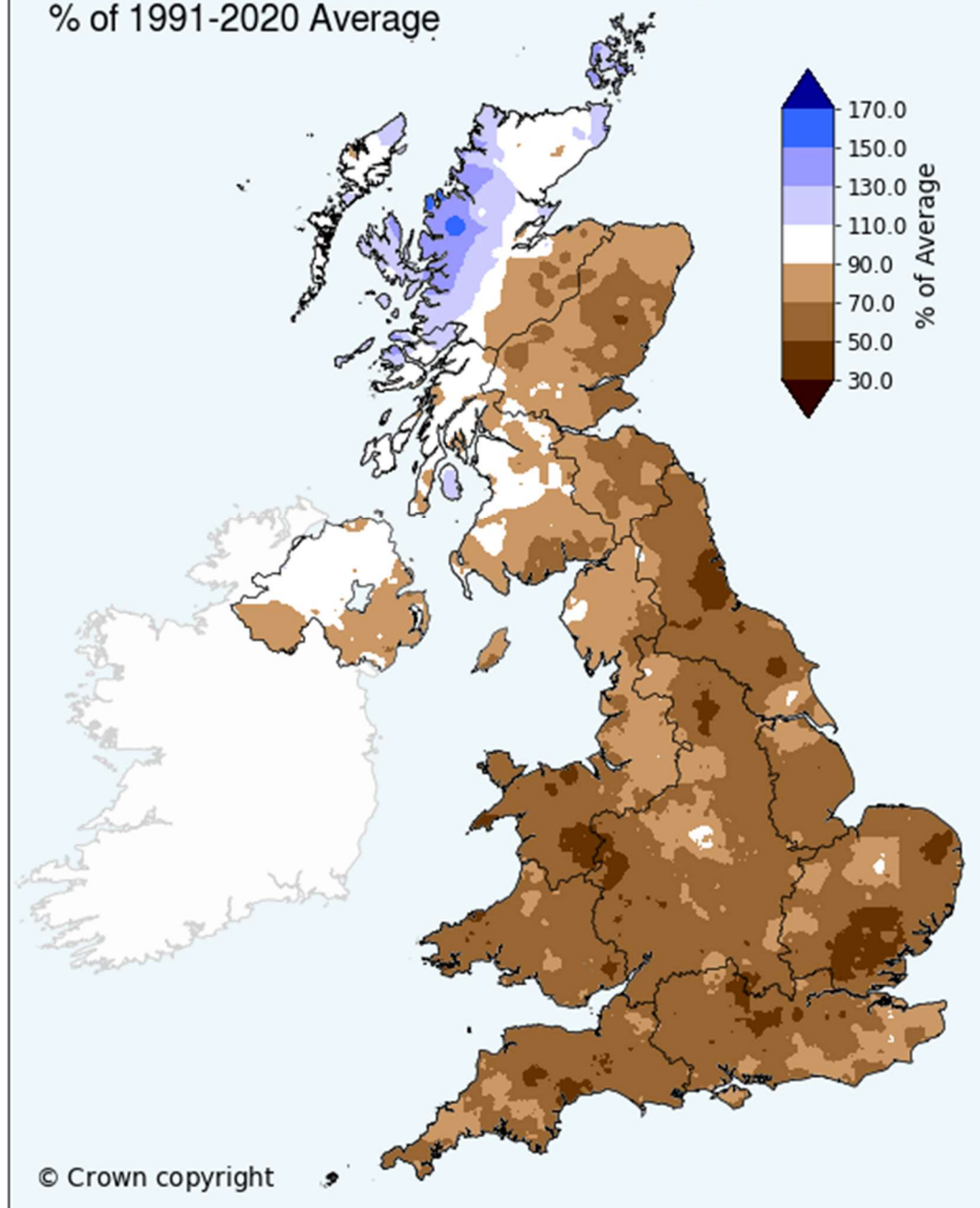


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Summer 2026

Rainfall Amount

% of 1991-2020 Average

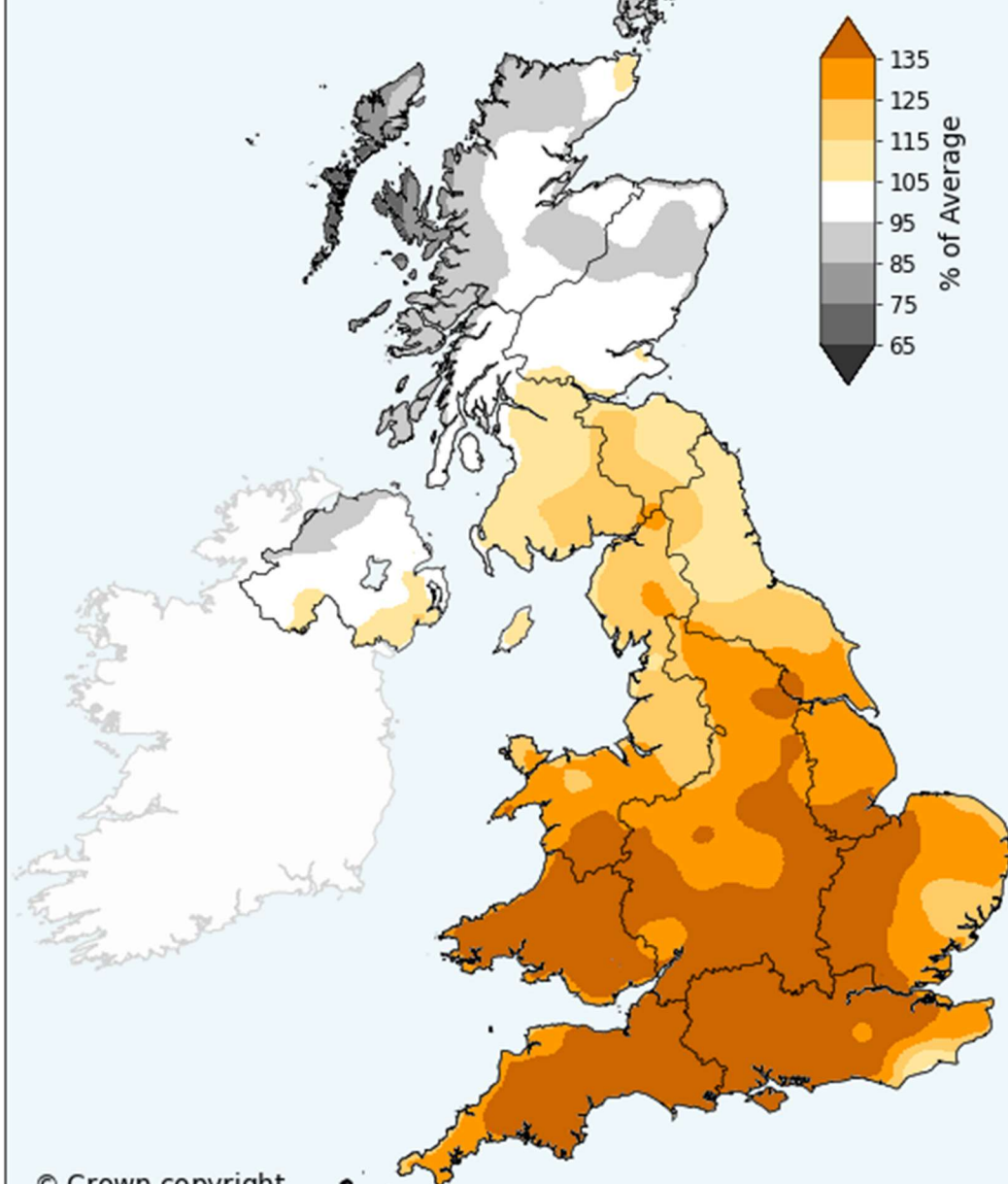


 **Met Office**

Summer 2026

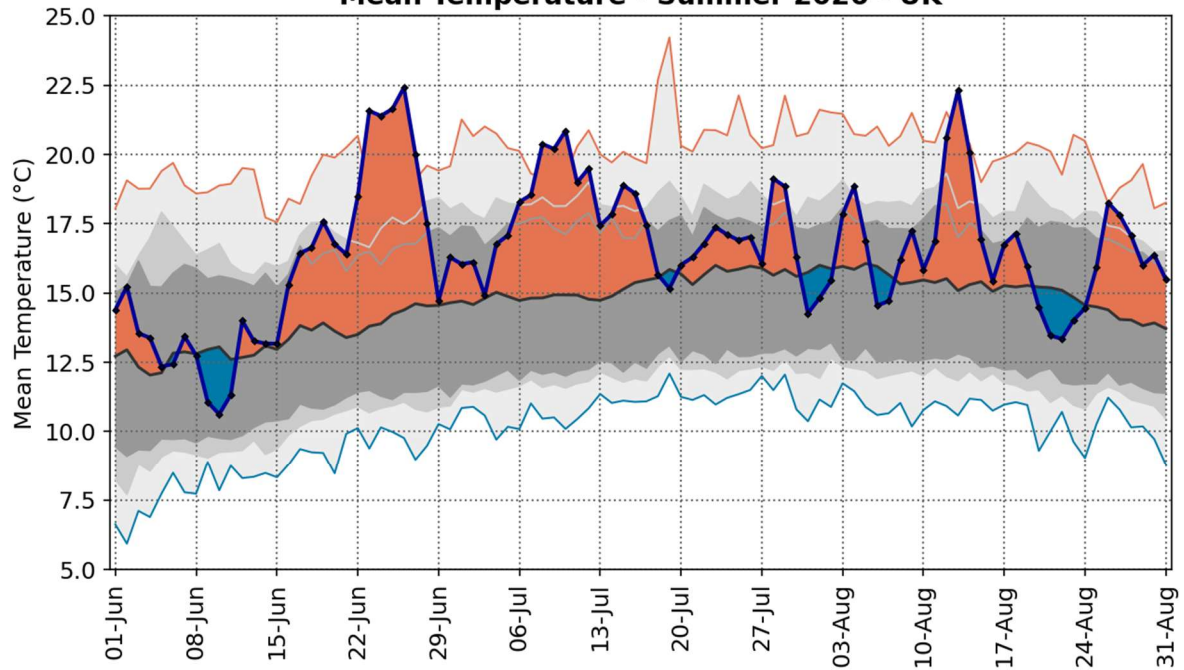
Sunshine Duration

% of 1991-2020 Average



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Mean Temperature - Summer 2026 - UK



— 1991-2020 — lowest — 5% — 10% — 90% — 95% — highest — 2026