March 2025 Monthly Weather Report

This document provides a summary of the UK's weather and climate statistics for March 2025.

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UK overview

March saw persistent high pressure bring settled conditions for most of the month. The month started with high pressure over southern England, resulting in bright but cooler than average temperatures in the south while the north saw milder temperatures and some showers. The clear conditions in the south also brought widespread fog as well as frost at times. The high pressure slowly shifted eastwards and the milder temperatures extended further south, reaching 19°C in some areas of Cumbria on the 8th. There were some scattered showers, especially in northern areas, but it was otherwise dry and often sunny. On the 10th a cold front moved into northern Scotland, bringing some snow over high ground. Temperatures across the country then turned colder than average as high pressure near Iceland exerted its influence on the UK. The following brief period of low pressure saw an increase in temperatures, and then high pressure from the southwest moved in, bringing warm and settled conditions. The month closed with high pressure over the UK, with conditions settled, warm and sunny.

The mean temperature for the UK for March was 1.3°C above average, although there was some regional variation. Scotland and Northern Ireland were much warmer than average (1.7°C and 1.5°C, respectively), while southern England and Wales were a little less warm (0.9°C and 1.0°C above average, respectively). This was the seventh warmest March on record for Scotland, the eighth warmest March for Northern Ireland and the tenth warmest March for the UK overall. Maximum temperatures were particularly high, with the UK experiencing its fourth highest mean maximum temperature for March. The cold spell mid-month was balanced by much warmer periods in the beginning and end of the month. March has been dry for most, with only Scotland recording more than half of the average rainfall and only Shetland recording above average rainfall. Wales saw its fourth driest March on record, its driest since 1944. England saw its sixth driest March, while for Northern Ireland it was the ninth driest March. Suffolk and Norfolk experienced their second driest Marches on record, with only March 1929 drier. Sunshine hours, on the other hand, were well above average for the UK overall, which saw 158.1 hours of sunshine, 145% of the long-term average. Most areas saw above average sunshine, particularly in southeastern England. England saw its sunniest March on record, with Wales recording its second sunniest March and the UK overall its third sunniest March.

Reference climatology used for calculating anomalies is the period 1991-2020 unless otherwise stated.

Weather impacts

- **Fog in some areas of England on the 5th, 9th, 26th and 27th led to warnings, but few impacts**
- **The dry month may have contributed to wildfires, with significant blazes reported in south Wales, north Wales, and smaller blazes in Northern Ireland and western Scotland**

March saw predominantly settled, non-impactful weather. Severe weather warnings were few and far between, and all fell in the low impact column. Most were for fog, both early and again later in the month when high pressure was dominant. The dryness of the month was perhaps emphasised by the relative frequency of wildfires, though in some of these instances ignition was likely to have been the result of human involvement.

On the 4th, strong winds and rain affected western Scotland and the Isles, the combination of winds and high astronomical tides resulting in the reported closure of the Braighe causeway on the Isle of Lewis. 24 hours later, south Wales saw its first significant wildfire of the month with a reported 25 acres of grassland ablaze on the Bwlch Mountain near Nant-y-Moel, Bridgend. The middle third of the month saw somewhat colder air spread southwards to all parts resulting in some widespread overnight frosts and a little wintriness across northeast England and north/east Scotland around the 13th. A further notable wildfire was reported from the Blaenau Ffestiniog area in North Wales on the night of the 16th/17th but this was only one of a number of wildfires reported from across Wales in the period between the 16th and 21st. Northern Ireland and western Scotland also reported outbreaks though on a much smaller scale.

By the 18th the main centre of high pressure had slipped away into continental Europe, with winds turning southerly and warmer air returning northwards. A brief unsettled interlude on the weekend of the 22nd/23rd saw the first convective outbreak of the spring with some heavy and thundery downpours breaking out across parts of the UK. No warnings ensued but a few low impacts did result, mainly on the evening of the 22nd when the M1 northbound was reported closed between junctions 15 and 18 due to surface water flooding, which also accounted for a section of the A46 near Stratford. On the M40, Warwick Services was reportedly closed due to surface water ingress and resulting damage. Further north, the M18 in South Yorkshire was reported closed between junctions 1 and 2 for the same reason.

From the 24th onwards, rainfall was confined to western Scotland, Northern Ireland and northwest England but even here the amounts were unexceptional. The month ended with high pressure again re-establishing itself amidst reports of renewed wildfire activity in Wales.

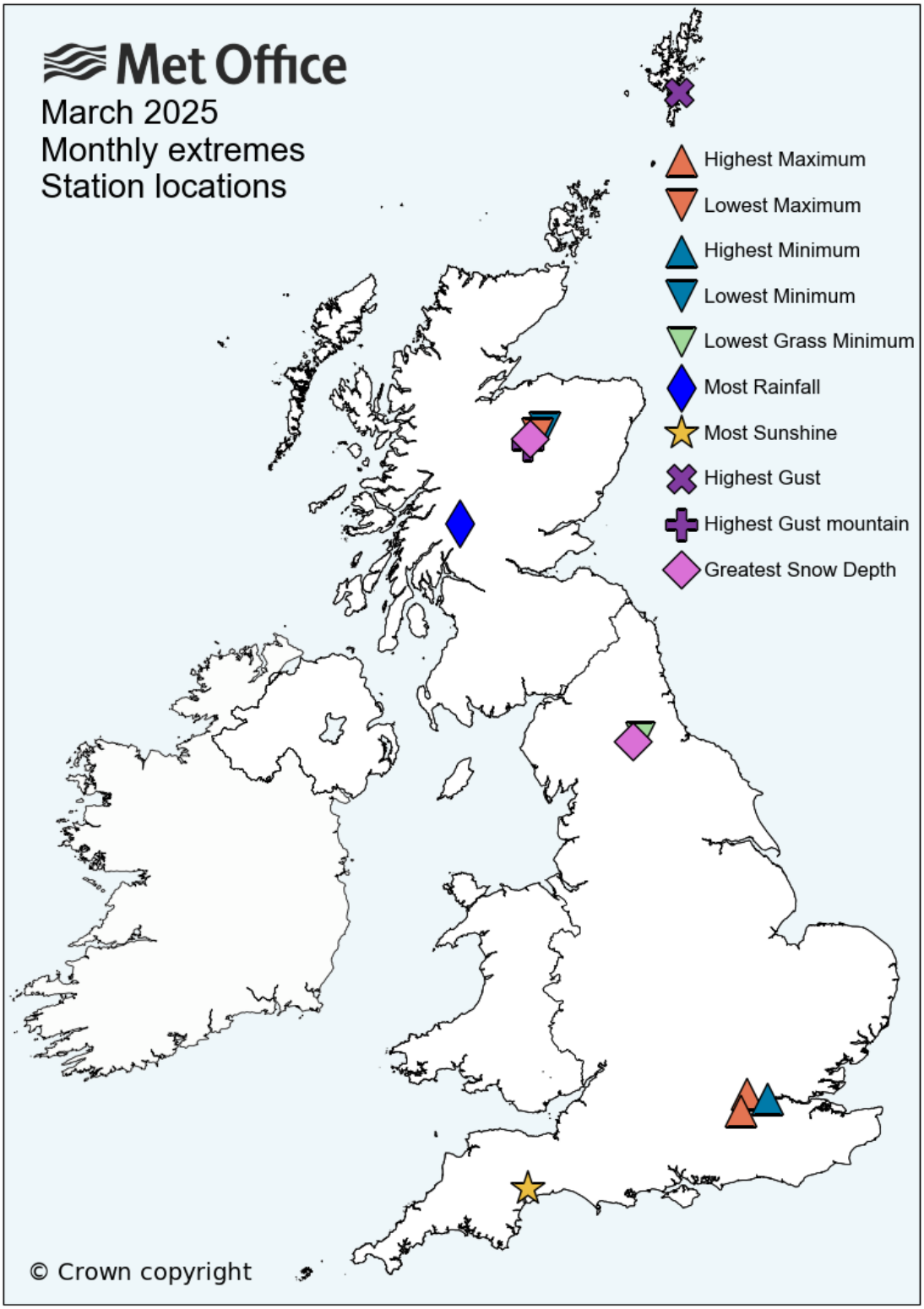
Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during March 2025 from data available on 02/04/2025. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	**21.3°C** on **20th** at Northolt (Greater London, 33mAMSL) and Chertsey, Abbey Mead P Sta (Surrey, 12mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	**2.3°C** on **12th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	**11.9°C** on **22nd** at London, St James's Park (Greater London, 5mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	**-9.0°C** on **18th** at Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	**-14.3°C** on **19th** at Copley (Durham, 253mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	**60.0mm** on **27th** at Tyndrum No 3 (Perthshire (in Central Region), 168mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	**12.2hr** on **31st** at Exeter Airport No 2 (Devon, 27mAMSL)
Highest Gust	**62Kt 71mph** on **4th** at Lerwick (Shetland, 82mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	**109Kt 125mph** on **30th** at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	**1cm** on **13th** at Copley (Durham, 253mAMSL) and Tomintoul No 6 (Banffshire, 320mAMSL)

mAMSL refers to station elevation in metres above mean sea level.

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.


Met Office
March 2025
Monthly extremes
Station locations
Highest Maximum
Lowest Maximum
Highest Minimum
Lowest Minimum
Lowest Grass Minimum
Most Rainfall
Most Sunshine
Highest Gust
Highest Gust mountain
Greatest Snow Depth
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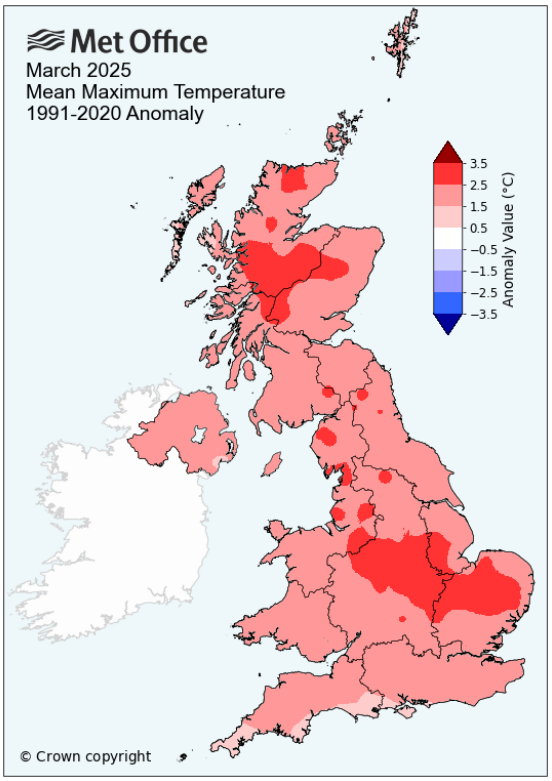
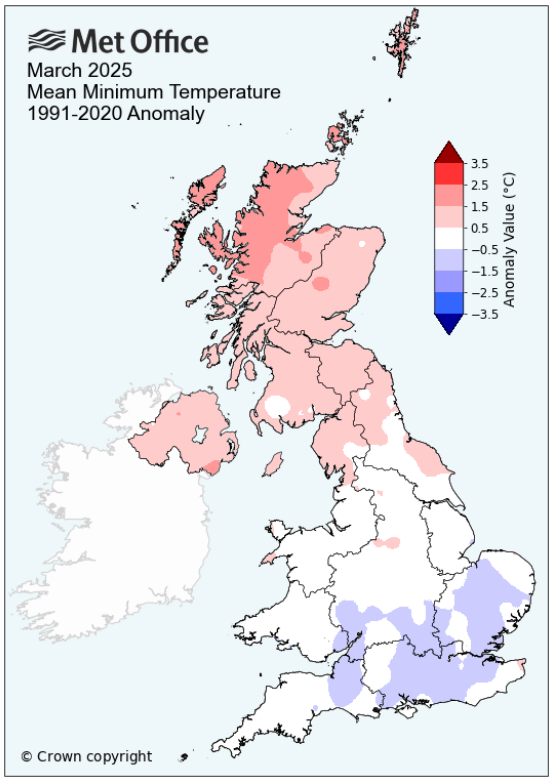
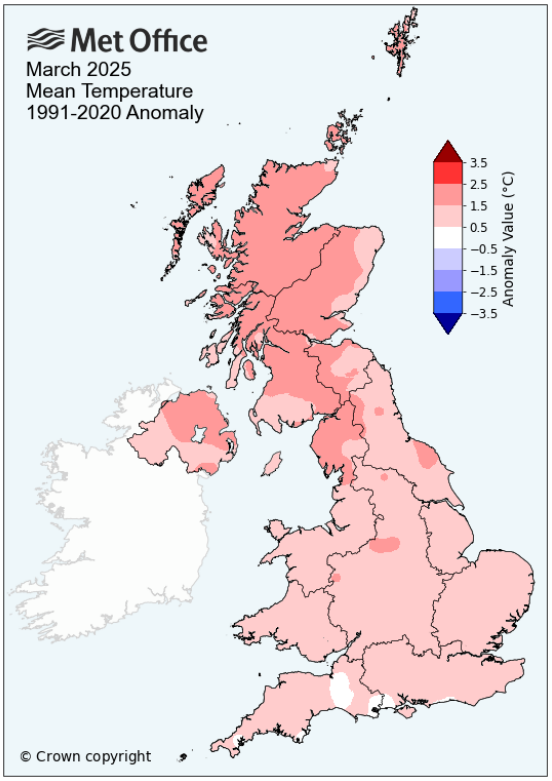
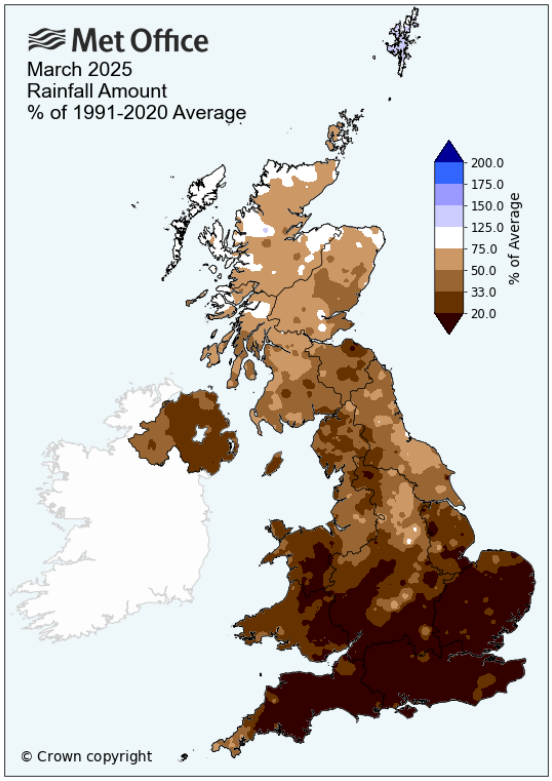
Monthly maps

These maps show monthly average daily maximum, monthly average daily minimum and monthly mean temperature and monthly rainfall for March 2025 as anomalies relative to the March 1991-2020 long term average.

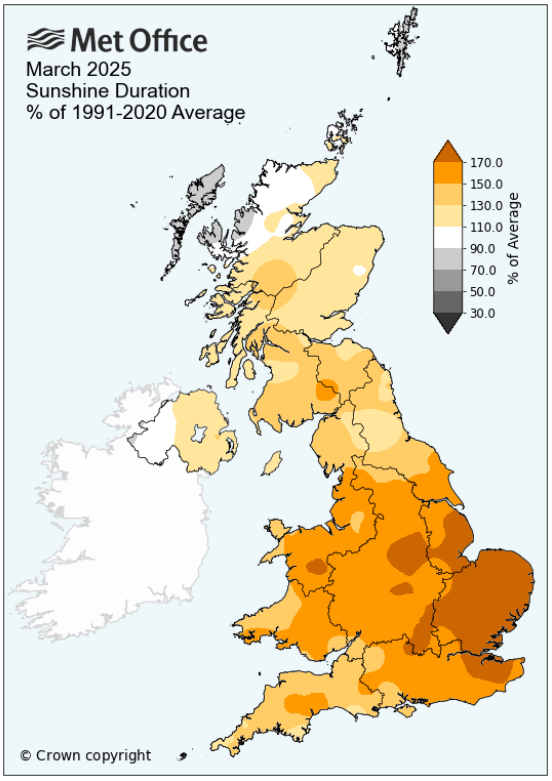


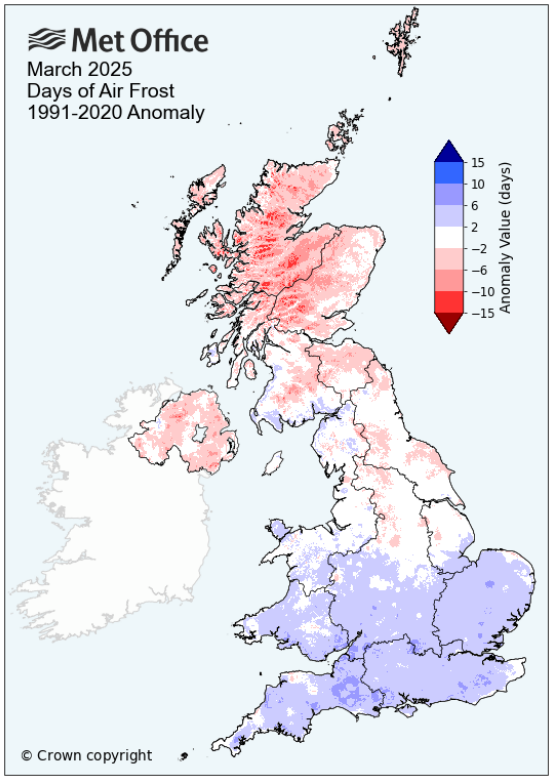


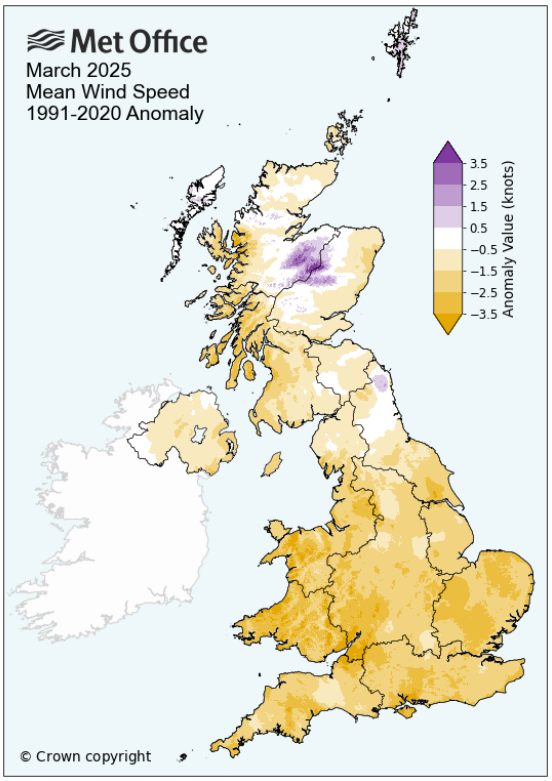


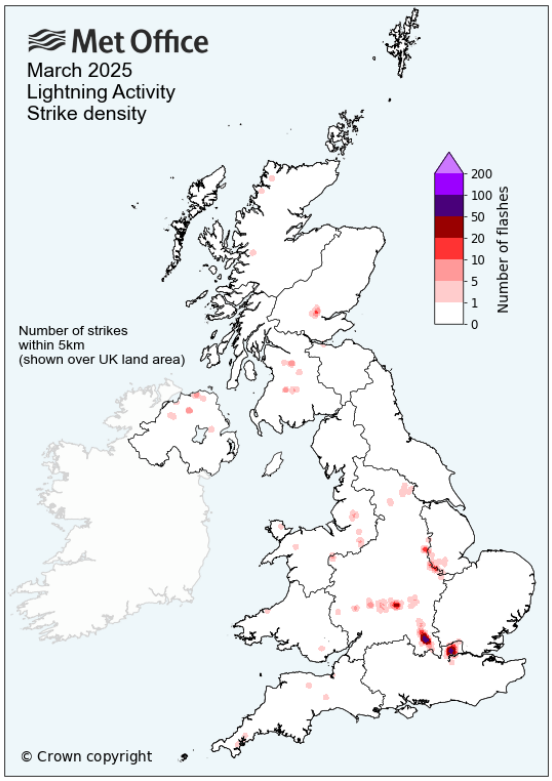


These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for March 2025 as anomalies relative to the March 1991-2020 long term average, plus a map showing lightning activity as the number of strikes within a 5km radius of any land location.









Monthly climate statistics - actuals and anomalies

These tables show the UK and national climate statistics for March 2025 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the March 1991-2020 long term average. The position of the value within the full series (in both ascending and descending order) is shown in the two ‘Rank’ columns. Central England Temperature (CET) and England & Wales Precipitation (EWP) are also included.

Mean maximum temperature

Region	Maxtemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	11.4	2.2	4	139	142
England	12.4	2.2	4	139	142
Wales	11.5	2.1	5	138	142
Scotland	9.8	2.2	5	138	142
Northern Ireland	11.4	1.9	7	136	142
Central England	12.8	2.3	5	144	148

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	2.6	0.4	30	113	142
England	2.6	-0.1	45	98	142
Wales	2.4	-0.1	55	88	142
Scotland	2.4	1.2	10	133	142
Northern Ireland	3.6	1.1	14	129	142
Central England	3.1	0.0	53	96	148

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	7.0	1.3	10	133	142
England	7.5	1.1	14	129	142
Wales	7.0	1.0	13	130	142
Scotland	6.1	1.7	7	136	142
Northern Ireland	7.5	1.5	8	135	142
Central England	7.9	1.2	16	352	367

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	36.9	43	176	15	190
England	14.8	25	185	6	190
Wales	23.9	23	187	4	190
Scotland	79.2	64	137	54	190
Northern Ireland	27.0	31	182	9	190
EWP (England and Wales)	17.0	26	249	12	260

Sunshine

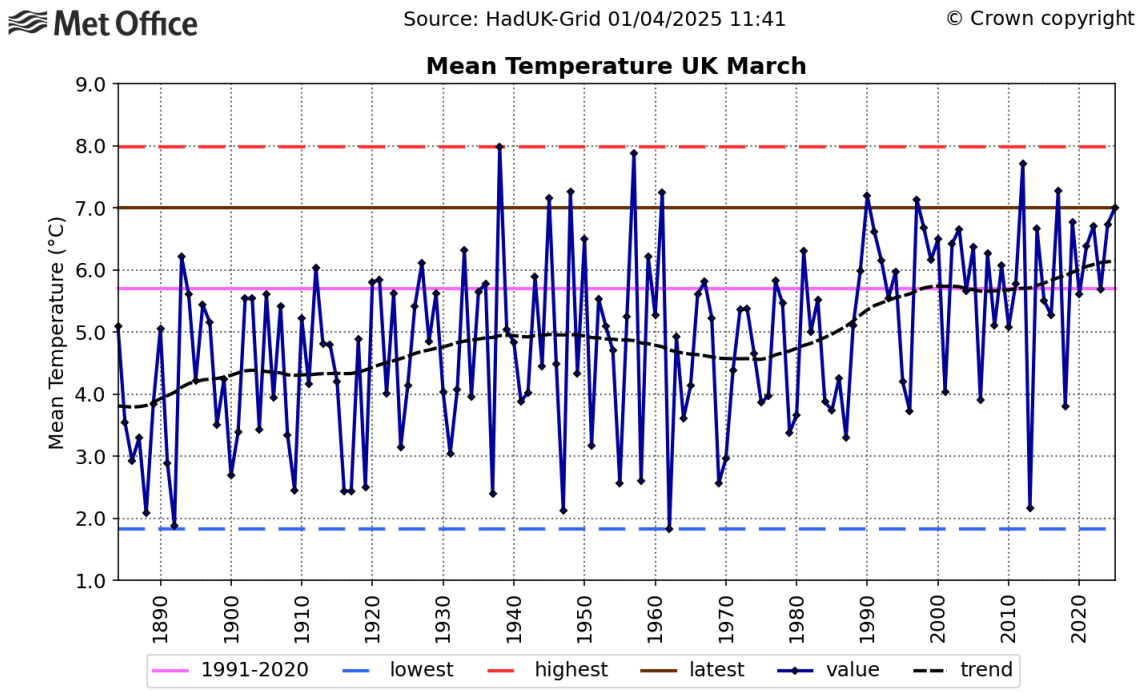
Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	158.1	145	3	114	116
England	185.8	159	1	116	116
Wales	168.1	153	2	115	116
Scotland	116.9	120	13	104	116
Northern Ireland	114.8	113	32	85	116

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	8.5	-1.7	54	4	57
England	7.2	-2.1	55	3	57
Wales	7.9	-2.8	55	3	57
Scotland	11.0	-0.8	39	19	57
Northern Ireland	8.4	-1.0	45	13	57

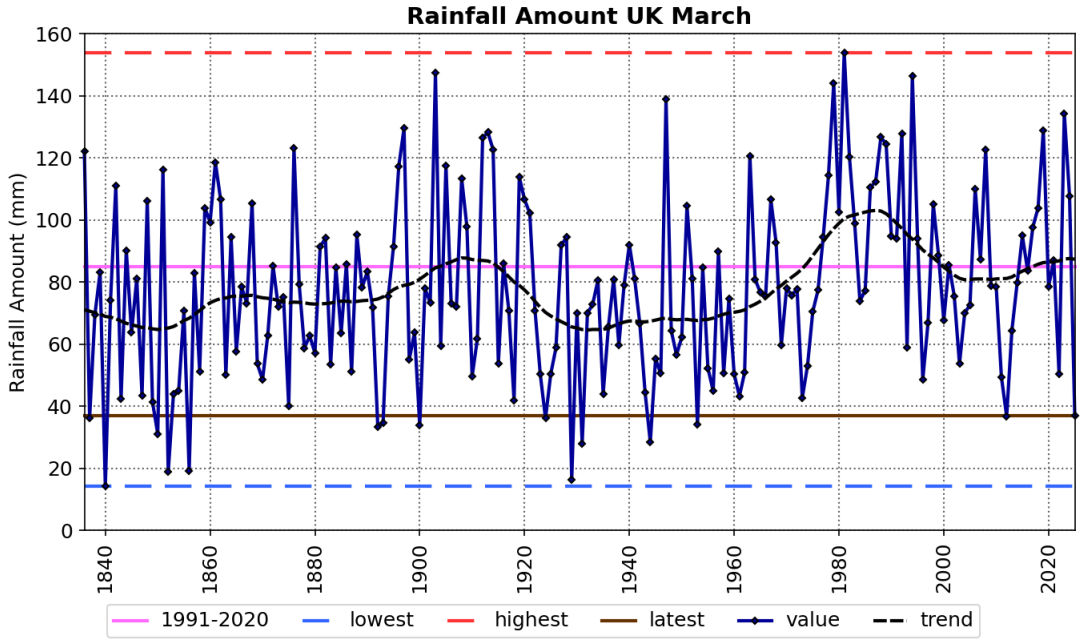
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for March for monthly mean temperature (from 1884), monthly rainfall (from 1836) and monthly sunshine (from 1919). The brown line shows the latest (2025) value. The hatched black line is a smoothing filter which shows the long-term trend. The tables below show statistics for the latest year, latest 10 years 2016-2025, the most recent 30-year climate reference period 1991-2020 and the 30-year baseline climate reference period 1961-1990.



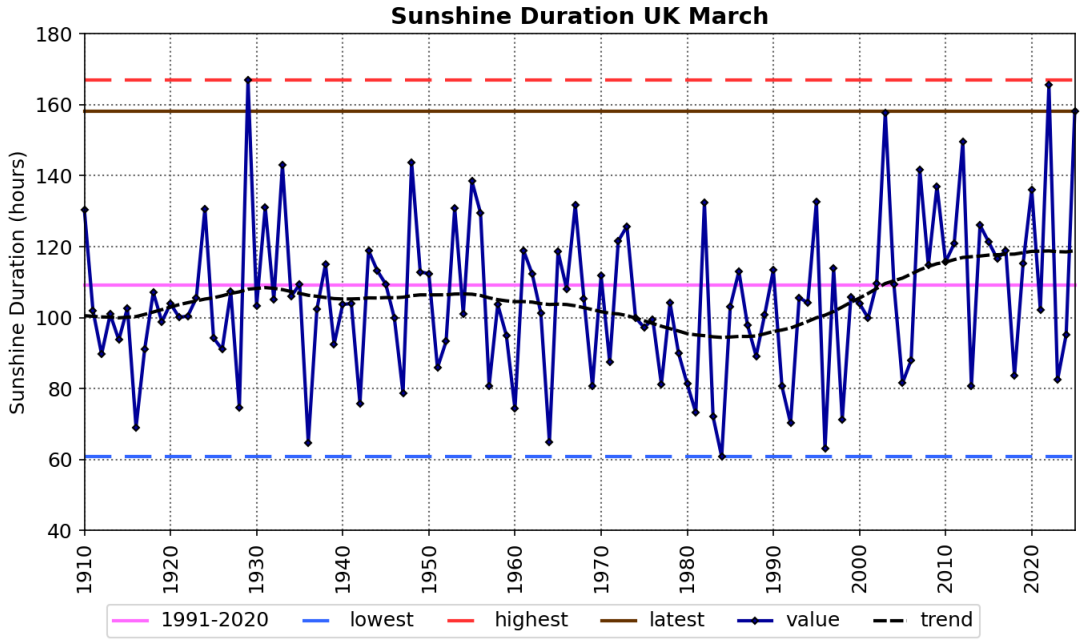
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Meantemp (°C)	4.7	5.7	6.1	7.0

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2025 11:41 © Crown copyright



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Rainfall (mm)	91.0	85.1	91.0	36.9

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/04/2025 11:41 © Crown copyright

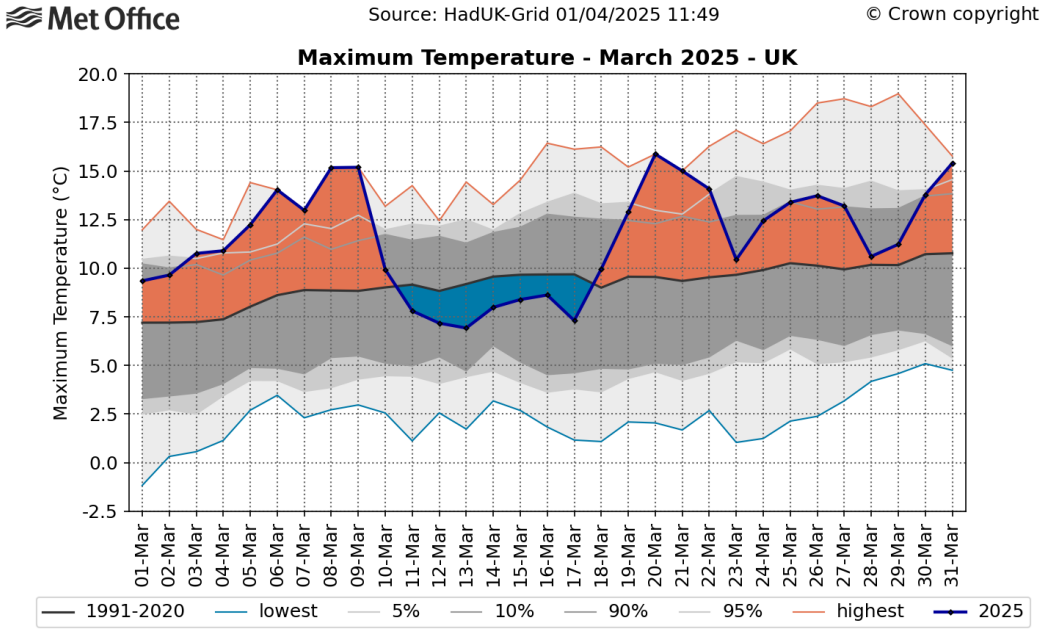


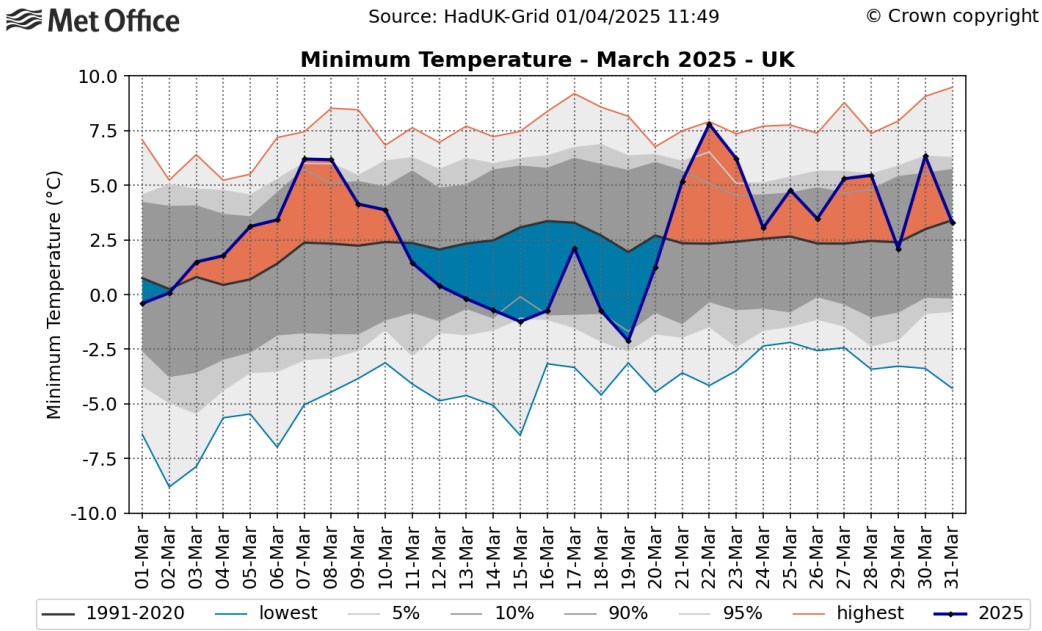
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Sunshine (hours)	99.9	109.2	117.4	158.1

Daily time-series

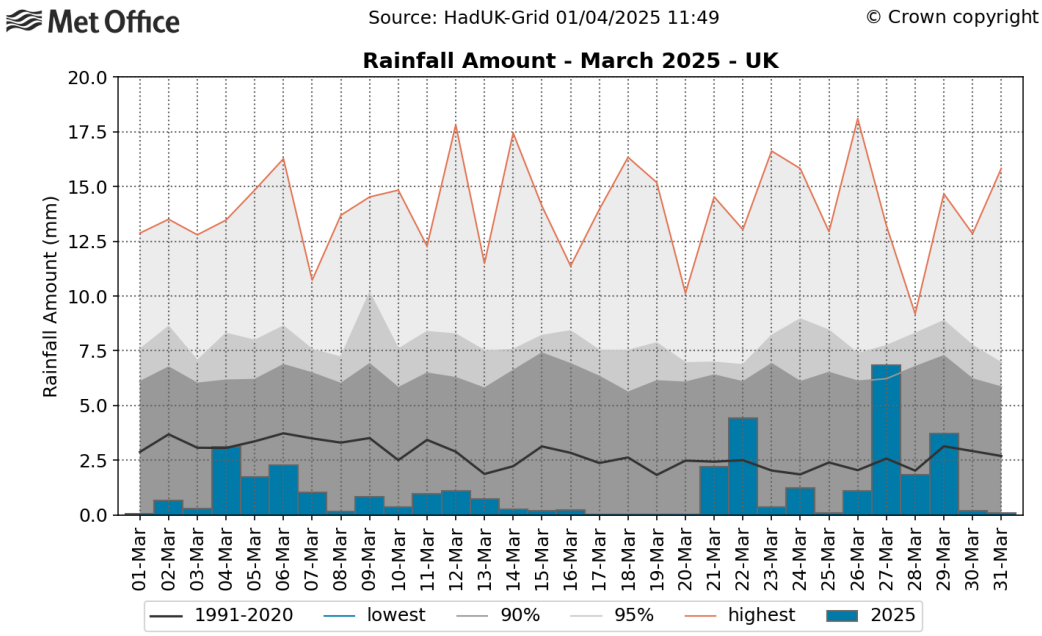
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of March 2025. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles and the 1991-2020 long term averages for each day. The rainfall accumulation chart shows the daily rainfall series as an accumulation through the month.

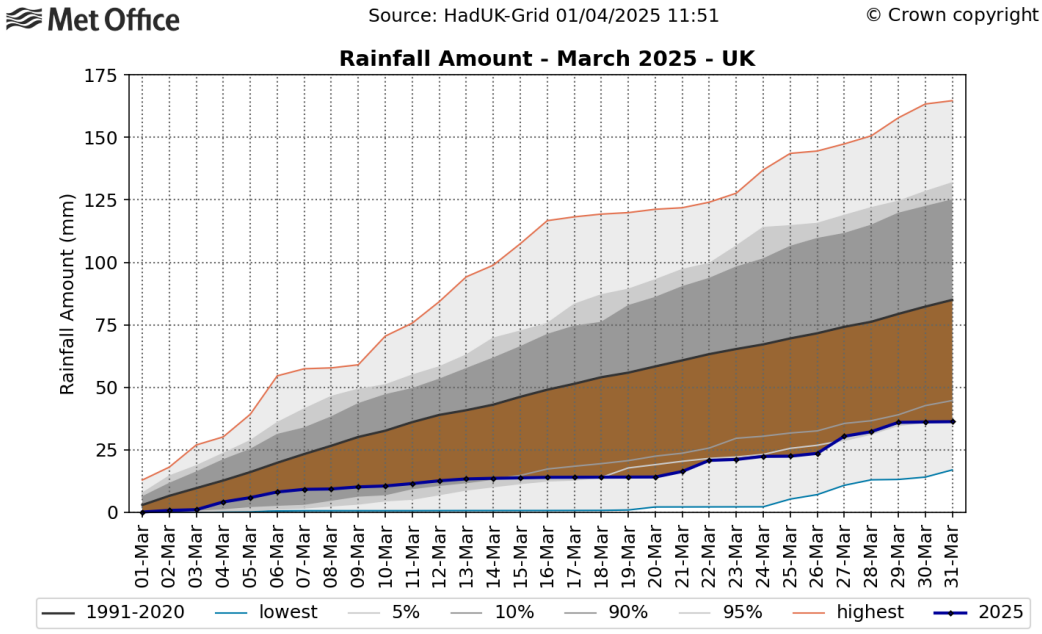
Daily maximum and daily minimum temperature





Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

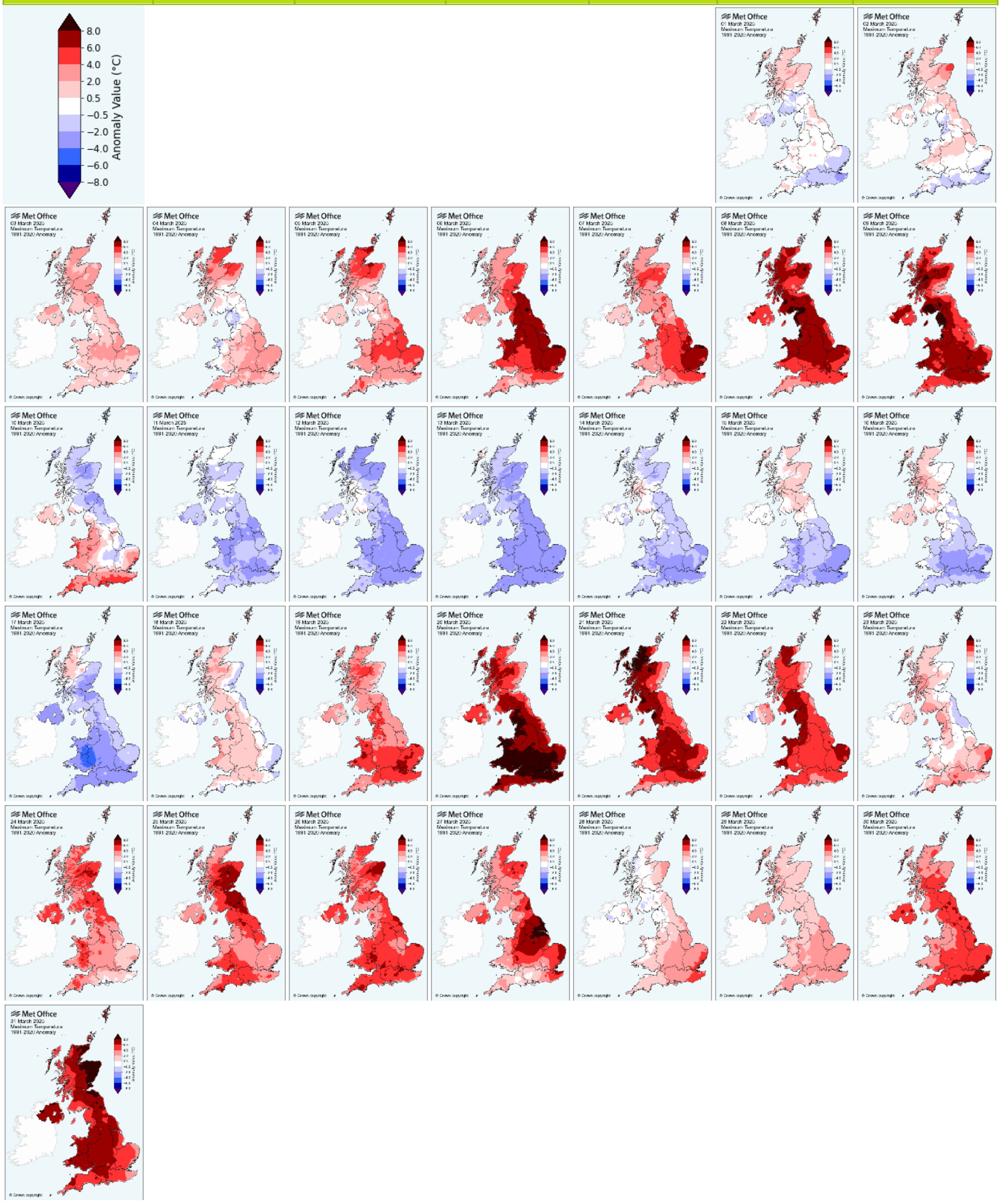




Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of March 2025 as anomalies relative to the March 1991-2020 long term average. The daily maximum temperature is the maximum from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day. Normally, the maximum occurs in the early afternoon.

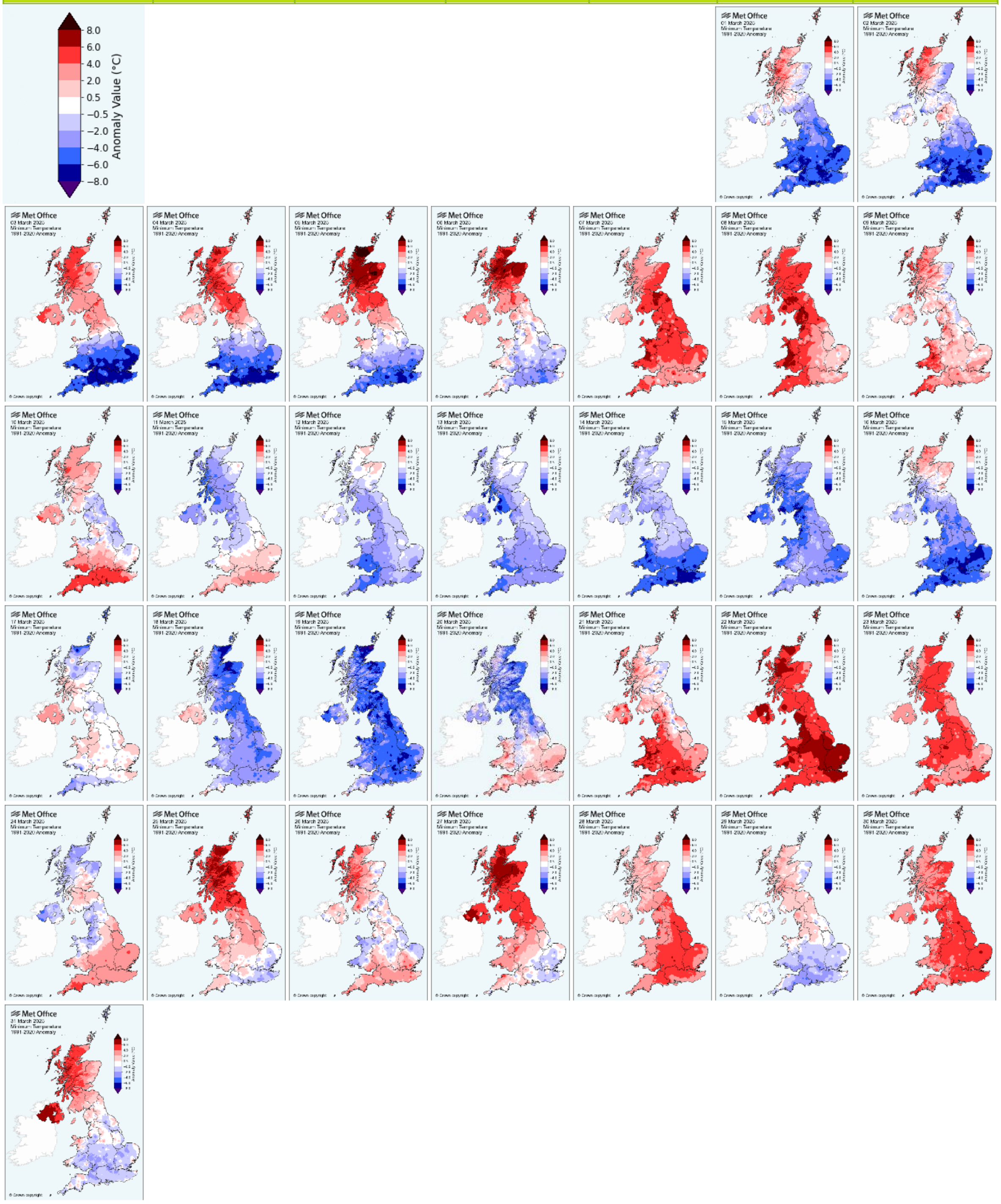
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun



Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily minimum temperatures for each day of March 2025 as anomalies relative to the March 1991-2020 long term average. The daily minimum temperature is the minimum from 0900UTC the previous day to 0900UTC on the day in question. Normally, the minimum occurs in the early morning.

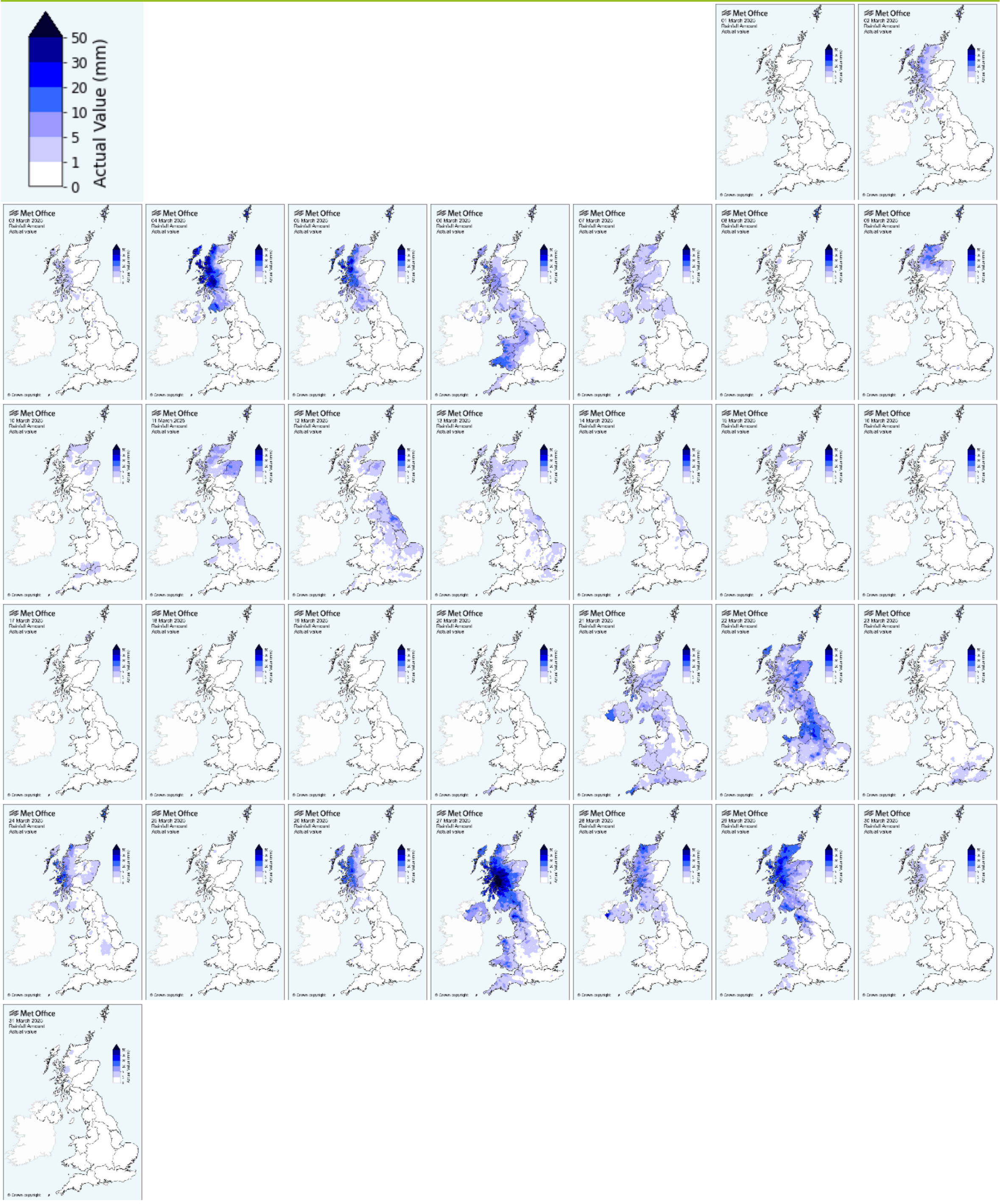
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun



Daily rainfall maps - calendar view

These maps show daily rainfall for each day of March 2025 as daily totals. The daily rainfall is the total from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

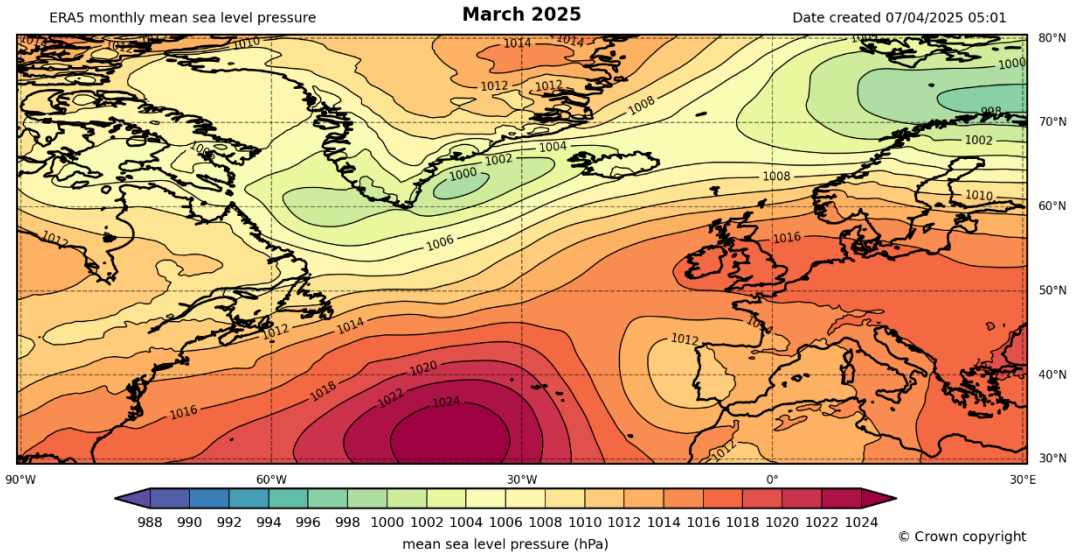


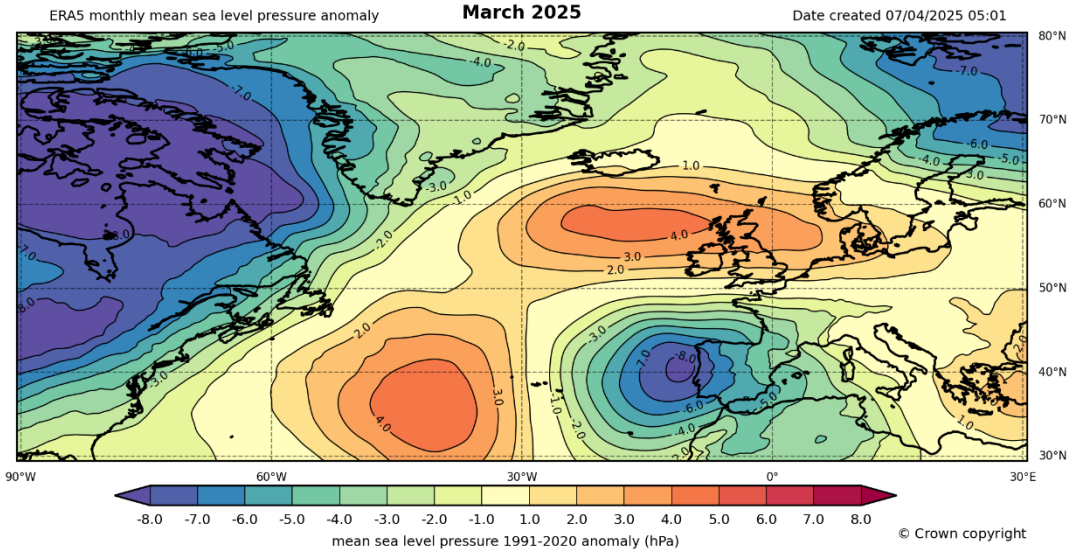
Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for March 2025 for the UK and north Atlantic, based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019), both as actual values and as an anomaly relative to the March long term average. These charts provide an indication of the weather characteristics of the month overall i.e. whether the weather type has been generally settled (high pressure) or unsettled (low pressure) during the month.

March saw extensive high pressure over the UK, which led to settled conditions for most of the month. There was a positive pressure anomaly to the northwest of Scotland and a negative pressure anomaly off the coast of Portugal.

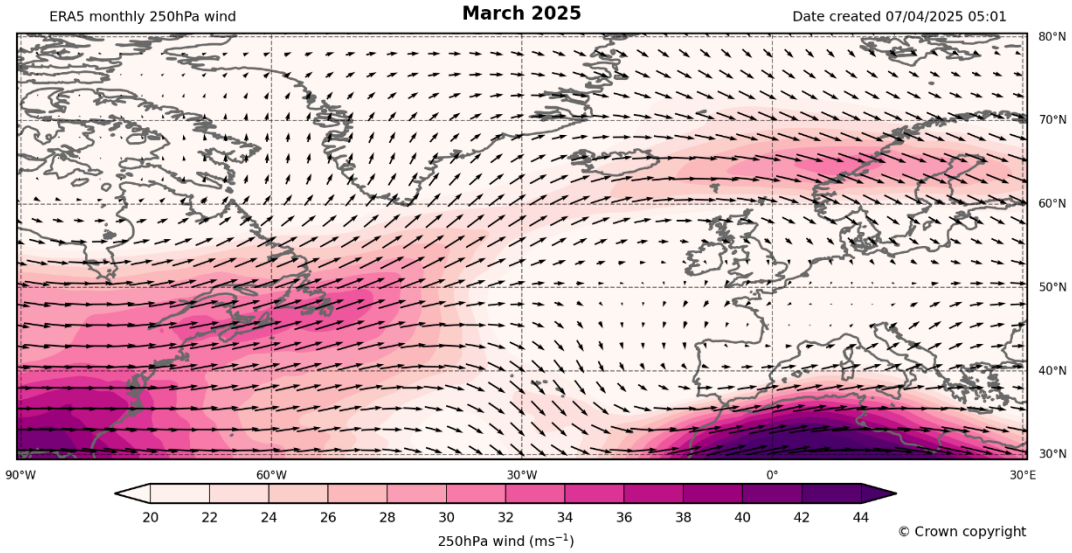


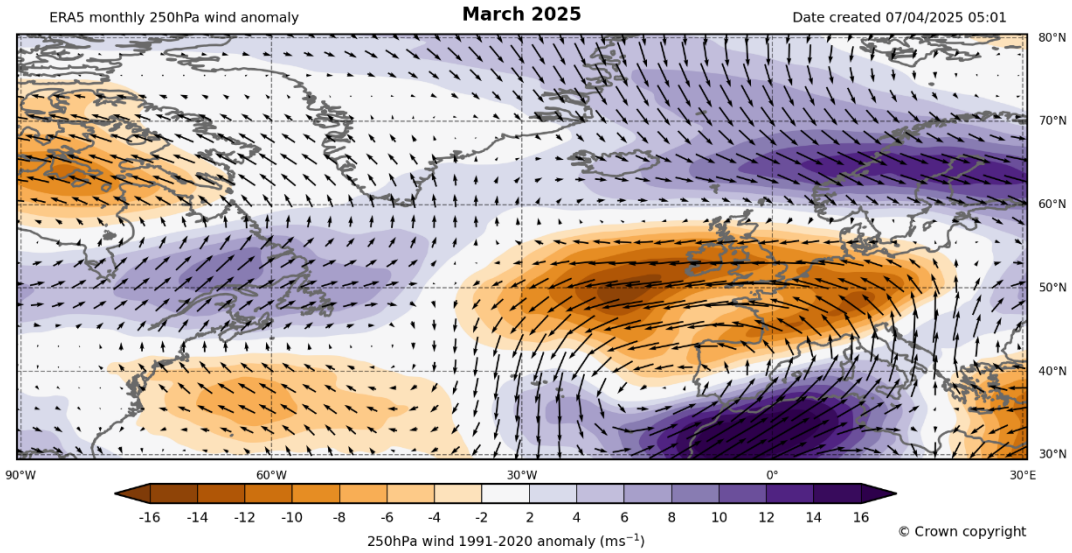


250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for March 2025 for the UK and north Atlantic, based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019), both as actual values and as an anomaly relative to the March long term average. This provides an indication of the mean strength and position of the jet stream compared to normal. The wind anomaly map shows shaded (scalar) wind speed anomalies with arrows as (vector) wind anomalies.

In March, the jetstream was displaced away from the UK, with a strong easterly anomaly across the UK.





Weather diary

- **Dry, sunny and mild**

  With high pressure never far away virtually throughout the month, the UK experienced a dry, sunny and mild month. Low pressure areas were driven mainly to the southwest of the country, with any frontal systems being weakened as they transited through the high pressure. From the 22nd, a more mobile regime became established, resulting in a wet end to the month.

  Apart from a brief absence on the 7th, high pressure dominated the weather over the UK. Initially centred over the southern England, allowing mild winds from the Atlantic, light and variable in the south but strong westerlies for northern counties, before drifting eastwards into the near continent by the 6th and bringing in cooler easterlies. Maxima were widely into low double figures Celsius, with some very cold nights. Minima widely below zero and as low as -7°C in parts of England and -9°C in Scotland. After the 7th, high pressure soon re-established itself over the country but this time centred in the north Atlantic, resulting in cool northerlies from 11th to the 17th, before, once again, heading east to settle over central Europe. Days were generally dry and sunny, with frosty nights.

  In a rare foray into the UK on the 22nd, low pressure and its associated fronts brought some significant rainfall to all parts. Totals around 20mm were recorded in the Midlands and the northwest of England. Once this system moved away into the near continent, we were subject to a mix of ridges of high pressure and weak fronts, until the 27th when a deep area of low pressure passed to the north of the UK, bringing wind and heavy rainfall to all parts but especially Scotland. Here, winds reached gale force in exposed areas and rainfall totals exceeding 60mm. There was a repeat of this on the 29th, although rainfall was not quite as intense and totals were much lower.

  In traditional style, March went out like a lamb with high pressure once again becoming firmly established over the country from the 30th.

Notes

The Met Office National Meteorological Library and Archive holds a near-continuous record of monthly weather reports from 1884, and this report forms a continuation of that series. The purpose of each report is to provide an overview of the weather conditions across the UK for that month. The emphasis is mainly based on observations from the surface network of weather stations. Climate series based on from data from these stations are used to provide long term context.

This summary was produced on 07/04/2025 10:53. The statistics are a provisional assessment of the observational data available at the time of production. Ongoing data receipt and quality assurance processes may result in subsequent updates to the statistics presented.

If you have any questions or feedback about this product, spot any data errors or omissions, or wish to obtain further data, please contact the Met Office.

For historical monthly weather reports please visit the Library and Archive.

- The land-surface observations presented in this report are from the Met Office official weather station network which includes both automatic weather stations and manual climate stations operated by volunteer observers. Rainfall data are from the official registered rain-gauge network which includes rain-gauges operated by a number of key partners including the Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Water.
- The observations are carefully managed such that they conform to current best-practice observational standards as defined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The observations also pass through a range of quality assurance procedures at the Met Office before application for climate monitoring.
- Daily and monthly maps, monthly statistics and monthly time-series are primarily based on the HadUK-Grid dataset of 1km resolution UK gridded climate data (Hollis et al, 2019). Monthly statistics from the monthly Central England temperature series 1659 (Manley, 1974) and England and Wales precipitation series from 1766 (Wigley et al, 1984) provide long term context.
- The monthly lightning activity map is based on data from the Met Office LEELA (Lightning Electromagnetic Emission Location by Arrival time difference) system. This is an automatic lightning location network comprising around ten lightning outstation sensors located across Europe.
- The monthly maps of mean sea level pressure and 250hPa wind speed and direction are based on the ERA5 reanalysis (Hersbach et al, 2019). ERA5 is the fifth generation ECMWF reanalysis for the global climate and weather for the past 4 to 7 decades. Reanalysis combines model data with observations from across the world into a globally complete and consistent dataset using the laws of physics.

Hersbach, H., Bell, B., Berrisford, P., Biavati, G., Horányi, A., Muñoz Sabater, J., Nicolas, J., Peubey, C., Radu, R., Rozum, I., Schepers, D., Simmons, A., Soci, C., Dee, D., Thépaut, J-N. (2019): ERA5 monthly averaged data on single levels from 1959 to present. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). https://doi.org/10.24381/cds.f17050d7

Hollis, D, McCarthy, MP, Kendon, M, Legg, T, Simpson, I. HadUK-Grid - A new UK dataset of gridded climate observations. Geosci Data J. 2019; 6: 151-159. https://doi.org/10.1002/gdj3.78

Manley, G. (1974), Central England temperatures: Monthly means 1659 to 1973. Q.J.R. Meteorol. Soc., 100: 389-405. https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.49710042511

Wigley, T.M.L., Lough, J.M. and Jones, P.D. (1984), Spatial patterns of precipitation in England and Wales and a revised, homogeneous England and Wales precipitation series. J. Climatol., 4: 1-25. https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.3370040102