December 2025 Monthly Weather Report

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

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UK overview

December was wet and warm as low pressure brought unsettled conditions and frontal systems across the country. The 8th and 9th saw persistent and occasionally heavy rainfall across the country as Storm Bram arrived, with western and northern areas the worst affected. Western areas also saw strong winds, with some severe gale force winds. The weather remained wet following Bram, with bands of frontal rain crossing the country. The unsettled conditions continued until the 24th, when high pressure arrived over the UK. This brought strong easterly winds to some parts of the southwest and freezing temperatures to many, with frosts and freezing fog especially in northern areas. Conditions remained clear, sunny and cool for most of the UK over the final week of December.

By the 16th, the UK overall had provisionally recorded 75% of the average monthly rainfall, and several counties including West Glamorgan and Cornwall had recorded over 100% of their average December rainfall. The second half of December was drier, resulting in only slightly above average rainfall for the month overall. England (114% of average) and Wales (115% of average) were wetter, but Scotland (88% of average) and Northern Ireland (83% of average) were much drier. The month began with above average temperatures for the first three weeks, before turning colder than average for the final week. Although provisionally 1.6°C warmer than average, this was not record-breaking. Sunshine duration was slightly above average for the UK overall, which recorded 108% of the long-term average sunshine duration. Wales was particularly sunny, seeing 126% of average sunshine hours.

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

Weather impacts

- **Storm Bram brought strong winds and heavy rain to northern Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of Wales**
- **South Wales saw repeated bouts of heavy rain, resulting in disruption to train services, surface water flooding, and power outages**

The first three weeks of December brought unsettled and mild weather as a succession of Atlantic low centres and their associated weather fronts swept the UK. Within this period there was one named storm, Bram, and a couple of other notable rainfall events. Then high pressure took over just in time for Christmas and ensured a much drier and somewhat colder end to the month and year.

The month opened on a very unsettled note with a deep low out in the north Atlantic and weather fronts bringing some substantial rainfall, especially to southwest England, south Wales, northwest England and west Scotland. The Newport-Shrewsbury railway line, badly affected by flooding from Storm Claudia in November, was pre-emptively closed ahead of the rain whilst the Valleys line between Aberdare and Abercynon was reported as being closed as a result of flooded tracks. Natural Resources Wales posted numerous flood alerts and warnings, though thankfully the rivers, though very high, largely remained in bank. Another deep low then swept across the UK on the 6th, but with mainly minor impacts.

Bram passed close to the UK on the 9th. The strongest winds were distributed over a wide area. More than 30,000 properties were reported to have lost power across Scotland. There was major disruption to flight and ferry services between the Western Isles and the Scottish mainland, difficult conditions on roads and rail disruption due to fallen trees on tracks or impacting overhead lines. Several thousand properties also lost power in Northern Ireland. In south Wales, heavy rain resulted in several suspended train services, as well as severe disruption reported on the M4 near Newport due to surface water flooding. The A470 in Powys and the A487 in Pembrokeshire also reported as closed due to flooding. Southwest England saw road flooding in several towns including Ashburton, Okehampton, Totnes and Buckfastleigh, whilst a flooded rail tunnel between Plymouth and Exeter caused the temporary closure of the main southwest rail line.

After Bram the next main event was an extended period of rain tied to slow-moving weather fronts on the 14th and 15th. In west Cumbria, around 10 properties were reported as flooded with several A-roads closed due to surface water, rail services having been pre-emptively suspended the previous day. Across south Wales, Briton Ferry in Neath Port Talbot saw 45 properties flooded. Disruption was also reported on the roads and rails with several key rail

lines, including Cardiff to Swansea, and several A-roads in and around the Swansea area reported closed due to surface water excess.

In the last ten days, a change of weather type to high pressure led to a dry and largely impact-free Christmas period. However, by New Year’s Eve, the high pressure centre withdrew into the north Atlantic, commencing a significant cold spell with Arctic air starting to move southwards, and snow and ice warnings for the start of 2026.

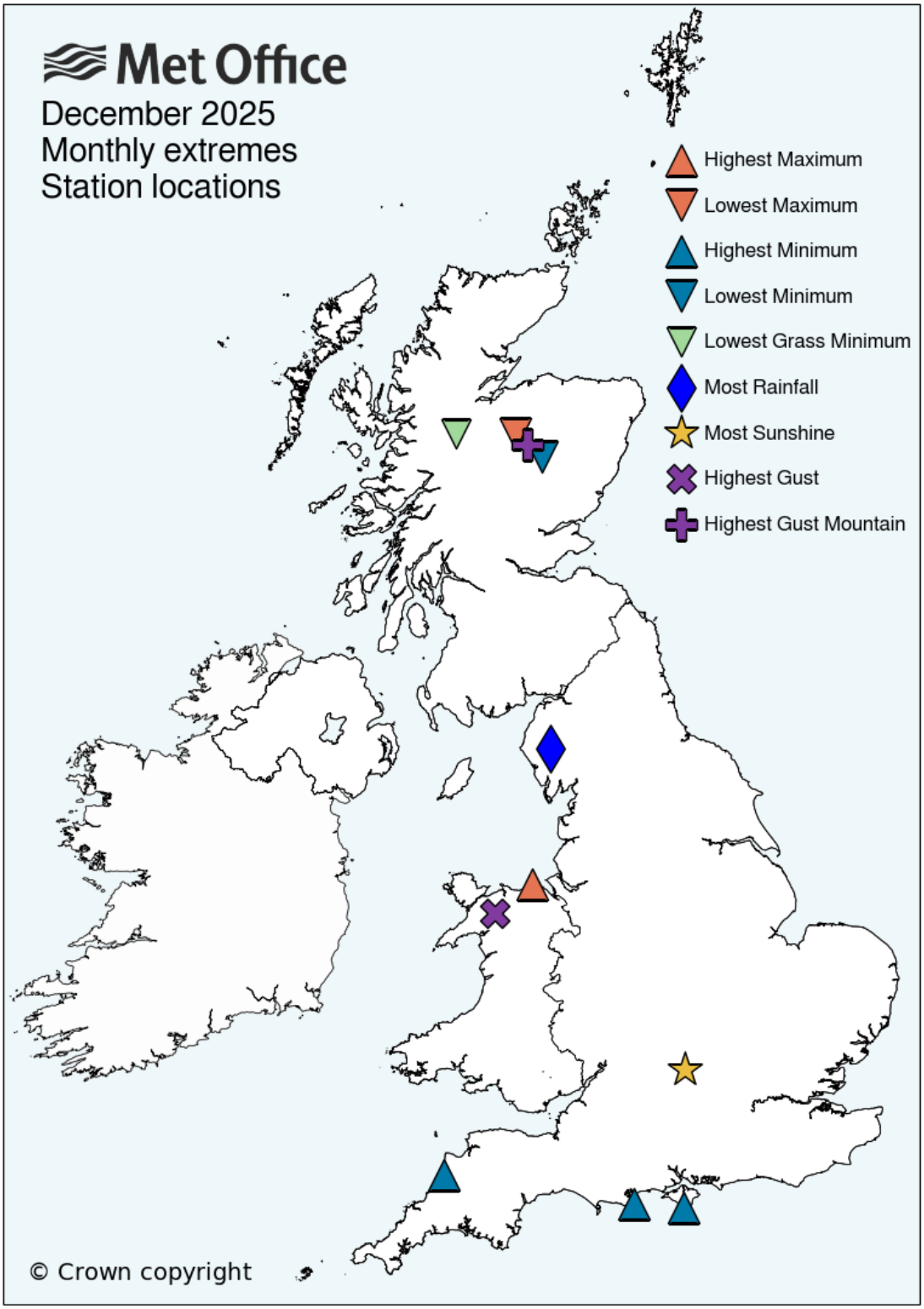
Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during December 2025 from data available on 07/01/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

Highest Maximum	**17.0°C** on **9th** at Prestatyn (Clwyd, 4mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	**-1.9°C** on **28th** at Aviemore (Inverness-shire, 228mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	**12.1°C** on **8th** at Swanage (Dorset, 10mAMSL) also on **9th** at Wight: St Catherines Point (Isle Of Wight, 20mAMSL) and Bude (Cornwall, 15mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	**-9.6°C** on **31st** at Braemar No 2 (Aberdeenshire, 327mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	**-12.5°C** on **31st** at Dundreggan Rewilding Centre (Inverness-shire, 123mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	**188.4mm** on **14th** at Honister Pass (Cumbria, 358mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	**7.8hr** on **25th** at Oxford (Oxfordshire, 63mAMSL)
Highest Gust	**73Kt 84mph** on **9th** at Capel Curig No 3 (Gwynedd, 216mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	**103Kt 119mph** on **10th** at Cairngorm Summit (Inverness-shire, 1237mAMSL)
Greatest Snow Depth at 0900 UTC	No non-zero values.

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

*Mountain stations are above 500mAMSL.


Met Office
December 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
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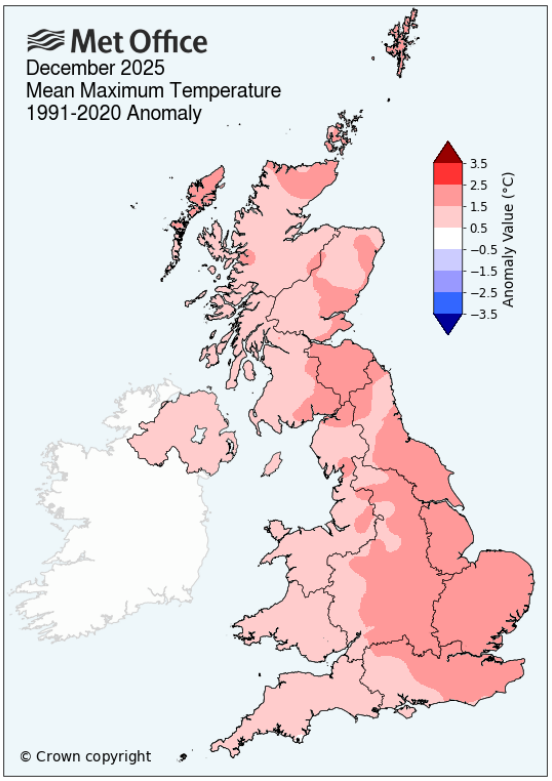
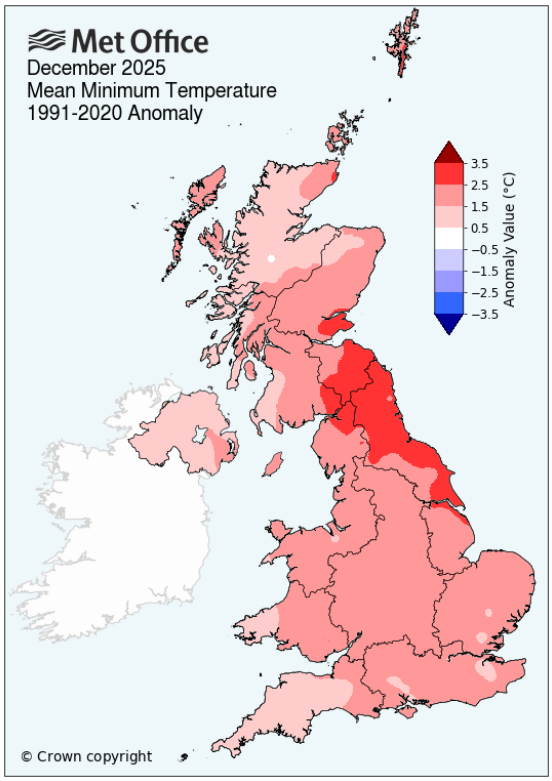
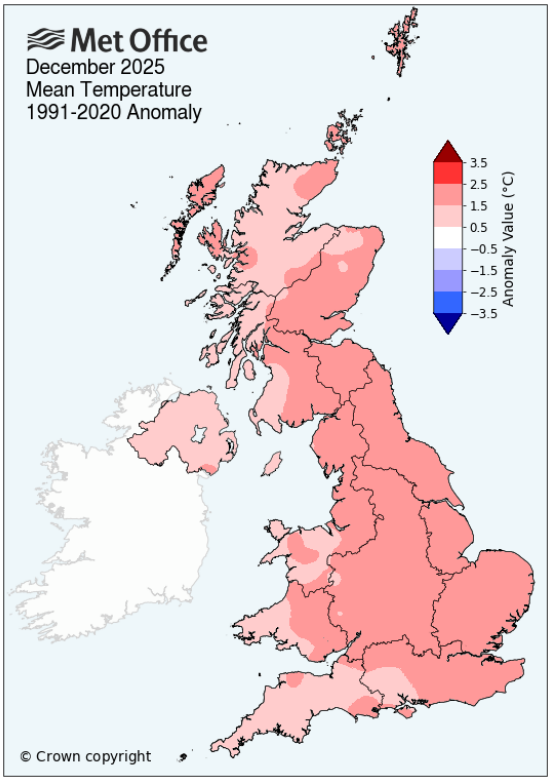
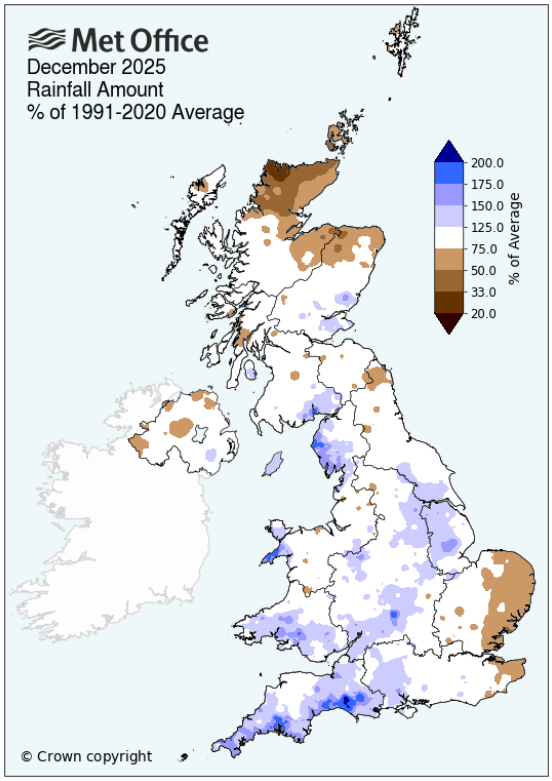
Monthly maps

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

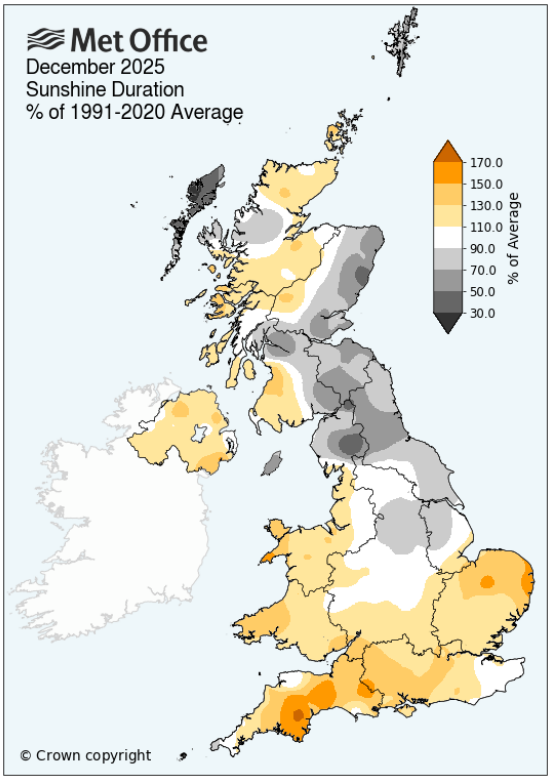


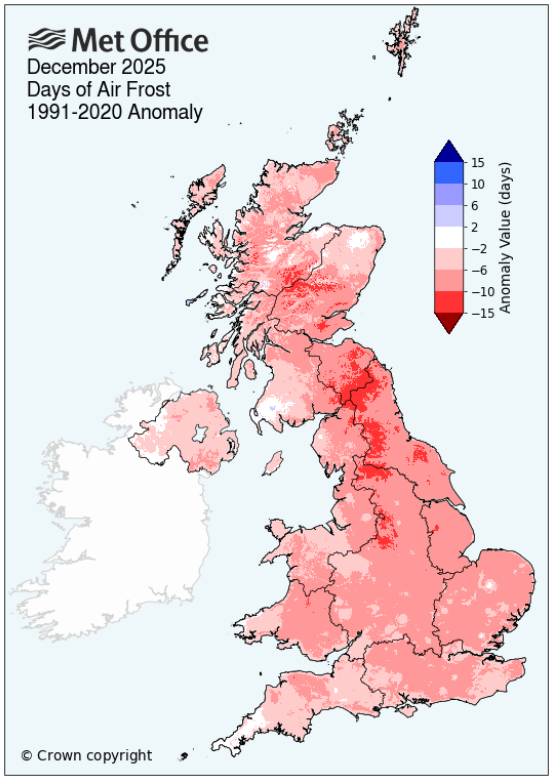


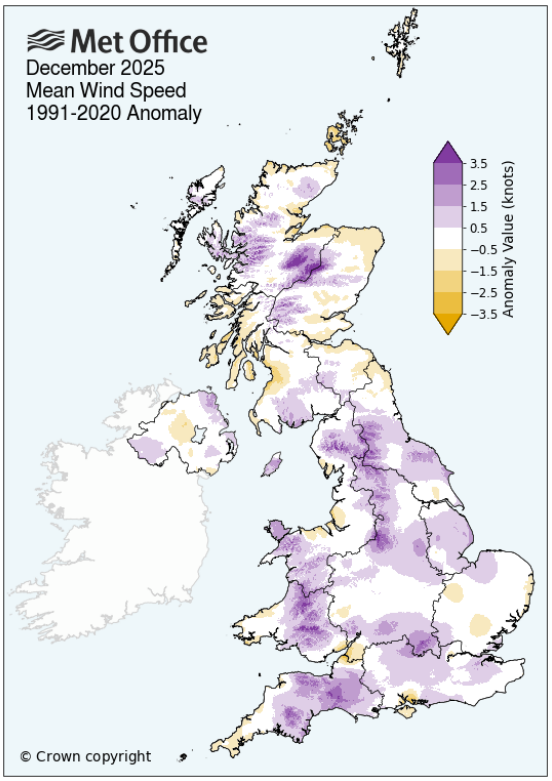


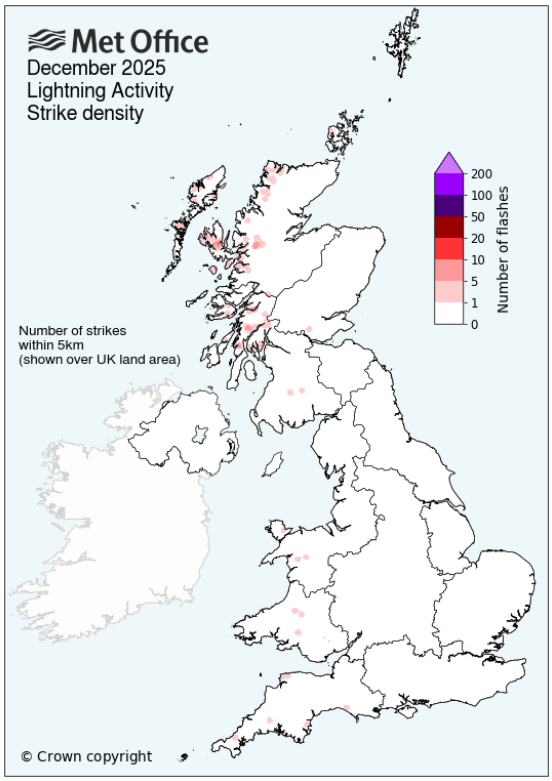


These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for December 2025 as anomalies relative to the December 1991-2020 long term average, plus a map showing lightning activity as the number of strikes within a 5km radius of any land location.









Monthly climate statistics - actuals and anomalies

These tables show the UK and national climate statistics for December 2025 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the December 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	8.4	1.4	13	130	142
England	9.1	1.5	13	130	142
Wales	8.7	1.1	20	123	142
Scotland	7.2	1.4	17	126	142
Northern Ireland	8.7	1.1	23	120	142
Central England	9.3	1.6	14	135	148

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	3.3	1.8	12	131	142
England	3.8	2.0	8	135	142
Wales	4.0	1.8	16	127	142
Scotland	2.1	1.7	18	125	142
Northern Ireland	3.1	1.2	26	117	142
Central England	4.1	2.0	18	131	148

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	5.8	1.6	12	131	142
England	6.5	1.8	11	132	142
Wales	6.3	1.5	17	126	142
Scotland	4.6	1.6	17	126	142
Northern Ireland	5.9	1.2	24	119	142
Central England	6.7	1.8	25	343	367

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	128.9	101	62	129	190
England	105.4	114	42	149	190
Wales	202.7	115	41	150	190
Scotland	153.2	88	85	106	190
Northern Ireland	101.0	83	111	80	190
EWP (England and Wales)	111.9	108	67	194	260

Sunshine

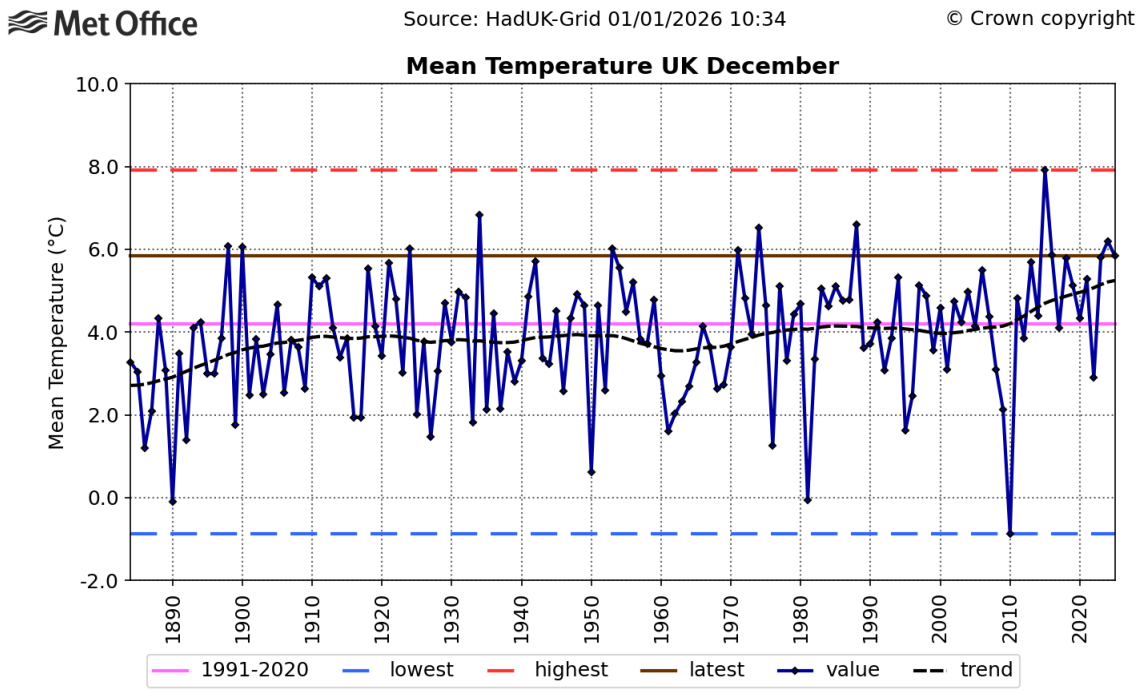
Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	46.1	108	17	100	116
England	56.6	111	13	104	116
Wales	52.1	126	14	103	116
Scotland	27.1	91	64	53	116
Northern Ireland	45.2	119	18	99	116

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	10.4	0.4	28	30	57
England	9.6	0.6	23	35	57
Wales	12.1	0.9	21	37	57
Scotland	11.5	0.0	33	25	57
Northern Ireland	9.4	0.1	32	26	57

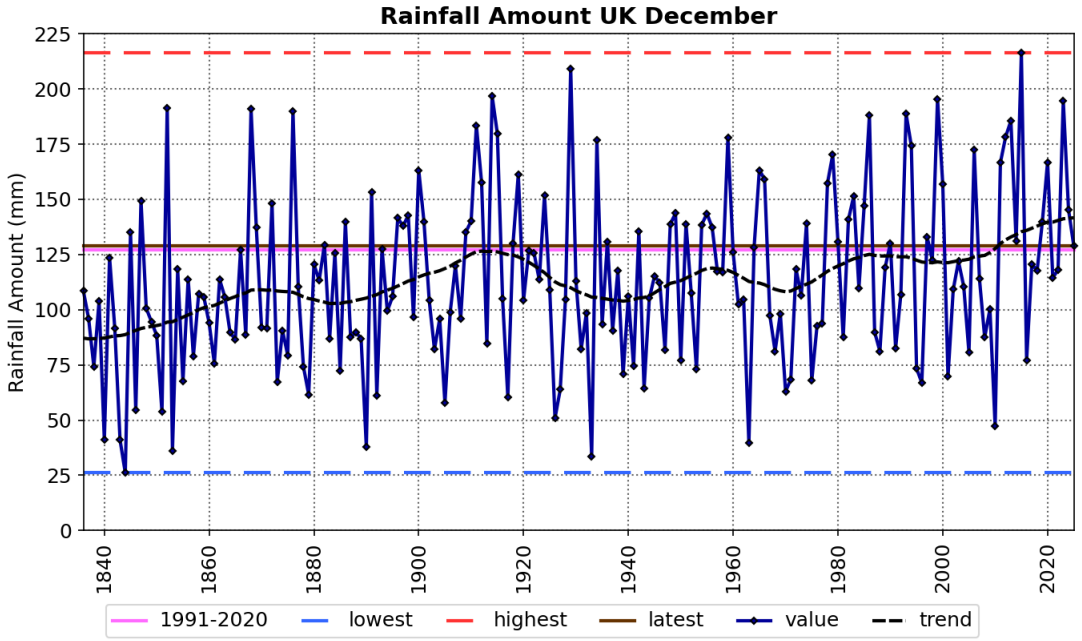
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for December 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.



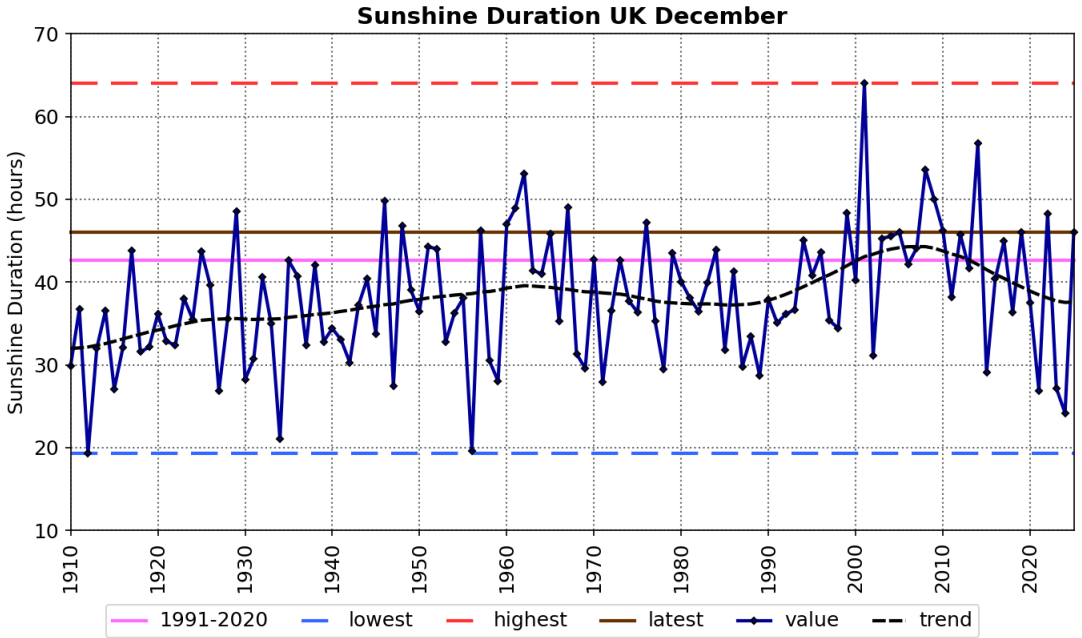
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Meantemp (°C)	3.8	4.2	5.1	5.8

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/01/2026 10:34 © Crown copyright



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Rainfall (mm)	114.2	127.2	132.3	128.9

Met Office Source: HadUK-Grid 01/01/2026 10:34 © Crown copyright

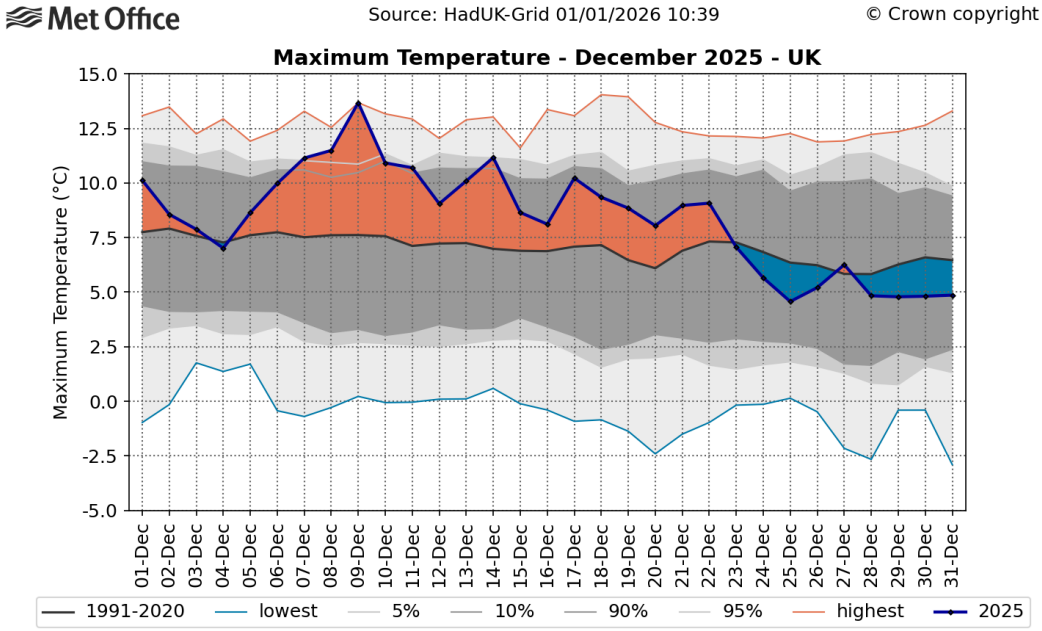


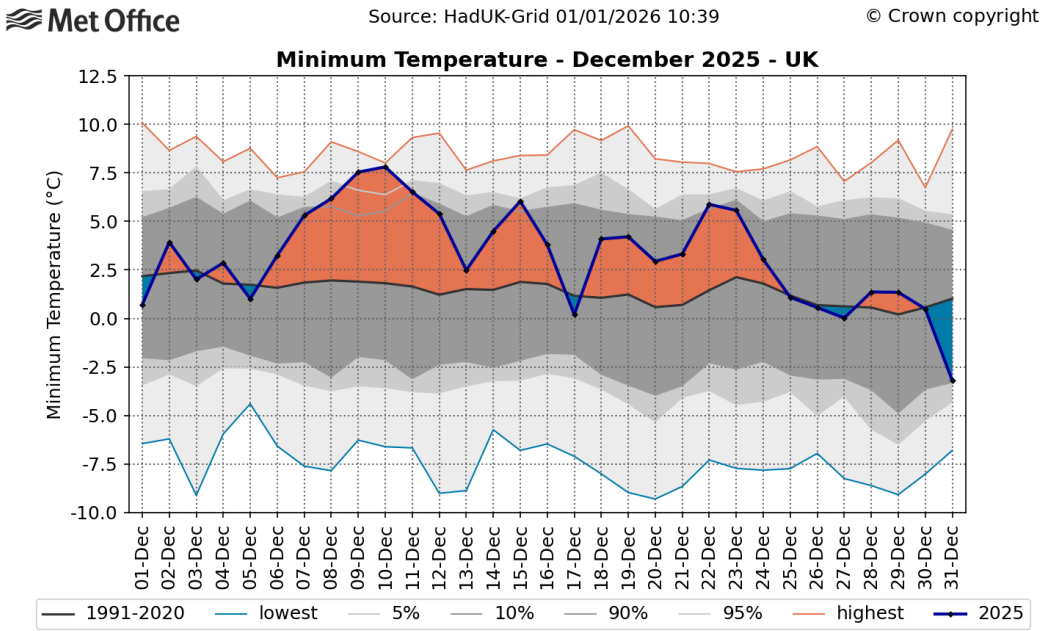
Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2016-2025	2025
Sunshine (hours)	38.5	42.7	37.8	46.1

Daily time-series

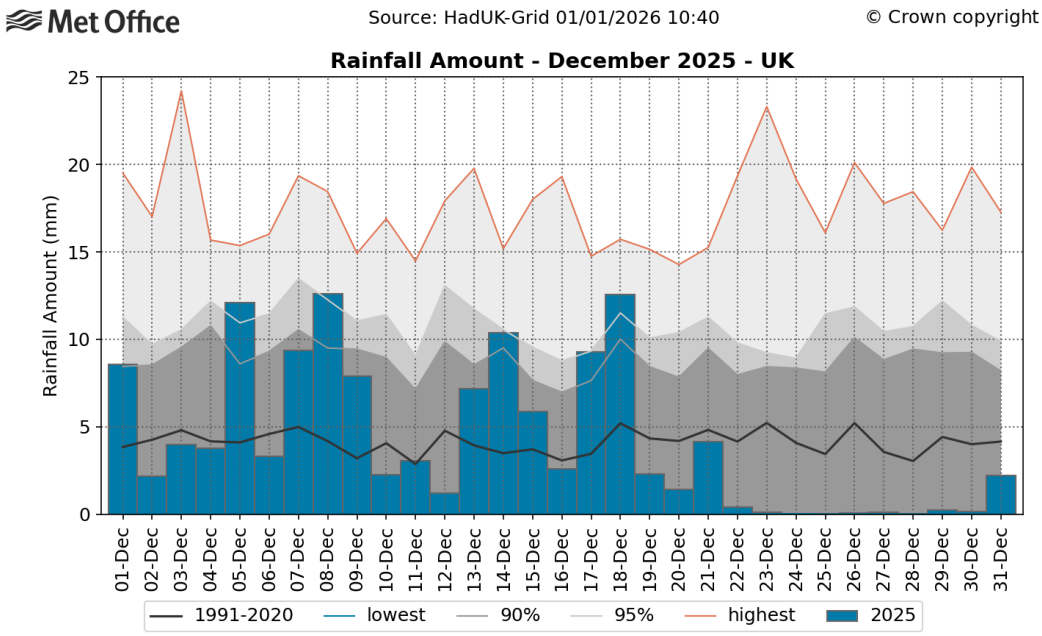
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of December 2025. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles 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.

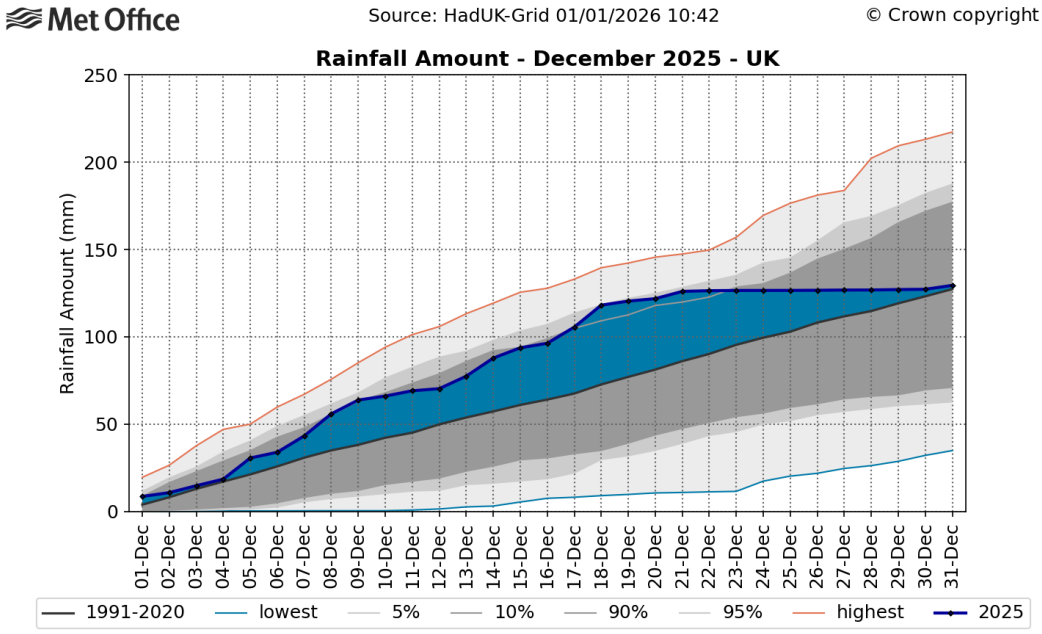
Daily maximum and daily minimum temperature





Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

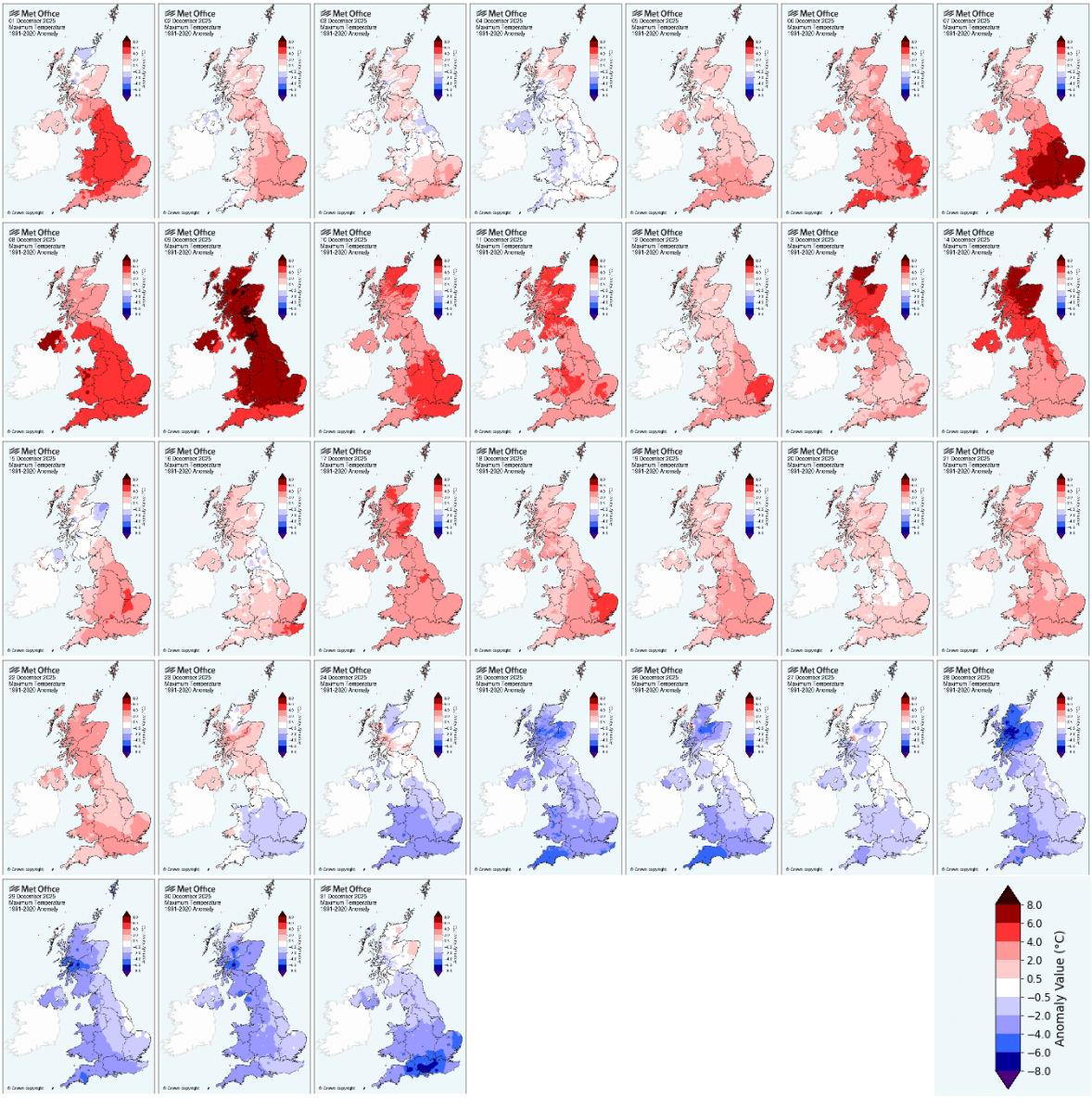




Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of December 2025 as anomalies relative to the December 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.

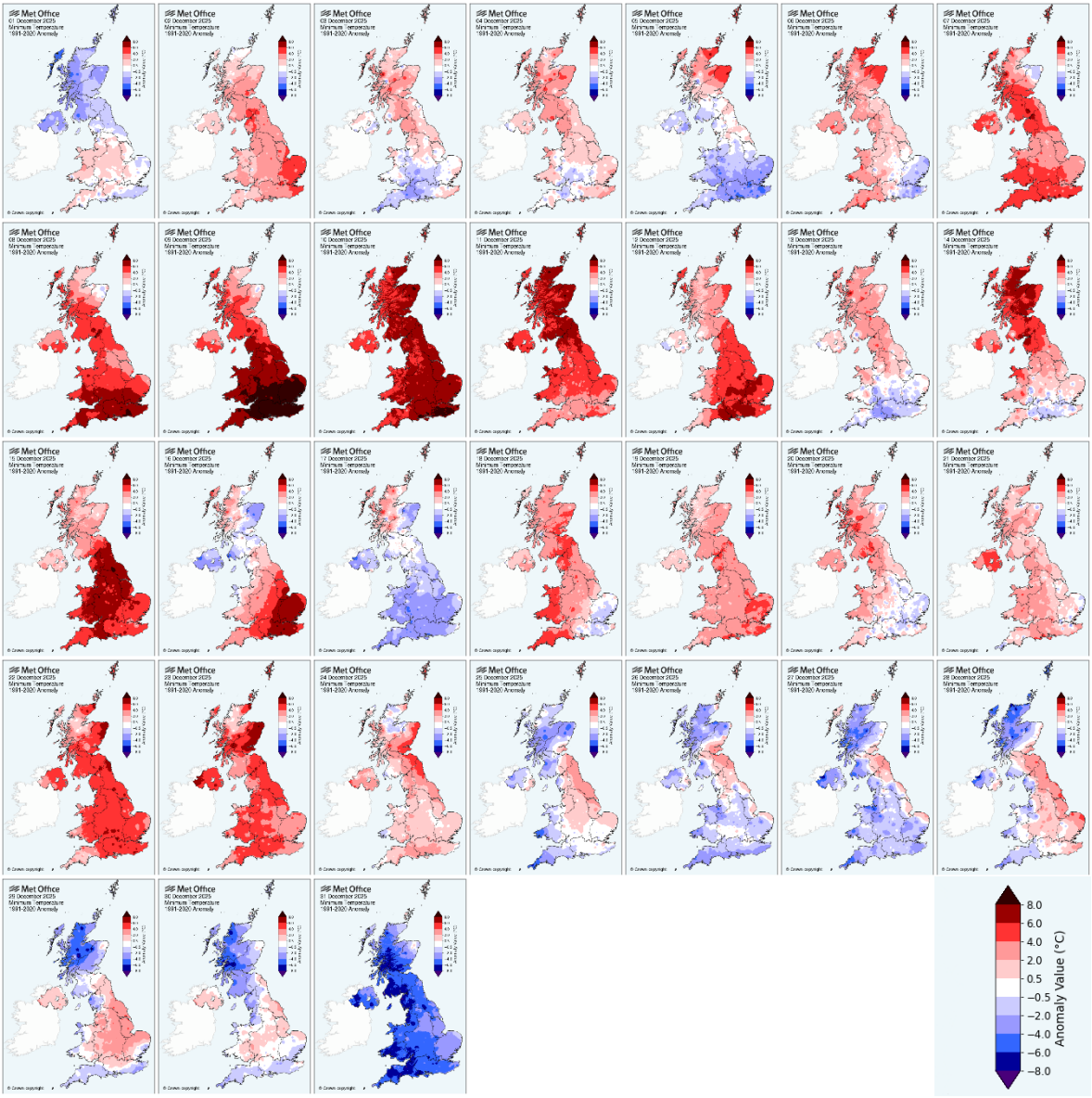
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun



Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

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

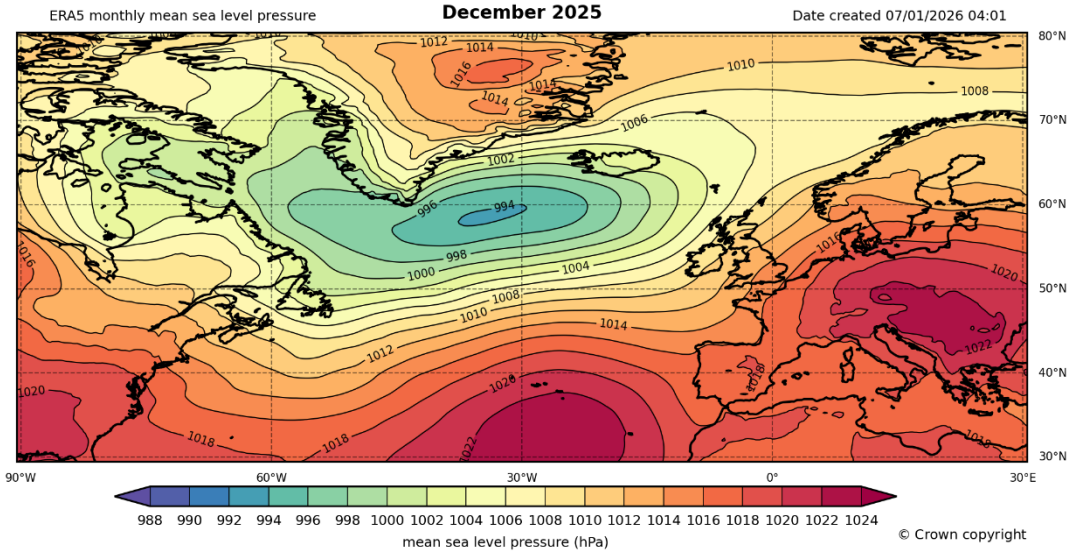
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

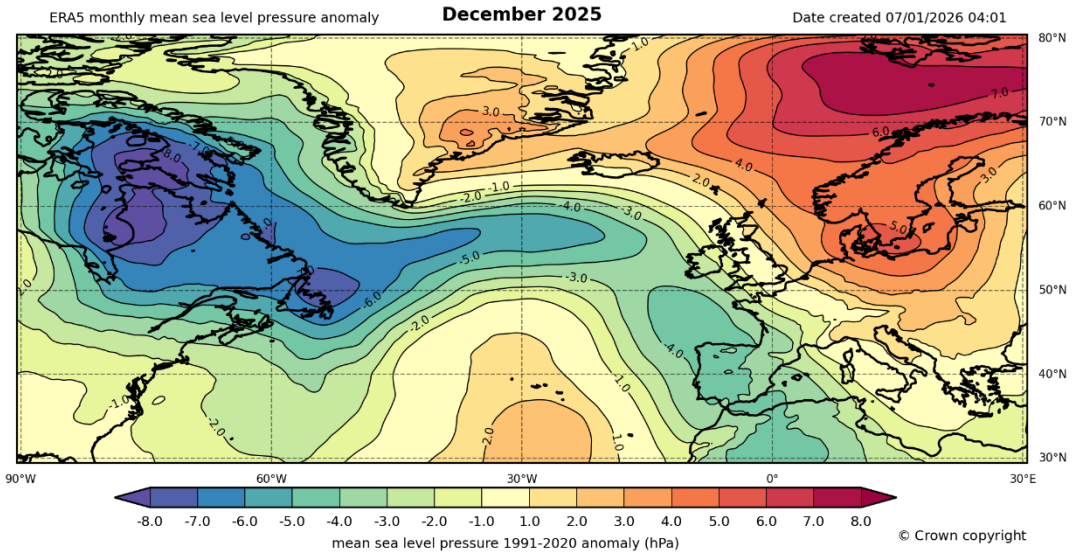
Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for December 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 December 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.

The UK was situated between a large positive mean sea level pressure anomaly to the north-east across Scandinavia, and a low pressure anomaly to the south-west in the Atlantic and extending to Spain and North Africa.

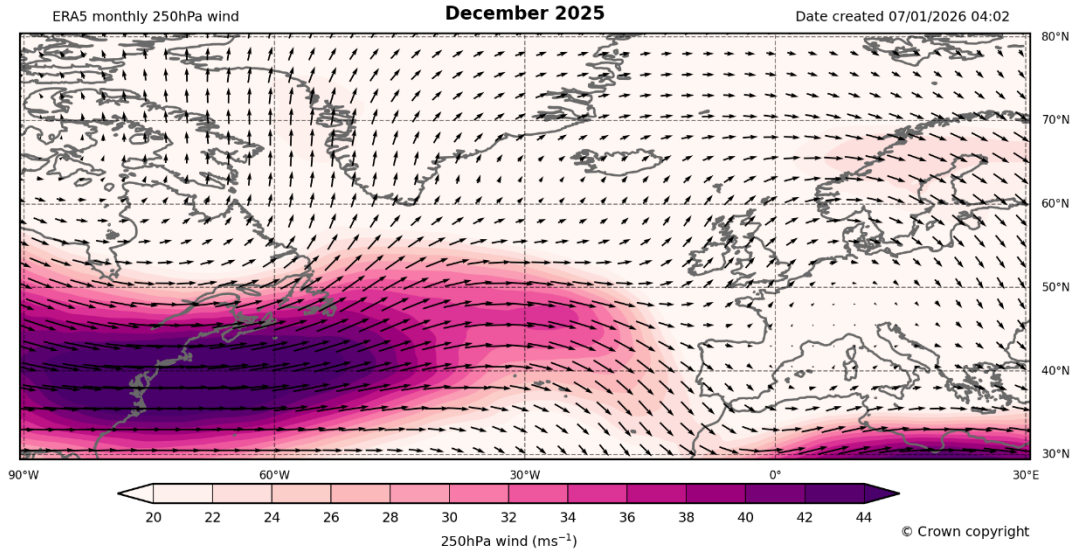


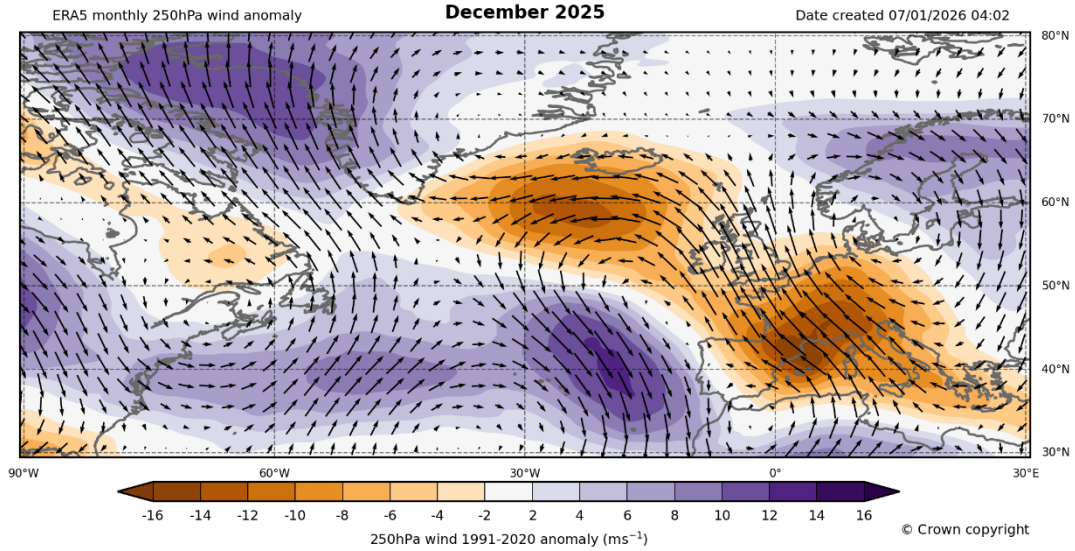


250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for December 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 December 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.

The jetstream was mainly displaced to the south of the European continent, with an anomalous south-easterly flow across the UK in December.





Weather diary

- **Low pressure prevalent, wet and windy, cooler and calmer late on**

  Low pressure systems were prevalent for the bulk of December, bringing wet and windy, but generally mild weather to the UK. Fog was a problem across most of England and Wales on the 3rd.

  Storm Bram paid a call between the 9th and 10th, bringing gusts over 80mph in Wales and generally 60 to 70 mph across all regions. Maximum temps hit the mid-teens Celcius across all regions, and as high as 16.8deg C in parts of Cumbria. Western counties experienced the highest rainfall with totals reaching 70 to 90mm, parts of Devon and south Wales being the wettest.

  The unsettled but mild theme continued through to the 22nd, with a series of depressions sweeping off the Atlantic, driven by a very active jetstream, bringing very wet and windy conditions to all regions but principally to western and northern counties. North Wales, Cumbria and southwest Scotland bore the brunt of the rainfall on the 13th and 14th. Totals in a few places in Cumbria were well over 100mm. Gales were experienced across all regions on the 17th.

  High pressure centred to the north of the UK on the 24th both calmed and cooled thing down, with night frosts, mist and fog, and the driest period of the whole month. As the high drifted westwards, a cool northerly flow brought showers to east coast counties, some of the showers turning wintry on higher ground. Between the 29th and 31st, the air from the north turned colder, with the showers now falling as predominantly as snow to low levels over northern and central Scotland and eastern England.

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 08/01/2026 08:23. 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