

September 2026 Monthly Weather Report

This document provides a summary of the UK's weather and climate statistics for September 2026.

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UK overview

September was an unsettled month for the UK with periods of wet and windy weather. However, temperatures were consistently above average, resulting in the joint fourth warmest September on record for the UK. The UK was in a generally westerly flow for most of the month, with low pressure exerting its influence and sending frontal systems with wet and windy weather across the country. The north was particularly wet, with Scotland and Northern Ireland seeing heavy downpours and ending the month with overall rainfall amounts a third above the average. Southern areas were also impacted by rain from frontal systems, but the weather was in general more settled than in northern areas, and England ended the month with below average rainfall again.

It was a mild month for the UK, with the mean temperature 1.6°C above the 1991-2020 long-term average. As well as the UK's joint fourth warmest September on record, it was England's third warmest, Northern Ireland's fourth warmest, and Wales's joint sixth warmest. Scotland experienced above average temperatures but was just outside its top 10 warmest Septembers. Minimum temperatures were particularly high, with Northern Ireland recording its joint highest September minimum temperatures and the UK its joint fourth highest. Rainfall for the UK was around average (104% of the long-term average), but as often happens there was strong regional variation. Scotland and Northern Ireland both saw a third more rainfall than typical (137% and 135% of average, respectively), while England saw barely two thirds of the average rainfall (65%). Southern England was particularly dry, although no records were broken. Sunshine hours were also around average for September for the UK (98% of average), although Northern Ireland was a bit duller (81%).

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

Weather impacts

Text not available.

Text not available.

Monthly extremes

The table below lists UK monthly weather extremes recorded at individual weather stations during September 2026 from data available on 06/10/2026. The map shows the location of these stations.

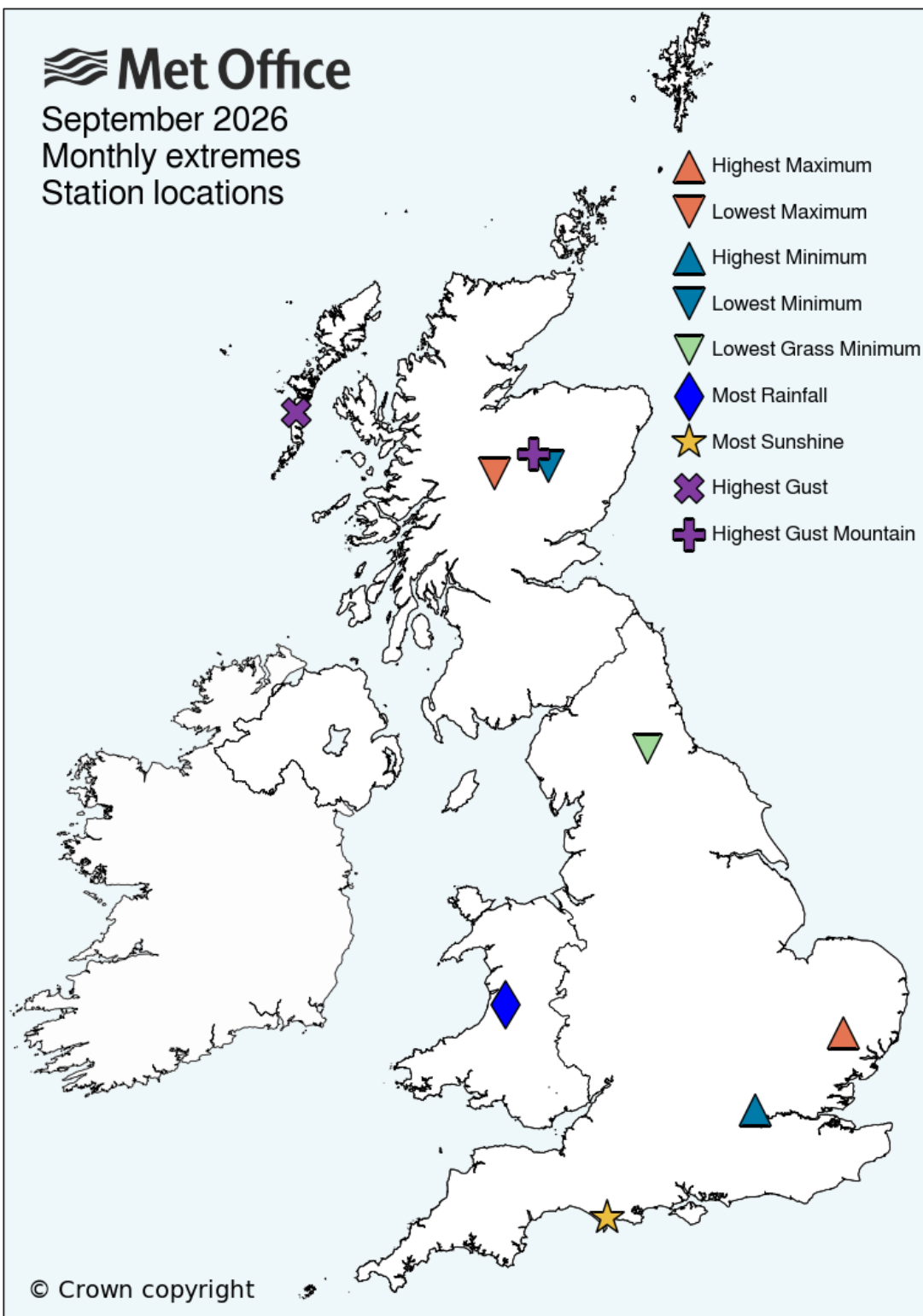
Highest Maximum	28.9°C on 6th at Felsham (Suffolk, 92mAMSL)
Lowest Maximum	11.5°C on 17th at Dalwhinnie No 2 (Inverness-shire, 351mAMSL)
Highest Minimum	19.9°C on 30th at Northolt (Greater London, 33mAMSL)
Lowest Minimum	-1.1°C on 29th at Braemar No 2 (Aberdeenshire, 327mAMSL)
Lowest Grass Minimum	-4.4°C on 29th at Copley (Durham, 253mAMSL)
Most Rainfall	60.6mm on 12th at Dinas Resr (Dyfed, 258mAMSL)
Most Sunshine	12.2hr on 5th at Preston, Cove House (Dorset, 44mAMSL)
Highest Gust	60Kt 69mph on 29th at South Uist Range (Western Isles, 4mAMSL)
Highest Gust (mountain*)	93Kt 107mph on 30th 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.

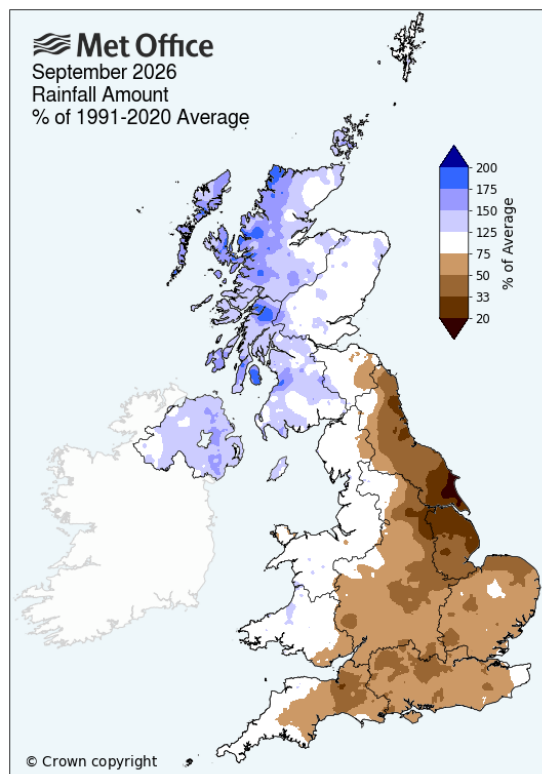
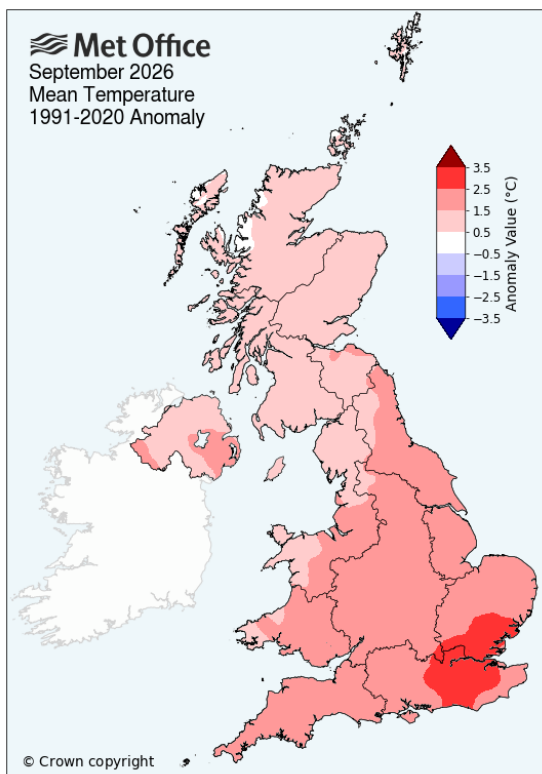
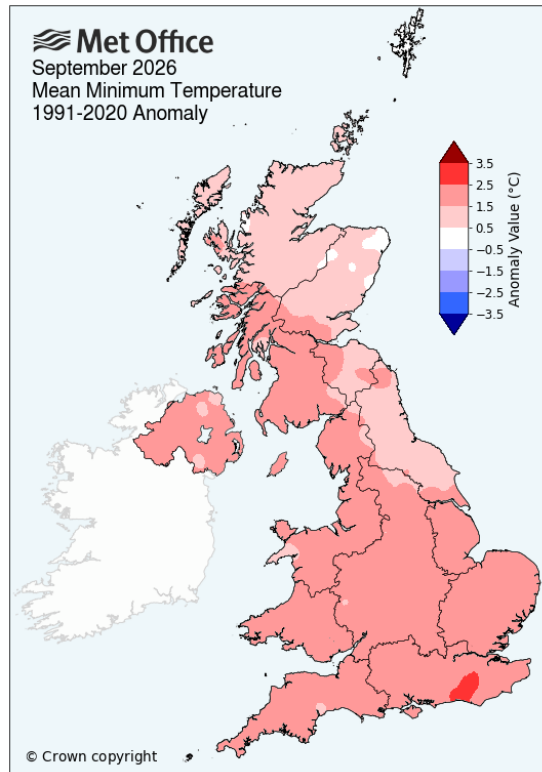
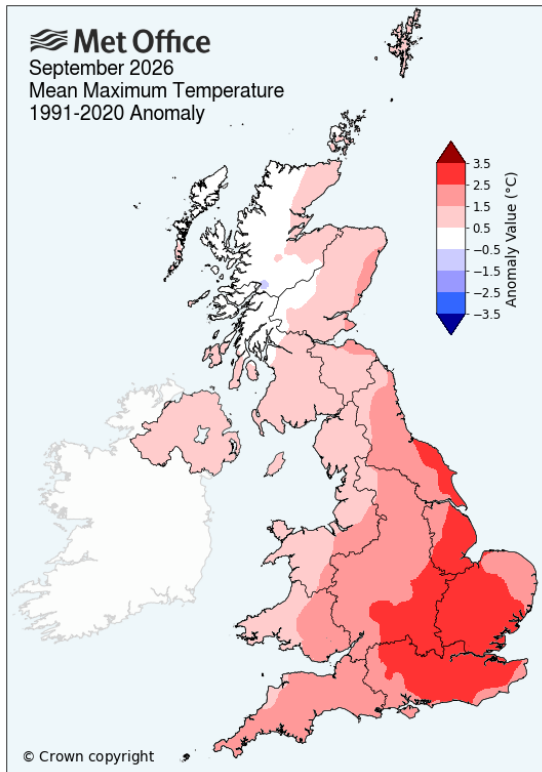


September 2026
Monthly extremes
Station locations

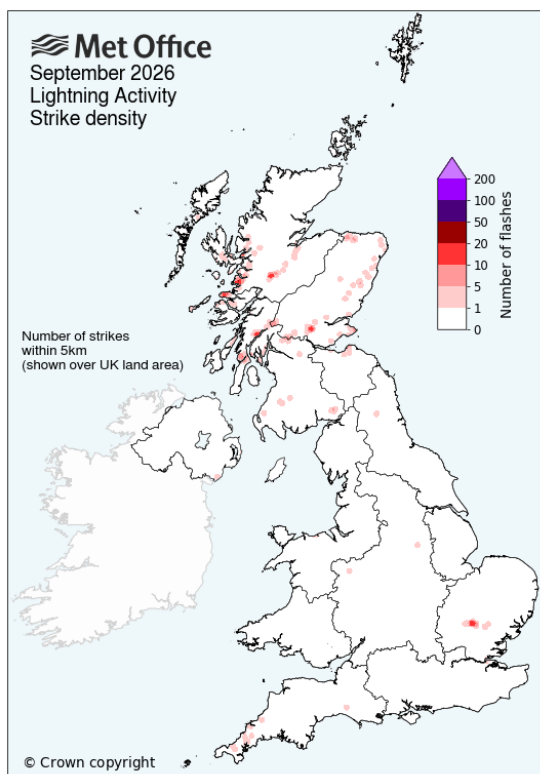
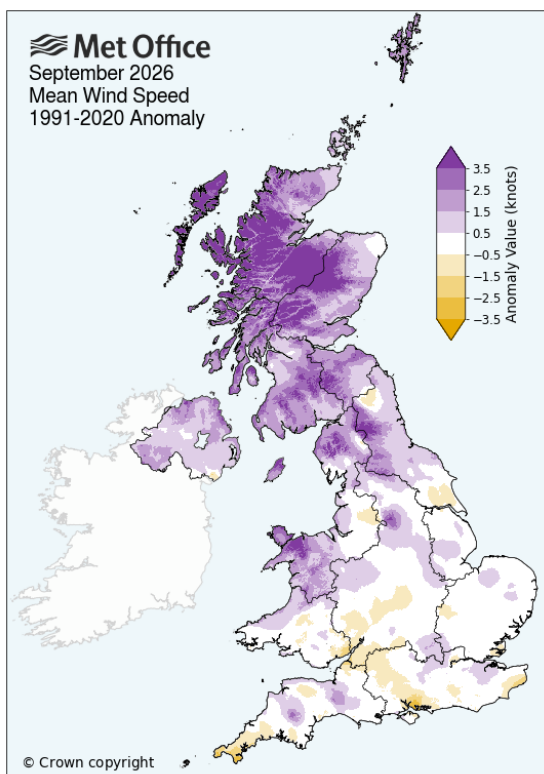
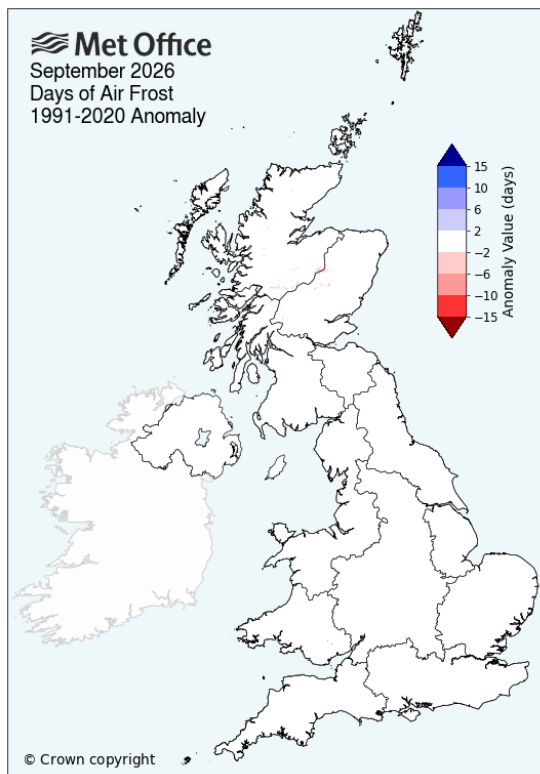
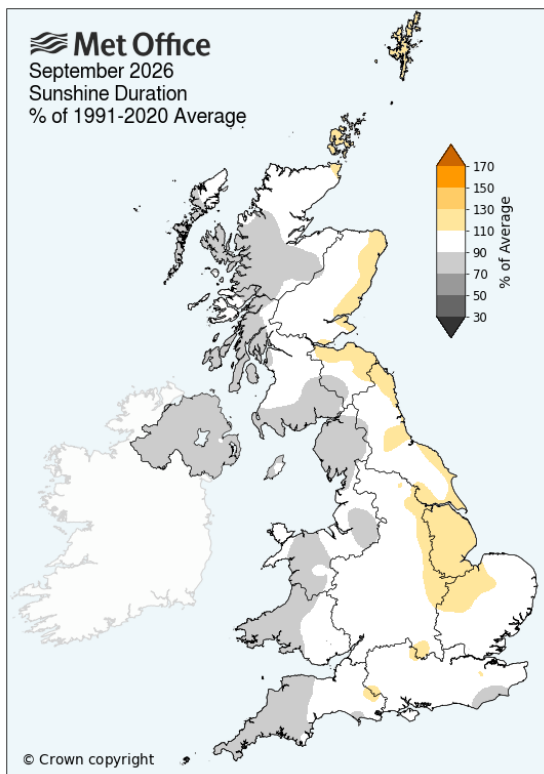


Monthly maps

These maps show monthly average daily maximum, monthly average daily minimum and monthly mean temperature and monthly rainfall for September 2026 as anomalies relative to the September 1991-2020 long term average.



These maps show monthly sunshine, monthly air frost and monthly windspeed for September 2026 as anomalies relative to the September 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 September 2026 for max, min and mean temperature, rainfall, sunshine and windspeed as actual values and anomalies relative to the September 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	18.4	1.6	9	135	143
England	20.4	2.2	6	138	143
Wales	18.3	1.5	11	133	143
Scotland	15.4	0.6	21	123	143
Northern Ireland	17.5	1.2	11	133	143
Central England	20.5	2.2	5	145	149

Mean minimum temperature

Region	Mintemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	10.7	1.6	5	139	143
England	11.6	1.9	4	140	143
Wales	11.0	1.7	4	140	143
Scotland	9.1	1.2	5	139	143
Northern Ireland	10.7	1.8	2	142	143
Central England	11.9	1.7	5	145	149

Mean temperature

Region	Meantemp (°C)	1991-2020 Anomaly (°C)	Rank - warmest	Rank - coldest	Series length (yrs)
UK	14.6	1.6	6	138	143
England	16.0	2.0	3	141	143
Wales	14.6	1.6	6	138	143
Scotland	12.3	1.0	11	133	143
Northern Ireland	14.0	1.5	4	140	143
Central England	16.2	2.0	6	363	368

Rainfall

Region	Rainfall (mm)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - wettest	Rank - driest	Series length (yrs)
UK	94.7	104	88	104	191
England	44.8	65	151	41	191
Wales	112.5	101	96	96	191
Scotland	169.0	137	28	164	191
Northern Ireland	118.4	135	49	143	191
EWP (England and Wales)	51.7	68	203	59	261

Sunshine

Region	Sunshine (hours)	% of 1991-2020 Average	Rank - sunniest	Rank - dullest	Series length (yrs)
UK	124.6	98	49	69	117
England	142.7	101	47	71	117
Wales	114.8	89	74	44	117
Scotland	102.7	96	56	62	117
Northern Ireland	92.0	81	100	18	117

Windspeed

Region	Windspeed (knots)	1991-2020 Anomaly (knots)	Rank - windiest	Rank - calmest	Series length (yrs)
UK	9.7	1.3	14	45	58
England	7.8	0.3	24	35	58
Wales	9.7	1.0	18	41	58
Scotland	12.9	2.9	5	54	58
Northern Ireland	9.0	1.3	10	49	58

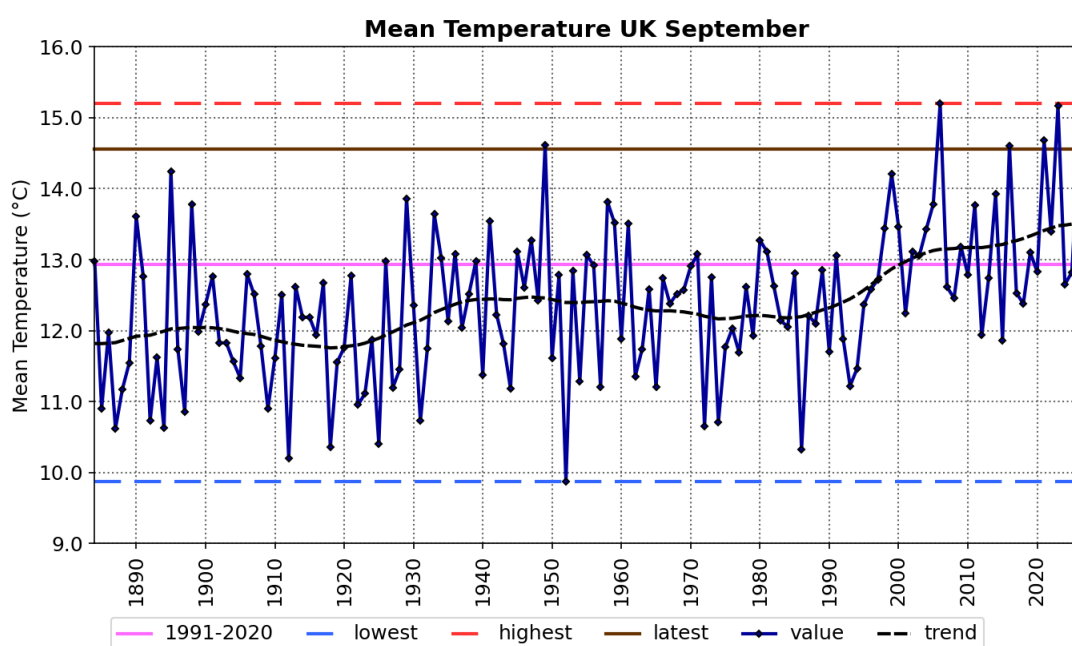
Monthly time-series

These charts show time-series for the UK for September for monthly mean temperature (from 1884), monthly rainfall (from 1836) and monthly sunshine (from 1919). The brown line shows the latest (2026) 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 2017-2026, the most recent 30-year climate reference period 1991-2020 and the 30-year baseline climate reference period 1961-1990.

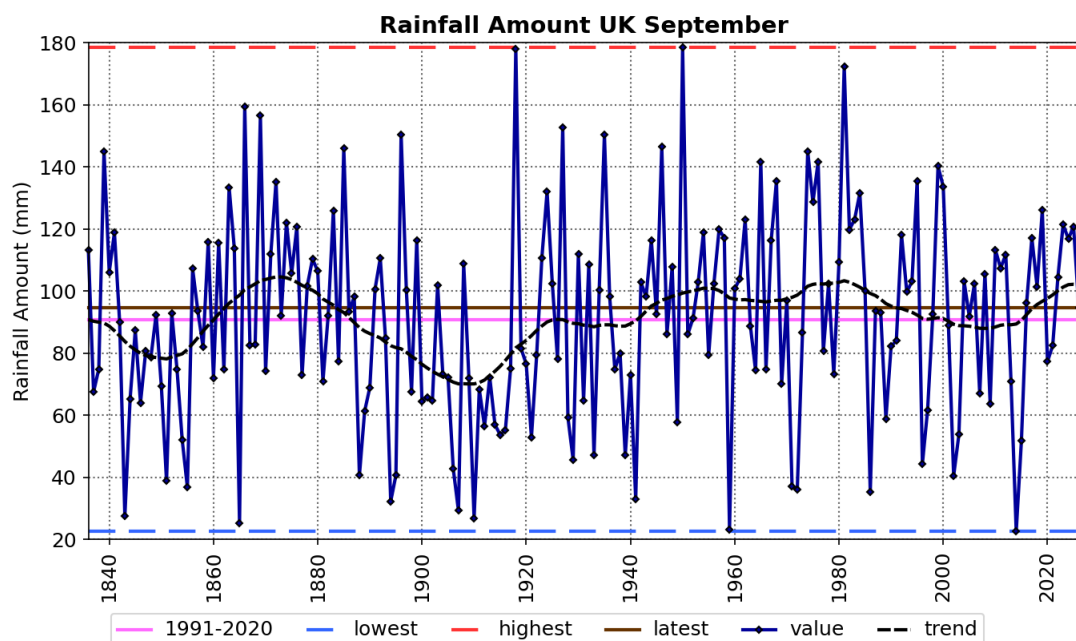


Source: HadUK-Grid 01/10/2026 11:54

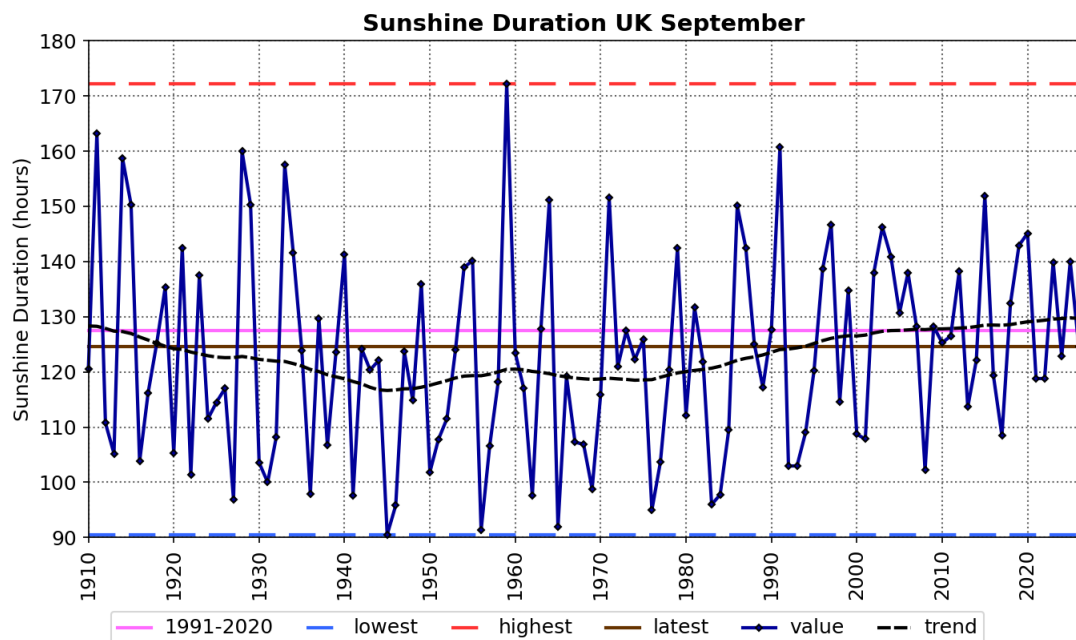
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Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Meantemp (°C)	12.2	12.9	13.4	14.6



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Rainfall (mm)	99.2	90.9	106.3	94.7



Period	1961-1990	1991-2020	2017-2026	2026
Sunshine (hours)	119.2	127.5	129.4	124.6

Daily time-series

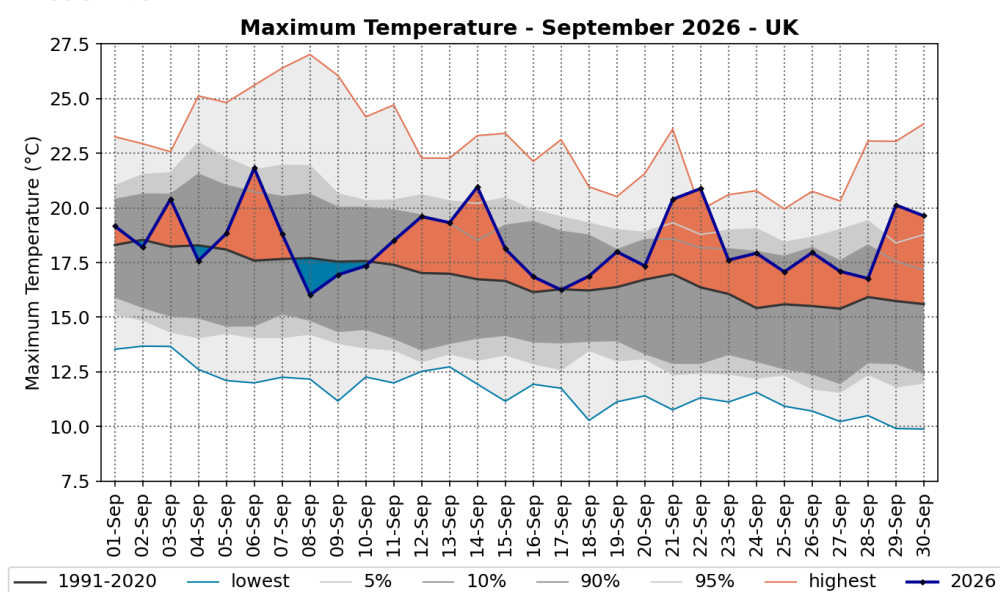
These charts show time-series of UK area-average daily maximum and daily minimum temperature and daily rainfall for each day of September 2026. The areas shaded in grey show the highest and lowest values in the daily temperature series (from 1960) and daily rainfall series (from 1891) together with percentiles 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



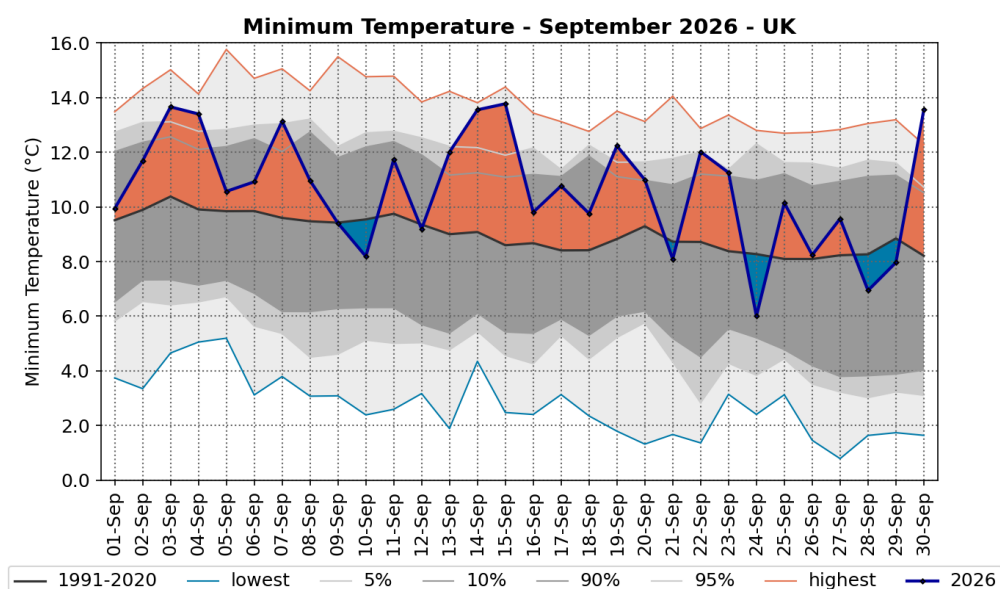
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/10/2026 11:59

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Source: HadUK-Grid 01/10/2026 12:00

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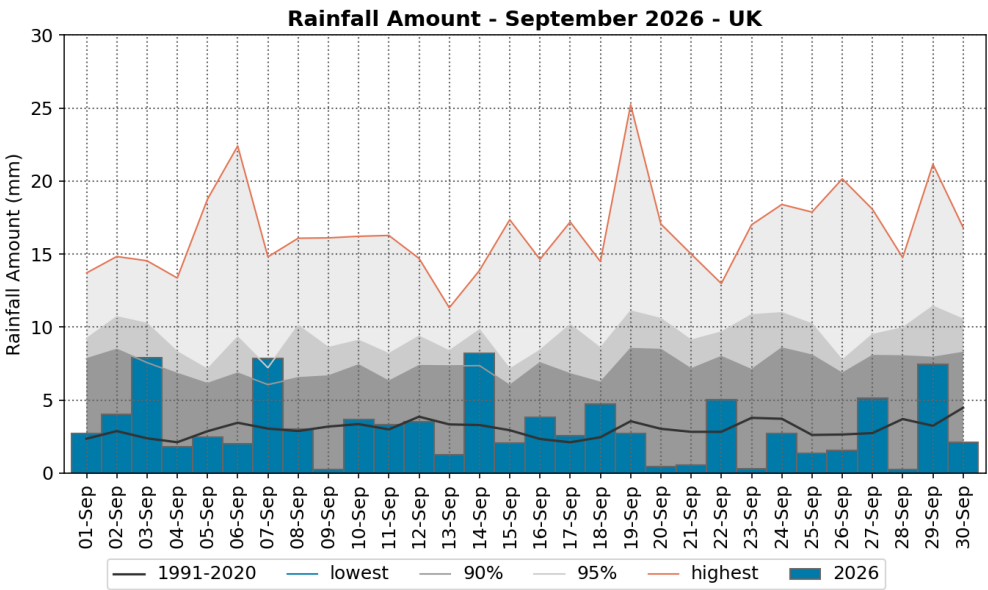


Daily rainfall and rainfall accumulation

Met Office

Source: HadUK-Grid 01/10/2026 12:00

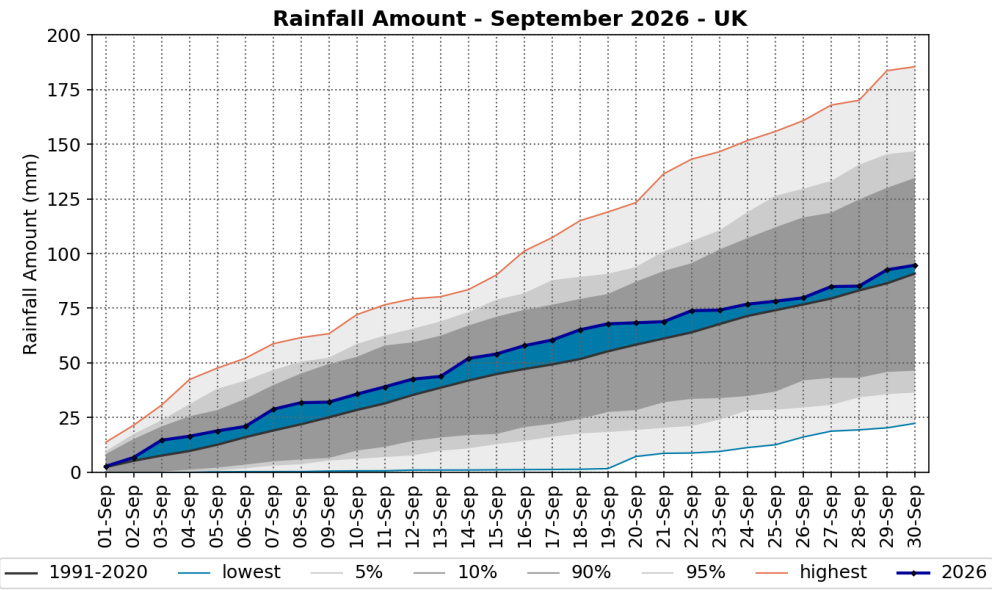
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Met Office

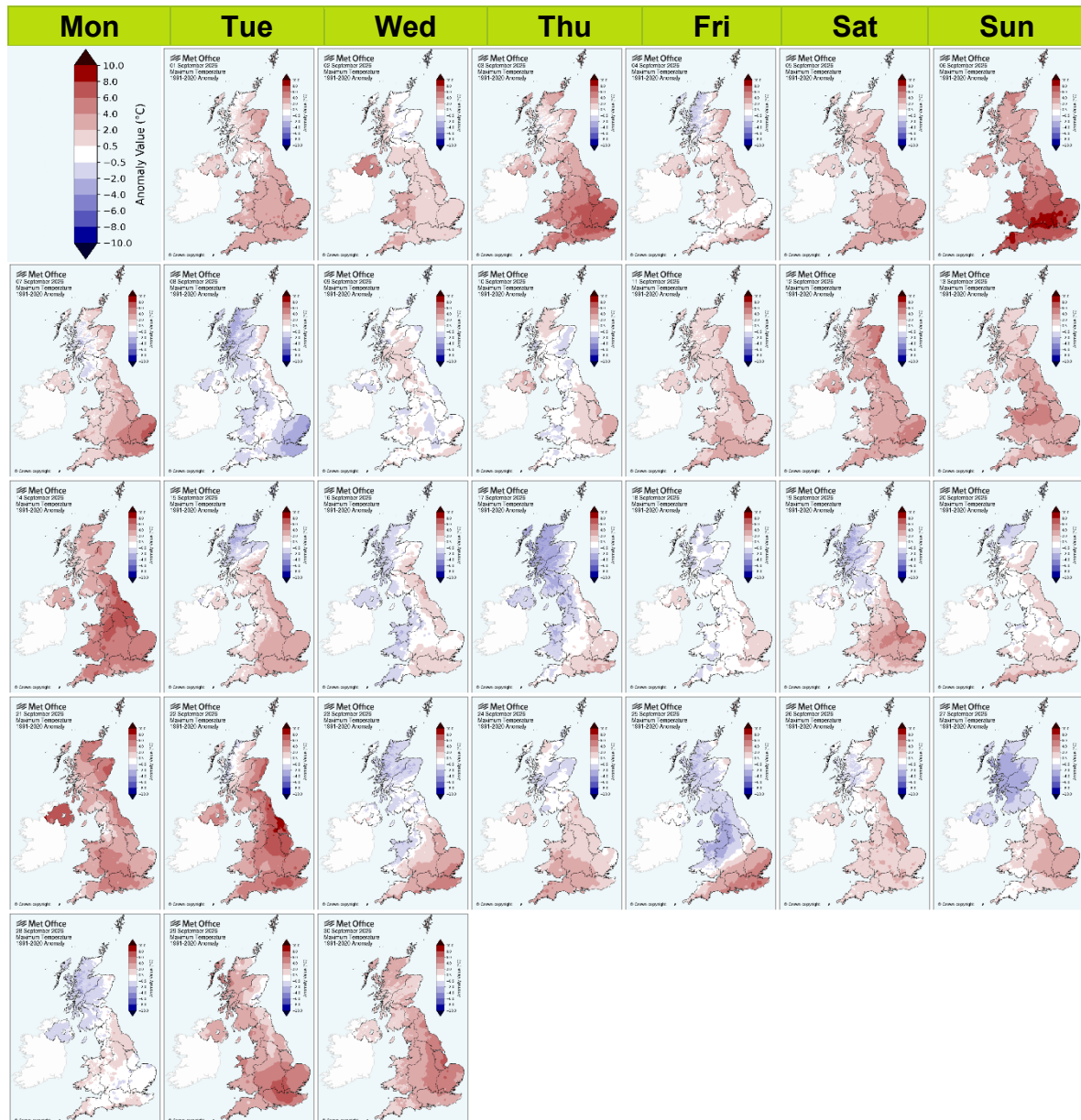
Source: HadUK-Grid 01/10/2026 12:03

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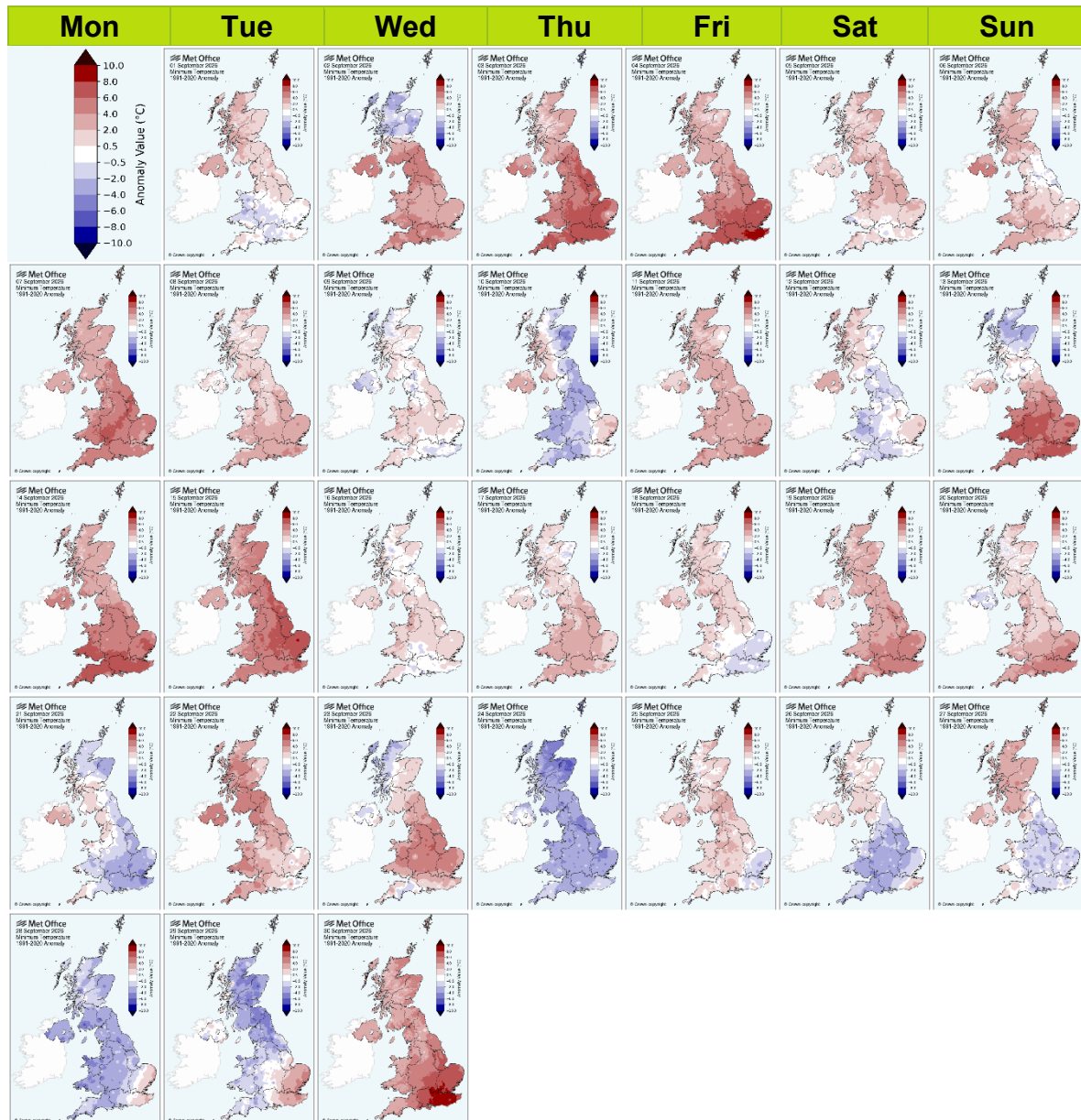
Daily maximum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily maximum temperatures for each day of September 2026 as anomalies relative to the September 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.



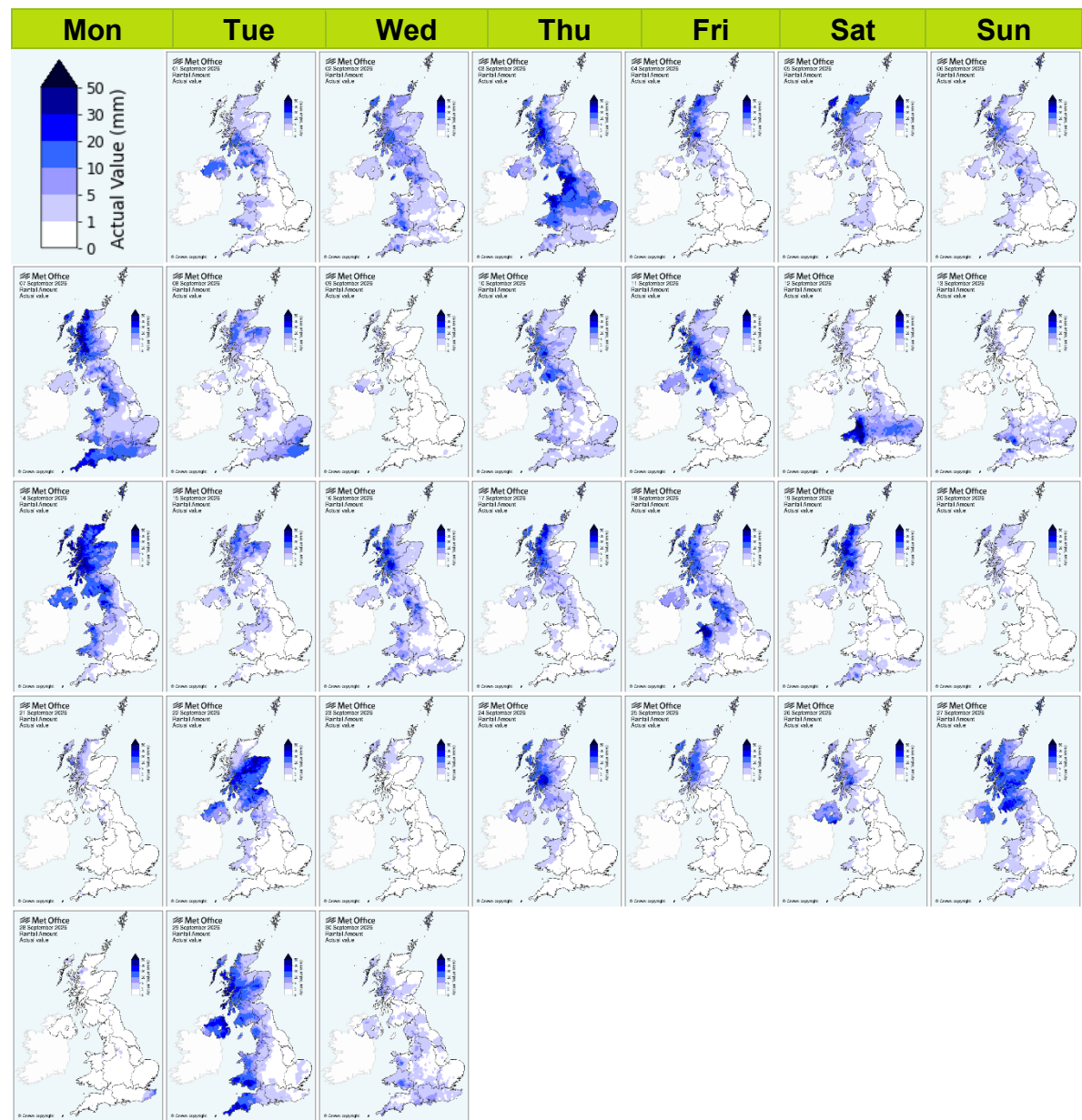
Daily minimum temperature maps - calendar view

These maps show daily minimum temperatures for each day of September 2026 as anomalies relative to the September 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.



Daily rainfall maps - calendar view

These maps show daily rainfall for each day of September 2026 as daily totals. The daily rainfall is the total from 0900UTC on the day in question to 0900UTC the following day.

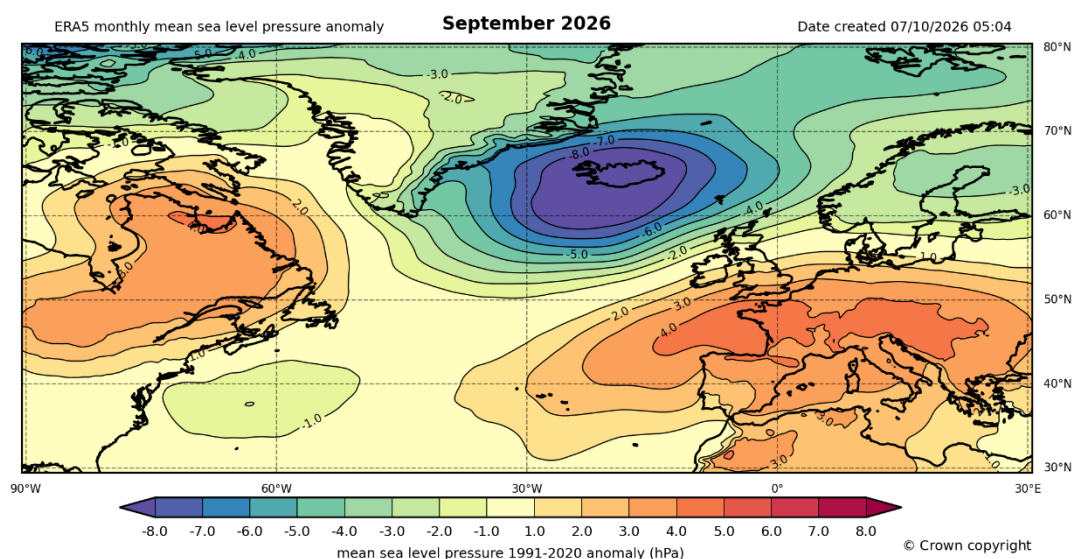
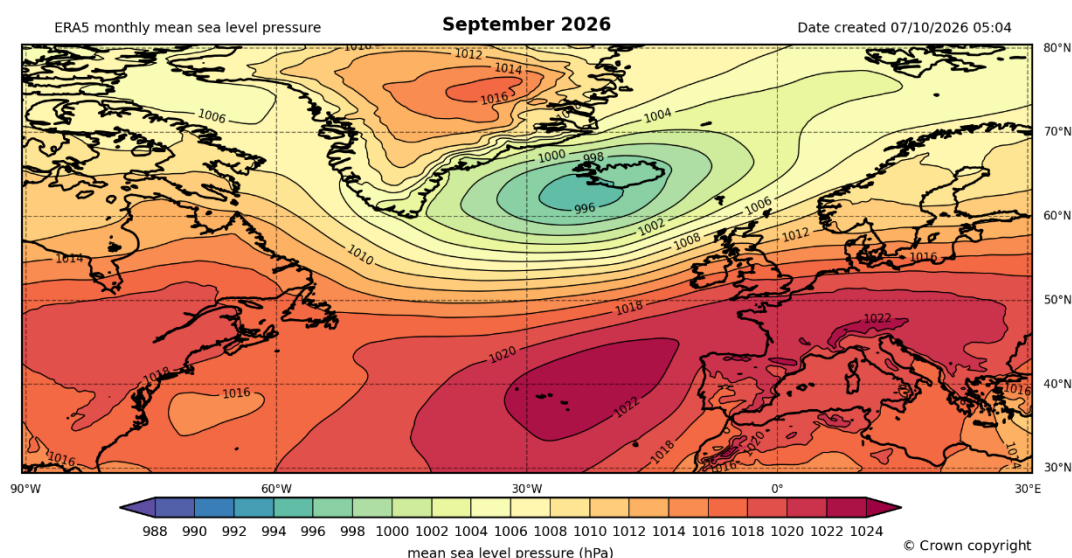


Monthly atmospheric circulation

Mean sea level pressure

These charts show the monthly mean sea level pressure for September 2026 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 September 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.

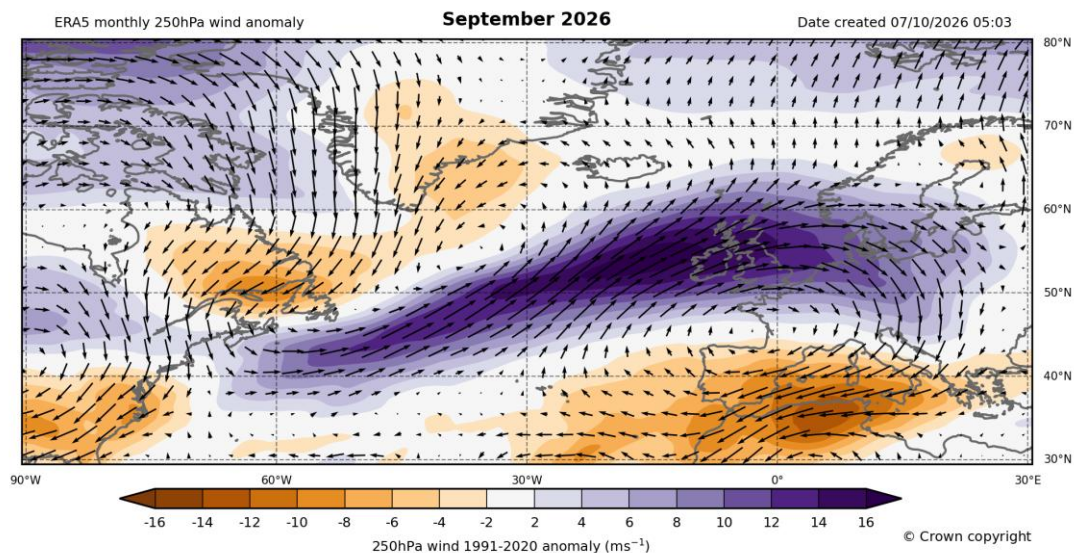
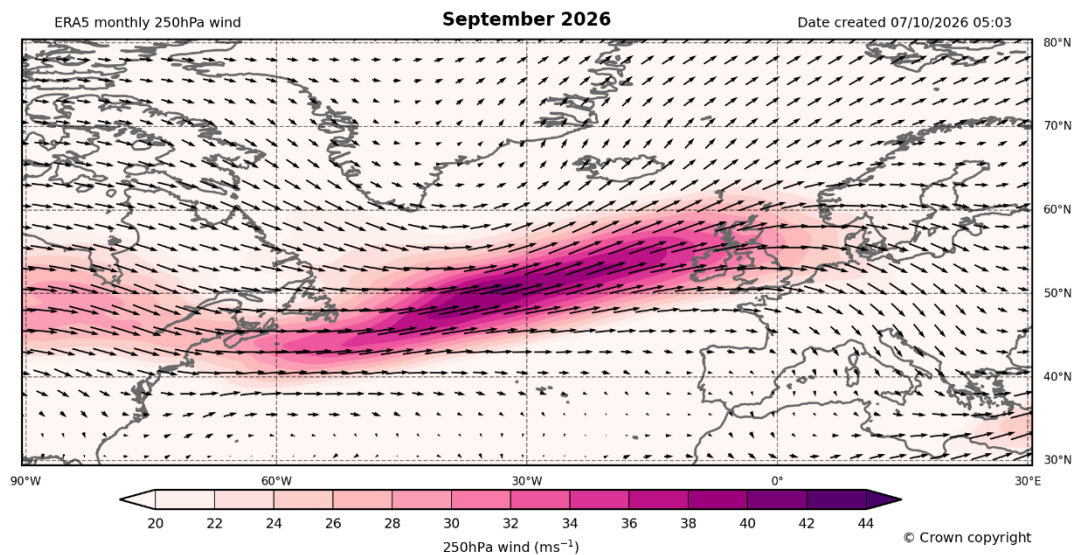
September saw anomalously low pressure over Iceland and anomalously high pressure over the Azores and continental Europe, resulting in a gradient across the UK.



250hPa wind speed and direction

These charts show the monthly 250hPa wind speed and direction for September 2026 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 September 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.

There was anomalously strong westerly flow across the UK in September.



Weather diary

- **Largely unsettled but relatively mild, mist and fog late in the month**

The weather for the month was characterized as a north south split, with high pressure never far away from the south, and Atlantic depressions plaguing the north. Maxima across Scotland and Northern Ireland were generally restricted to the high teens Celsius, while southern parts of England clung on to the heat from August with temperatures hitting the mid to high 20s Celsius up to the 7th.

Western counties of England, Wales and Scotland saw heavy rain on the 3rd with some places recording over 35mm. Few places escaped the effects of an Atlantic low and its associated fronts on the 7th with all regions seeing some significant rainfall, especially the West Country and the northwest Highlands. One notable effect of this particular system was the remarkably mild air contained within it. Overnight temperatures particularly in the southeast didn't fall below 18deg Celsius. A deep depression, centered over northern Scotland on the 8th, brought cooler, wet and windy conditions to all parts, and a transient ridge brought a welcome if brief respite from the wet and windy conditions. Temperatures recovered by the 12th with all regions seeing maxima hit 20deg Celsius.

From the 12th to the 20th, a mobile westerly airstream saw a mix of depressions bringing wet and windy but still rather mild or warm conditions to all parts of the UK, interspersed by transient ridges of high pressure. There was widespread mist and fog for England and Wales on the 22nd which took until around midday to clear from some western counties. An air frost was recorded at Braemar in Aberdeenshire overnight into the 29th.

Wet and windy but remarkably mild weather hit the UK on the 29th and 30th as a deep Atlantic depression, with a central pressure recorded at 953hPa, exerted its influence over the country, with the west bearing the brunt. Rainfall totals exceeded 30mm across many western coastal locations, winds gusted to over 60mph for parts of Northern Ireland and the Western Isles. Further south and east though, a wide range of stations around the home Counties and southeast England recorded local record high minimum temperatures between 18 and 19deg Celsius.

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 data from these stations are used to provide long term context.

This summary was produced on 09/10/2026 08:43. 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>

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