

Seasonal Assessment – Winter 2026

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Winter 2026 (December 2025, January and February 2026) and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.

Winter has seen above average temperatures and rainfall for the UK overall, with notable regional variation. The weather has been unsettled, with four named storms and a strong jet stream and blocking high over Scandinavia causing extended spells of wet weather for some areas and an unusual rainfall pattern.

December was very unsettled in the first 3 weeks with Storm *Bram* bringing gusts over 60Kt (69mph) and up to 100mm of rain in the wettest areas. January started with cold and wintry weather, Storm *Goretti* brought widespread snow to Wales, the South Pennines and parts of the West Midlands as well as damaging winds to Cornwall. The month then turned wet and unsettled with two more named storms, Ingrid and Chandra bringing heavy rain and strong winds. Cornwall and County Down saw their wettest Januaries on record. February saw a continuation of wet conditions, with unsettled weather, persistent rain, and temperatures around average. There were persistent and repeated rain events in the south and southwest of the UK, northeast Scotland and northeast England, with northwest Scotland particularly dry due to a pronounced rain-shadow effect.

Winter 2026 saw a north to south gradient in temperature across the UK, near average in Scotland and warmer in the south, with the UK overall 0.85°C warmer than 1991-2020. There were cold spells in early January and mid-February, but overall the winter was very mild. England had its 8th warmest winter on record in a series from 1884.

Overall, this was a reasonably wet winter with the UK recording 113% of average winter rainfall. England had its eighth wettest winter on record in a series from 1836, Northern Ireland had its 9th wettest and Southern England its fourth wettest. In contrast Scotland had a dry winter with only 86% of average rainfall, with the northeast of Scotland seeing very high totals while the west of Scotland was unusually dry.

The UK recorded 84% of average sunshine hours for winter overall, with the northeast being the dullest.

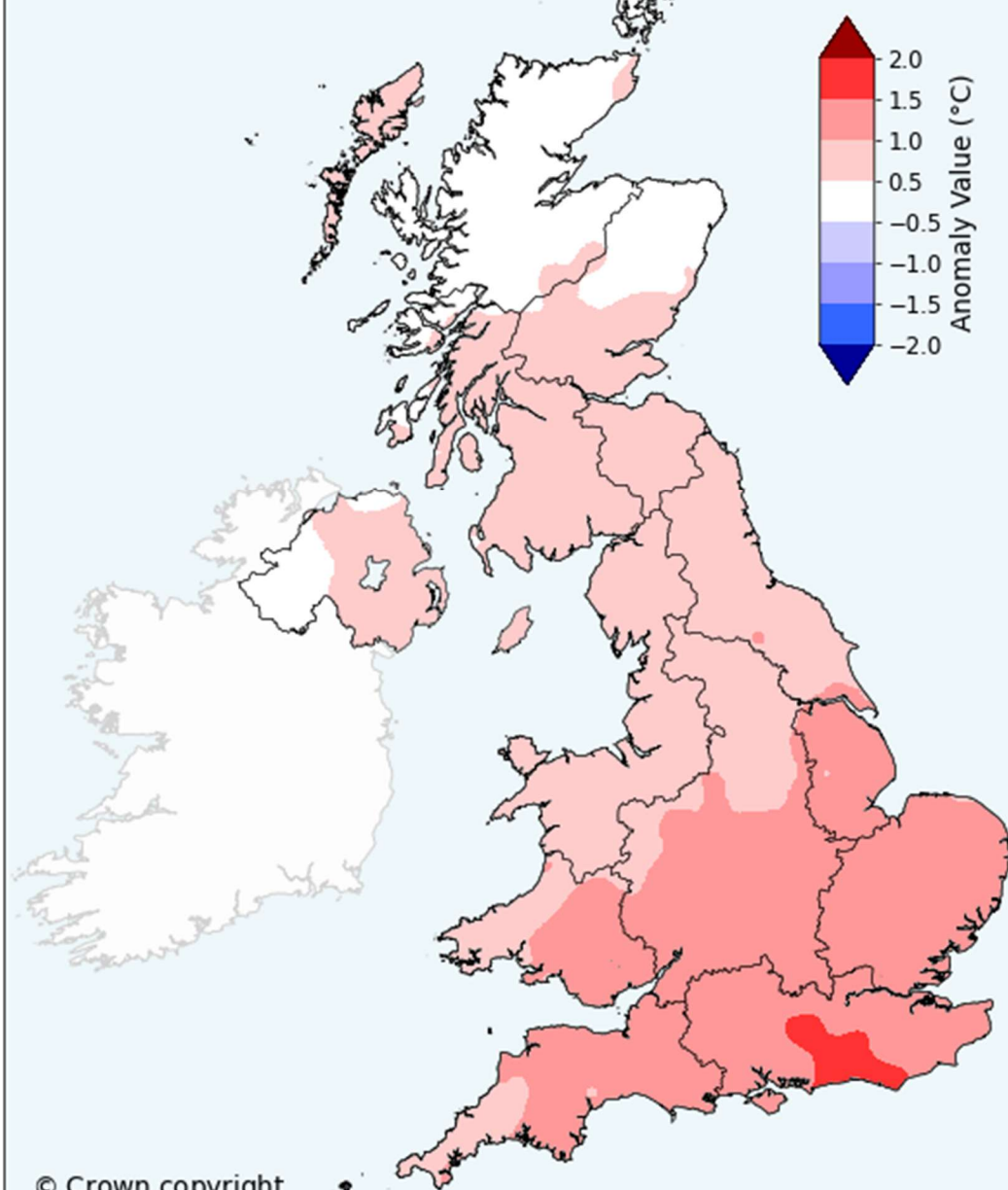
UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value for Winter 2026 is 4.94°C, which is 0.85°C above the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for Winter 2026 is 390.1mm, which is 113% of the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for Winter 2026 is 135.3 hours, which is 84% of the 1991-2020 average.

 **Met Office**

Winter 2026

Mean Temperature

1991-2020 Anomaly



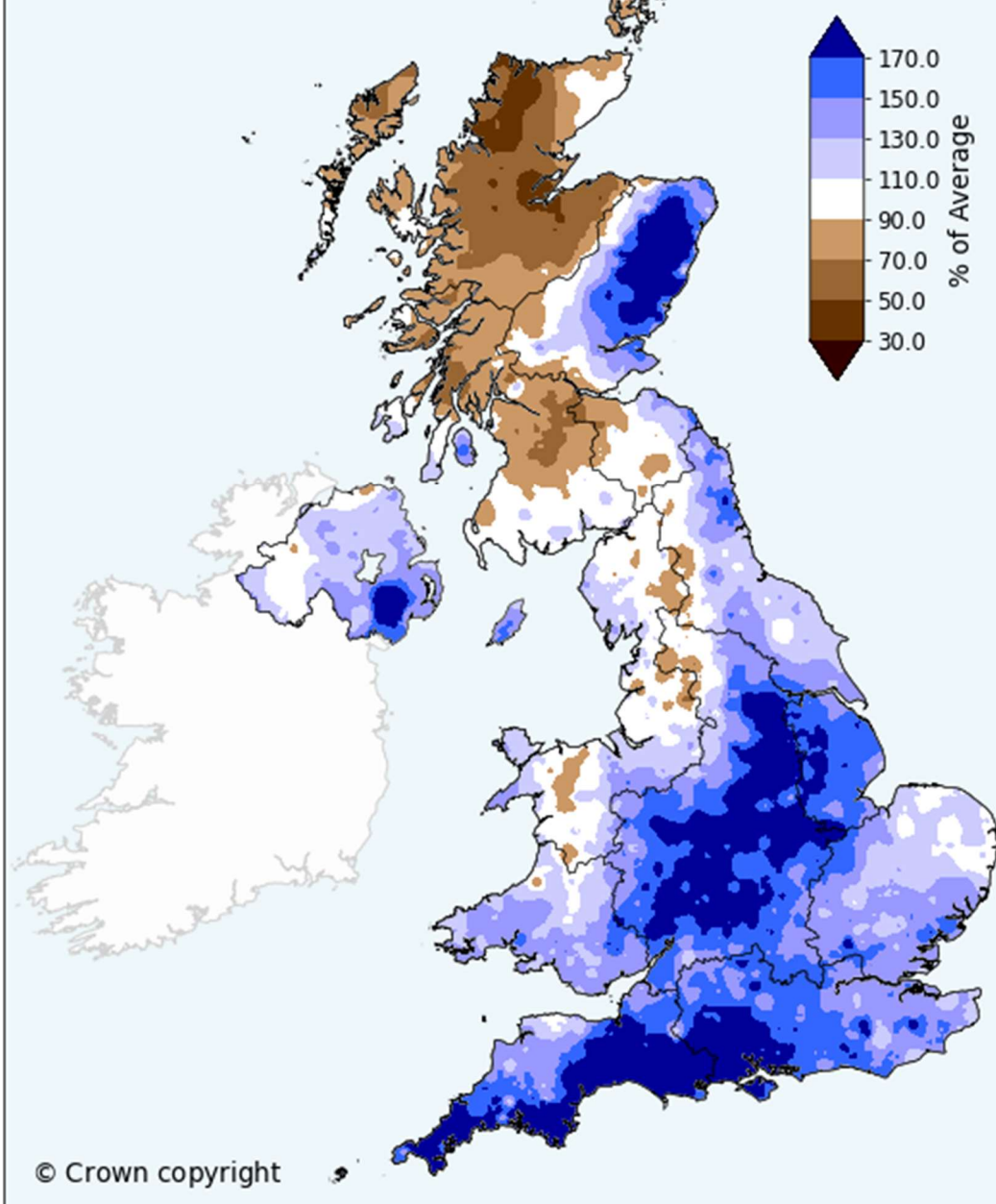
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Winter 2026

Rainfall Amount

% of 1991-2020 Average

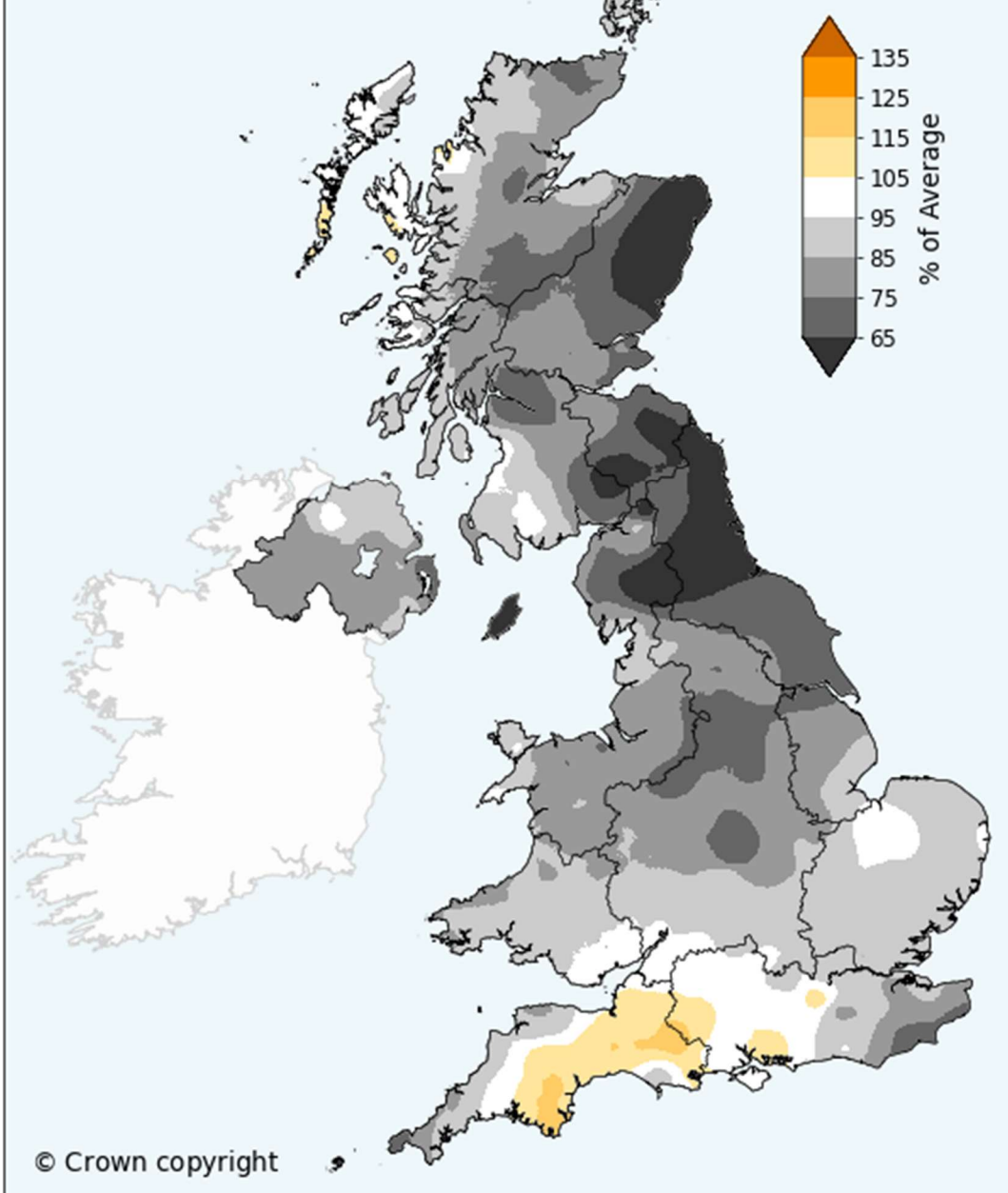


 **Met Office**

Winter 2026

Sunshine Duration

% of 1991-2020 Average



Mean Temperature - Winter 2026 - UK

