

Seasonal Assessment – Winter 2021

First 2 months – December 2020 and January 2021

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during the first two months of Winter 2021 (December and January) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

The winter so far has been colder than average, and broadly unsettled, though with a few short spells of quieter weather. December was slightly milder than average, but this was more than offset by a cold January with frequent frosts, during which snowfall repeatedly affected certain areas.

December 2020 saw maximum temperatures averaging out close to normal in most areas, but minima were up to 1½ degrees above the seasonal normal in some areas, with frosts fewer than average; the UK monthly mean temperature was 0.5 °C above the long-term average. Temperatures were below average in early December and again for the last week, but well above average during 10th-23rd. Most of January was distinctly colder than average, with some severe frosts in the north, and only brief milder spells which were most marked in the south; monthly-mean temperatures were 1.5 °C below average, making it the coldest January since 2010.

December rainfall totals were well above average in most areas, and above double the average in some places, but near normal in western Scotland and Northern Ireland; overall the UK had 135% of average rainfall. After a quiet start, January rainfall was also above average for most, with more than double the average for some places, but near average in Northern Ireland and rather below for the Highlands of Scotland; the UK overall had 113% of average rainfall for the month.

Many areas were duller than average in December, but a few areas were rather brighter. January saw a remarkable contrast, being much duller than average for southern England and Wales but the fourth sunniest on record for Scotland and bright over Northern Ireland too. Sunshine totals for the UK overall were 93% of average in December and 95% of average in January.

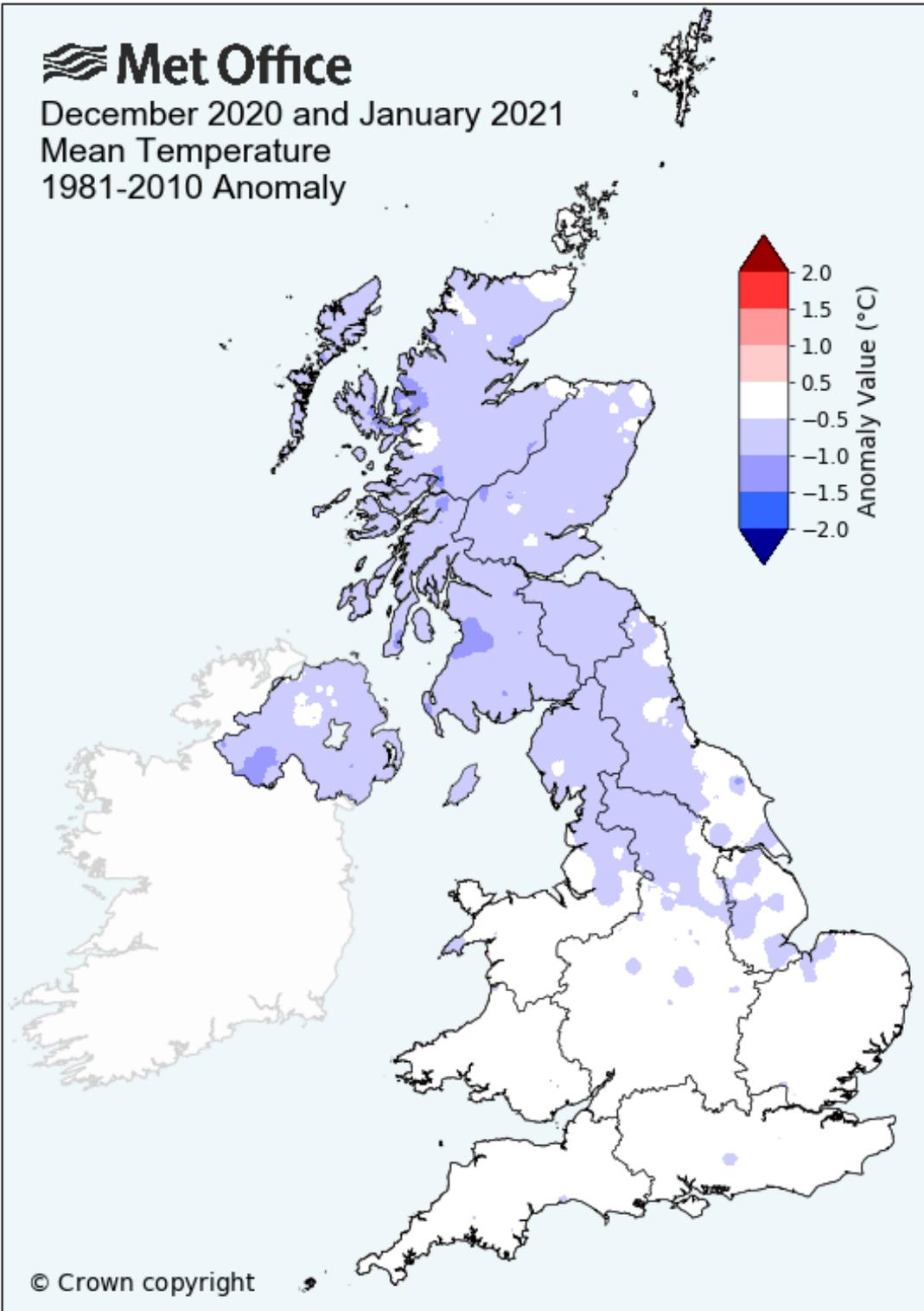
UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value for December and January is 3.3 °C, which is 0.5 °C below the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total for December and January is 299 mm, which is 124% of the 1981-2010 average.	The provisional total for December and January is 82 hours, which is 94% of the 1981-2010 average.

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December 2020 and January 2021

Mean Temperature

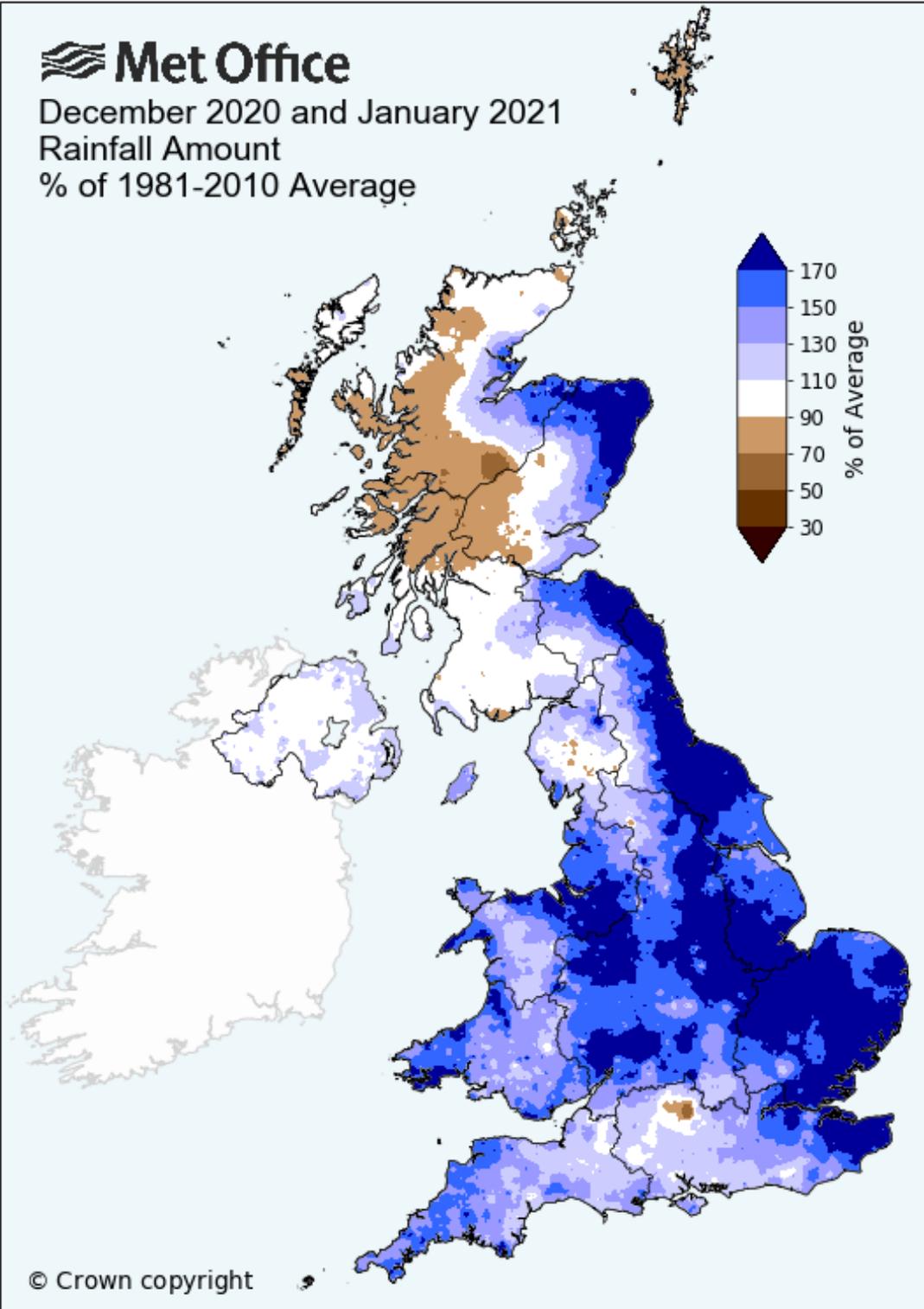
1981-2010 Anomaly



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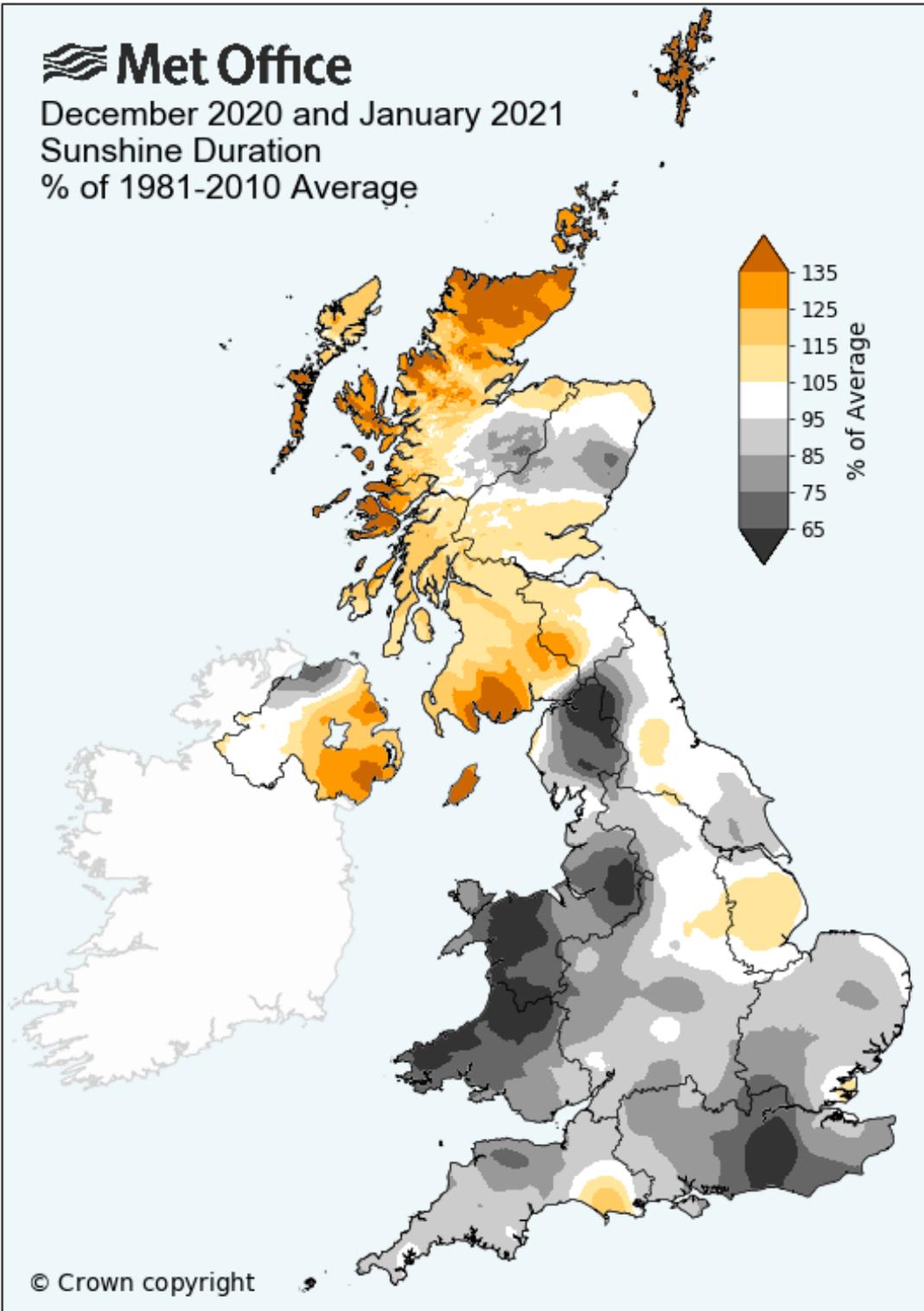
December 2020 and January 2021
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average



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December 2020 and January 2021
Sunshine Duration
% of 1981-2010 Average



Mean Temperature - Winter 2021 - UK

