

Seasonal Assessment – Winter 2023

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Winter 2023 (December, January and February), and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.

The winter overall was marginally milder and somewhat drier than average, but this disguises the alternation between cold, settled spells and milder, wetter weather. The first half of December was fine and settled but increasingly cold, with Braemar (Aberdeenshire) recording a low of -17.3 °C on the 13th, followed by a rapid transition to an unsettled westerly regime. The milder weather continued until almost half-way through January, after which temperatures dropped once more, this second cold spell however being shorter and less severe than the first. It became gradually milder again by the end of January, but with any rainfall mostly restricted to Scotland, then most of February was mild, dry and settled.

December 2022 saw temperatures averaging out to rather below normal, particularly for minima, with more frosts than average. Mean temperatures for December were 1.3 °C below the long-term average, this being the only colder-than-average month in 2022. Parts of Scotland were notably cold by night in mid-January, but overall it was a slightly milder than average month, with monthly-mean temperatures 0.4 °C above average. Most of February was mild, although it became rather colder at the end, with a mean monthly temperature 1.7 °C above the long-term average, placing it well within the top ten mildest Februarys in a series from 1884.

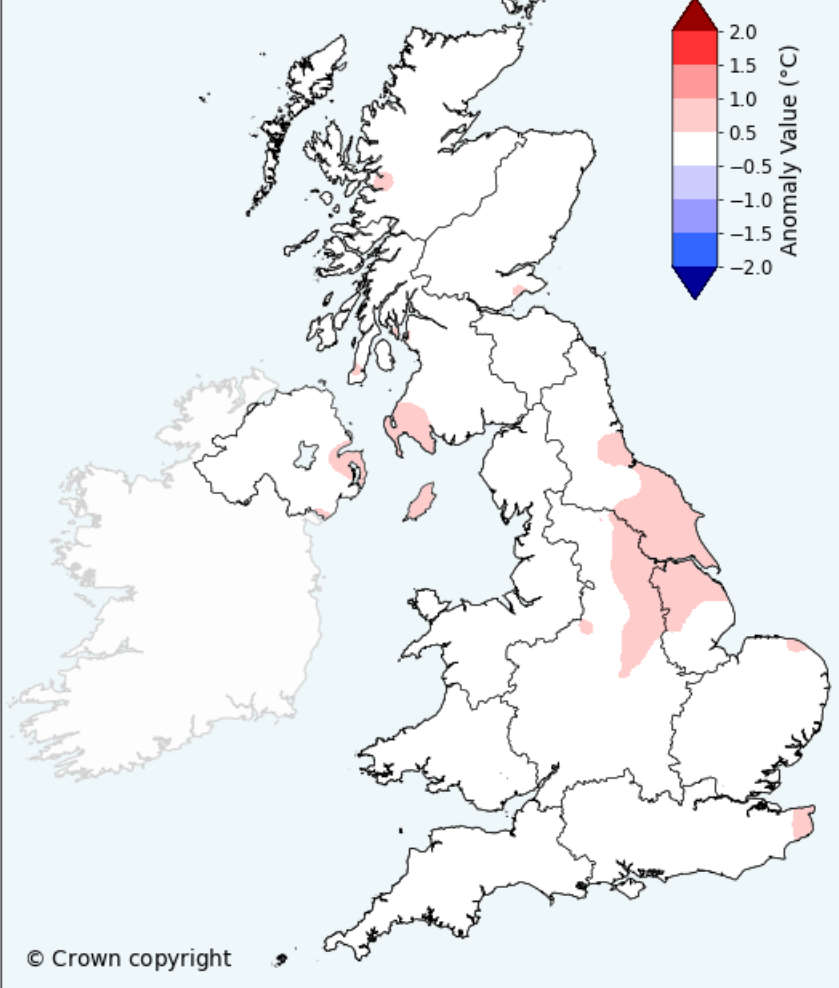
December rainfall totals were slightly below normal in many places, particularly over western Scotland, but just above normal in eastern Scotland and southern England, giving an overall UK figure of 87% of average. Most of January's rainfall came during the first half of the month, and overall it was a near-average month with 103% of average UK rainfall in total. Rainfall was well below average in February away from north-west Scotland, with only 45% of average, the driest February since 1993.

December was sunnier than average except in north-eastern areas. January was particularly sunny relative to average, with only north-west Scotland being duller than normal. Sunshine totals for the UK overall were 116% of average in December and 133% of average in January, with England having its second sunniest January in a series from 1919. February was brighter than average for much of England and Wales, but duller further north, with 98% of normal sunshine overall.

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value is 4.3 °C, which is 0.2 °C above the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total is 280 mm, which is 81% of the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total is 183 hours, which is 113% of the 1991-2020 average.

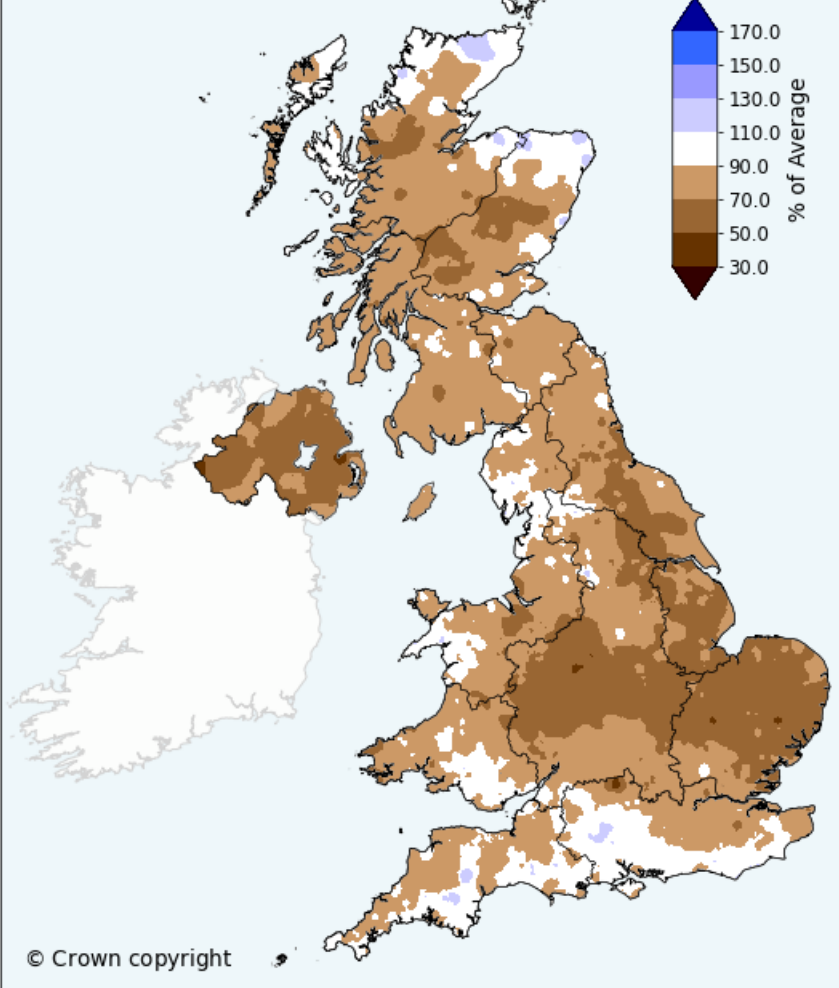
 **Met Office**

Winter 2023
Mean Temperature
1991-2020 Anomaly



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Winter 2023
Rainfall Amount
% of 1991-2020 Average



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Winter 2023
Sunshine Duration
% of 1991-2020 Average

