

August 2022

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1991-2020.

The weather during August was dominated by high pressure during the first half of the month, and the second week became very hot. The high pressure eventually moved away to leave more showery conditions, with thunderstorms in places on some days, though the final week was drier once more. It was another drier than average month, and there was plenty of sunshine, especially early on.

The provisional UK mean temperature was 16.7 °C, which is 1.5 °C above the long-term average. It was warmest relative to average in eastern and southern England, particularly for maxima which were up to 4 °C above average in places. It was provisionally the UK's fifth warmest August in a series from 1884. Rainfall ranged from near average to only 20% of average, with some parts of England and Wales particularly dry, though the south-east was generally not as dry as in July; the UK had 54% of average. It was a sunnier than average month in all areas except the far north-west, with an overall sunshine figure of 128% of average, making it the UK's fourth sunniest August in a series from 1919.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: A maximum temperature of 34.9 °C was recorded at Charlwood (Surrey) on the 13th. A minimum temperature of 0.3 °C was recorded at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) on the 17th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 UTC on the 17th, 146.2 mm of rain fell at Holbeach (Lincolnshire). A wind gust of 49 knots (56 mph) was recorded at South Uist (Western Isles) on the 20th.

Weather impacts

Atlantic weather fronts brought high rainfall totals to parts of North Wales, Cumbria and the West Highlands on the 1st and 2nd. The Conwy river in North Wales overtopped, leading to subsequent flooding in and around the town of Llanrwst on the 2nd.

An extended fine spell followed, with temperatures eventually rising into the low to mid 30s °C in parts of England and Wales, this hot spell being less extreme but of longer duration than July's, with a four-day-long amber extreme heat warning issued. On the 6th and 7th, wildfires were reported at several locations around London and south-east England including Woolwich, Feltham and Newbury Park. Further north both Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Services reported wildfire activity on the 12th and 13th. The London Ambulance Service saw a steep rise in heat-related calls by the 13th.

The hot spell broke down mid-month, with thunderstorms developing first across Scotland and Northern Ireland and then in parts of England. Torrential rain in Fife on the 14th led to flooding, and disruption to both roads and railways, whilst in Inverness the roof of a Tesco store partially collapsed due to heavy rain and the store was evacuated. On the 15th Truro (Cornwall) was hit by thunderstorms, with flash flooding on some roads. Then on the 16th locally severe thunderstorms affected parts of South Wales and the East Midlands, with road and property flooding in Worksop (Nottinghamshire) and Market Rasen (Lincolnshire). In Wales surface water flooding arose in Port Talbot and Swansea, with at least one shop roof leaking badly during torrential rain. On the 17th it was the turn of southern England to experience surface water flooding, with numerous roads in Greater London awash and several tube stations closed after torrential downpours. In Totton (Hampshire) the sewage pumping station was overwhelmed because of torrential rain.

After a quieter spell, thunderstorms and torrential downpours developed in a belt from Hampshire through London into Norfolk and Suffolk on the 24th. Surface water flooding caused further tube station closures and travel disruption in London. Bury St Edmunds reported multiple incidents of property flooding, as well as the closure of a Sainsbury's supermarket due to water inundation.

England diary of highlights

The month was warmer than average, though it began rather unsettled and there was a thundery breakdown mid-month after a particularly hot spell. It was rather showery for a few days after that, but the last week was drier.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 2.0 °C above the long-term average, with southern areas furthest above average, provisionally the third warmest August for England in a series from 1884. Rainfall was well below average in most places, though localised heavy downpours meant that a few places were close to average, with 47% overall. Sunshine totals were the 4th highest for August in a series from 1919, with 132% of average.

1st to 4th

Cloud over the Midlands and south-east cleared away to leave sunshine for all for a time on the 1st, but cloud increased with rain, occasionally heavy, spreading from the west into central and northern areas from late afternoon. The 2nd was cloudy for most, with rain, occasionally heavy and thundery, for the Midlands northwards, becoming lighter and patchier by the afternoon, with brighter weather for some, but rather windy as well with gusts up to 42 knots (48 mph) at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland). The south-west had early mist or fog on the 3rd, and some areas began with patchy light rain or showers, lasting into the afternoon in places, then it became brighter but the far north had a few isolated showers later. Scattered showers in the north and the south-west died away during the 4th, leaving all areas fine.

5th to 14th

The 5th brought early showery rain in the north-west, with showers then developing more widely over the northern half of England, but some sunshine too for most. Any local fog patches soon cleared on the 6th, then many areas had sunshine, but the north had a few isolated showers. The 7th was sunny in most areas but cloudier in the north. Early fog patches cleared on the 8th to leave it largely sunny and warm. The 9th began murky in parts of East Anglia but was otherwise generally sunny. Patchy mist and fog in south-eastern counties cleared early on the 10th, then all parts were sunny and very warm, with 14.6 hours of sunshine at Morecambe (Lancashire), and temperatures widely in the high 20's Celsius. The 11th was very similar, becoming sunny and very warm or hot, with 14.6 hours of sunshine at Brampton (Cumbria) and Boulmer (Northumberland), and the 12th followed the same pattern. Again any mist and fog for central and eastern counties burned away by mid-morning on the 13th, which was the hottest day of the month with a maximum temperature of 34.9 °C at Charlwood (Surrey). Sunshine and heat continued on the 14th, after an overnight minimum temperature of 21.6 °C at St Catherine's Point (Isle of Wight) and early mist and fog patches for eastern coasts, though cloud increased from the south during the afternoon.

15th to 25th

Central and north-eastern counties began fine on the 15th, with patchy rain persisting over East Anglia, while a band of rain in the west spread slowly into central and northern areas, with clusters of thunderstorms developing over south-western and eastern counties during the afternoon. The 16th was cloudier, and much cooler for some areas, the maximum temperature only 13.2 °C at Brizlee Wood (Northumberland), and showers or more persistent rain over southern coastal counties spreading slowly north, turning thundery in places, reaching the Midlands and East Anglia by early afternoon, and parts of the north-east by evening, giving 146.2 mm of rainfall at Holbeach

(Lincolnshire). Rain for northern, central and south-western counties during the morning of the 17th became lighter and more showery by the afternoon, with some thunderstorms and locally very heavy rain developing over East Anglia and the south-east from early afternoon, persisting in some south coast locations until evening. The 18th was mostly cloudy, and murky over central and southern counties in the morning, with showers or longer spells of rain affecting all parts at times, but turning brighter in the south-east later. It was somewhat brighter on the 19th, with a few showers over the north, parts of the south-east, and the south-west. The north had showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, throughout the 20th, other areas being brighter with only isolated showers. A few showers affected the Midlands at times during the 21st, with light rain or showers spreading across south-western and later southern counties. A sunny start for the Midlands, East Anglia and the south-east on the 22nd gave way to cloudier weather during the day, with showery rain spreading east to all parts, heaviest and most frequent over the north. The 23rd was rather cloudy, if brighter in places, after the clearance of any local mist or fog, with isolated showers for some central and northern counties. After a cloudy start on the 24th, with rain in parts of the north and south-west easing by lunchtime, it turned brighter for some areas, but further rain came to the south-west and the Midlands through the afternoon, turning heavy at times. The south-west was sunny on the 25th, while a band of rain from central southern counties up through the Midlands towards East Anglia and the Wash, locally heavy and thundery, spread slowly east and north, reaching parts of the north-east by lunchtime, clearing all areas by late afternoon with sunshine to follow.

26th to 31st

The 26th saw patchy fog for parts of East Anglia and the south-east until mid-morning, a few showers in the north and the south-west, but also some sunshine for many. After early mist and fog patches, there was some sunshine on the 27th, but isolated showers in places. Some isolated showers fell in the south-east on the 28th, while elsewhere cloud increased through the day, with more showers developing over the north and in the south-west. The brightest conditions were in the south-west on the 29th, with scattered showers for the north-east and parts of the Midlands. Eastern coastal counties had a few showers on the 30th, with sunny intervals elsewhere. The north-west started chilly on the 31st, down to 2.6 °C at Shap (Cumbria), a mostly fine day but for a few showers in some northern and eastern counties.

Wales diary of highlights

Much of the month was relatively settled and warm, although it was briefly unsettled to start, and a thundery spell in mid-month was followed by showery weather for a few days.

Mean temperatures for the month were provisionally 1.8 °C above the long-term average, with maxima over three degrees above average in central and southern areas, and it was the seventh warmest August on record for Wales. Rainfall was below average, with less than a third of normal in some places away from the north, giving the eighth driest August in a series from 1836, and a total of 36% of average overall. Sunshine was above average, especially in the north, with 139% of average, ranking fourth sunniest.

1st to 4th

The 1st began fine, except for a few morning showers on the south coast, but cloud increased in the afternoon with rain, occasionally heavy, spreading in from the west and becoming widespread by evening, amounting to 85.4 mm at Ysbyty-lfan Water Works (Gwynedd). Rain was heaviest in the north on the 2nd, but began to clear during the afternoon, with lighter and patchier rain or showers in other parts of the country through the day. A few showers over the south early on the 3rd cleared away to leave brighter weather. Any isolated showers, mainly in the north, moved away to leave some sunshine for many places.

5th to 13th

The 5th had showers over the north during the morning, but became brighter everywhere. After a cool start on the 6th with local mist or fog, temperatures down to 2.6 °C at Sennybridge (Powys), many areas were sunny, with 14.1 hours of sunshine at Tenby (Dyfed), and the 7th was sunny too, with 14.1 hours again at St Athan (South Glamorgan) and at Tenby. The 8th was similarly sunny, after any local mist or fog patches, with 14.1 hours of sunshine at St Athan. The 9th and 10th were sunny and increasingly warm, with further sunshine and increasing warmth on the 11th and 12th. The 13th was the hottest day of this spell, with temperatures reaching 33.8 °C at Usk (Monmouthshire).

14th to 26th

After a notably warm start, minimum temperature 21.0 °C at Aberdaron (Gwynedd), there was more sunshine for most on the 14th, but with isolated showers and thunderstorms over the north during the afternoon. The 15th was cloudier and much less hot, with widespread showers and spells of rain in all areas, and isolated thunderstorms in central and southern districts during the afternoon. It was cloudy on the 16th, with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times, over the south, these slowly spreading northwards into the afternoon, turning locally heavy in places, and thundery in the far south. After a wet start for many places on the 17th, the rain was lighter and patchy by the afternoon, eventually stopping altogether but everywhere staying rather cloudy and relatively cool, maximum temperature 15.9 °C at Sennybridge. The 18th was overcast, with patchy rain and drizzle during the morning, and bands of more significant rain crossing the country through the afternoon. The 19th was brighter with just the odd isolated shower. Winds were stronger on the 20th, gusting to 46 knots (53 mph) at Capel Curig (Gwynedd), with sunny intervals and scattered showers. The 20th was rather cloudy with scattered showers. After a bright morning in the north on the 22nd, cloud increased with showers or longer spells of rain for all during the day. It stayed cloudy on the 23rd, with patchy rain during the morning, and more persistent rain spreading into the west during the afternoon. The 24th was cloudy with bands of showers or longer spells of rain affecting all parts at times. Early cloud and rain moved away from the south-east on the 25th, to leave sunshine for all. The 26th started rather wet with bands of rain or showers in all parts, followed by a drier and brighter afternoon.

27th to 31st

The 27th was generally fine after any patchy mist and fog cleared. The 28th and 29th saw isolated showers at times, otherwise remaining dry and fine. The 30th and 31st continued dry with some sunshine.

Scotland diary of highlights

The first week was rather unsettled and windy, but it then became dry and warm, especially further south. Another unsettled spell followed from mid-month, with some thunderstorms, but the closing days were mainly dry.

Provisional monthly mean temperatures were 0.7 °C above average, with daytime temperatures up to 2 °C above average in the east and south. Rainfall was rather below average for many, especially the south-east, but near average in some places, with 68% of average overall. It was rather a sunny month except in the far north and the Northern Isles, with 115% of average sunshine.

1st to 9th

There was some sunshine on the 1st, but with isolated showers in the north-west, then cloud increased from the west later, with rain, occasionally heavy, spreading in quickly and becoming widespread by evening. The 2nd was cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain for all parts,

most frequent for central and northern areas. Showers affected all parts on the 3rd, heaviest and most frequent in the south, with the north-east seeing fewest. Early rain cleared from the north-east on the 4th, followed by sunshine and showers for all parts, the showers heaviest over the north. The 5th began fine, though cloudier over the north, with showers developing over all parts during the day. The 6th was wet, the rain heaviest and most persistent over the north, but mostly clearing further south. There were scattered showers on the 7th, though the north-east was fine until later, ahead of increasing cloud and rain by evening. Rain or showers persisted over northern areas through the 8th, while further south it remained fine. The 9th was similar, but by mid-afternoon all areas were drier and brighter.

10th to 13th

Patchy mist and fog in the south on the 10th soon burned away to leave most places warm, after a minimum of 17.0 °C at Achfary (Ross & Cromarty), and sunny, with 14.6 hours of sunshine at Dunbar (East Lothian), with just the far north cloudier with some patchy rain. The 11th was sunny and very warm too, temperatures reaching 30.0 °C at Floors Castle (Roxburghshire), but the far north and north-west remained cooler with cloud and rain. Mist and fog plagued the east coast on the 12th, cloud and patchy rain affected the far north, but most places were sunny and very warm. Many places started foggy on the 13th, the fog not clearing until late morning in some parts, and persisting around the coasts, but again it became generally sunny and very warm, except for the Northern Isles which had cloud and patchy rain.

14th to 24th

After another fine start on the 14th, there was more in the way of cloud generally, and mist and fog over eastern coasts persisted through the morning, while bands of showers and thunderstorms developed over the west through the morning, spreading north and east through the day, with some also in central and southern parts in the afternoon. Mist and fog around coasts on the 15th took a while to clear in some places, while showers, thunderstorms and longer spells of rain affected all parts through the day, with 54.6 mm of rainfall at Strathallan (Perthshire). Eastern areas began wet on the 16th, the rain turning more showery in nature through the day, and showers developing over other areas during the afternoon; the north was cooler, with temperatures reaching only 10.7 °C at Lerwick (Shetland Islands). Some rural spots in the north started chilly on the 17th, down to 0.3 °C at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire), with a cloudy morning seeing patchy light rain here and there, brighter and drier for a time in the afternoon before cloud increased again from the west with rain into westernmost counties by evening. The 18th was cloudy, with rain or showers in all areas at times, and heavier showers and thunderstorms over the south-west in the evening. Most areas were cloudy and breezy on the 19th with showers, heaviest and most frequent over the north and west. The 20th was wet and windy, with gusts to 49 knots (56 mph) at South Uist (Western Isles), while widespread and occasionally heavy rain during the morning cleared from the west but lingered over the Borders, allowing brighter weather for a time before further showers or longer spells of rain spread into the north and west. The 21st was showery in the west and north, but brighter elsewhere. The 22nd was cloudy and wet with showers or longer spells of rain, especially over central and southern parts, but drier further north. There were showers on the 23rd, with more persistent rain and drizzle over central and southern counties. The 24th began wet, with widespread rain, heavy in places, clearing away north and east; the afternoon gradually turned drier and brighter, but more showers or longer spells of rain spread into the Western Isles later.

25th to 31st

The 25th brought a few showers to the west and north, while cloud bubbled up more widely into the afternoon but dissolved again by the end of the day. There were showers or longer spells of rain from the Cairngorms southwards on the 26th, and a few showers over the north-east late in

the day. There was some sunshine on the 27th, but showery rain spread into the west in the afternoon. The 28th was mostly cloudy with scattered showers, and the 29th was similar with the showers heaviest and most frequent through northern and central counties. The 30th was rather cloudy, with a few showers for central and southern parts. Cloud persisted over the north-east on the 31st, but other areas were brighter.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The month began rather wet and windy, but soon began to settle down, becoming very warm in the second week. After a mid-month thundery breakdown it was cooler and showery, but the end of the month was quieter.

The mean temperature for the month was 1.1 °C above average, with daytime temperatures well above normal. The month was both drier and sunnier than average, with 45% of average rainfall and 139% of average sunshine. This makes it provisionally the 8th warmest and 5th sunniest August on record for the Province (in series from 1884 and 1919 respectively).

1st to 7th

The 1st began fine, but cloud and rain swiftly spread from the west around midday, becoming widespread and occasionally heavy, with 18.5 mm of rainfall at Belfast Newforge (County Down), then clearing away east into the evening. After a mild start, minimum temperature 16.9 °C at Armagh (County Armagh), the 2nd was cloudy at times, and breezy with a gust of 40 knots (46 mph) at Magilligan (County Londonderry), with isolated showers. The 3rd was cloudy, breezy, and showery at times, with the showers becoming widespread and locally heavy and more general rain reaching the north-west by evening.

8th to 13th

The next four days were typified by sunshine and scattered showers, though the afternoon of the 5th became drier, and there was less sunshine on the 6th and 7th. Any local mist or fog soon cleared on the 8th, leaving a bright day but with more cloud in the north by late afternoon. The 9th saw some sunshine too. Any patchy mist and fog over the west on the 10th soon went, leaving a sunny and warm day, with 14.0 hours of sunshine at Aldergrove (County Antrim), and the 11th followed a very similar pattern. Mist and fog were more widespread and slower to clear on the 12th, but it became another sunny and hot day. Again, patchy mist and fog cleared during the morning of the 13th, leaving another sunny and very warm day, temperatures reaching 28.8 °C at Armagh (County Armagh).

14th to 22nd

The 14th was much cloudier, and less hot, with bands of showers and scattered thunderstorms moving across through the day. The 15th was cloudy, and misty around coasts, with showers or longer spells of rain for all areas, although the showers became more isolated during the afternoon; northern parts especially were cooler with maximum temperatures of 13.9 °C at Ballypatrick and Altnahinch (County Antrim). There were isolated showers on the morning of the 16th, with cloud breaking up through the day leaving a brighter afternoon. The 17th was mostly cloudy with patchy light rain, any sunshine in the west fading from mid-afternoon with rain arriving there by evening. There was rain at times for many areas on the morning of the 18th, becoming brighter by the afternoon but with showers developing, becoming widespread and locally heavy. Showers on the 19th became more widespread and heavier into the afternoon, before clearing away by teatime. Rain over central and southern parts, heavy at times, moved slowly south-eastwards, lingering over the south for much of the 20th, with the north windy but turning brighter. The 21st started with sunshine and scattered showers, followed by a cloudier but dry afternoon. A wet morning on the 22nd, the rain heaviest in central and southern counties, gave way to a cloudy afternoon with scattered showers.

23rd to 31st

The 23rd saw further scattered showers and some brightness. After a bright morning on the 24th, the afternoon was cloudy with a few showers. Early sunshine on the 25th again gave way to showers by the afternoon, isolated at first but becoming more widespread and merging into longer spells of rain in places. Light showers and patchy rain on the morning of the 26th preceded a drier and brighter afternoon. After a cool night, minimum temperature 3.1 °C at Katesbridge (County Down), the 27th brought some sunshine, but also one or two showers in the morning, and more cloud and showers through the afternoon. The 28th was cloudy with showery rain, especially towards the south, but with isolated thunderstorms over the north in the afternoon. The final three days saw some sunshine, with isolated showers on the 29th and 30th, the 31st staying dry.