

2022 Month by Month Impacts

| | <u>Weather impacts</u> | <u>In the news</u> |
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| <u>January</u> | <p>The weather at the beginning of the month was very mild, with a strong south-westerly flow, but from the 4th it was colder with night frosts, especially in England and Wales, before turning milder again around mid-month and in the final few days. The first ten days were rather unsettled, but then there was a long dry spell, with rain towards the end of the month mostly confined to western Scotland.</p> | <p>The UK began 2022 still in the midst of the first Omicron coronavirus wave, with many having had what they hoped would be their first COVID-free Christmas in two years scuppered by cases.</p> <p>But despite infections still being high, ministers reduced the legal isolation period from seven days to five on 17 January - and three days later removed the legal requirement to wear a face mask on public transport and guidance to work from home where possible.</p> <p>The investigation into lockdown-breaking parties in Westminster carried out by senior civil servant Sue Gray was delayed by the Met Police's own investigation.</p> <p>An initial excerpt was published on 31 January, which forced then-prime minister Boris Johnson to apologise for breaking his own rules.</p> |
| <u>February</u> | <p>The weather at the beginning of the month was quite settled and mild, but it soon became much more unsettled, with a succession of depressions bringing rain across much of the country, and a particularly stormy spell between the 16th and the 21st which included three named storms. It remained mostly mild, however, especially in southern areas, with few frosts.</p> | <p>The Queen tested positive for coronavirus, with Buckingham Palace saying she suffered "mild cold-like symptoms". In a video call to COVID bereaved families later in the year, she admitted it "leaves one very tired and exhausted".</p> <p>On 24 February, Boris Johnson removed all remaining coronavirus restrictions in England, declaring it was time to start "living with COVID". It meant people were no longer legally required to isolate after contracting the virus and the end to universal free testing.</p> <p>On the same day, Vladimir Putin's troops crossed the border from Belarus into Ukraine as part of what he called a "special military operation".</p> <p>The UK, US, EU and others condemned the war, quickly imposing sanctions and offering military support.</p> |

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| <u>March</u> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weather impacts</u></p> <p>The weather during the first half of the month was rather unsettled, and the first week was cold. The second week was milder, and after mid-month there were some notably mild days but cold frosty nights as high pressure took control with plenty of sunshine. The last four days were rather less settled and noticeably colder.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>In the news</u></p> <p>The Kremlin's hopes of storming Kyiv and claiming a swift victory were dashed as Ukrainian troops held firm. Despite suffering horrendous losses, citizens remained defiant, with many women and children trying to flee to other countries.</p> <p>In the UK, economic sanctions were imposed on all Russian assets, including Chelsea Football Club - owned by oligarch and close friend of Mr Putin, Roman Abramovich.</p> <p>In March this year, just as energy bills were set to soar, an estimated 6.7m people were already using a food bank or food charity to help them eat. What's striking about the huge increase in food banks is that it has largely coincided with a massive rise in employment.</p> <p>"One of the reasons why the current cost-of-living crisis is so painful for families," says Mike Brewer, chief economist at the Resolution Foundation, is that their pay packets "have failed to grow at all in real terms over the course of the 2010s".</p> <p>On 17 March, after six years in a Tehran prison, Iranian-British dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe returned home to the UK. She was accompanied by fellow detainee Anoosheh Ashoori, who had been held since 2017. Emotional pictures of her being reunited with her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella were followed by claims she was made to sign a false confession in the presence of British government officials.</p> |
| | <u>April</u> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weather impacts</u></p> <p>The weather during the early part of April was rather unsettled, especially during the 3rd - 6th. The first ten days were also rather cold, although it became warmer than average through the middle part of the month. Towards mid-month it became more settled generally, with high pressure in charge for much of the rest of the month, though much of the final week was rather cooler. Clear skies ensured that sunshine totals were above average in many areas, but there were more air frosts than average.</p> |

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| <u>May</u> | <u>Weather impacts</u> | <u>In the news</u> |
| | The weather during much of May was mostly quiet and uneventful, rather unsettled and showery for much of the time but with a few warmer and brighter days. Temperatures were mostly above average, especially by night, but the latter part of the month was cooler. There were thunderstorms on several days during the month, mainly for England and Northern Ireland. North-western areas of the UK had a wet month, though some areas of England and Wales were slightly drier than average. Sunshine totals were below average in many areas, especially towards the north-west. | <p>On 9 May, the Queen missed the state opening of parliament for only the third time during her reign. She didn't do it 1959 and 1963 on the advice of her doctors as she was pregnant with Prince Andrew and Edward. Prince Charles took her place due to the mobility problems she had been experiencing since the autumn.</p> <p>The long-awaited Sue Gray report into lockdown gatherings in Downing Street was finally published in full. It contained damning revelations about parties where civil servants were so drunk they were sick and broke the prime minister's son's swing.</p> |
| <u>June</u> | <u>Weather impacts</u> | <u>In the news</u> |
| | The weather during much of June was mostly quiet and uneventful, though with a warm spell in mid-month which peaked on the 17th giving the warmest day of the year so far. It was showery at times, especially just after the warm spell and again in the closing days of the month. | <p>Britons got a long Bank Holiday weekend from 2 to 5 June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen played herself in a skit with Paddington Bear in which she admitted to hiding marmalade sandwiches in her handbag - to the nation's delight. Concerns for her health were fuelled after she had to pull out of the Buckingham Palace pop concert and other events because of her mobility issues.</p> <p>On 7 June, the prime minister narrowly survived a no confidence vote over the findings of the Sue Gray report in the Commons.</p> <p>People struggling with the soaring cost of living were cutting back on food and car journeys to save money, according to a BBC-commissioned survey in June 2022. More than half (56%) of the 4,011 people asked had bought fewer groceries, and the same proportion had skipped meals. Many people have cut spending on clothes and socialising too.</p> |
| <u>July</u> | <u>Weather impacts</u> | <u>In the news</u> |
| | The weather during July was dominated by dry spells and generally above-average temperatures. The south-east was particularly dry. Record-breaking temperatures were recorded on the 18th and 19th. | <p>As summer got underway in the UK, it was plagued by blistering temperatures and travel chaos. The heatwave saw temperatures surpass 40C (104F) for the first time on 19 July.</p> <p>As airlines struggled to cope with staff vacancies from the pandemic, thousands of flights were cancelled, causing holiday chaos for families.</p> <p>On 3 July, two further allegations of sexual assault emerged against Conservative deputy chief whip Chris Pincher. When it transpired concerns about his behaviour had been reported to Downing Street before and seemingly ignored, it triggered a huge backlash within the Tory Party. Already furious over his involvement in lockdown parties, momentum against Boris Johnson finally grew to the point of no return and on the 7th of July he appeared outside Number 10 to announce his resignation.</p> |

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| | | <p>July was the month that England got behind its Lionesses at the European Championships, and football came home at Wembley with a 2-1 win over Germany.</p> |
| <p><u>August</u></p> | <p><u>Weather impacts</u></p> | <p><u>In the news</u></p> |
| | <p>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.</p> | <p>As Britain's parks and fields remained scorched brown from the heatwave, monster wildfires raged across Europe. A report later found more than 5,000 square miles had been burnt.</p> <p>UK inflation rises above 10% for the first time in 40 years, driven by soaring prices for food and fuel as households come under mounting pressure from the cost of living crisis. The biggest increases came for bread and cereals, dairy, meat and vegetables, with the rising cost of food leading to record increases for restaurant and hotel prices and pushing up the cost of takeaways.</p> <p>The month ended with outgoing prime minister Boris Johnson travelling to Kyiv to meet his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy.</p> |
| <p><u>September</u></p> | <p><u>Weather impacts</u></p> | <p><u>In the news</u></p> |
| | <p>The first part of September was warm, though it soon became unsettled in most regions. After the 12th it became cooler and more autumnal, and the last few days were particularly cool, with frosts in prone locations. It was generally drier around mid-month, but more showery again later, and the last day of the month was wet for most areas.</p> | <p>September was arguably the biggest month in news the UK has seen in decades.</p> <p>It started with Liz Truss beating Rishi Sunak to become prime minister and Conservative leader on 5 September. Mr Sunak kept a low profile after his defeat - 43% to Ms Truss's 57% - only to replace her as leader seven weeks later.</p> <p>On 8 September, business in the Commons was interrupted by Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle announcing the Queen's doctors were "concerned for her health" and she was "under medical supervision" at Balmoral. Party leaders swiftly left the chamber and after hours of speculation, at around 6.30pm it was announced the Queen had died.</p> <p>Flags dropped to half mast, not just in the UK, but around the world, and a period of national mourning was declared as King Charles's reign began. People queued throughout the day and night to observe Her Majesty's coffin. The funeral took place on 20 September.</p> <p>As day-to-day life returned to normal, just three days later the new PM Liz Truss and her chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng revealed their "plan for growth". The mini-budget, as it became known, included a new price cap on energy, and huge tax cuts, but didn't include a forecast of how the £45bn would be funded from the Office for Budget Responsibility.</p> |

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| | | The Bank of England had to make an unprecedented intervention after it sent the pound and pension markets plummeting - and mortgage rates soaring. |
| <u>October</u> | Weather impacts | In the news |
| | Most of October was warmer than average, though the second week was rather cooler, and the last ten days were especially mild relative to average, with a notable lack of frosts. At the same time, the month was predominantly unsettled in most regions, with no dry spells longer than a couple of days. However, sunshine was above average for most of the country, especially central and eastern areas. | <p>The mini-budget triggered a general lack of economic confidence in October, exacerbating the cost of living crisis that began earlier in the year and sending inflation to a record high of 11.1%. Mortgage rates became almost unaffordable and house sales and purchases fell through.</p> <p>On 3 October, the chancellor U-turned on one of his most controversial mini budget measures - a tax cut for the wealthiest 1%.</p> <p>On 15 October, Kwasi Kwarteng's flight back from the US appeared to be delayed as rumours of his imminent sacking swirled. He resigned later that day after just 38 days in the job.</p> <p>When former health secretary Jeremy Hunt was appointed as his replacement, he quickly U-turned on almost all of the mini-budget measures. Five days later, Liz Truss appeared outside Downing Street to resign - making her the shortest-serving PM in history. After another five days, her former leadership rival Rishi Sunak replaced her.</p> |
| <u>November</u> | Weather impacts | In the news |
| | Most of November was warmer than average, with fewer frosts than average, though it became colder at times towards the end. The month was predominantly unsettled in most regions, with no dry spells longer than three or four days. Sunshine was broadly close to average across the country, albeit with some regional variations. | <p>November began with the bizarre news that former health secretary Matt Hancock had signed up to be on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here! He had the Conservative Party whip suspended as a result, but said he "hadn't lost his marbles" and wanted to show that politicians are "real people". After suffering countless bushtucker trials and tense encounters about his handling of the pandemic with his campmates, he finished third and later announced he would be stepping down at the next election.</p> <p>On the same day in the UK, a coroner ruled that a two-year-old boy called Awaab Ishak had died of the effects of damp and mould in his family's flat in Rochdale. Politicians described it as a "defining moment" and "wake-up call" to improve social housing conditions.</p> <p>The following day, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt unveiled his delayed autumn statement.</p> <p>The FIFA World Cup kicked off in Qatar.</p> |

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| <u>December</u> | <p>This month was colder than average overall, the only month in 2022 for which this was the case, with a very cold and frosty spell until the 17th only being partly offset by milder weather thereafter. Rainfall was limited during the cold spell, but from the 18th there was much more rain, bringing the total rainfall for the month almost up to the long-term monthly average. Sunshine was above average for most parts of the country.</p> | <p>Three years of China's strict zero COVID policy culminated in rare protests across the country in December.</p> <p>In Qatar, England were knocked out of the World Cup by France, who ultimately lost to Argentina in the final.</p> <p>And in the US, scientists carried out the first ever nuclear fusion experiment to achieve a net energy gain, paving the way for a "clean energy source that could revolutionise the world".</p> <p>Snow fell across the UK, which compounded by strikes across travel, the NHS and postal service, caused chaos.</p> |

Sources: The Met Office/Sky News/BBC News/Guardian