2025 Month by Month Impacts

	Weather impacts	In the news
January	• **Storm Eowyn, the strongest UK storm for 10 years, brought strong winds and heavy rain to Northern Ireland, Scotland and northern England, with widespread travel disruption, closure of schools and loss of power.** • **Prolonged rainfall in southern England at the end of the month led to flooding.** January started with flooding before a cold spell moved in and there was appreciable snowfall in places. The cold then gave way to quieter, milder conditions either side of mid-month. The final third was much more unsettled and included a powerful storm, Eowyn. Temperatures were below the 1991-2020 average with much of Scotland and Northern Ireland drier than average, while much of England and Wales saw near or above average rainfall. Arctic air early in the month, combined with anticyclonic conditions mid-month, helped make it a relatively sunny month for many areas.	In the UK attention was focused on the economy as energy price cap changes, increases in bus fare, and the introduction of VAT on private school fees took effect. Internationally, Prime Minister Keir Starmer strengthened ties with Ukraine through a new long-term partnership agreement. A ceasefire came into effect in Gaza after months of conflict, allowing humanitarian aid to reach civilians, while fighting in Ukraine continued into a fourth year. In the United States, Donald Trump was inaugurated for a second, non-consecutive term as president. January was also marked by catastrophic wildfires in California, which became one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history, and continued evidence of record-breaking global temperatures linked to climate change.
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February	• **Strong winds and heavy rain on the 19th saw loss of power in some areas of Northern Ireland and travel disruption across southwest England.** • **Heavy rain in Wales on the 23rd and 24th led to flooding and travel disruption.** February was a quiet month with relatively little in the way of impactful weather, largely due to an extended period of anticyclonic conditions between the 6th and 19th. Spells of more changeable weather bookended the settled period, but there were no named storms and just a single amber warning issued for rain. Temperatures across the UK balanced out at or a little above the long-term average, with the first half of the month cooler than average and the second half milder as the airflow veered round from southeasterly to southerly/southwesterly. The anticyclonic influence made for a drier than average month, especially across northern Wales, northern England and central and northern parts of Scotland. Sunshine, however, was in relatively short supply except across northern Scotland, the continental airflow during the more settled period bringing with it extensive areas of low cloud.	In the UK foreign policy and defence dominated the headlines as debates intensified over Ukraine and European security amid uncertainty over the United States' future role. Sir Keir Starmer publicly backed President Volodymyr Zelensky following criticism from Donald Trump. Domestically, Labour faced controversy after several MPs and councillors were suspended over leaked WhatsApp messages, while discussions continued around public spending, local government reform and economic pressures. International attention focused on heightened tensions surrounding Ukraine after a highly public disagreement between President Trump and President Zelenskyy, raising concerns about future Western support for Kyiv. In Africa, Rwanda-backed M23 rebels expanded their offensive in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, increasing fears of a wider regional conflict. Meanwhile, Germany's federal election saw its strongest far-right result since the Second World War, highlighting broader political shifts across Europe.

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March	• **Fog in some areas of England on the 5th, 9th, 26th and 27th led to warnings, but few impacts.** • **The dry month may have contributed to wildfires, with significant blazes reported in south Wales, north Wales, and smaller blazes in Northern Ireland and western Scotland.** March saw predominantly settled, non-impactful weather. Severe weather warnings were few and far between, and all fell in the low impact column. Most were for fog, both early and again later in the month when high pressure was dominant. The dryness of the month was perhaps emphasised by the relative frequency of wildfires, though in some of these instances ignition was likely to have been the result of human involvement.	In the UK the most dramatic story of the month was the temporary closure of Heathrow Airport following a major fire that disrupted flights and travel plans worldwide. Economic issues also remained prominent as government borrowing figures exceeded expectations ahead of the Spring Statement. Meanwhile, the government announced significant rail investment in northern England, and political debate intensified around sentencing guidance and public services. Governments across Europe debated defence spending and support for Ukraine, while discussions about peace negotiations intensified. Global markets remained sensitive to political developments in Washington, Beijing and Moscow. International institutions also grappled with ongoing humanitarian crises in Sudan, Gaza and parts of sub-Saharan Africa.
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April	• **Extensive wildfires in the forests of Galloway, southwest Scotland between the 3rd and 7th led to the precautionary evacuation of people from local properties.** • **Northern Ireland fire and rescue service also experienced reports of numerous wildfires mid-month.** The extended spell of dry weather raised the wildfire risk, and outbreaks were reported from a range of locations across the UK during this period, the main focus being across Northern Ireland, southwest Scotland and Wales. In terms of the sheer numbers of fires, the fire and rescue service of Northern Ireland reported on the 9th that as many as 214 calls had been received relating to wildfires within a five-day period, with up to 146 gorse fires reported from within the Mourne Mountains area in just three days. The mid and west Wales Fire and Rescue Service reportedly logged 192 wildfire-related calls in the week to the 11th. The weather pattern changed on the 13th as Atlantic weather fronts displaced the high pressure away to the east, ushering in a more changeable period of weather. Heavy rain and thunderstorms affected parts of southwest England and south Wales on the 15th and overnight into the 16th with several roads in Devon closed by a mixture of excess surface water, fallen trees and downed power cables. Further heavy rain affected southwest England, south Wales and parts of Northern Ireland on the 18th but with very little in the way of impacts.	UK politics was dominated by the government's intervention to save the Scunthorpe British Steel plant, with Parliament recalled to pass emergency legislation allowing ministers to take control of operations. The Supreme Court's ruling that reinforced a biological definition of "woman" for legal purposes also generated intense public and political debate. International tensions surfaced when British MPs were denied entry to both Israel and Hong Kong. One of the defining moments of the year occurred during this month when Pope Francis died after a 12-year papacy, prompting global mourning and tributes from political and religious leaders worldwide. At the same time, conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and the Red Sea continued to generate international concern. China conducted major military exercises around Taiwan, reinforcing tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

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May	• **Dry weather led to wildfires across Dartmoor, north Wales and Northern Ireland in early May.** • **Thunderstorms between the 10th and 13th led to hail and some reports of lightning damage to homes in England.** • **The accumulated deficit of rain across parts of northwest England triggered a drought declaration by the Environment Agency on the 21st.** May continued the theme of spring, in that much of the UK enjoyed a drier, sunnier and warmer month than average. Up to and including the 22nd, largely fine, dry and warm conditions held sway with only the odd brief interruption across the southwestern portion of the UK. On the 23rd, however, the Atlantic, becalmed for weeks on end, finally broke through and returned the UK to a much more changeable regime for the remainder of the month. Despite the final week of relatively unsettled and cooler weather, the month overall was once again warmer and sunnier than average, contributing to the sunniest and warmest spring on record. Mean temperatures for spring were just ahead of the previous record of 2024, whilst the record sunshine hours surpassed those of the Covid spring of 2020.	Local elections in England reshaped the political landscape, with Reform UK making major gains across England and emerging as a significant force in local government. The Conservatives suffered heavy losses, while the Liberal Democrats also advanced. In transport, South Western Railway became the first rail operator to be brought into public ownership under Labour's rail reform plans, marking a significant policy milestone. Following the death of Pope Francis, Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected as Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first American pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Elsewhere, measles outbreaks expanded across parts of North America, public health authorities monitored rising disease transmission, and the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria continued to produce humanitarian challenges.
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June	• **Severe thunderstorms on the 13th/14th and the 21st led to surface water flooding and damage from lightning strikes.** • **Areas of southern, central and eastern England saw high temperatures towards the end of the month, with temperatures exceeding 30C in some places.** June 2025 was England's warmest June on record and the UK's second warmest. The month opened with ten days of below average temperatures, but soon warmed up to above average, with 30C subsequently exceeded on several occasions in parts of central, southern and eastern England. After the very dry spring, a sequence of Atlantic weather systems in the early part of the month, combined with occasional thundery breakdowns, thereafter, resulted in near or above average rainfall for much of western England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.	England during June was characterised by the political fallout from May's local election results. Analysts focused on the rise of Reform UK, questions about Labour's popularity after nearly a year in office, and debate over welfare reform, taxation and public spending. Wider discussion also continued around assisted-dying legislation in Scotland and long-term constitutional and social policy issues. Political violence in the United States made headlines following the killing of Minnesota state legislator Melissa Hortman and her husband. Internationally, attention remained focused on major conflicts, energy security and the impact of shifting alliances under the Trump administration. Economic growth slowed in many advanced economies as governments balanced inflation control with public spending demands.

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July	• **Heavy downpours, some thundery, led to surface water flooding.** • **The combination of prolonged dry weather and heat mid-month in some areas led to wildfires and damage to railway lines.** July was warmer than average but offered more changeable weather than previous months. The opening day saw the highest temperature of the month with 35.8C recorded at Faversham, Kent. There followed about a week of changeable, westerly conditions before the next pronounced period of hot temperatures developed between the 9th and 14th as high pressure built across the UK. The heat left behind a legacy of warm, humid air which was conducive to heavy showers and thunderstorms. Two amber warnings, one for thunderstorms and a second for rain, were issued on the 18th and 20th respectively. The last ten days of the month saw relatively benign west to northwesterly conditions. Wales and southwest England had a relatively dry month whilst Scotland saw near average rainfall. The higher frequency of thundery downpours in Kent led to a much wetter than average month for the county.	The summer brought renewed concern over the cost of living and public services in the UK. National political debate focused increasingly on migration, economic growth and public finances. Across the country, stories about NHS pressures, transport, hospitality and local economies reflected ongoing concerns about living standards and growth prospects during the Labour government's first full year in power. Conflict and diplomacy continued to shape world affairs. Border clashes between Cambodia and Thailand escalated into the most serious confrontation between the two countries in decades, while international efforts to contain regional instability intensified. Climate-related disasters, heatwaves and extreme weather events continued to affect multiple continents, reinforcing concerns ahead of major climate negotiations later in the year.
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August	• **The sixth named storm of the season, Storm Floris, brought heavy rain and strong winds to northern Scotland on the 4th.** • **Wildfires in North Yorkshire and Dorset were declared as Major Incidents mid-month.** • **Heavy rain caused flooding across the southwest and south England on the 29th and 29th.** August was warmer than average, and along with above-average temperatures in June and July led to summer 2025 being the warmest summer on record. Away from western Scotland, it was a predominantly dry month, especially across parts of the Midlands. The month was bookended by periods of unsettled weather, most notably during the first week when Storm Floris whipped through northern Scotland on the 4th, bringing unusually strong winds for early August and a raft of impacts. The main period of warmth was focussed between the 10th and 18th, which was also the driest part of the month. The warmth also briefly reappeared in time for the August Bank Holiday on the 25th.	Migration became one of the dominant political issues of the summer in the UK. Public debate intensified around asylum accommodation, Channel crossings and proposals for returning failed asylum seekers. The government pursued new agreements with overseas partners to speed up returns, while protests and demonstrations linked to migration policy generated significant media attention. The global spotlight remained on Ukraine and international trade during August. President Trump ordered the deployment of U.S. nuclear submarines near Russia amid escalating rhetoric over the war. New U.S. tariffs affecting more than 90 countries came into force, increasing concerns about global trade tensions and economic fragmentation. Humanitarian conditions in Gaza also remained a major international concern, with several countries increasing aid efforts.

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September	• **Widespread and occasionally heavy rain throughout the month brought surface water flooding to various areas.** • **Strong winds impacted central England and Wales mid-month, resulting in fallen trees and disrupted traffic.** September brought an end to the run of warmer-than-average and predominantly drier-than average months, and it was the first month since January that the overall mean temperature for the UK has been below average. A much more progressive weather pattern meant that unsettled spells featured more prominently than in previous months, but this allowed the large deficit in reservoir and river levels, built up over the spring and summer months, to begin to reduce. Rainfall was a regular occurrence over the first three weeks of the month, and the only proper dry spell occurred from the 21st to the 26th. Overall, it was appreciably wetter than average across northern England and Northern Ireland, together with much of Wales and southwest England, whilst the eastern fringes of the UK were at least able to boast sunnier than average skies, given the predominantly westerly to southwesterly airflow.	Technology and security featured prominently in the UK headlines this month. The government announced that AI-assisted fraud detection tools had helped recover substantial sums of public money. Political rows continued over UK-US trade relations, steel tariffs and the Middle East. There was also renewed attention on Southport a year after the fatal knife attack that had shocked the nation in 2024, with senior royals meeting affected families. Global headlines during September saw continuing diplomatic manoeuvring over Ukraine, Gaza and global trade. Governments increasingly focused on economic resilience, energy security and artificial intelligence regulation. International organisations warned that humanitarian crises in Sudan, Gaza and parts of Africa remained among the world's most urgent challenges despite competing geopolitical priorities.
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October	• **The first named storm of the 2025/2026 season, Storm Amy, brought strong winds and heavy rain to Northern Ireland, Scotland and northern England, causing disruption to rail and ferry services and closure of roads.** • **Heavy rain and strong winds towards the end of the month caused further flooding and travel disruption along the south coast.** October saw settled and unsettled weather in almost equal measure with a fortnight of quiet, anticyclonic weather between the 5th and 18th bookended by a very unsettled start which included the first named storm of the 2025/2026 season, Storm Amy, and an unsettled final 12 days. Overall rainfall ranged from above average in Northern Ireland to near or below average across much of England and Wales. Almost all of the UK had a warmer than average month, mainly as a result of above average temperatures overnight and extensive cloudiness that prevailed during the settled phase in the weather. Unsurprisingly the month was also appreciably duller than average, particularly across Northern Ireland and some western parts of England and Wales where less than 50% of the average sunshine was recorded.	Attention shifted toward public finances and infrastructure in the UK during October as preparations began for the Chancellor's autumn fiscal statement. Debates about asylum spending, transport investment and regional economic development featured heavily in the news. Infrastructure announcements, including support for rail projects, reflected the government's efforts to focus on growth and regional regeneration. Major international discussions centred on relations between the United States and China, with significant high-level meetings viewed as an attempt to stabilise relations between the world's two largest economies. Continuing conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East remained unresolved, while governments increasingly focused on balancing economic competition with security concerns.

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November	• **Storm Claudia brought heavy rain to large parts of England and Wales, resulting in flooding and impacts on road transport.** • **A cold spell mid-month saw disruptive snow impact the North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds.** November was a typical month in many ways, with unsettled Atlantic weather interspersed with a notable cold snap. High pressure never really gained a foothold at any time during the month, so it was no surprise that a good part of the UK experienced wetter than average conditions, most notably in a corridor from the Midlands across to the Humber where more than double the monthly average rainfall was recorded. Airflows for the majority of the month were from between south and west, making for a mostly milder than average month, except over parts of Scotland. Sunshine totals exceeded the long-term average across much of England and Wales, particularly along the length of the Offas Dyke.	Economic issues dominated the headlines in the UK as speculation grew ahead of the Autumn Budget and updated forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility. Businesses and households closely watched the outlook for taxation, borrowing and growth. Globally, attention shifted toward economic forecasts, public finances and slowing growth in many major economies. Governments prepared for 2026 while continuing to navigate geopolitical instability, trade tensions and climate-related challenges. Global financial institutions repeatedly emphasised the interconnected risks posed by conflict, debt and slower productivity growth.
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December	• **Storm Bram brought strong winds and heavy rain to northern Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of Wales.** • **South Wales saw repeated bouts of heavy rain, resulting in disruption to train services, surface water flooding, and power outages.** The first three weeks of December brought unsettled and mild weather as a succession of Atlantic low centres and their associated weather fronts swept the UK. Within this period there was one named storm, Bram, and a couple of other notable rainfall events. Then high pressure took over just in time for Christmas and ensured a much drier and somewhat colder end to the month and year.	The final month of the year was marked by reflection on a year of political change, economic uncertainty and the continuing realignment of British politics. Reviews of 2025 highlighted Reform UK's electoral breakthroughs, Labour's first year in government after its 2024 victory, ongoing debates around migration and public services, and persistent concerns over living costs and economic performance heading into 2026. Across the globe, year-end reviews highlighted 2025 as a year marked by leadership change, conflict and geopolitical realignment. Key stories included Donald Trump's return to the White House, the election of Pope Leo XIV, ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, growing trade disputes, climate emergencies and the continuing rise of artificial intelligence as a transformative global force. Analysts described the year as one characterised by increasing uncertainty and a shifting international order.