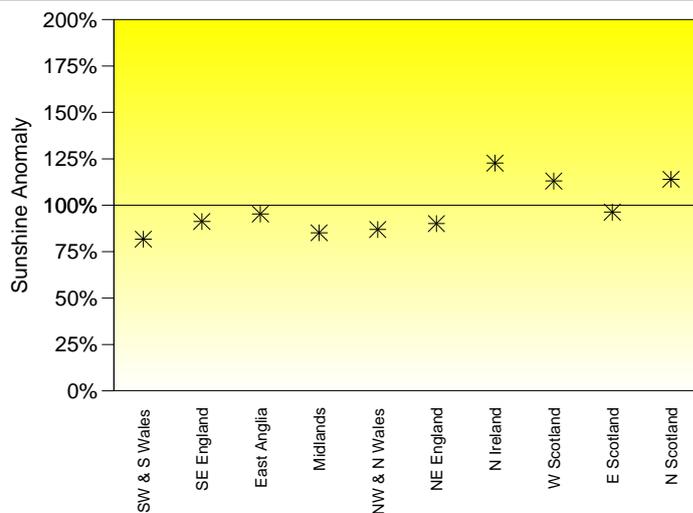
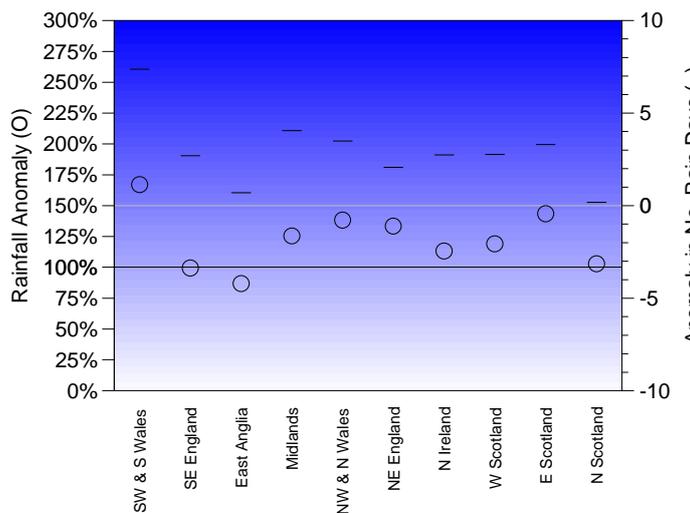


Extremes for August 2012	
Hottest:	33.4°C Leigh-on-Sea 2, Essex, 18th
Coldest:	-2.4°C Braemar No 2, Avon, 31st
Most Rain:	58.5mm Lerwick, Shetland, 22nd
Most Sun:	14.2hrs Dunstaffnage, Strathclyde, 8th
Windiest:	65mph South Uist Range, Western Isles, 27th
Warmest:	19.6°C London Olympic Park South, Greater London
Coolest:	12.5°C Fair Isle, Shetland
Wettest:	223.2mm Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway
Driest:	17.4mm Cambridge, Niab, Cambridgeshire
Sunniest:	285.7hrs Radstock, Somerset
Dullest:	89.9hrs Bala, Clwyd



Whilst still a summer month, August is usually a little cooler than July. The sun's power begins to wane towards month end, and the occasional chilly, misty morning is seen as a harbinger of autumn. August is notoriously wet and thundery, and the late Bank Holiday frequently brings a deluge, followed by a settled spell just as the school holidays draw to a close in early September.

Low pressure dominated during the first six days, gradually migrating from west of Ireland to Denmark. All areas saw a mixture of sunshine and heavy showers which were sometimes thundery. The afternoon of the 5th was particularly lively and flooding was reported from various parts of England, Wales and Scotland, although the Olympic events proceeded largely unscathed. Pressure then began to rise, and although weak fronts brought dull and damp weather to the south at first, it became increasingly sunny from the 9th as high pressure became established over Scandinavia. The dry and warm spell did not last long however; thundery showers encroached the south-west from the 12th, and a more general breakdown followed on the 13th. An unseasonably deep depression anchored mid Atlantic affected all of England and Wales on the 15th and swept bands of heavy rain northward. The low subsequently weakened allowing warm southerly air to waft in by the 17th. The next two days saw hot, humid weather in central, southern and eastern parts and 32.4°C (90°F) at Cavendish, Suffolk on the 18th. It became rather cooler from the 20th and increasingly unsettled. An Atlantic low moving across the UK on the 25th gave widespread thunderstorms and after a brief lull on the 26th, very wet and windy weather in the west. South Uist, Western Isles recorded a gust of 64mph. There was further heavy, thundery rain on the 29th and St Bees Head, Cumbria, notched up 42.6mm in 24 hours - causing a landslip which closed a nearby railway line. A ridge of high pressure formed on the 30th and brought settled but very cool conditions in a north-westerly flow. The early morning of the 31st saw record low minima for August at some stations. Cromdale, Highland recorded a sharp air frost and a minimum of -2.5°C (27°F)

Across the UK as a whole temperatures were slightly above average by virtue of the warm spells, but away from East Anglia and the south-east it was another wet month and many areas were again rather duller than usual. Thus the curtain fell on another wet and cloudy summer overall - and the weather has adversely affected many fruit, vegetable and cereal crops.

Continental Europe experienced its two hottest spells since the historic heat wave of 2003 during August. In the Balkans, all-time national temperature records were set on 7-8th in Moldova with 42.4°C (108°F) at Falesti and Montenegro on the 7th and 44.8°C (113°F) at Danilovgrad on the 8th. Wild fires raged in both Spain and Greece with several fatalities reported from the Spanish resort area of Marbella. France sweltered just after mid month and on the 18th, temperatures in Paris reached 38°C (100°F) for the first time in a decade. Montgivray (Indre) hit 42.2°C (108°F) on the 18th and Châtillon-sur-Seine (Côte-d'Or) reached 41.5°C (107°F) on the 19th. The Czech Republic hit a new all time record with 40.4°C (104.7°F) at Dobrichovice on the 20th. Blistering heat returned to the Balkan region on the 25th, and temperatures exceeded 41.1°C (106°F) at Loznica in Serbia and 40°C (104°F) in Belgrade. An intense heat wave also continued across the southern USA plains during August exacerbating an on-going drought. The temperature at Oklahoma City reached 45°C (113°F) on the 2nd - an all time record. Unusual rainstorms affected the desert southwest on the 22nd. Las Vegas, Nevada recorded its 2nd wettest day ever with 42mm causing flash flooding, whilst 103mm fell at Mid Hills RAWs in San Bernardino County, California. In stark contrast, Seattle, in the Pacific North West, received no measureable precipitation during the entire month of August. Hurricane Isaac made landfall in Louisiana on the 27th and seven storm-related deaths were reported - mostly associated with the 400-500mm rainfalls that fell along its track.

August was a very active month typhoon-wise in the Western Pacific. On the 23rd Hong Kong was struck by Kai-tak, packing winds of 87mph and going on to cause at least 27 deaths in China's neighbouring Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces. On the 29th, Typhoon Bolaven caused damage to western parts of North Korea. Hundreds of trees were felled and power supply's cut. South Korea too was affected with 15 people killed and almost two million left without power. A flood engulfed Manila in the Philippines during the first week in August. Up to 1000 mm (1m!) of rain was reported in Quezon City and more than a quarter of a million residents were evacuated from their homes as Manila's streets were turned into lakes.

In Africa during August, at least 33 people were killed by heavy flooding in central Nigeria's Plateau state in the days leading up to the 15th. More than 12,000 people were affected in six districts and floods swamped homes and washed away roads. By the 26th flooding in Niger had killed 65 people, destroyed 10,000 property's and left 125,000 homeless. A rare fall of snow came to parts of South Africa including the capital Pretoria and Johannesburg on the 10th. Meanwhile the coldest temperature in the world during August was a numbing -80.0°C (-112.0°F) recorded at Vostok, Antarctica on the 7th.