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SUMMER 2026

SEASONAL CLIMATE SUMMARY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Summer 2026 was exceptional for the persistence of warmth rather than for extreme temperatures. The mean temperature of 16.4°C was 1.6°C above the climatological mean* and was the warmest summer since records began**. It surpassed the previous record of 16.0°C set in 2025, giving the Isle of Man its two warmest summers on record in consecutive years.

Both daytime and overnight temperatures contributed to the exceptional warmth. The mean maximum temperature of 19.4°C was the second highest on record, while the mean minimum temperature of 13.4°C was highest on record. However, the highest temperature reached only 27.6°C, illustrating that the summer's exceptional character came from sustained warmth rather than exceptional heat extremes.

The summer was also notably dry and sunny overall. Rainfall totalled 138.1 mm, 28% below average, with 35 rain days and 24 wet days. A 24-day meteorological absolute drought ranks fourth longest in summer records. Sunshine totalled 664.8 hours, 12% above average. The seasonal figures mask a marked contrast between months: June was wetter and duller than average, while July was exceptionally dry and sunny, with only 2.0 mm of rain and 291.9 hours of sunshine.

In contrast, mean wind speed was very close to normal, although strong wind extremes were notably limited. Overall, Summer 2026 can be characterised as a warm, dry, sunny and relatively settled summer, with the most striking feature being the persistence of unusually high temperatures.



Summer 2026 ranks as the warmest summer on record with the warmest nights and second warmest daytime averages

**A climatological average is calculated over a 30-year period (1991-2020), the international standard in climate research and is updated every decade.*

*** Most Isle of Man meteorological records date from 1947, when observations began at Ronaldsway.*

TEMPERATURE

Temperature was the defining feature of Summer 2026. The summer mean temperature was 16.4°C, 1.6°C above the climatological average. This is the highest summer mean temperature on record, narrowly exceeding 2025's 16.0°C.

The mean temperature was above average in all three months. June had a mean of 15.0°C, 2.5°C above the climatological average. July was 17.4°C, 2.1°C above average. August was also warmer than average, although the anomaly was smaller, with a mean of 16.7°C, 1.3°C above average.

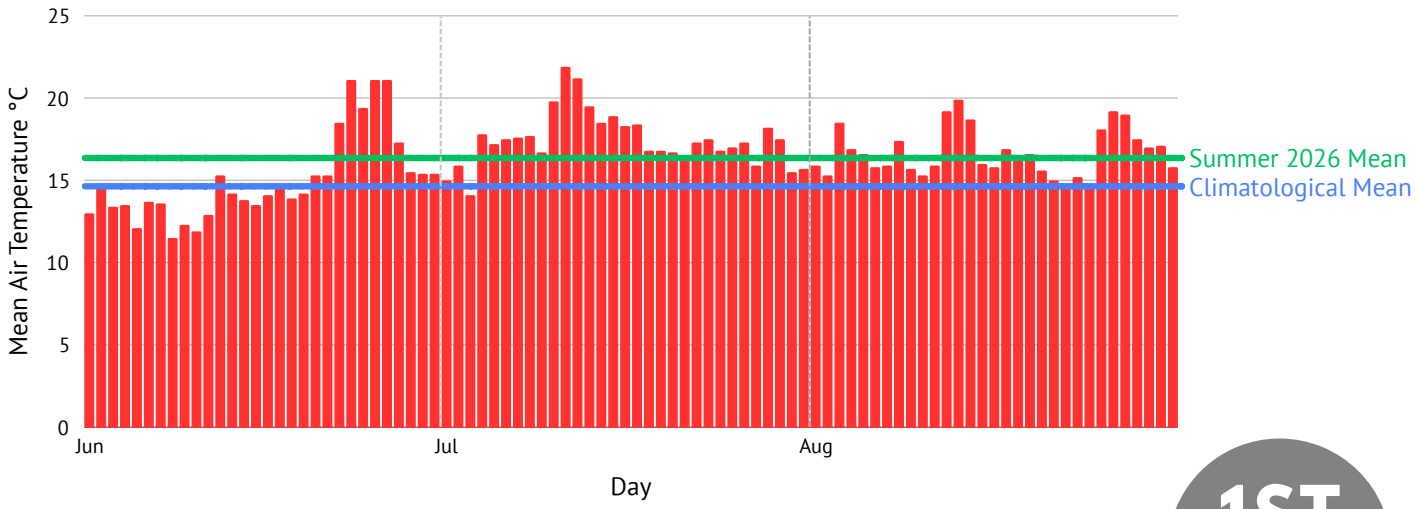


Figure 1: Daily mean temperature from 01/06/2026 to 31/08/2026 compared to the summer 2026 mean and 1991-2020 climatological mean

1ST
Warmest Summer on Record

The mean maximum temperature for the summer was 19.4°C, 1.8°C above average and the second highest on record. Only 1995, with 19.5°C, was higher.

The mean minimum temperature was 13.4°C, 1.5°C above average and joint highest on record, equal to 2025. Therefore, the exceptional warmth was not confined to daytime temperatures, with nights also unusually mild.

There were 34 days reaching 20°C or higher, the joint second highest on record. Again, suggesting frequency and persistence of warmth rather than exceptional individual heat (see table 1).

Year	Number of Days >=20°C
1995	41
2026	**34**
1955	34
1983	32
1976	30

Table 1: Top 5 highest number of summer days of 20°C or above

The highest temperature of 27.6°C was 0.7°C below the climatological summer extreme and ranked joint sixth overall (see figure 2).

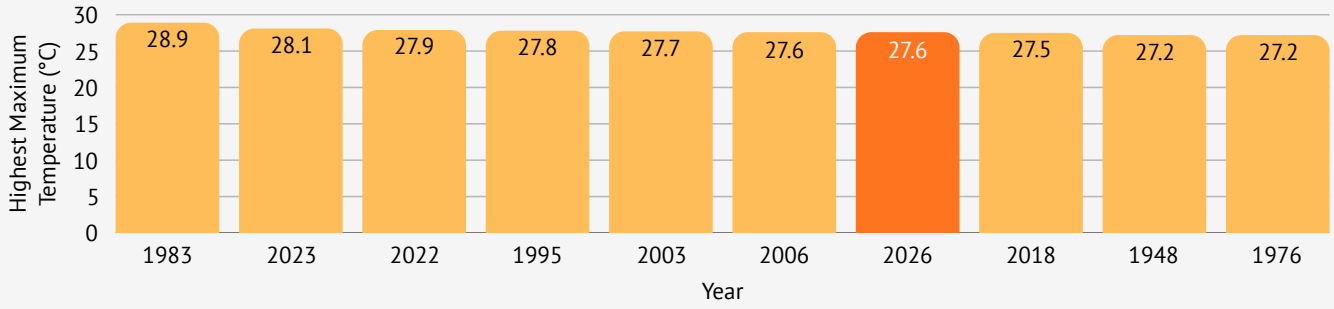


Figure 2: Top 10 highest maximum temperatures recorded at Ronaldsway since records began in 1948

The lowest air temperature was 9.5°C, 6.1°C above the climatological extreme lowest temperature. The lowest grass temperature was the tenth highest on record at 3.1°C. These figures reinforce the impression of an unusually mild summer throughout, rather than simply a summer containing several hot spells.

WIND

3RD
Lowest Highest Gust on Record

Wind speed was generally unremarkable, however, there were notably few strong wind extremes.

The mean wind speed was 10.1 knots, close to the climatological average of 9.7 knots. This highlights that, the summer was unusually warm, dry and sunny, despite the wind speed being close to normal.

There was some variation between months. June was windier than average, with a mean of 11.1 knots, slightly above average, while July was close to average at 10.1 knots, and August was slightly below average at 9.0 knots.

The highest hourly wind speed was only 25 knots, compared with a climatological summer average of 35.7 knots, and the joint fourth lowest on record. Similarly, the highest gust was 36 knots, compared with an average of 55.7 knots, and the third lowest on record.

There were no gale days, compared with a climatological average of 0.3 days, while the number of strong-wind days was also close to average at 9 compared with 9.4.

Thus, while mean wind speed was near normal, the summer was notable for the absence of significant wind extremes.

RAINFALL

Rainfall was significantly below average during Summer 2026, although the monthly distribution was uneven.

A total of 138.1 mm was recorded, compared with the climatological average of 191.2 mm, a deficit of 53.1 mm, or 28%.

However, June was wetter than average, with 95.8 mm compared with a climatological average of 62.9 mm. There were 18 rain days (>=0.2mm/day) and 14 wet days (>=1.0mm/day), both well above average.

The character of the summer changed dramatically in July, when only 2.0 mm of rain was recorded, just 3% of the climatological average of 60.1 mm. There were only two rain days and one wet day during the month.

August was also drier than average, with 40.3 mm compared with 68.2 mm, although the number of rain days was close to average (see figure 3).

The most notable rainfall statistic was the 24-day longest dry spell from 01/07/2026 to 25/07/2026, which ranks as the fourth longest summer absolute drought on record.

In summary, the seasonal rainfall total was significantly below average, but not close to the driest summer on record. The more significant finding is the contrast between a relatively wet June and an exceptionally dry July (with a period of prolonged drought), followed by a drier-than-average August.

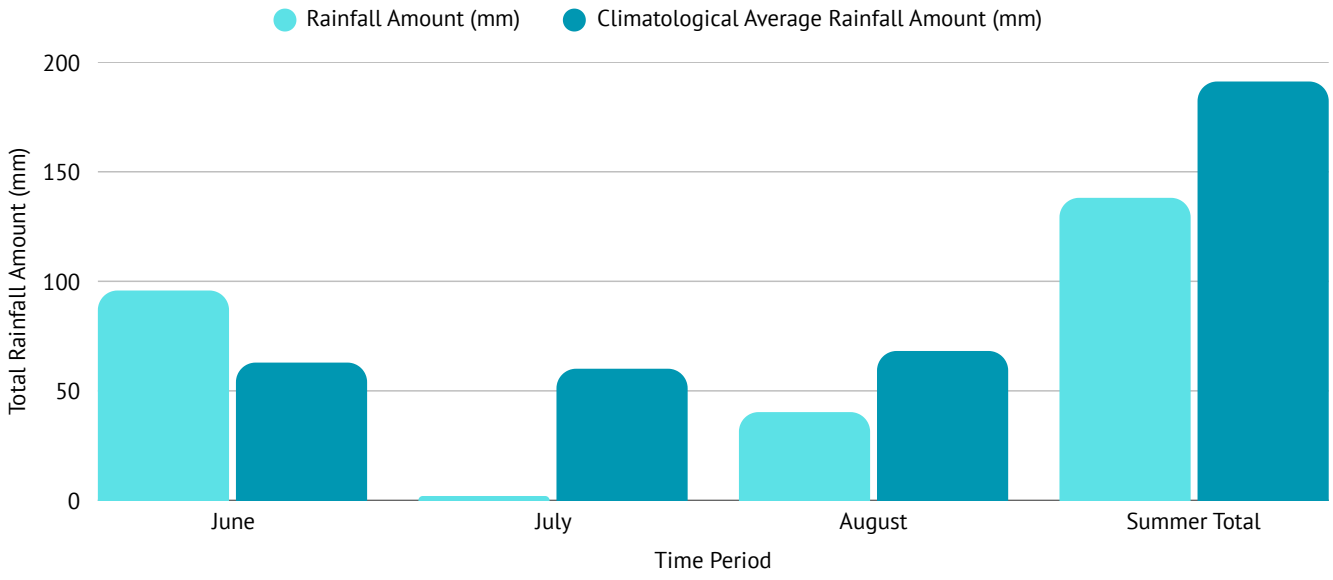


Figure 3: Monthly and summer total rainfall amounts compared with the climatological average

SUNSHINE

Sunshine was above average overall, but again there was a strong contrast between the individual months.

There were 664.8 hours of sunshine during the summer, compared with the climatological average of 592.8 hours, 72.0 hours, or 12%, above average.

June was relatively dull, with 191.5 hours compared with an average of 206.9 hours. July was the standout month, recording 291.9 hours, around 94 hours above its climatological average, and the second sunniest July on record. August was close to average, with 181.4 hours compared with 187.6 hours (see table 2).

Time Period	2026	Climatological Average
June	191.5	206.9
July	291.9	198.3
August	181.4	187.6
Summer	**664.8**	**592.8**

Table 2: 2026 total sunshine hours compared with the 1991-2020 climatological averages

The summer total was therefore above average, but the seasonal figure disguises the exceptional sunshine during July. This coincided with the month's exceptionally low rainfall of only 2.0 mm.

Summer 2026 was considerably sunnier than 2025, when 582.5 hours were recorded, although it remained well below the record summer total of 756.7 hours recorded in 1995.

OTHER WEATHER

Most of the remaining weather statistics were close to normal or of little climatological significance. There were no days of hail, snow/sleet, ground frost, or air frost, as would normally be expected during summer.

Thunder occurred on two days, very close to the climatological average of 1.8 days. Fog occurred on 13 days, slightly above the average of 11.6.

The number of strong-wind days was also close to normal, at 9 compared with an average of 9.4.

These figures provide a useful contrast to the major features of the summer: not every aspect of the weather was unusual. The standout anomalies were temperature, rainfall, sunshine and the lack of strong wind extremes.

LONGER-TERM CLIMATE CONTEXT

The most significant long-term feature is the continued clustering of exceptionally warm summers in recent years.

Summer 2026 becomes the warmest summer on record, following 2025 as the previous record holder. Other recent summers also rank highly, with 2023, 2022, and 2018 also in the top 5 warmest summers on record (see table 3 and figure 4).

Rank	1	2	3		4		5
Year	**2026**	**2025**	1995	**2023**	**2018**	2003	**2022**
Mean Temperature	**16.4**	**16**	15.9	**15.9**	**15.7**	15.7	**15.6**

Table 3: Top 5 warmest summers on record (any summers occurring within the last 8 years are highlighted in purple)

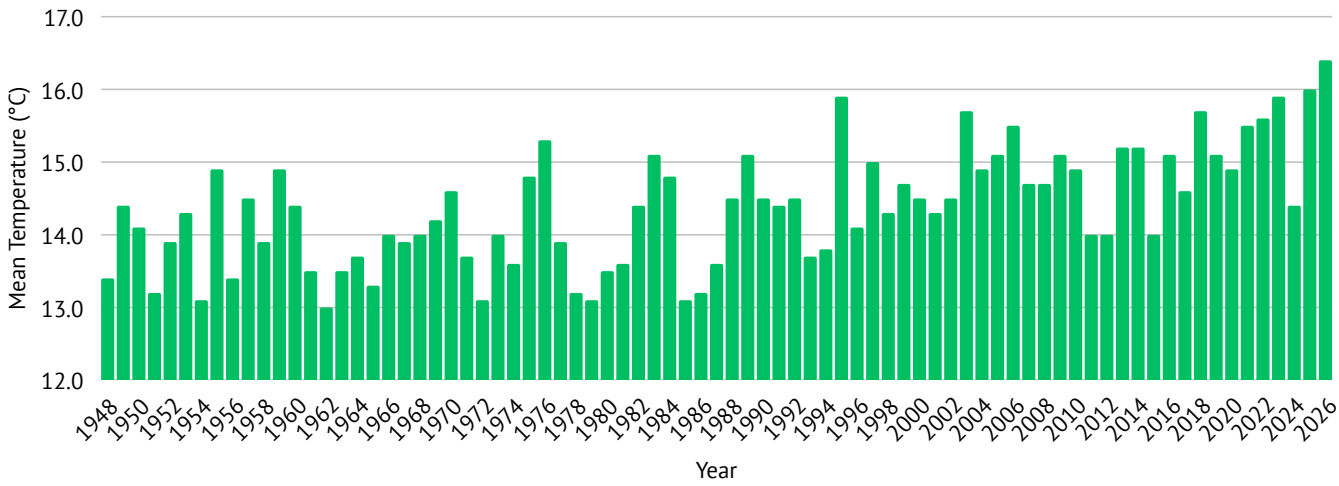


Figure 4: Annual mean summer temperature since records began at Ronaldsway in 1948

The particularly high mean minimum temperature is also noteworthy. With 2026 highest on record, closely followed by 2025, recent warmth is increasingly evident not only in daytime temperatures but in persistently mild overnight conditions.

The summer's highest temperature provides an interesting contrast. At 27.6°C, it was only the joint sixth highest on record, 1.3°C below the record set 43 years ago in 1983.

Therefore, the exceptional warmth of 2026 was not caused by an unprecedented peak temperature. Instead, the record was achieved through the combination of warm days, exceptionally mild nights and a sustained period of above-average temperatures.

CONCLUSION

Summer 2026 stands out primarily because of its sustained warmth. The record breaking summer mean temperature was supported by both unusually warm daytime temperatures and exceptionally mild nights, while the relatively modest maximum of 27.6°C demonstrates that the summer was not defined by a single extreme heat event.

The summer was also significantly drier and sunnier than average, although the monthly pattern was inconsistent. June was relatively wet and dull, while July was exceptionally dry and sunny, with just 2.0 mm of rainfall and nearly 292 hours of sunshine. August remained warmer and drier than average but was much closer to normal for rainfall and sunshine.

Meanwhile, mean wind speed remained close to normal, although strong wind extremes were unusually limited. Several other weather variables, including thunder and strong-wind days, were also close to their climatological averages.

With 2025 and 2026 now occupying the top two positions for summer mean temperature, the most significant finding is the recent concentration of exceptionally warm summers in the Ronaldsway record. Summer 2026 was therefore notable not simply for being hot, but for its role in the persistence and breadth of warmth across the season over the last 8 years.

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