



## Exploring the effect of weather and climate on official statistics

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The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Met Office have been collaborating on a project to provide improved guidance to the Government Statistics Service (GSS). The Met Office publish climate data and analyses as a public climate service while GSS collect, analyse and publish official statistics to help government, business, and the public understand the current state of the UK economy and society. There has been a longstanding interest in the impact of weather and climate on GSS time series, but up to now analyses have been ad-hoc or relatively superficial. The collaboration was established to bring together the climatological expertise of the Met Office with the statistical expertise of ONS to provide improved guidance and best practice. Improving GSS statisticians analyses in this area aims to address a number of objectives set out by the UK Statistics Authority including:

- Informed decision making
- Communication
- Delivery of high quality statistics and analysis
- Innovation
- Building capability

The initial phase of the project was successful at raising awareness across the GSS and developed a set of guidance for statisticians including specific case studies from the national to local scale across sectors from retail to health. In a follow up activity we are undertaking a series of more detailed workshops to bring together statistical, climatological and sector specific expertise to support government departments wishing to analyse weather and climate data alongside their time series. The results will then provide further case studies to supplement the guidance already provided.