

Lost Winter in the United Kingdom

Analysis: Climate change adding more winter days above freezing — affecting snowfall, winter sports, ecosystems, and more

December 2024

KEY FACTS

- **Across the United Kingdom, climate change — due primarily to burning oil, coal, and methane gas — is causing a significant increase in winter days with minimum temperatures above freezing, otherwise called lost winter days.**
 - **Analysis of daily minimum temperatures during winter (December, January, February) shows where within the United Kingdom experienced the most significant annual changes to days with minimum temperatures above freezing during the past decade (2014-2023) due to human-caused warming.**
 - **All four countries across the U.K. saw at least an additional week's worth of winter days with minimum temperatures above freezing annually, compared to a world without climate change. The national average across the U.K. was 11 additional days above freezing.**
 - **Losing winter's chill affects snowfall, winter sports, water supplies, spring allergies, crops, and more.**
- [Download data](#)

This national summary is part of a broader analysis, in which Climate Central assessed how warming temperatures, attributed to climate change, affected the number of days above freezing (0°C) during winter (December, January, February) in 123 countries across the Northern Hemisphere over this past decade (2014-2023). For locations across the globe, findings show how many lost winter days — days between December-February where minimum temperatures exceeded 0°C — are occurring annually due to climate change. For detailed methodology and summary of findings for 123 countries and 901 cities, [see the full report](#).

RESULTS

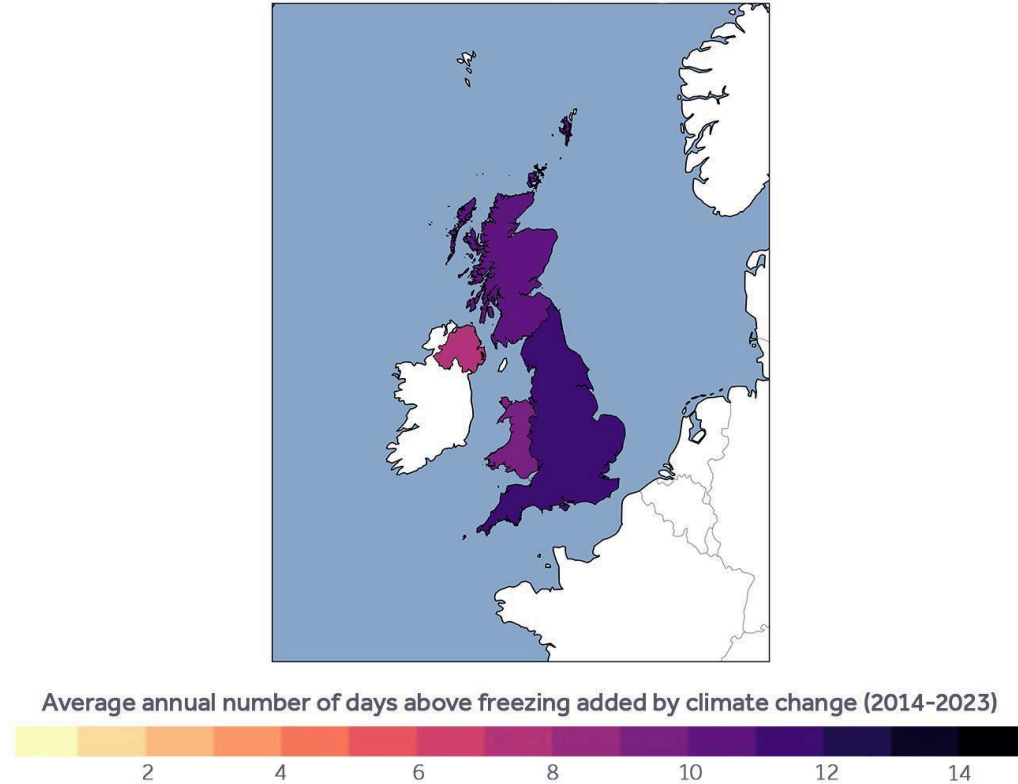


Figure 1. Annual winter days with minimum temperatures above 0°C added by climate change, averaged over a ten-year period (2014-2023), within the United Kingdom.

Country	Winter days above 0°C annually	Winter days above 0°C added by climate change annually
England	78	12
Northern Ireland	84	8
Scotland	78	10
Wales	80	10

Table 1. Winter days with minimum temperatures above 0°C added due to human-caused climate change each year within the United Kingdom. Results represent averages over the past decade (2014-2023).

Climate Central is an independent group of scientists and communicators who research and report the facts about our changing climate and how it affects people's lives. *Climate Central* is a policy-neutral 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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