



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2019 Issue date: 22.08.19

The forecast presented here is for September and the average of the September-October-November period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2nd September 2019.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For September, the chances of wetter- and drier-than-average conditions are similar. For September-October-November as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for September-October-November will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 15% and 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Global drivers have somewhat less influence on UK weather patterns at this time of year than in the winter season. Therefore, predictability of precipitation amounts and distribution is lower.

For September, long-range prediction systems imply balanced chances of settled and unsettled conditions. As a result, the chances of above- and below-average rainfall do not deviate significantly from normal (see left-hand graph of figure P2).

For September-October-November overall, there is a slight increase in the likelihood of wetter-than-average conditions. This is consistent with the signal for a south-westerly flow which would bring more

Atlantic moisture to the UK. Nevertheless, while low pressure in the North Atlantic and high pressure over Europe are more likely than usual, they are not guaranteed. Even if a tendency for this pattern is established, there is uncertainty in the exact position of its features in relation to the UK. For example, a westward shift resulting in high pressure impinging on the UK more often would increase the chances of a drier-than-usual season. Consequently, it is not possible to be more confident about the likelihood of above-normal precipitation.

Fig P1

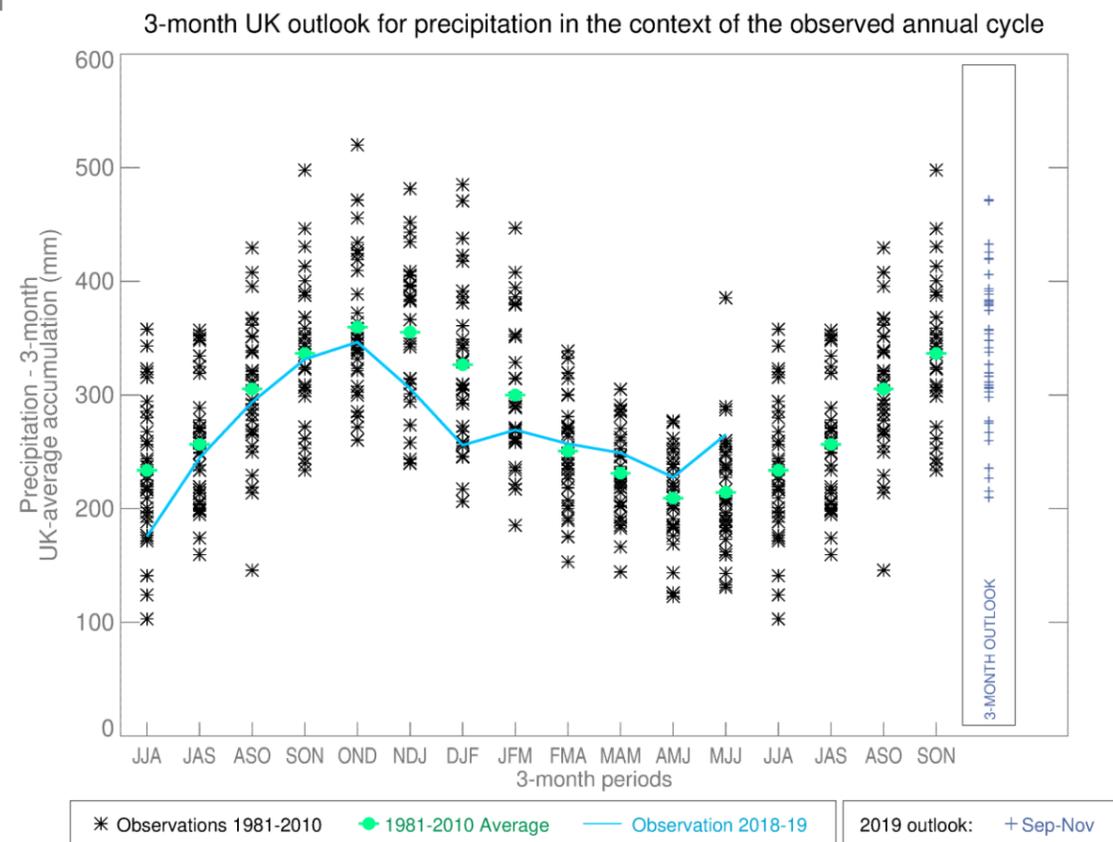


Fig P2

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of observed climatology

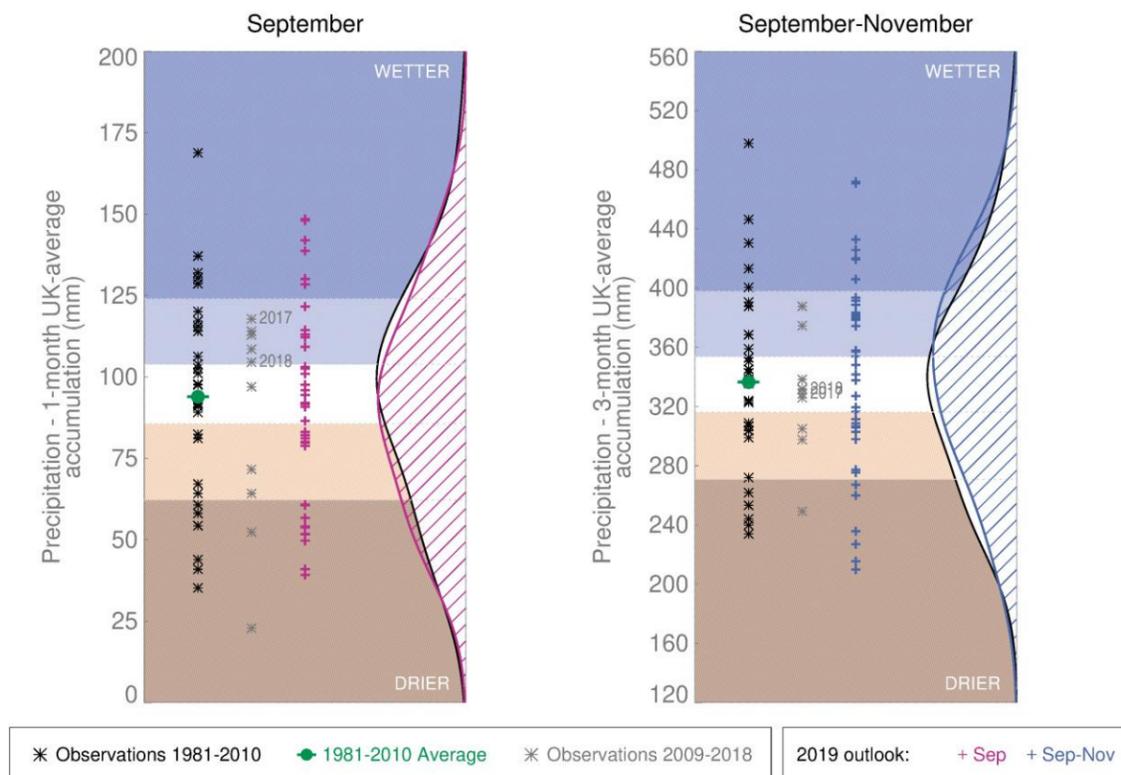
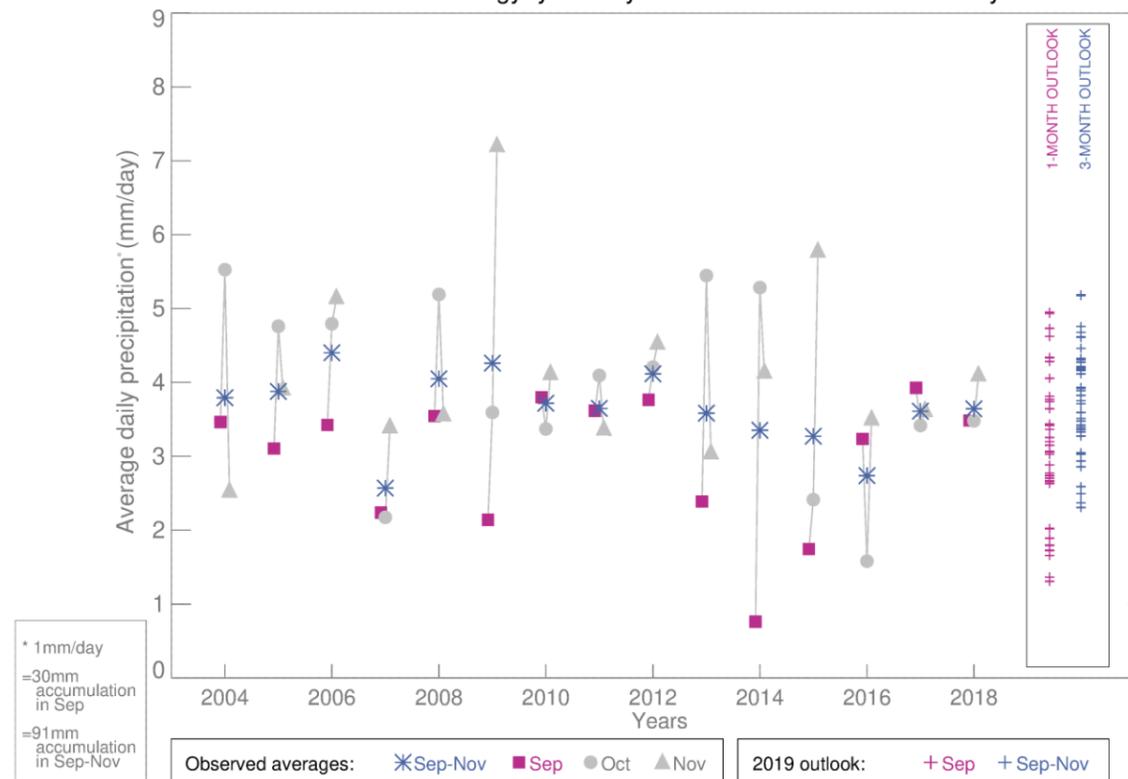


Fig P3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability



This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners. The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.