

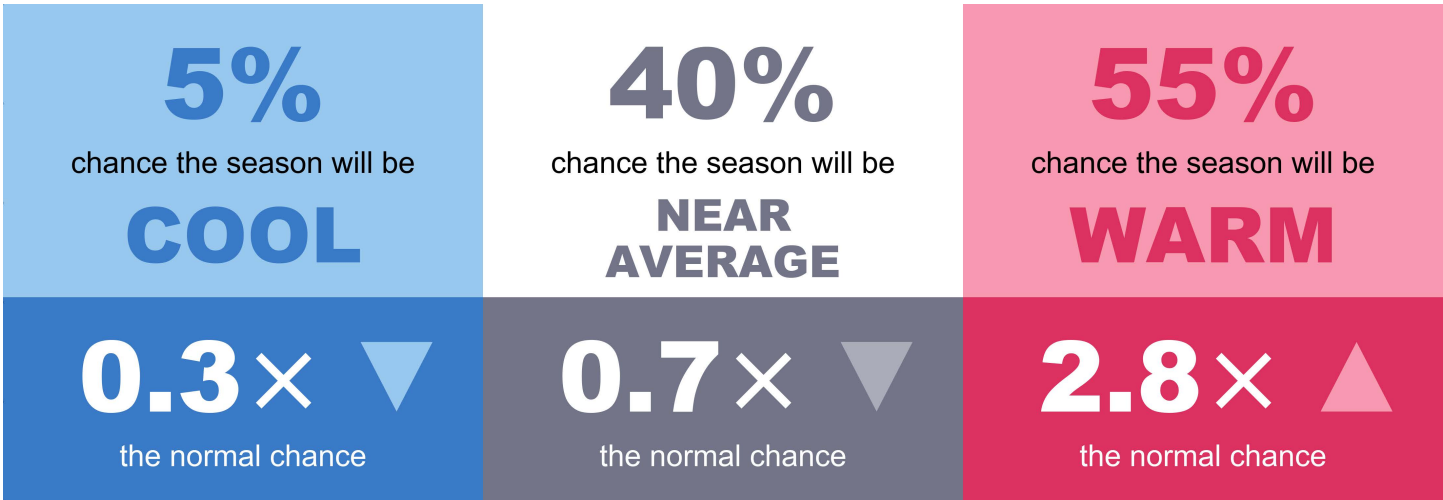
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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3-month summary

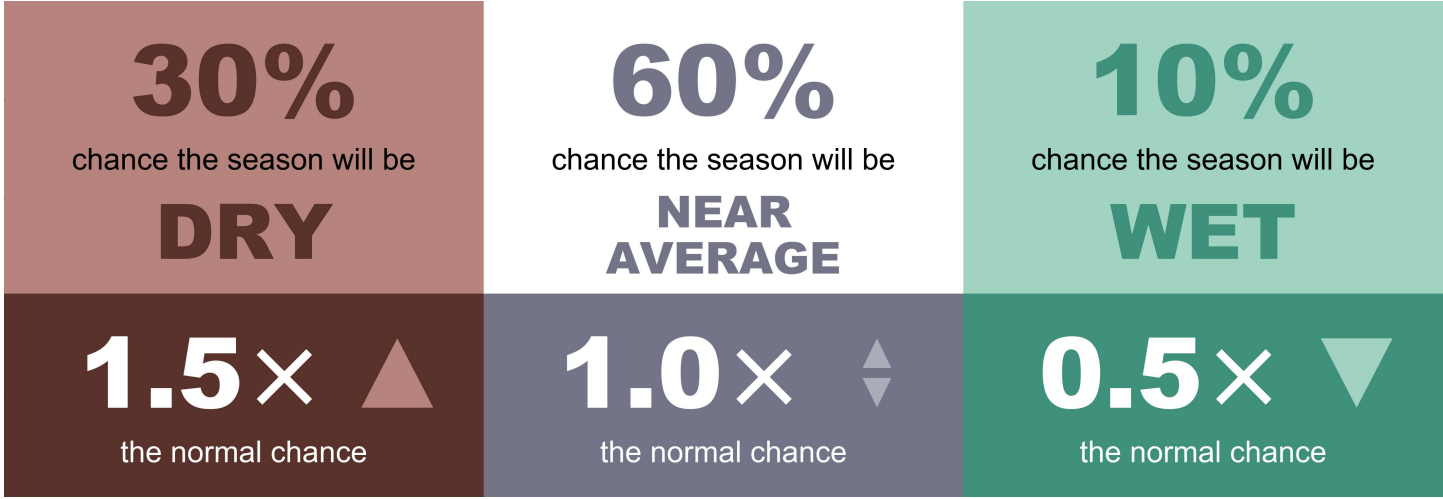
- Chance of a warm spring is much higher than normal
- Reduced chance of a wet spring
- Increased likelihood of impacts from strong winds early in the period

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



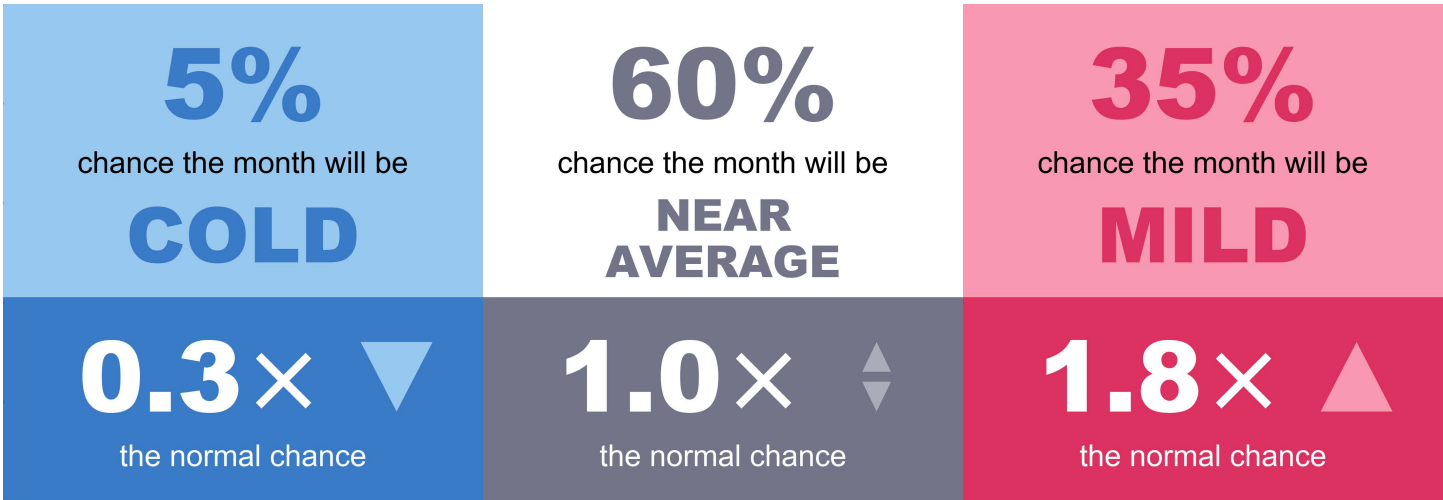
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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1-month summary

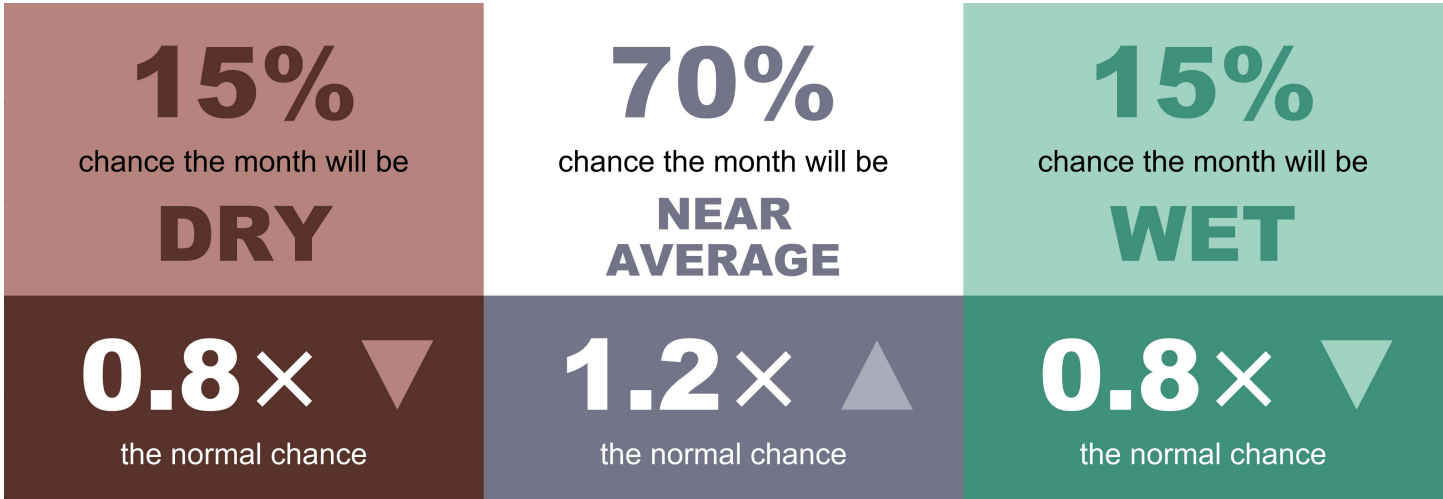
- Reduced chance of a cold March compared to normal
- Chances of either a wet or dry month are balanced
- Increased likelihood of impacts from strong winds compared to normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature and precipitation in the next 1 and 3 months:

COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for 1-month temperature
 COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for 3-month temperature
 WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NEAR AVERAGE	COOL	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
DRY	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for March to May

Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season, and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- An ongoing La Niña, which increases the chances of westerly winds early in this period
- A strong Stratospheric Polar Vortex (SPV), increasing the chance of westerly winds from the Atlantic in early spring
- The Madden-Julian Oscillation which increases the likelihood of westerly winds during early March
- The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends

Long-range weather predictions

The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range predictions of conditions in the months ahead. For March, predictions are consistent in suggesting a higher likelihood of winds from the west with high pressure to the south and low pressure to the north. The main difference between output is how likely it is that high pressure will extend across the country. Signals are similar for the 3-month period but become much more uncertain in late spring. These predictions appear consistent with the current drivers of global weather patterns which will have their greatest influence early in the period.

Impact

The patterns described above imply an increase in the likelihood of impacts from strong winds, particularly in the north and northwest. Whilst there is a slightly lower likelihood of a wet March than normal, impacts from heavy rain remain possible. This regime would see the wettest conditions across the north and west. Significant cold spells look unlikely. With winds most likely from the west or southwest, the likelihood of a warm spring is much higher than normal. Across the south, greater chances of high pressure increase the likelihood of overnight fog and frost.

3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

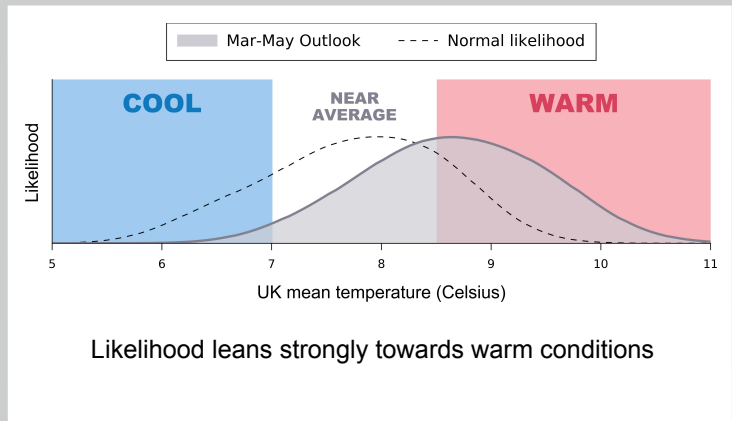
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

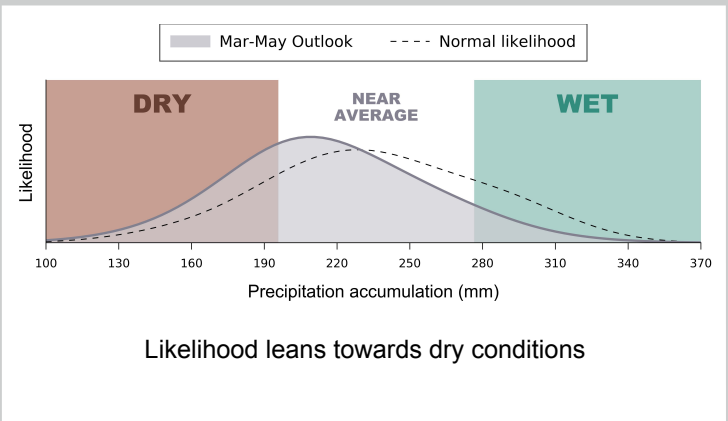
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chance of below-average temperature or precipitation. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

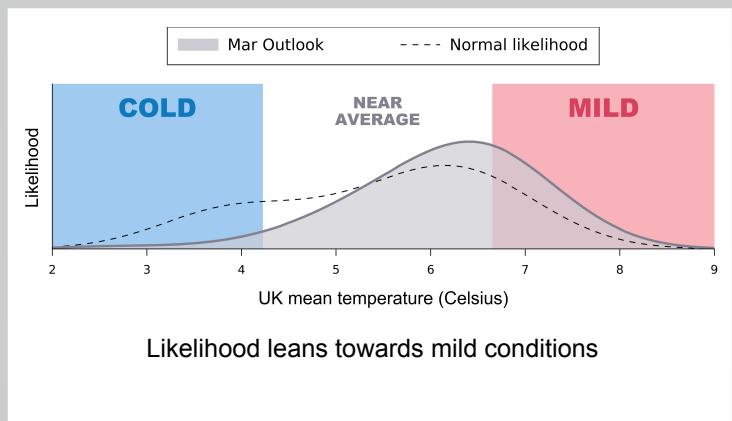
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



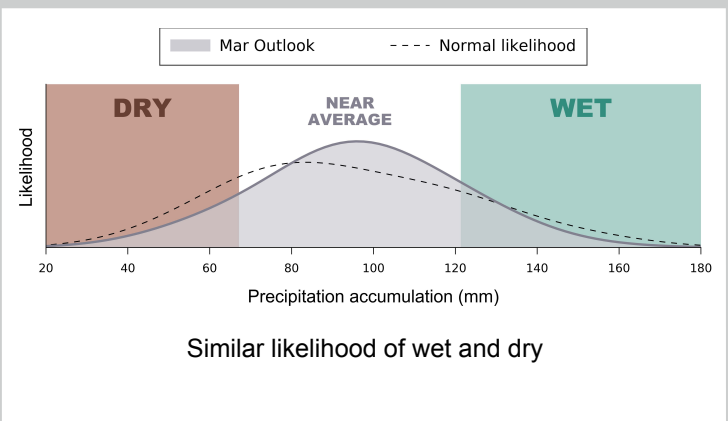
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



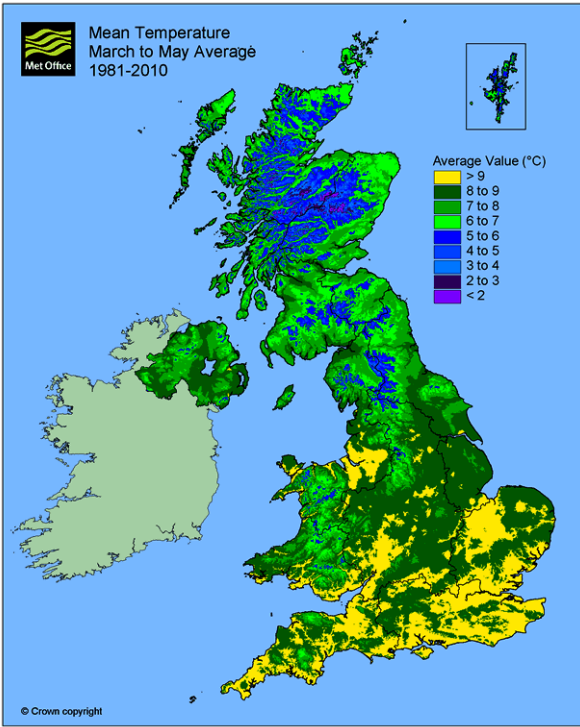
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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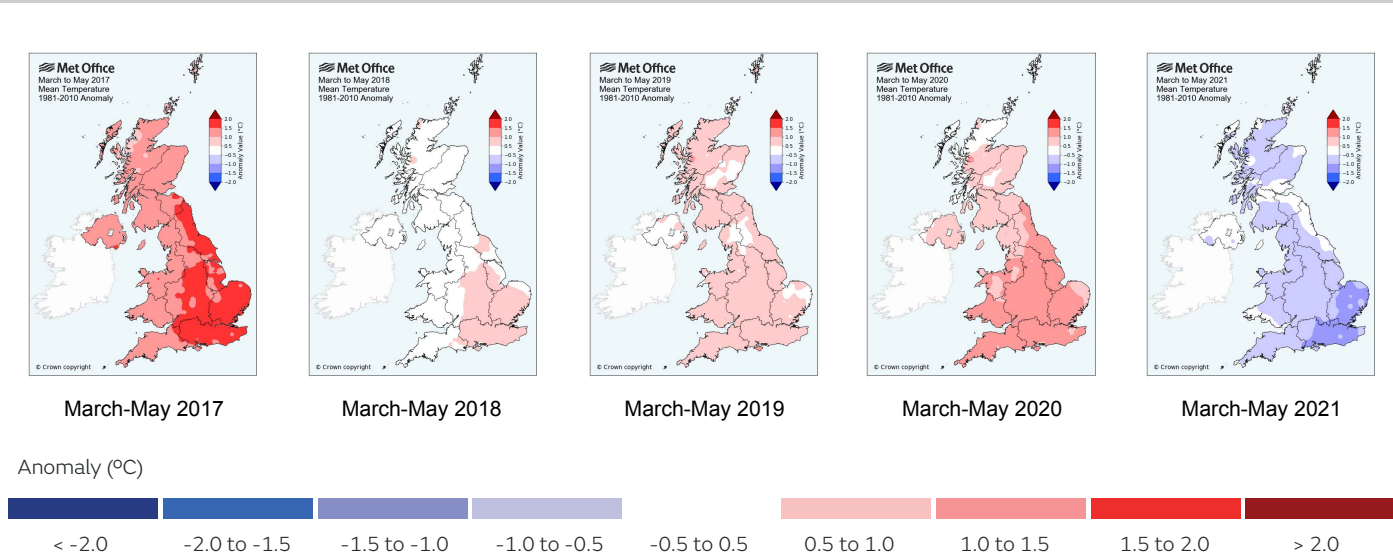
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK for the 3-month Outlook period. Long-term average temperatures for the 1-month period are on page 6. Long-term precipitation averages are shown on pages 7 (3-month) and 8 (1-month).



Average temperatures for March to May based on observations from past years.

Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (3-month)

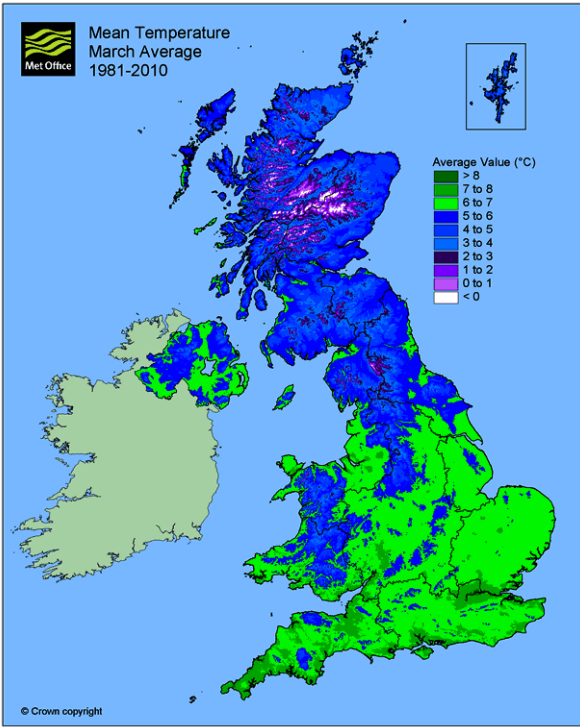


These maps show how March to May temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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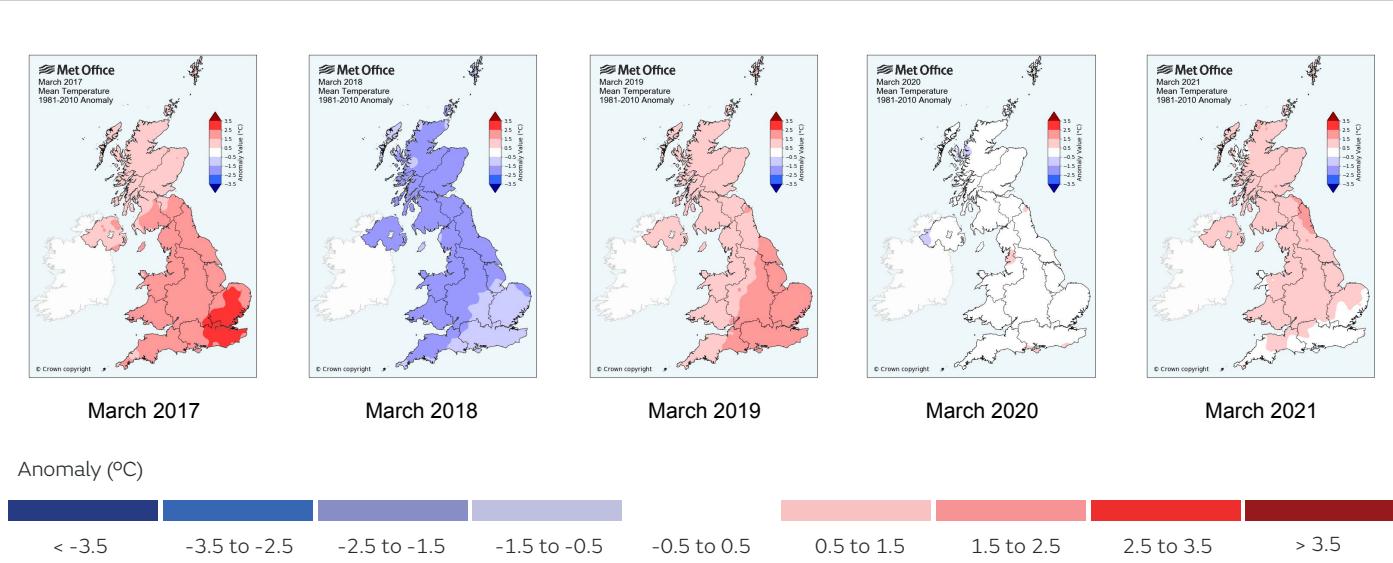
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK for the 1-month Outlook period.



Average temperatures for March based on observations from past years.

Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (1-month)

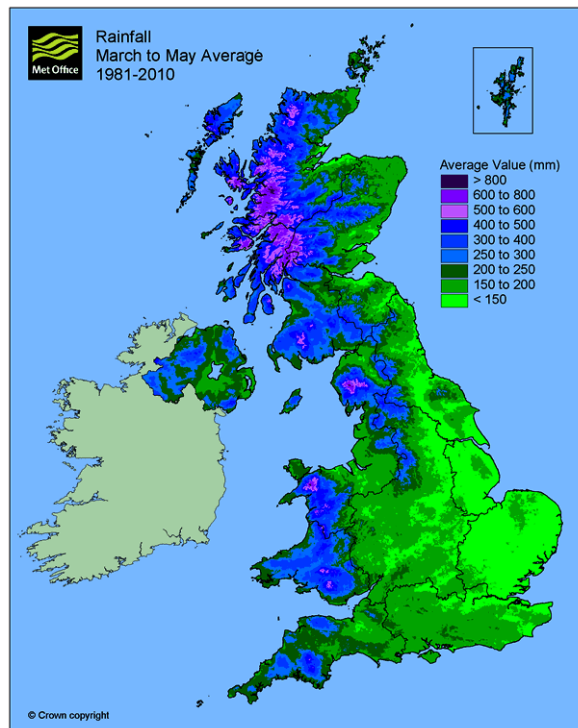


These maps show how March temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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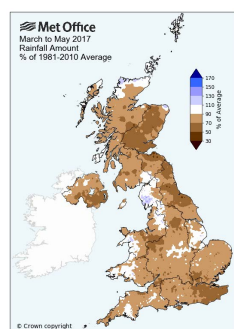
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK for the 3-month Outlook period.

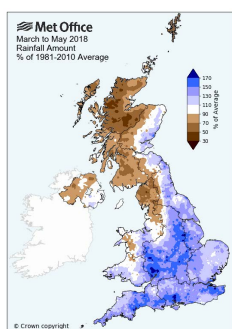


Average precipitation for March to May based on observations from past years.

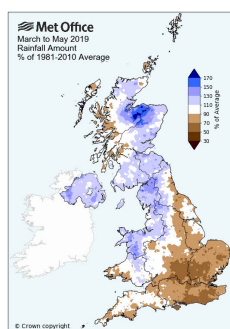
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



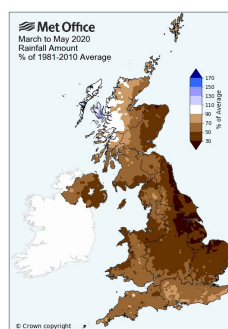
March-May 2017



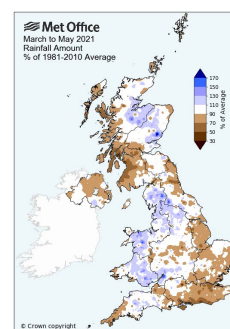
March-May 2018



March-May 2019



March-May 2020



March-May 2021

% of average

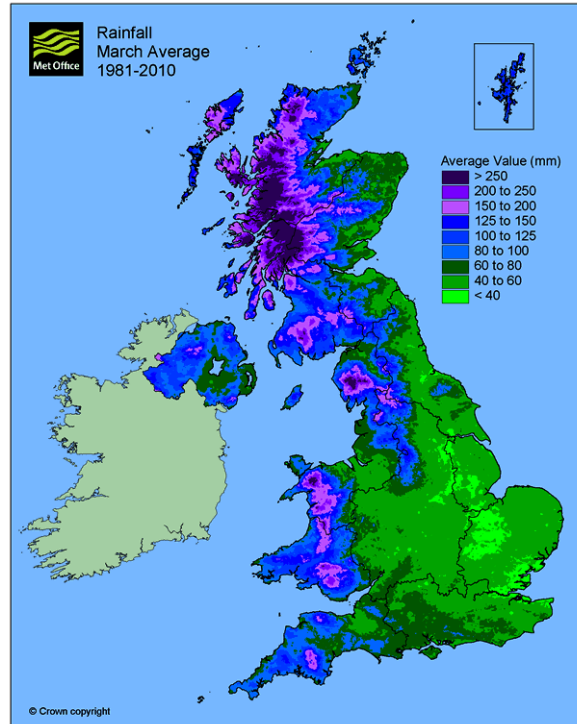


These maps show how March to May precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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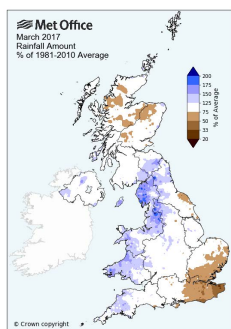
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK for the 1-month Outlook period.

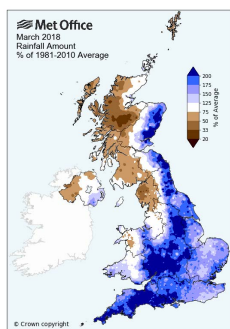


Average precipitation for March based on observations from past years.

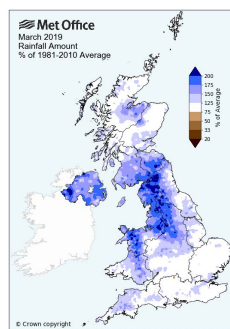
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



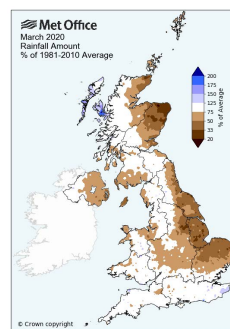
March 2017



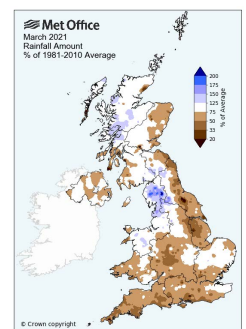
March 2018



March 2019



March 2020



March 2021

% of average



These maps show how March precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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Q&A

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?

A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?

A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. With the Outlook suggesting an increased likelihood of impacts from strong winds early in the period - does this mean we will see more named storms?

A. The Outlook indicates westerly winds are more likely than usual, bringing low pressure systems from the Atlantic and increasing the chance of mild, windy, and stormy weather, particularly in the northwest. While this could increase the chance of named storms the Outlook cannot specify the timings of specific events or their potential severity and duration. Some colder spells may still occur in this regime.

Q. Does an increased chance of the warm category mean we'll see a heatwave/hot weather this spring?

A. An Outlook for increased chances of warm conditions cannot be used as a guide to the likelihood of a prolonged fine and warm spell. Higher-than-average overall temperatures could just as easily be due to a mix of warm and cool days, warm nights, or less extreme levels of warmth. Even with above average temperatures the weather could still be cloudy, wet, or windy.

Q. Does an increased likelihood of impacts from heavy rain mean we could see more flooding?

A. The Outlook shows decreased chances of wet conditions for the UK overall. Nevertheless, some catchments in northern and western parts of the UK are saturated following heavy rain in February and will remain sensitive to further rainfall. These areas of the UK have a greater chance of spells of heavy rain due to the increased likelihood of westerly winds. The Outlook cannot specify the severity, location, duration, or timings of specific weather events and therefore details of any potential impacts. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages and check the risk of flooding in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for the United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website (<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).

Information for March will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 1 March 2022.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1981-2010.