

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

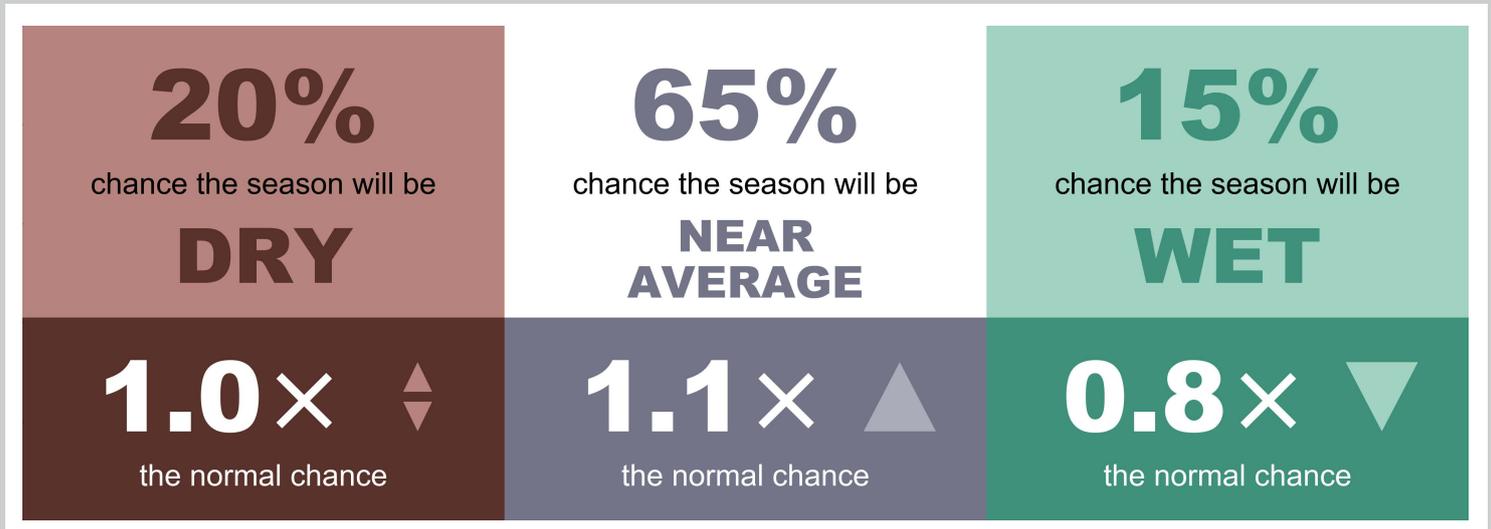
- The chance of this 3-month period being hot is higher than normal
- Impacts from heatwaves are more likely than usual
- Slight reduction in the chance of a wet period

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



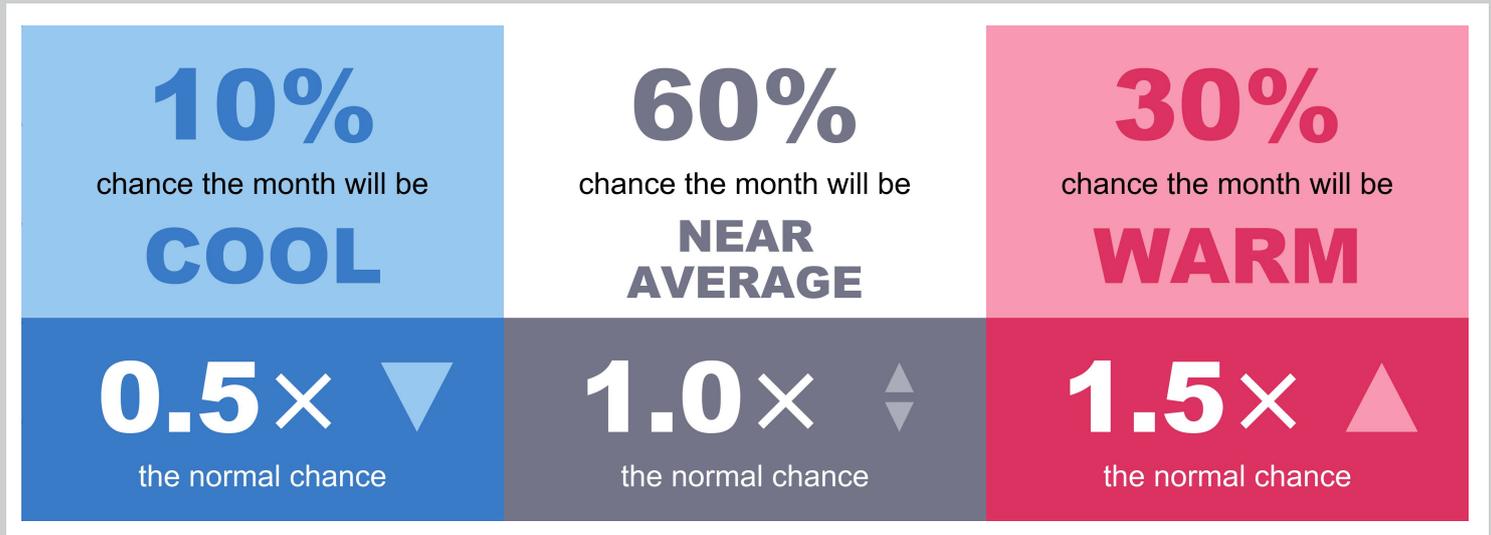
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1-month summary

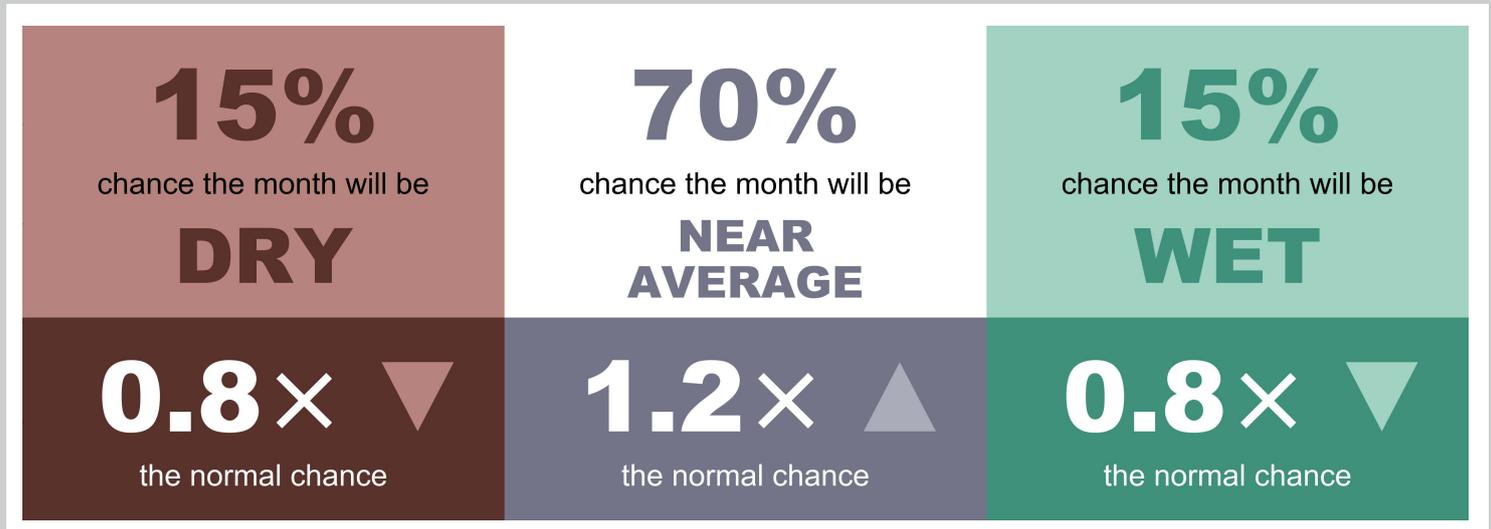
- Chance of a warm May is slightly higher than normal
- Slightly increased likelihood of near average rainfall with the chance of wet and dry balanced

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



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Understanding the Outlook

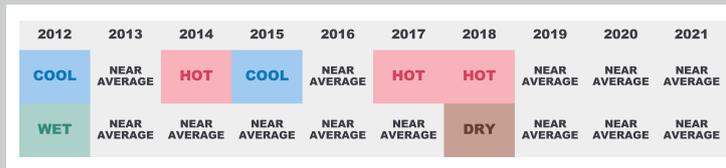
The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature and precipitation in the next 1 and 3 months:

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

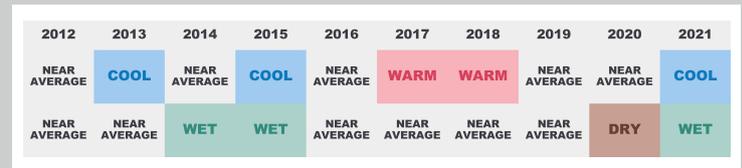
These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood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



Same 1-month period over the last 10 years



Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for May to July

The impact of global weather patterns on the UK decreases through this period. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- Above average sea surface temperatures around the UK
- 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. Predictions are consistent in suggesting an increase in the likelihood of temperatures being above average overall. There are more mixed signals as to whether high pressure will often be centred over the UK or further south. This makes rainfall signals more balanced with a slight reduction in the likelihood of a wet 3-month period.

Impact

There is an increase in the likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions. Whilst this doesn't necessarily mean heatwaves will occur, it does increase the likelihood of heatwaves compared to normal, particularly in June and July. Even with a slight reduction in the chance of a wet period, spells of wetter weather are likely bringing heavy showers or thunderstorms at times.

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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

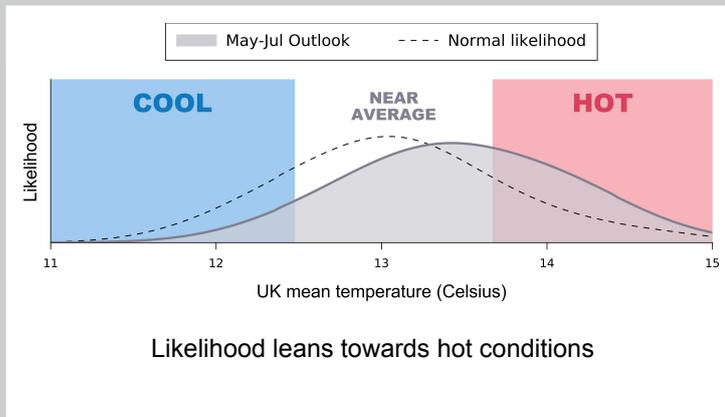
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- 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

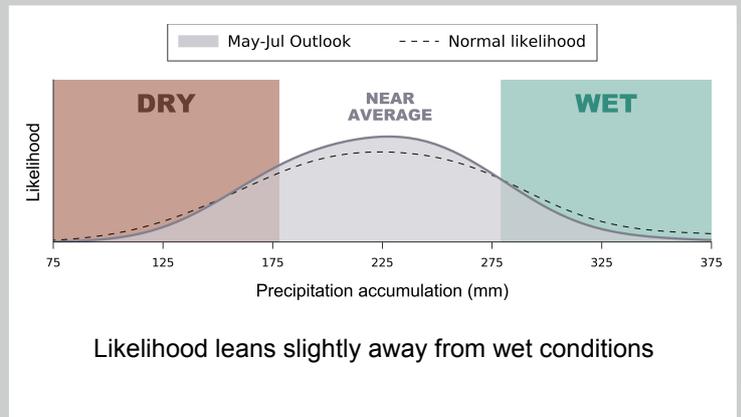
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood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

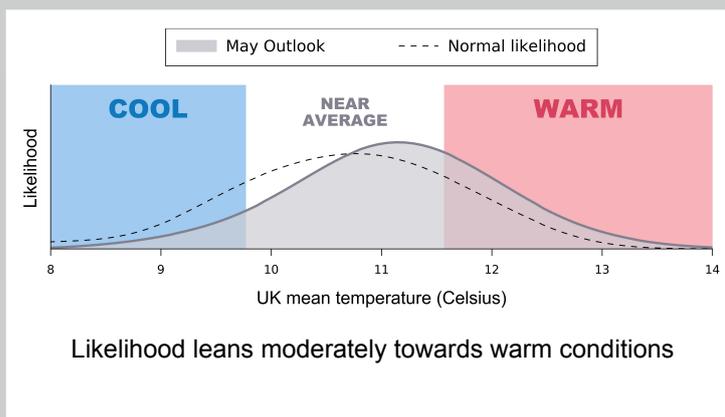
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



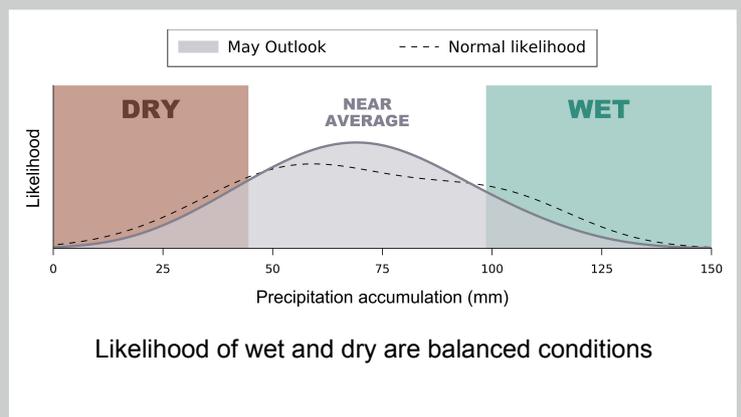
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



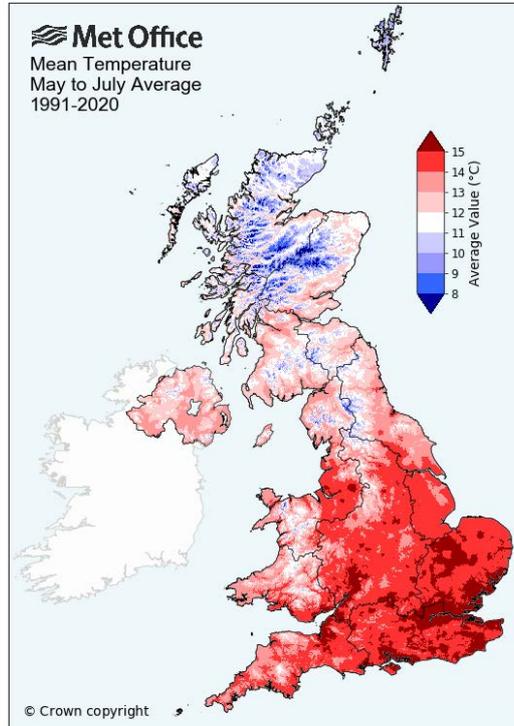
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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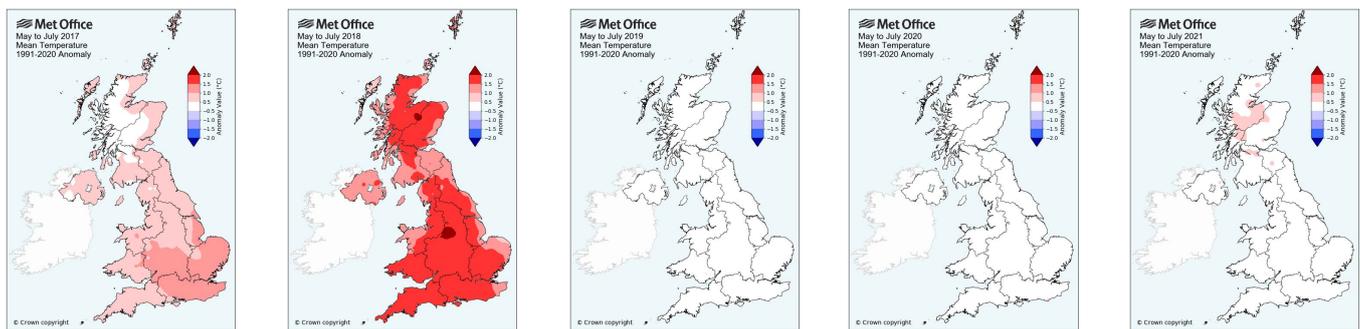
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

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 May - July based on observations from past years.

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



May-Jul 2017

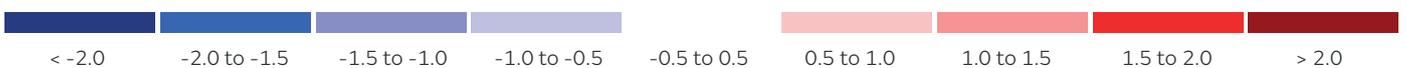
May-Jul 2018

May-Jul 2019

May-Jul 2020

May-Jul 2021

Anomaly (°C)

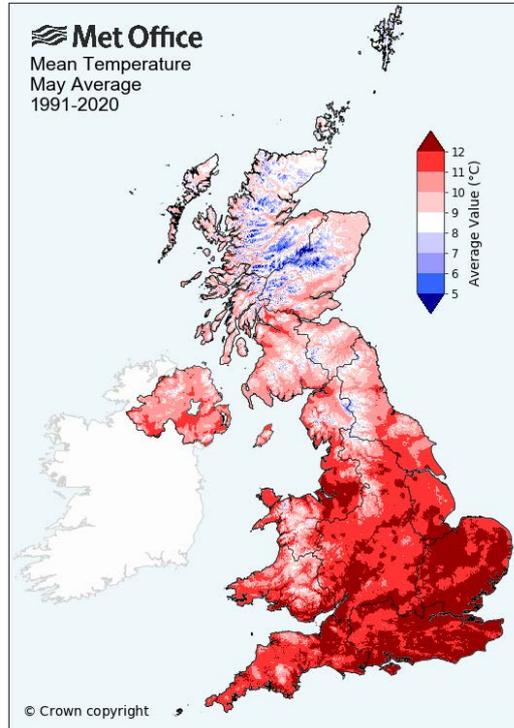


These maps show how May - July temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of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

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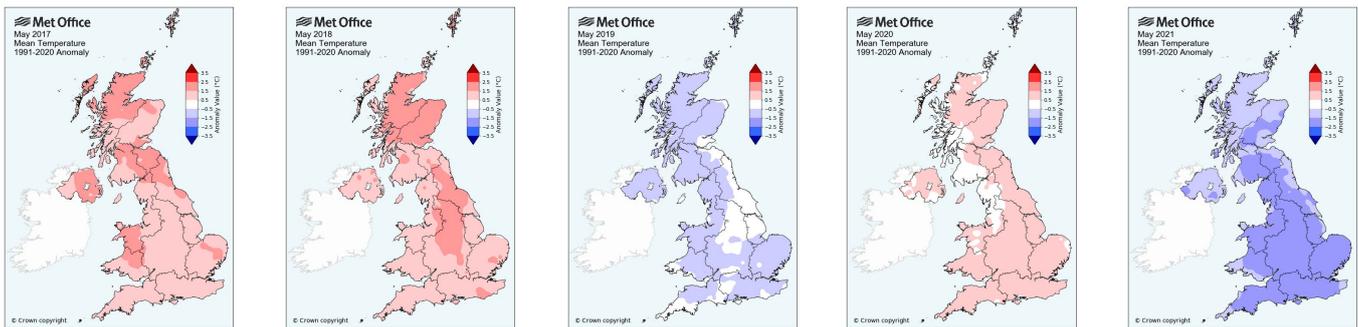
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

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



Average temperatures for May based on observations from past years.

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



May 2017

May 2018

May 2019

May 2020

May 2021

Anomaly (°C)

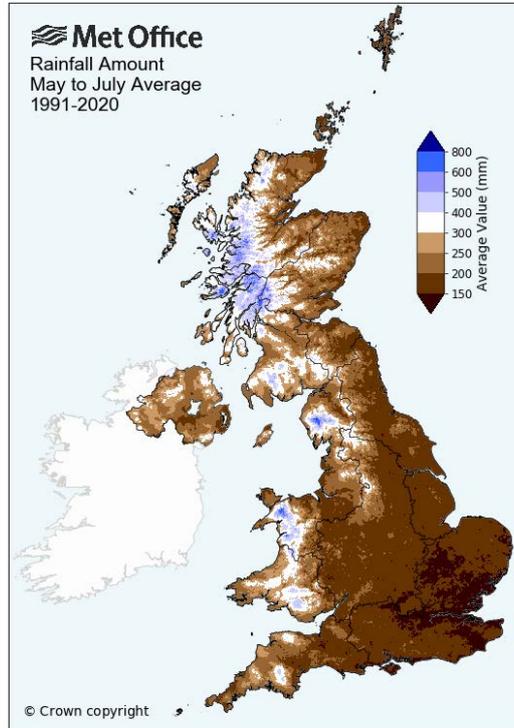


These maps show how May temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK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

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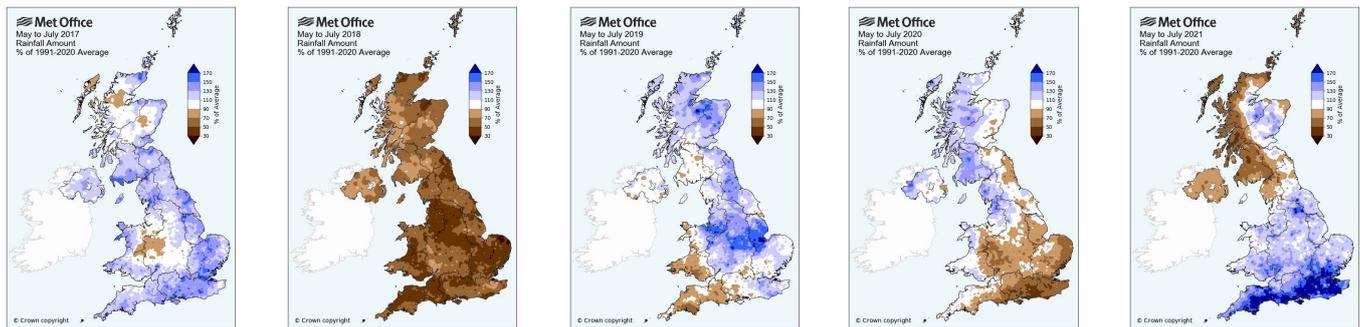
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

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



Average precipitation for May - July based on observations from past years.

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



May-Jul 2017

May-Jul 2018

May-Jul 2019

May-Jul 2020

May-Jul 2021

% of average

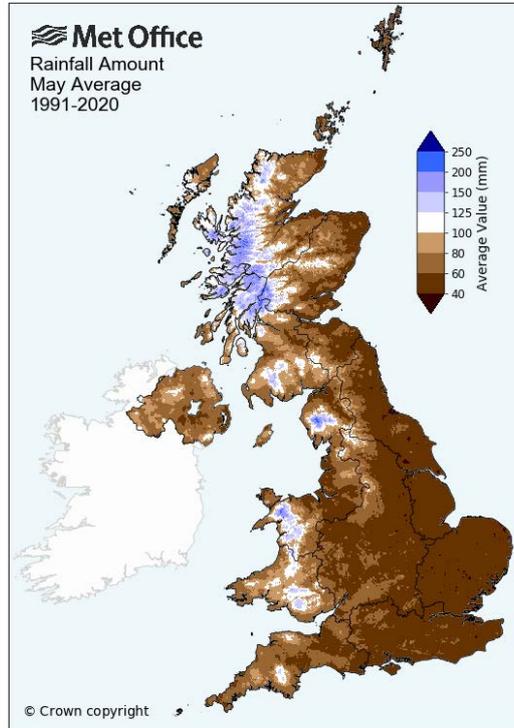


These maps show how May - July precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK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

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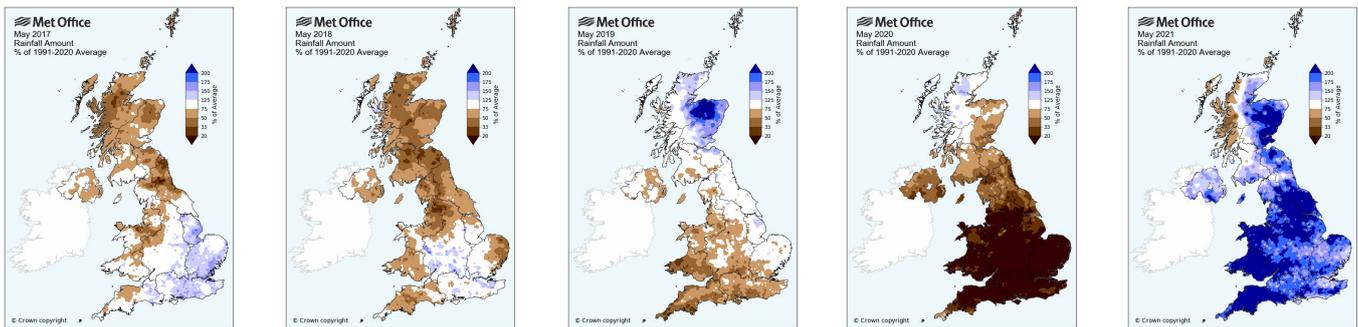
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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



Average precipitation for May based on observations from past years.

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



May 2017

May 2018

May 2019

May 2020

May 2021

% of average



These maps show how 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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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. Is the Outlook for the whole country?

A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?

A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. Does the increased chance of hotter than average conditions mean we could have a heatwave?

A. The Outlook suggests the chances of heatwaves are higher than normal, but a range of conditions much less extreme than heatwaves are also possible. The increased chance of hot conditions could just as easily reflect a mix of hot and cool days, warm nights, or less extreme levels of warmth rather than heatwave conditions specifically.

The Outlook does not guarantee prolonged hot weather. Heatwaves do not typically persist throughout a whole three-month period and therefore the Outlook does not imply continuous heatwave conditions.

Q. Does this mean we are going to see more dry conditions and what are the associated impacts?

A. The April dry spell has seen an increased risk of wildfire, although the 1-month outlook period shows that near-average conditions for May are the most likely for precipitation. This doesn't rule out dry or wet spells of weather within the outlook period. You can check the Fire Severity Index for your area on the Met Office website. Any more detailed questions about long-term hydrological prospects and impacts should be referred to UKCEH (<http://www.hydoutuk.net/>) or EA, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales or NI Direct.

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 May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 1 May 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 1991-2020.