



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2018 Issue date: 23.08.18

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 31st August 2018.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For September, below-average precipitation is more likely than above-average precipitation. For September-October-November as a whole, below-average precipitation is slightly more likely than above-average precipitation.

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

CONTEXT:

Autumn is a season when, climatologically speaking, Atlantic depressions become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture. This makes it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (see figure P1).

For September, there is good agreement between the Met Office long-range prediction system and systems from other prediction centres. This shows an increased likelihood of higher-than-usual pressure close to the UK, and less chance of experiencing frequent Atlantic depressions. Consistent with this, the likelihood of below-

average precipitation is greater than the likelihood of above-average precipitation (see left-hand graph of figure P2). The outlook implies that impacts from dry weather being experienced in some parts of the UK could be extended.

For September-October-November, long-range prediction systems show a moderately increased chance of higher-than-normal pressure overall. As a result, below-average precipitation is slightly more likely than above-average precipitation (see right-hand graph of figure P2).

Fig P1

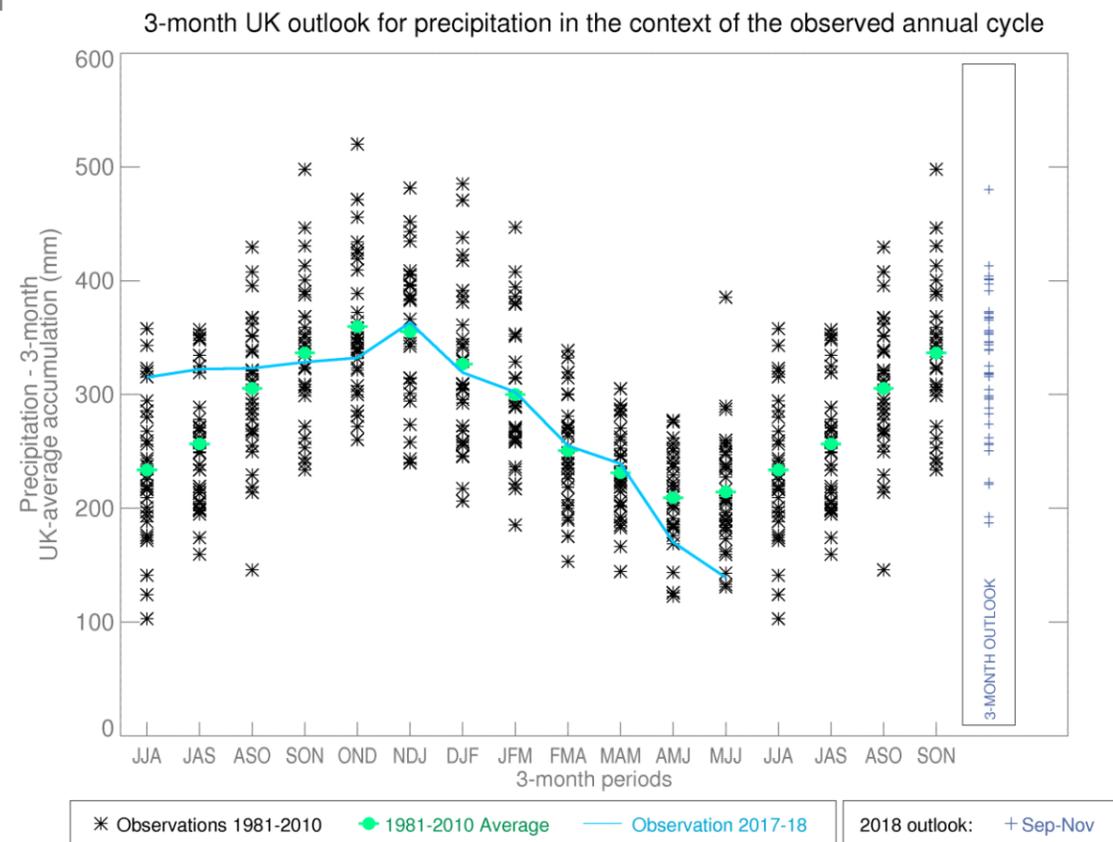


Fig P2

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

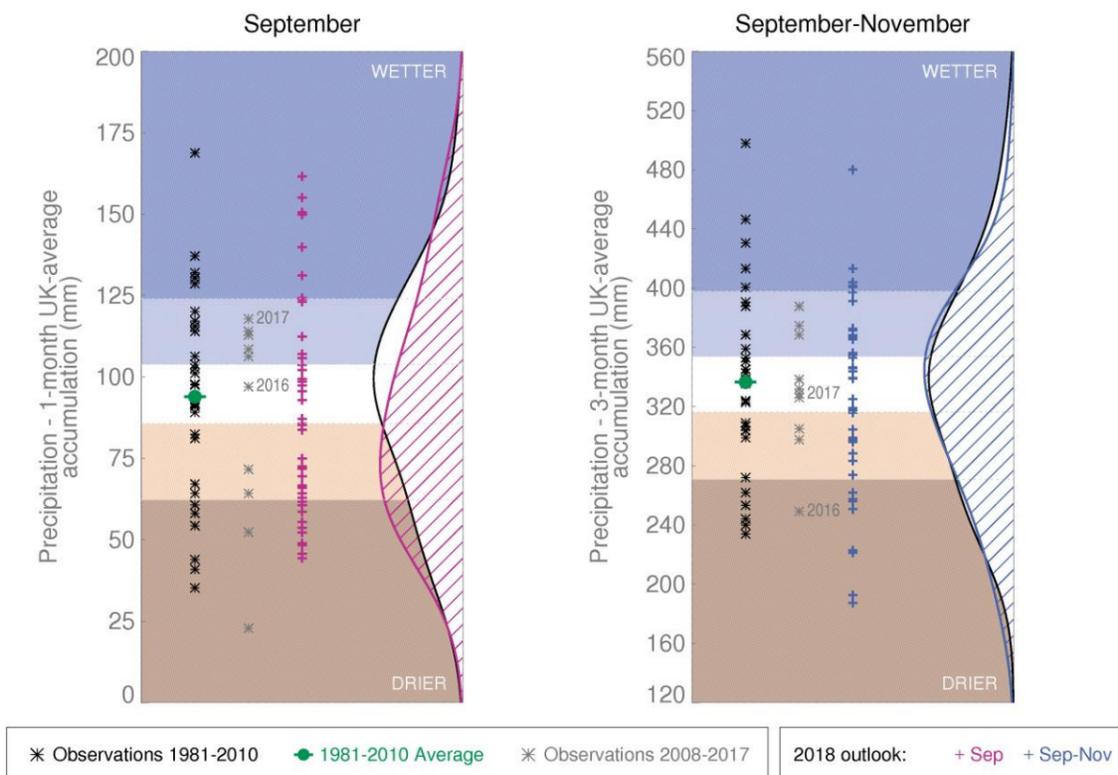
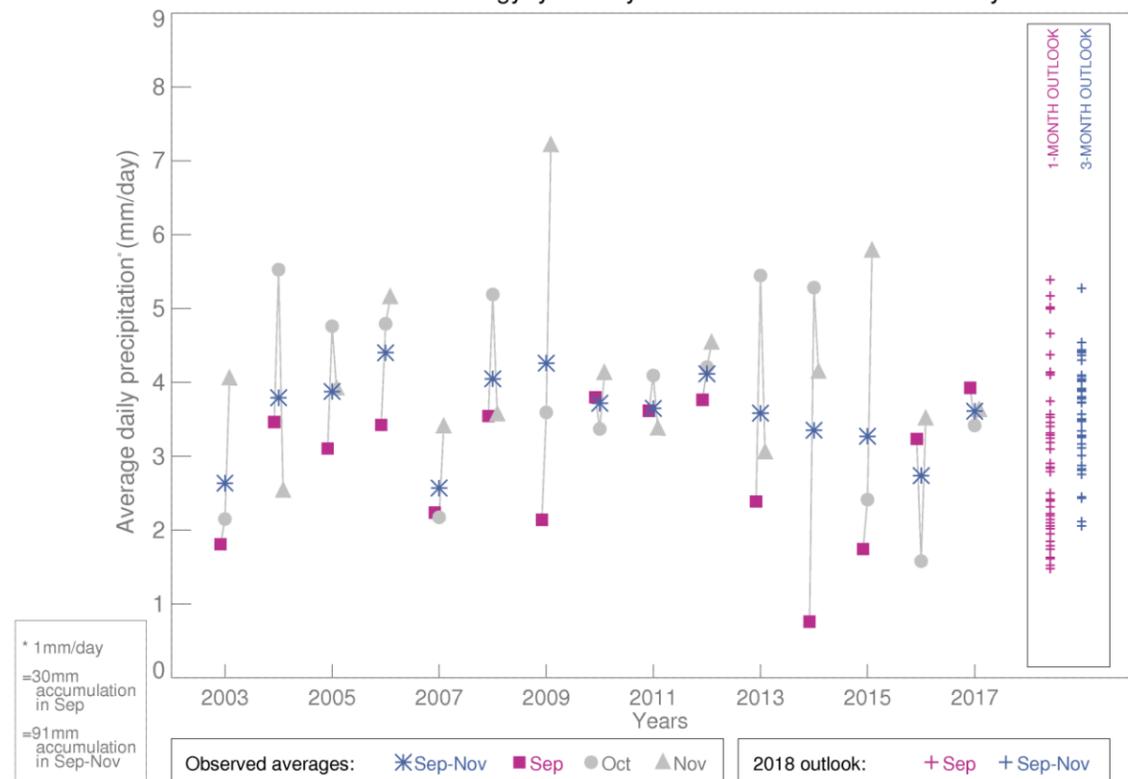


Fig P3

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-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.