



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August – October 2020 Issue date: 23.07.20

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 3rd August 2020.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For August, and August-September-October as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for August-September-October will fall into the coldest of our five categories is between 10% and 15%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is 30% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Global drivers of UK weather, such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), have a smaller influence at this time of year. This means seasonal predictability tends to be lower than in winter. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continue to decline in the central and eastern tropical Pacific and are now close to La Niña thresholds. Long-range forecast models continue to predict an increased likelihood of La Niña developing later this year. There is, however, yet to be an atmospheric response with most other indicators still neutral. For this Outlook period, ENSO is most likely to be in a neutral or weak La Niña state and will therefore have limited influence on UK weather patterns. SSTs in the North Atlantic, to the west of the UK, continue to be below normal. This may act to moderate temperatures across the UK at times during this period.

For August and August-September-October as whole, predicted circulation signals are weak but show a slightly higher chance of low pressure prevailing across northern Europe during the Outlook period. These types of patterns suggest an increased likelihood of changeable conditions affecting the UK. Whilst there is an increase in the likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions for the 3-month period, this is lower than earlier in the summer (see right-hand graph of figure T2). While the higher probability of our warmest forecast category does suggest that the chance of spells of very warm weather is increased compared to usual, it does not imply extreme weather throughout the whole 3-month period. The increased likelihood of this category could mean more days with temperatures that are above average to a more modest degree. Above-average temperatures can also arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

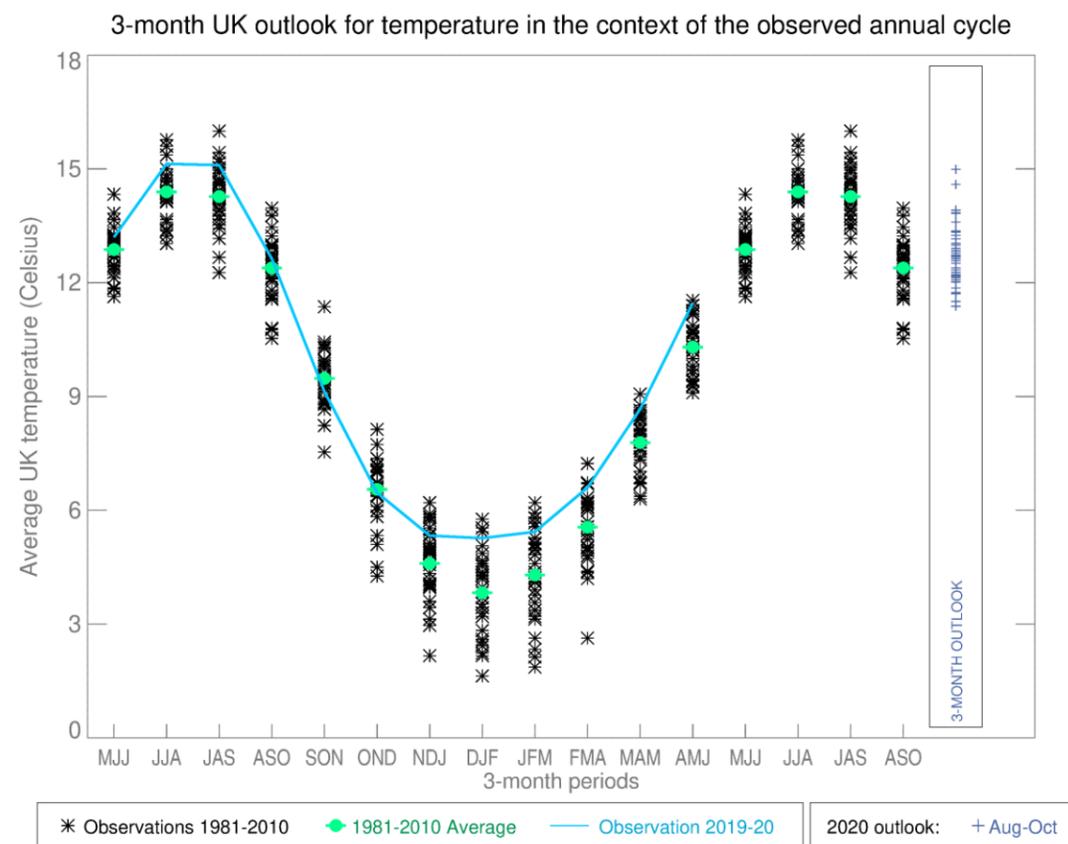


Fig T2

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

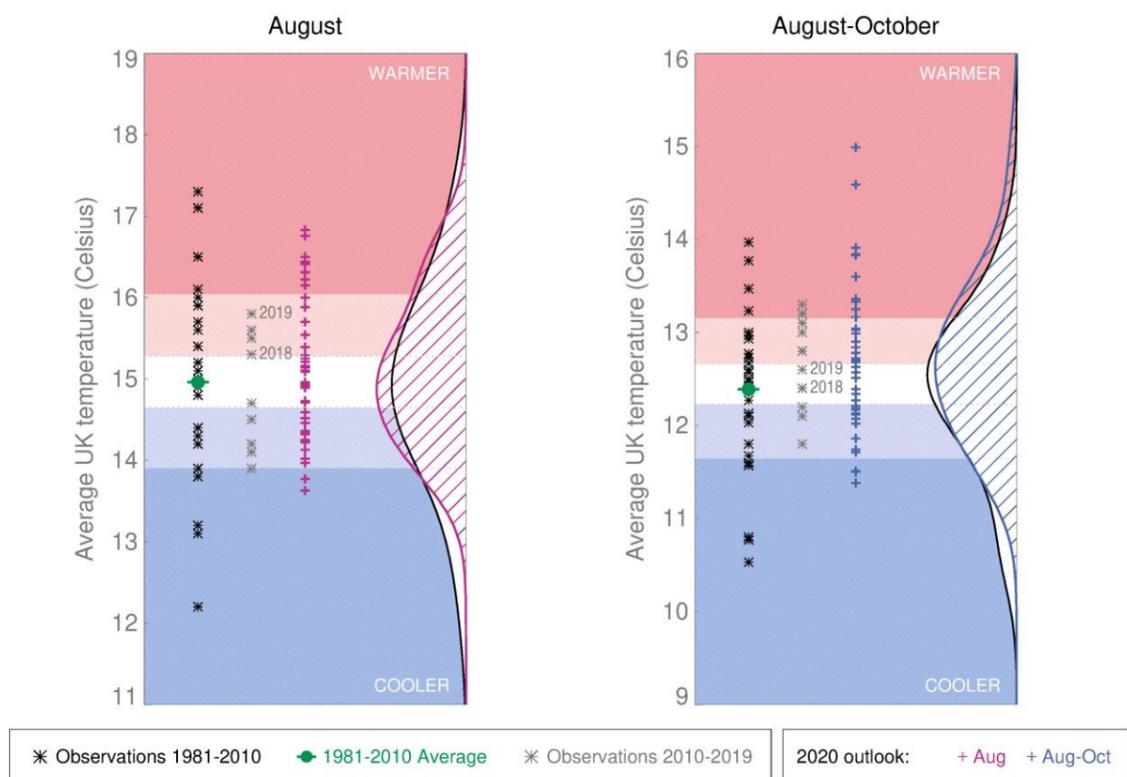
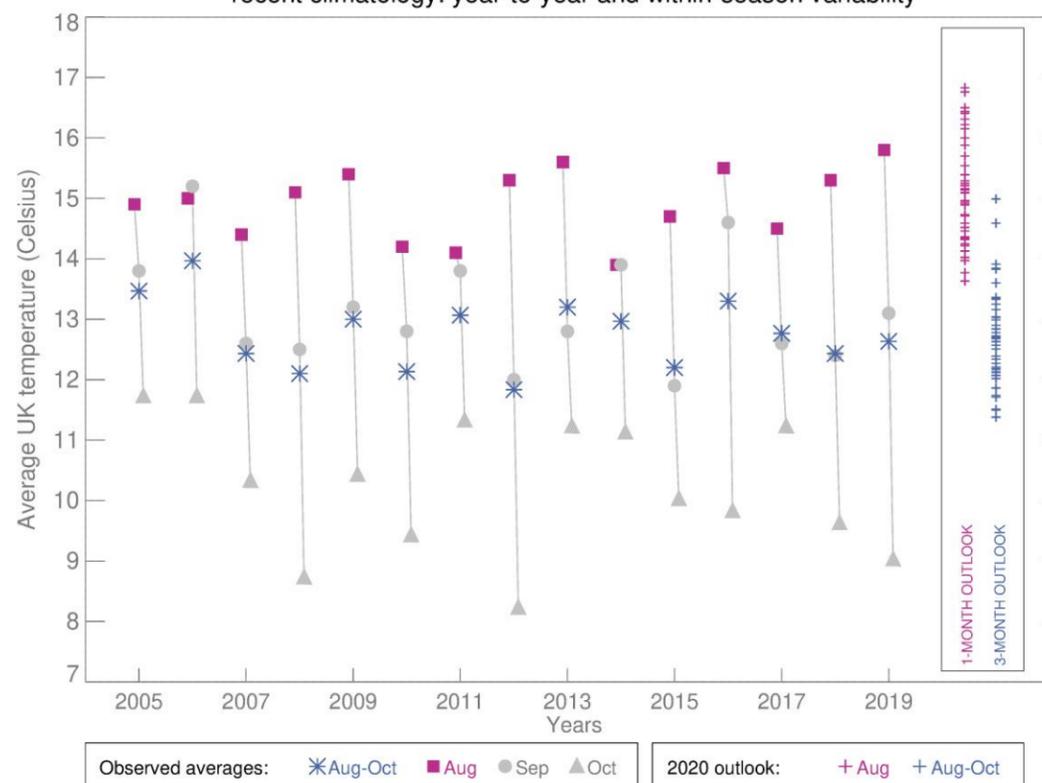


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature 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.