

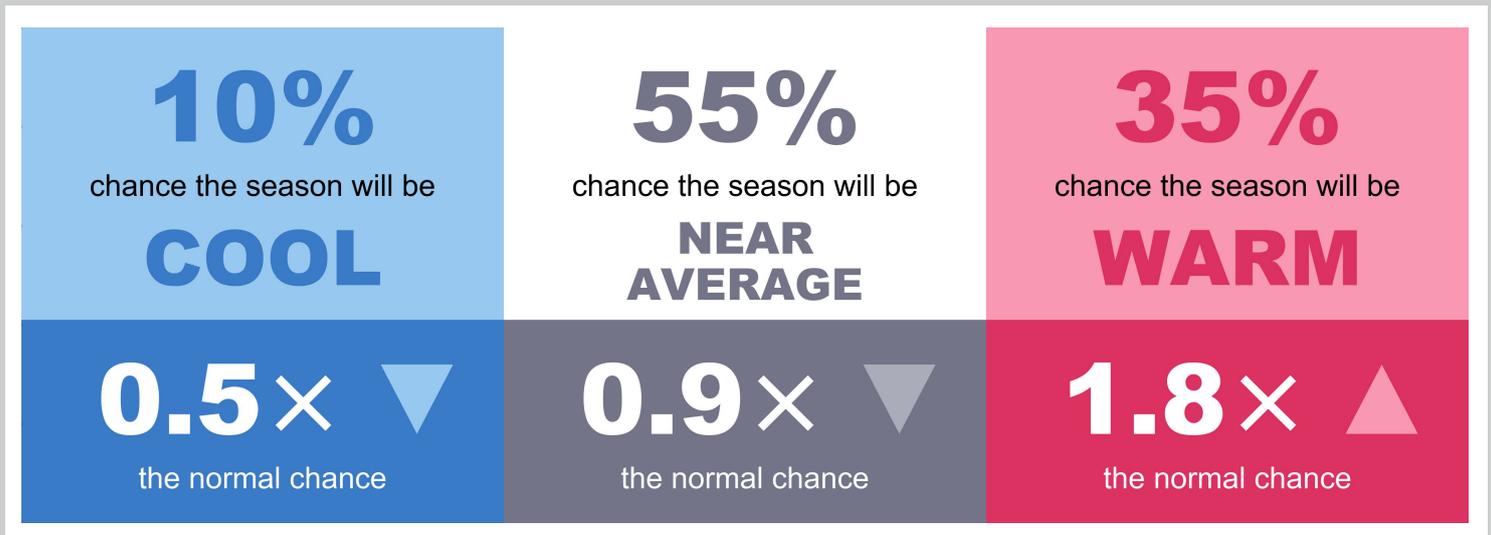
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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3-month summary

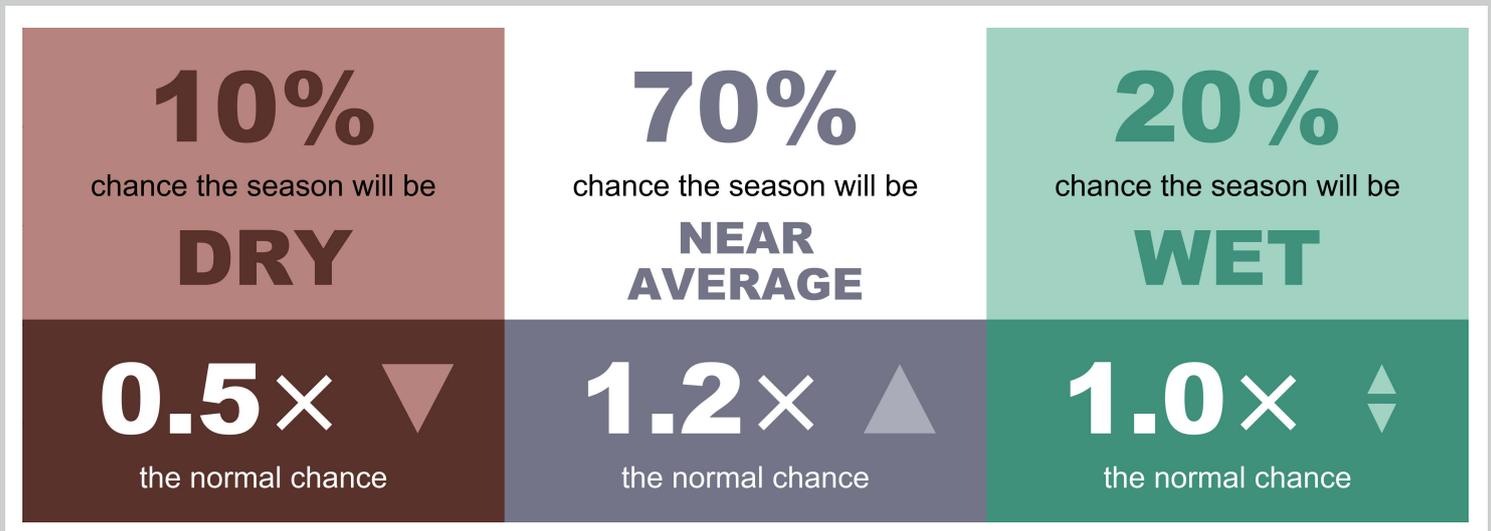
- Warm conditions are almost twice as likely as normal
- Cold spells are still possible, especially during April
- Greater than normal chance of impacts from hot weather, most likely later in the period
- Chances of a wet period are similar to normal
- Dry conditions have half their normal chance

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



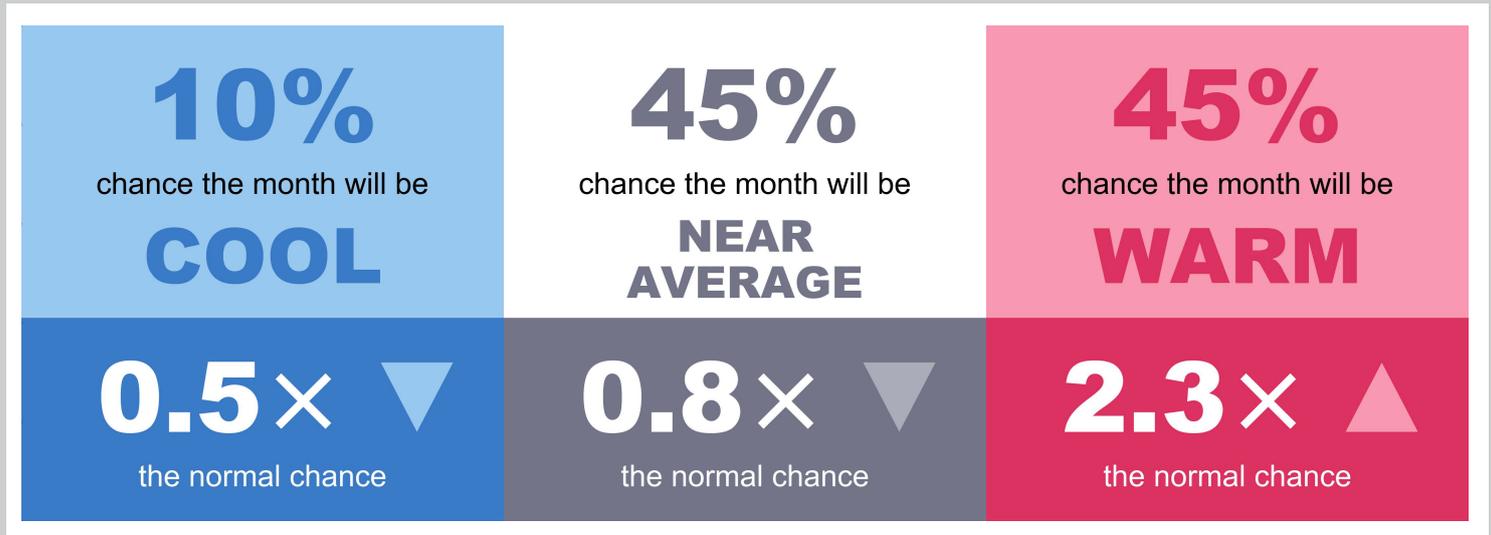
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1-month summary

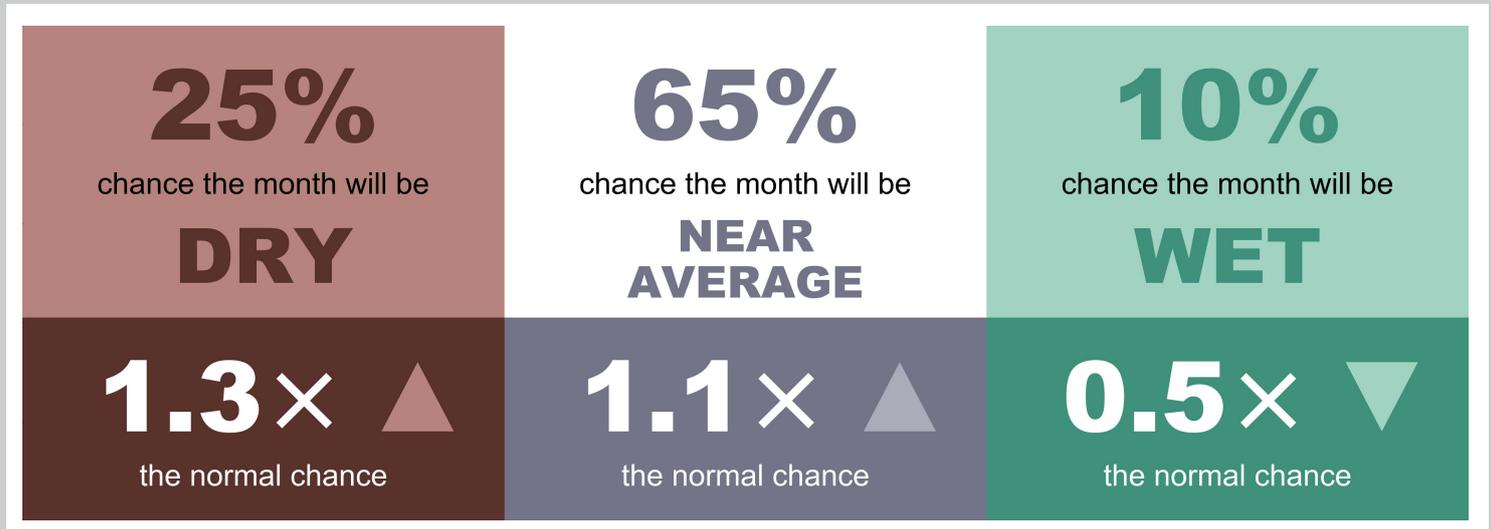
- Warm conditions are more than twice as likely as normal
- Cold spells and transient cold weather impacts remain possible, especially early in the month
- Dry conditions are more likely than wet conditions

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:

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

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	COOL	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM
DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY				

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE
DRY	DRY	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE				

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for April to June

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:

- A stronger than average Stratospheric Polar Vortex (SPV), which favours westerly winds
- The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which is expected to move into a phase favouring less strong westerly winds in April
- The recent La Niña event is now declining.

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. Currently, there is good agreement for an increased likelihood of high pressure extending into the UK from the west or south-west during the Outlook period, especially during April. This leads to an increased chance of settled conditions in April and winds from the west or northwest throughout the 3-month period, which is consistent with the drivers listed above.

Impact

An increased chance of settled weather in April means greater likelihood of warm and dry conditions compared to normal leading to an increased risk of wildfires. However, there remains a chance of brief spells of cold weather which could bring some transient impacts from snow. The increased signal for warm conditions through the 3-month period as a whole is consistent with our warming climate. As in recent years, this raises the potential for heatwaves and hot weather impacts later in the period.

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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

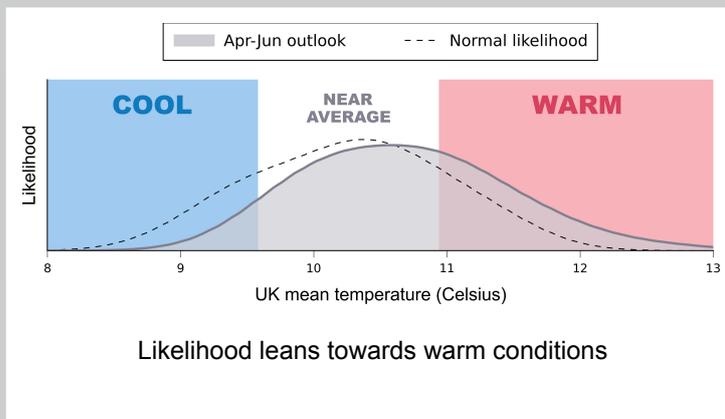
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- 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

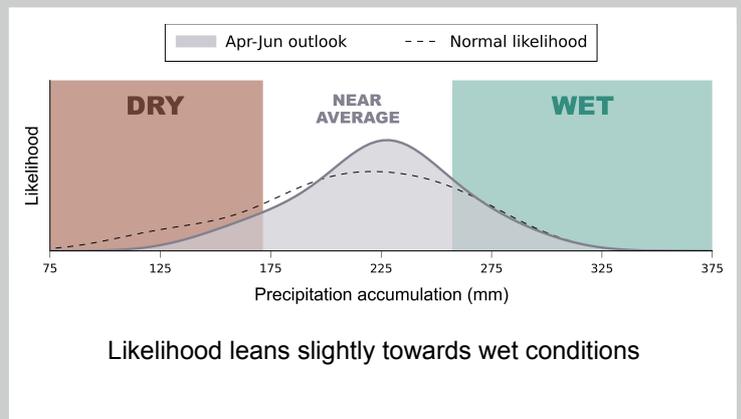
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood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

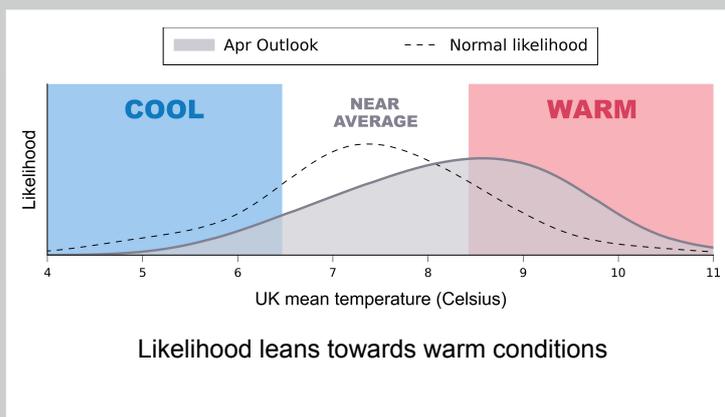
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



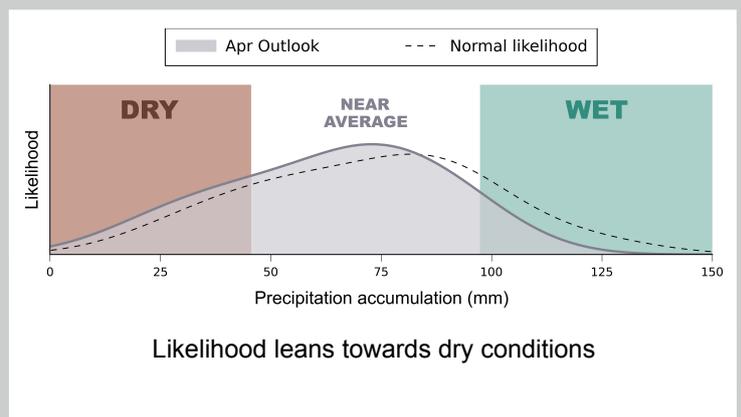
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



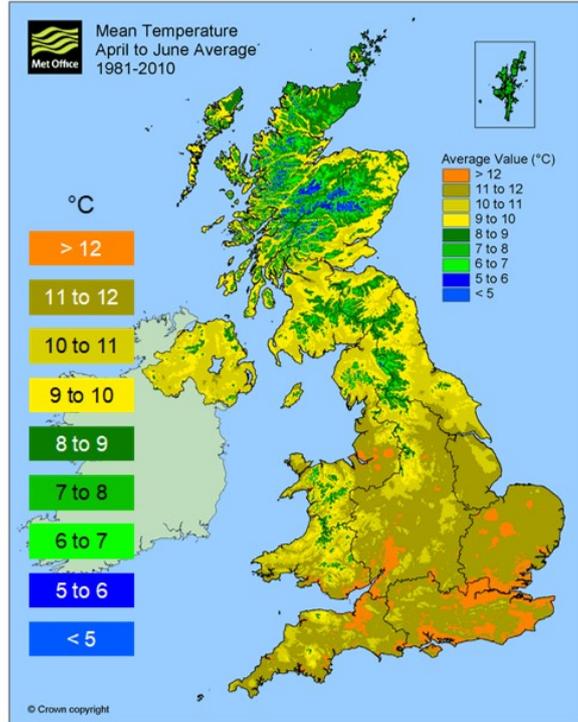
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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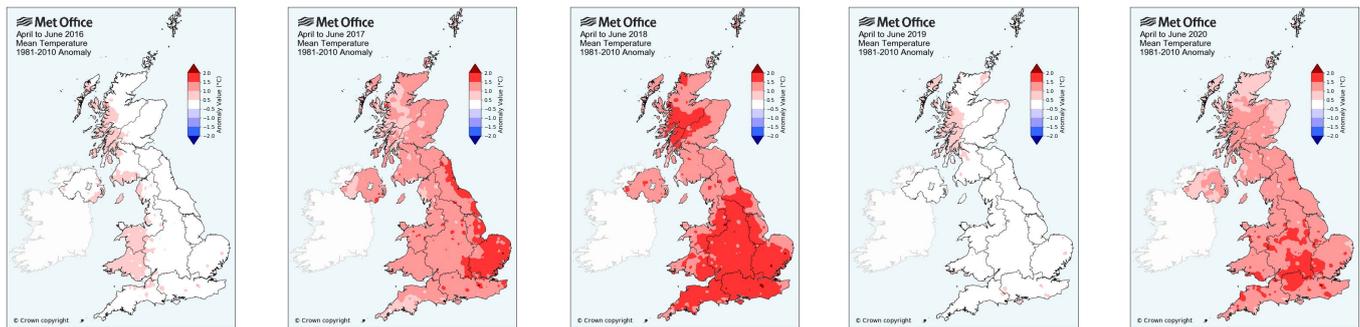
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

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 April - June based on observations from past years.

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



Apr-Jun 2016

Apr-Jun 2017

Apr-Jun 2018

Apr-Jun 2019

Apr-Jun 2020

Anomaly (°C)

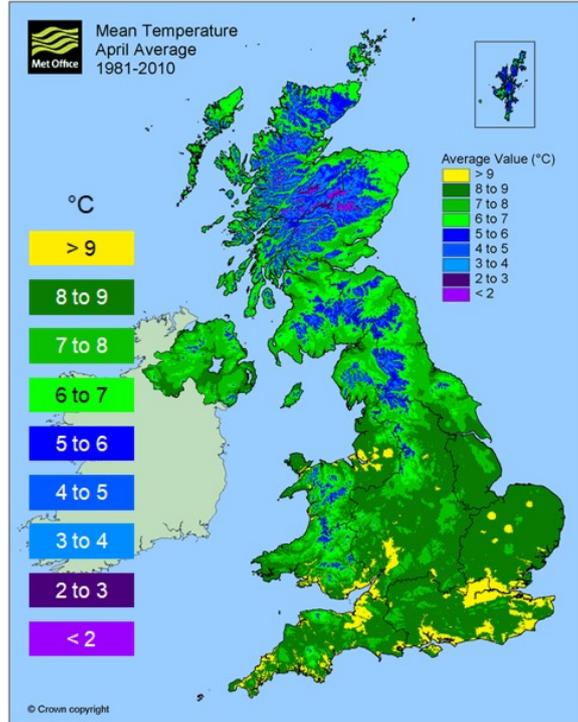


These maps show how April - June temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of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

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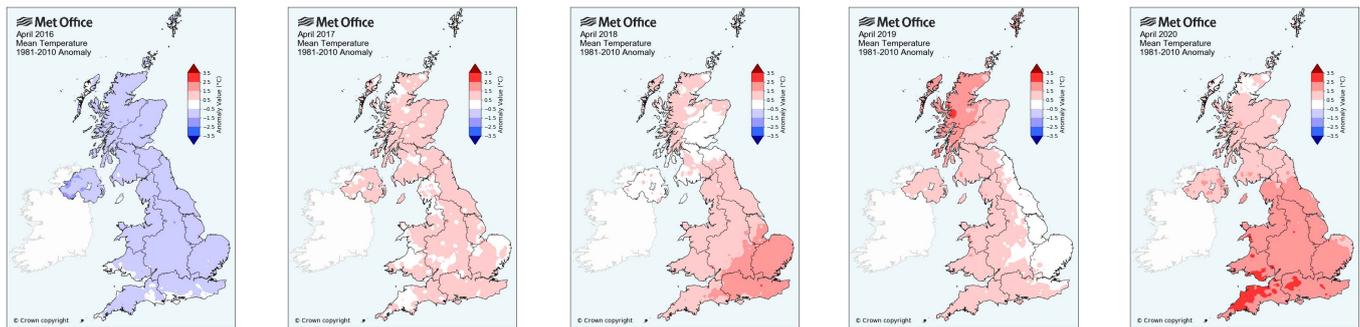
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

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



Average temperatures for April based on observations from past years.

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



Apr 2016

Apr 2017

Apr 2018

Apr 2019

Apr 2020

Anomaly (°C)

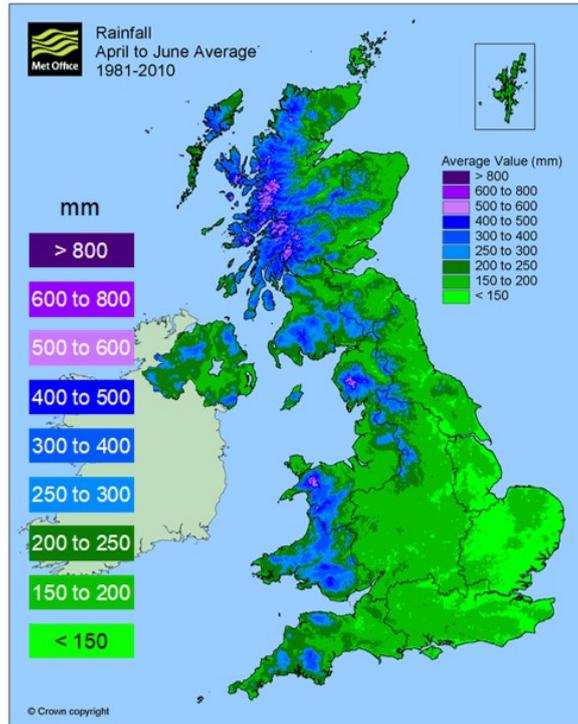


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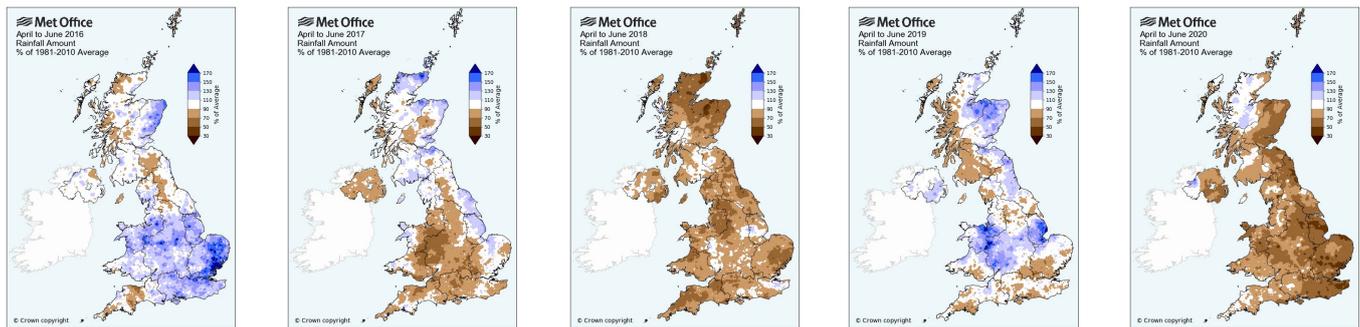
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

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



Average precipitation for April - June based on observations from past years.

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



Apr-Jun 2016

Apr-Jun 2017

Apr-Jun 2018

Apr-Jun 2019

Apr-Jun 2020

% of average

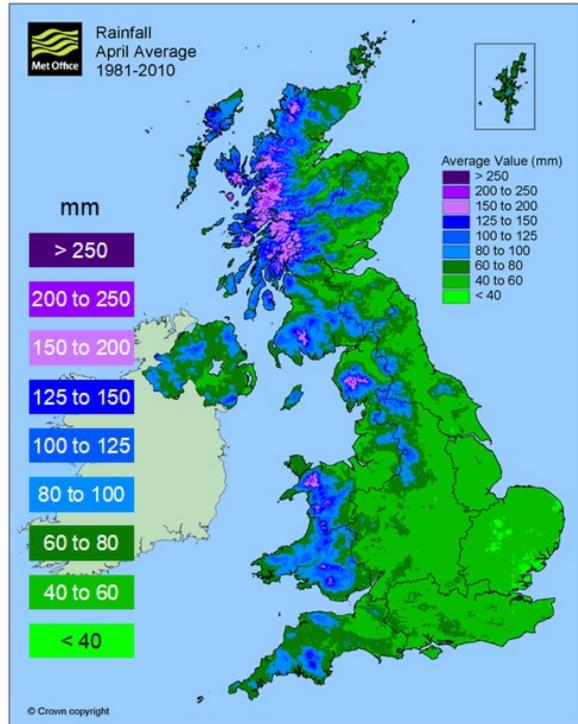


These maps show how April - June precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the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

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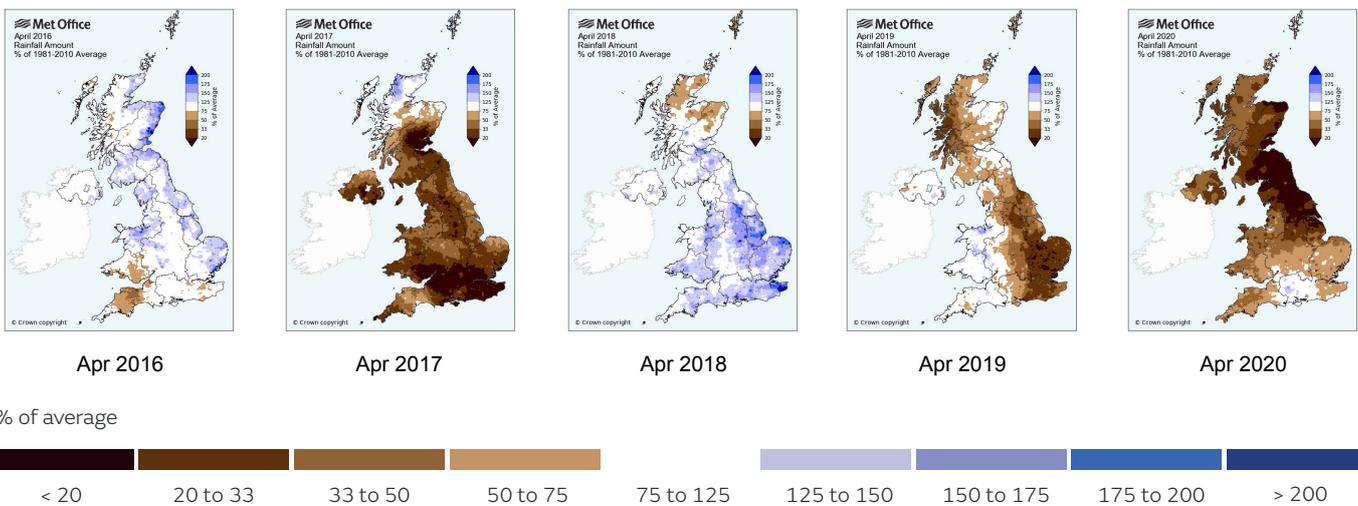
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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



Average precipitation for April based on observations from past years.

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



These maps show how April 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. With warmer-than-average conditions almost twice as likely as normal are we in for a heatwave?

A. The Outlook does not guarantee hot weather, it says temperatures are likely to be above average, particularly later in the 3-month period. However, there remains a chance of cooler conditions too. Average temperatures are lower in spring than summer, and warmer than usual days may still not reach heatwave temperature thresholds, especially earlier in the period. Drier, warmer spells can increase the risk of wildfire.

Q. Will we get snow in April/at Easter?

A. The Outlook does not tell us when any cold spells might come along, or whether or not we will have snow. A warm April overall is more than twice as likely as usual, but cold spells with a risk of wintry showers are still possible, particularly earlier in the month. For a detailed picture of what the weather will bring for your area this Easter (2nd – 6th April) check the daily forecasts and the 30-day forecast on our website.

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 April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 2 April 2021.

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.