

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 3 April 2015.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

The latest predictions for UK-mean precipitation favour near- to above-average rainfall in April. For April-May-June, there is a slight shift away from climatology towards above-average precipitation but there is a wide spread of possible outcomes.

The probability that UK precipitation for April-May-June will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Predictability of UK precipitation is low during this season, with no known large-scale global drivers that might influence weather patterns significantly across northern Europe. Additionally, as we approach summer, precipitation becomes increasingly difficult to predict due to its convective and localised nature and there is often more regional variability.

As already mentioned in the temperature section, there is a fairly consistent signal from computer models for the positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) to continue in April. Also evident is a slight preference for atmospheric pressure over the south of the UK to be higher than average, with low pressure systems tending to track between Scotland

and Iceland. With this type of pattern above-average rainfall is more probable than below-average, but with a tendency for a larger proportion of this to fall across northwestern parts of the UK and a possibility that southeastern areas may end up being drier-than-average.

For April-May-June as a whole, although near-to above-average precipitation is slightly favoured, uncertainty is large; this is highlighted in figure P2, where there is a broad range of outcomes. Having said that there is a slight preference, in the majority of models, for below-average pressure across northern Europe and the UK, which is generally associated with wetter-than-average conditions.

Fig P1 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of the observed annual cycle

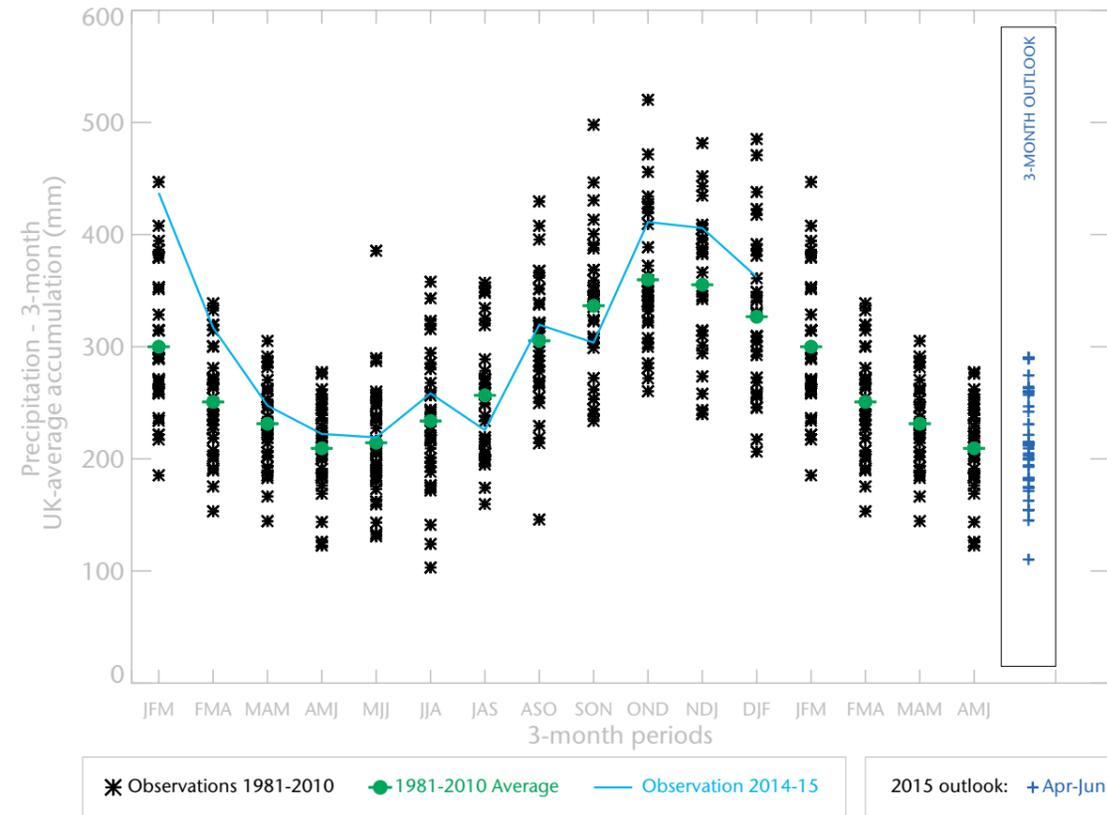
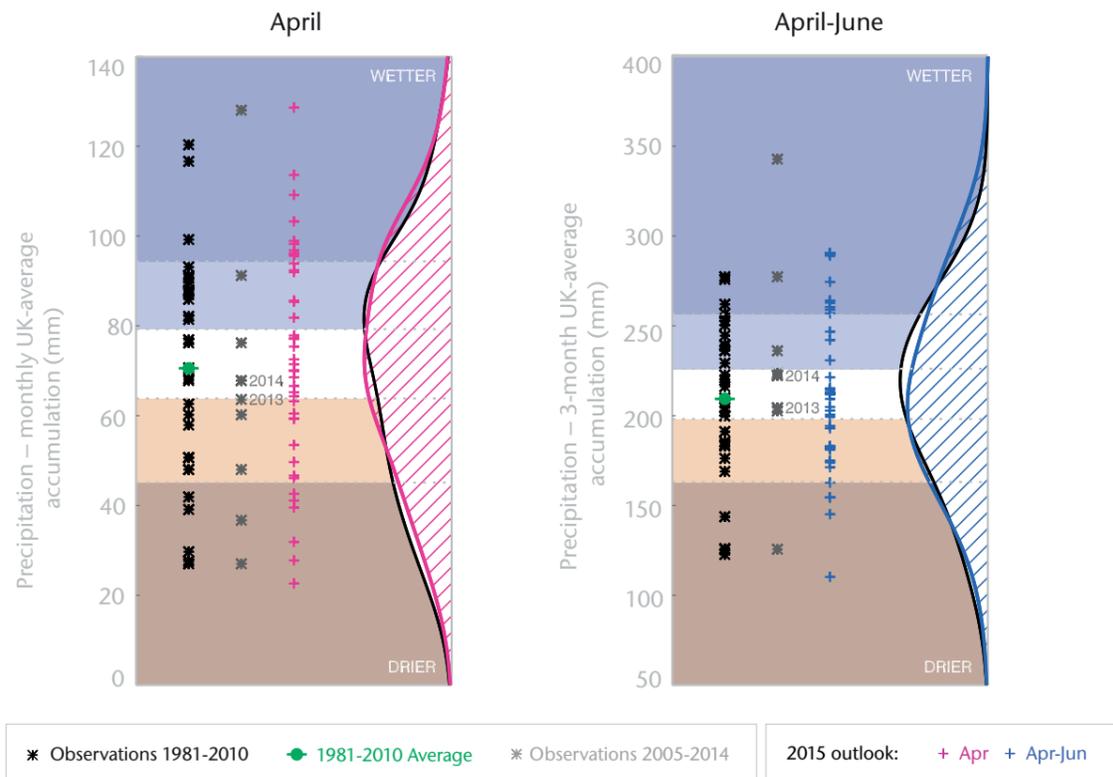
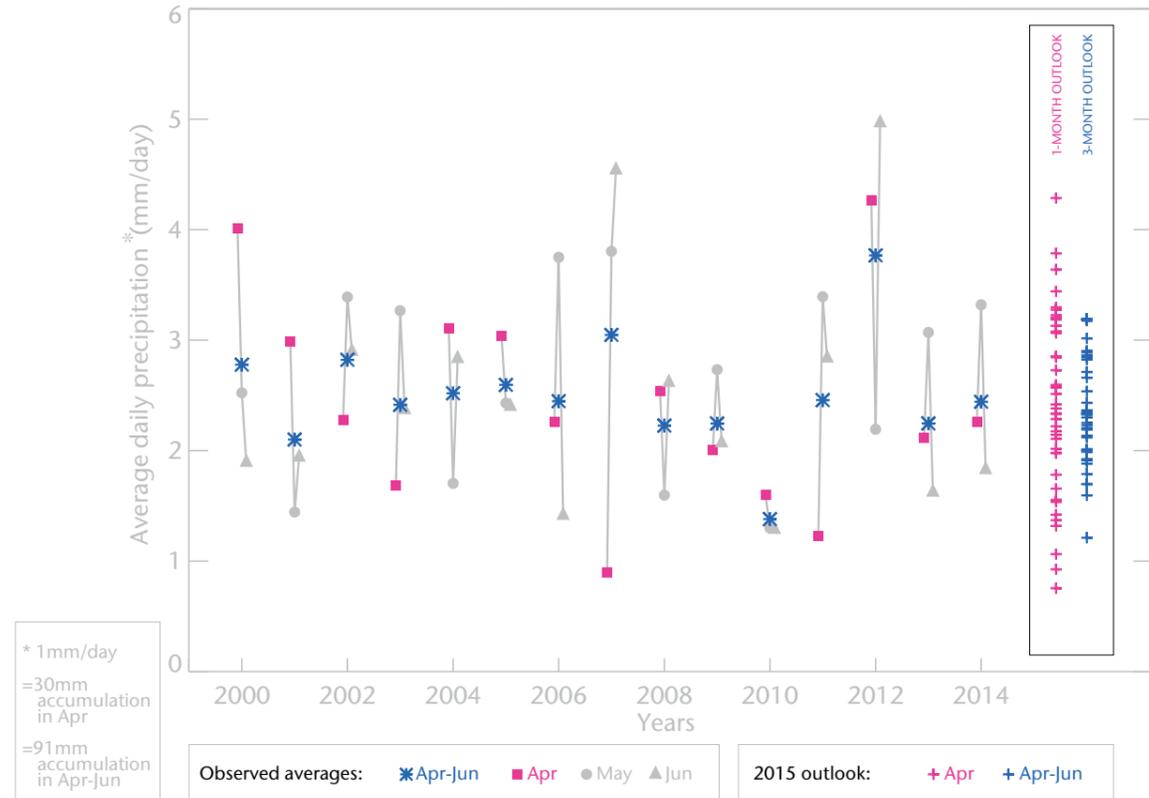


Fig P2 1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of observed climatology



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.