



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2020 Issue date: 20.08.20

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 28th August 2020.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

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

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for September-October-November will fall into the coldest of our five categories is between 5% and 10%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 50% (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) start to be more influential at this time of year, particularly later in the period, with predictability higher than in the summer months.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continue to decline in the central and eastern tropical Pacific and it is very likely that La Niña will develop during the forecast period. In autumn, La Niña influences UK weather patterns by moderately increasing the likelihood of winds from the west off the Atlantic Ocean. This would act to increase the chances of cooler-than-average conditions early in the season, and warmer-than-average conditions later on.

Following the recent heatwave, above-average SSTs have been established around the UK, which increases the chances of warmer-than-average weather conditions in September.

For both September and September-October-November as a whole, the Met Office long-range prediction system and other systems from

prediction centres around the world are in good agreement in showing an increased likelihood of winds from the west. As noted above, this increases the likelihood of below-average temperatures at the start of the season and above-average temperature towards the end of the season. Overall, there is a shift towards warmer-than-average conditions, consistent with the observed warming of the climate over the past 10 years (see graphs of figure T2).

The relatively high probability of our warmest forecast category 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 arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

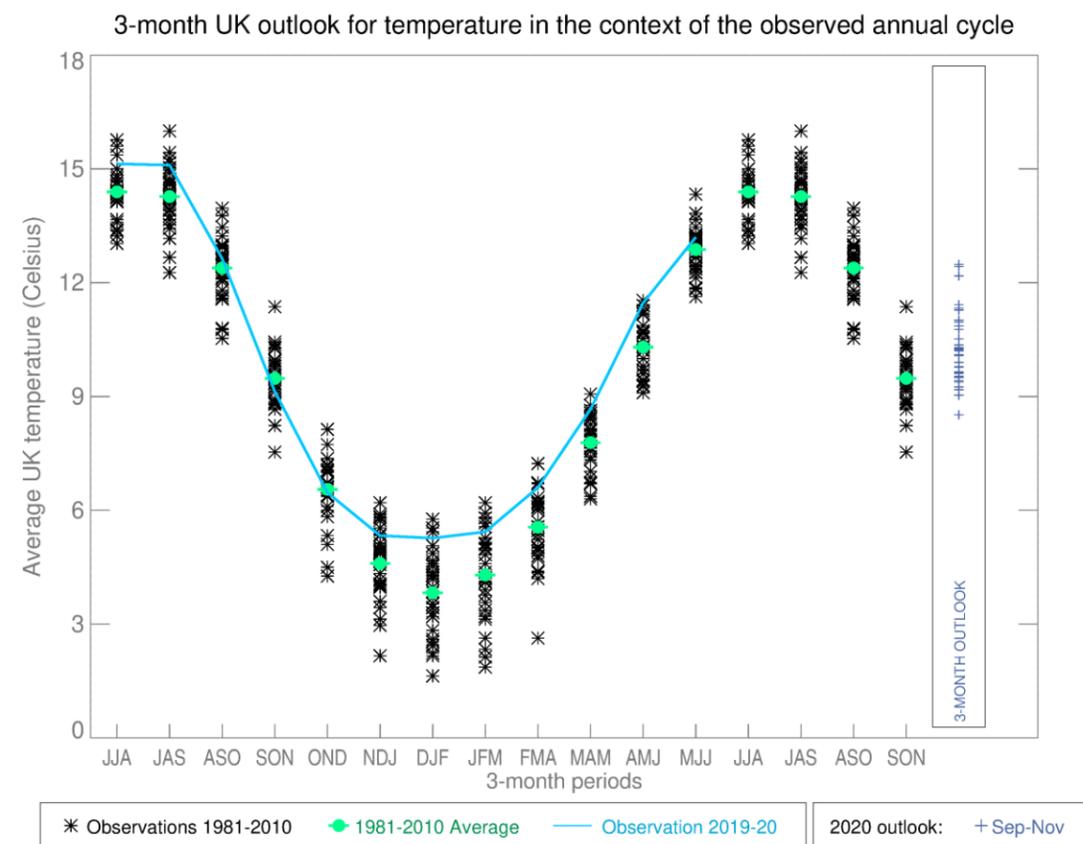


Fig T2

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

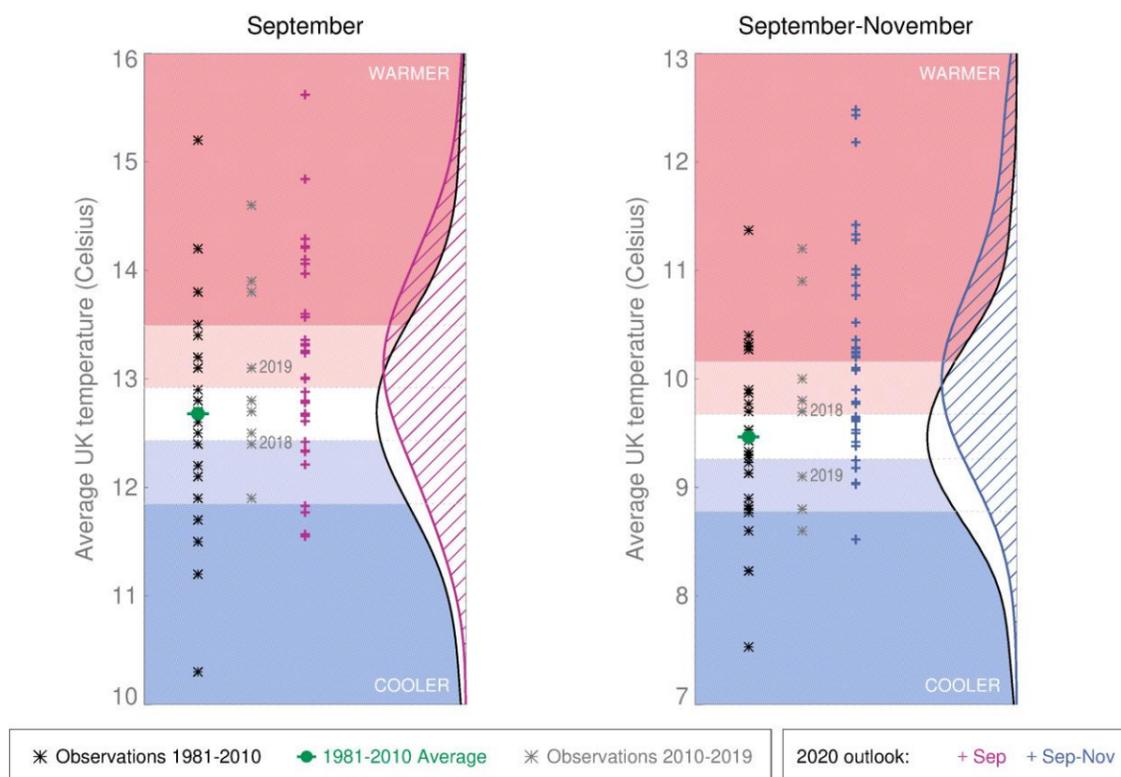
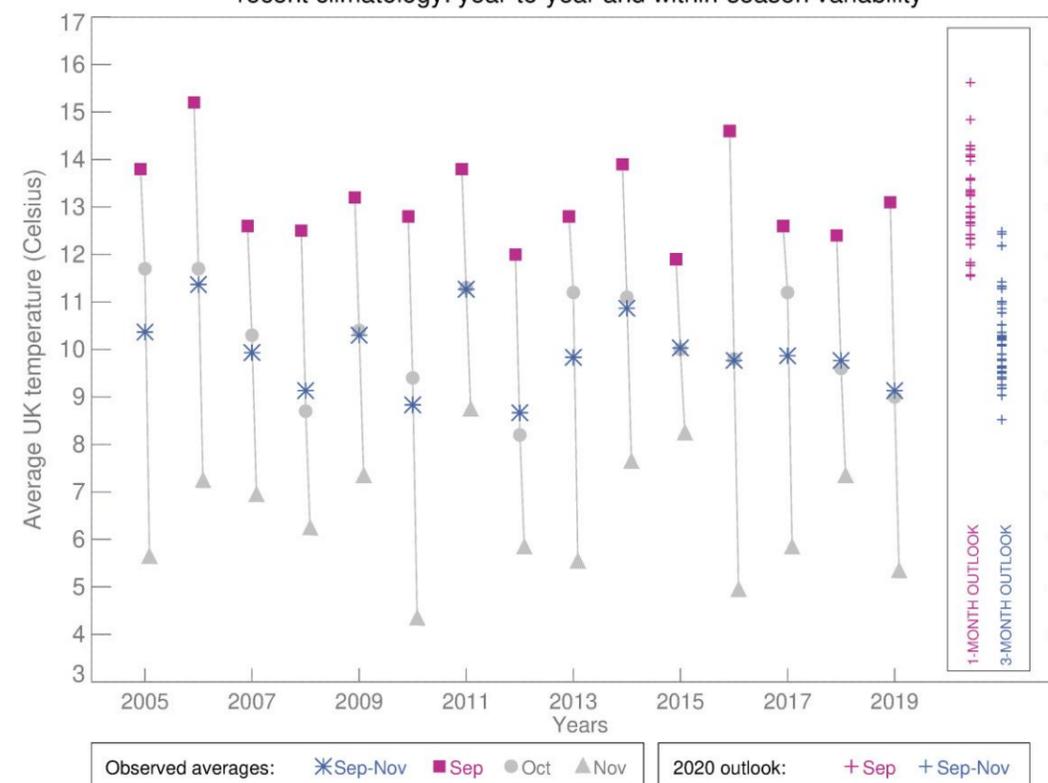


Fig T3

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.