

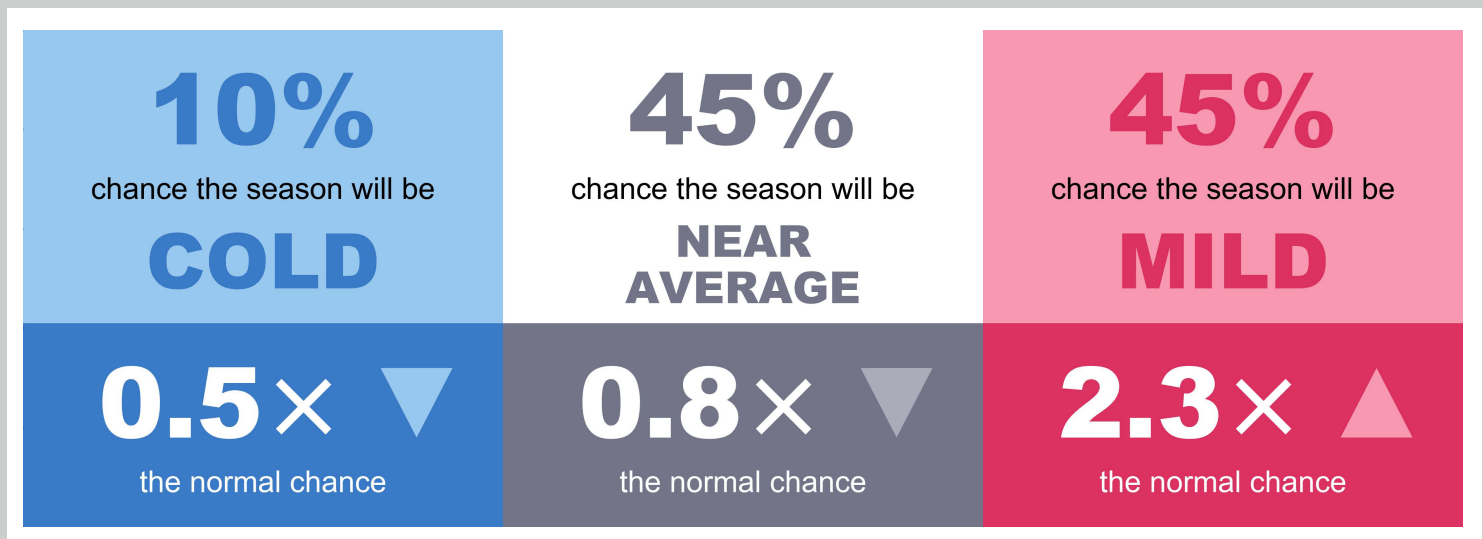
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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3-month summary

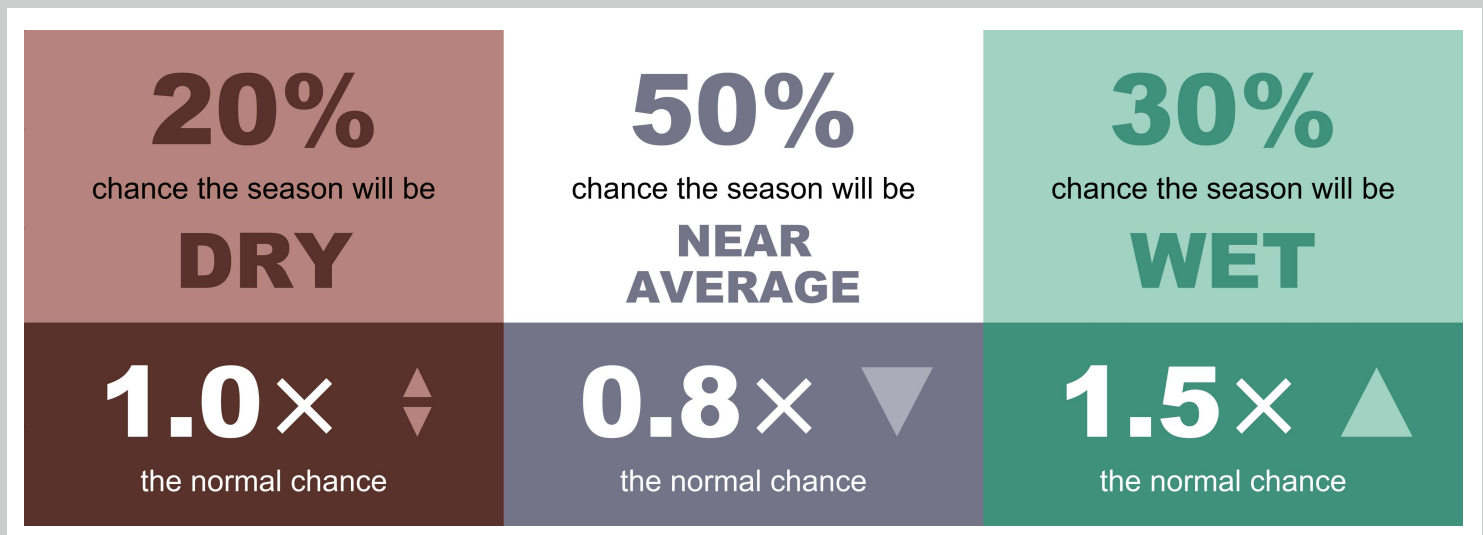
- The period is significantly more likely than normal to be mild
- Despite this, cold spells are still possible, especially during November and December
- The period is slightly more likely than normal to be wet

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



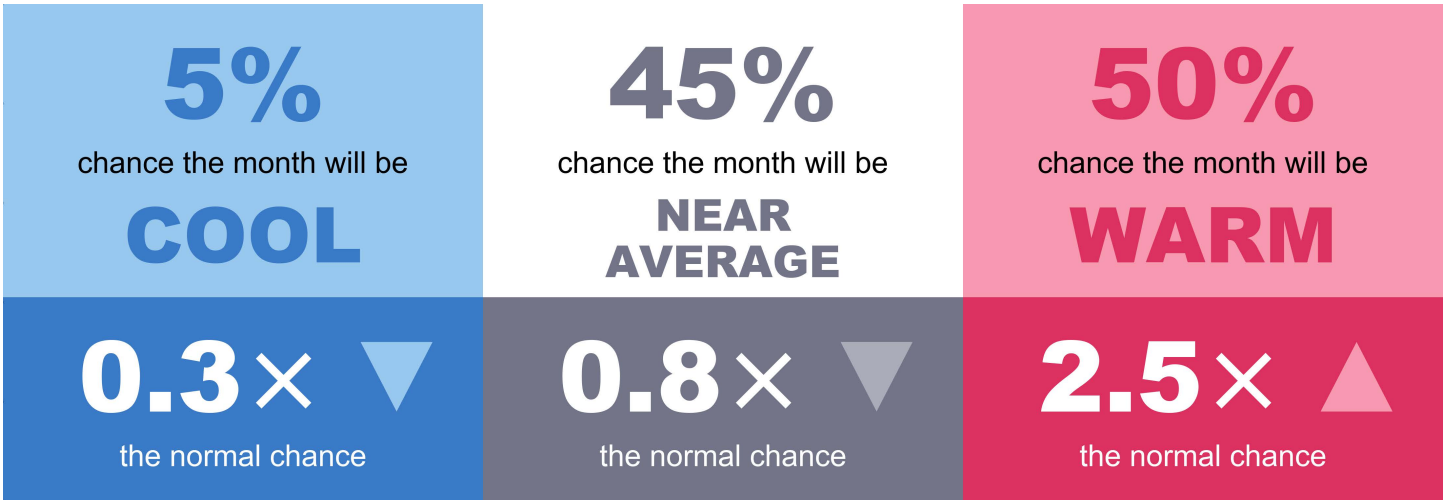
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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1-month summary

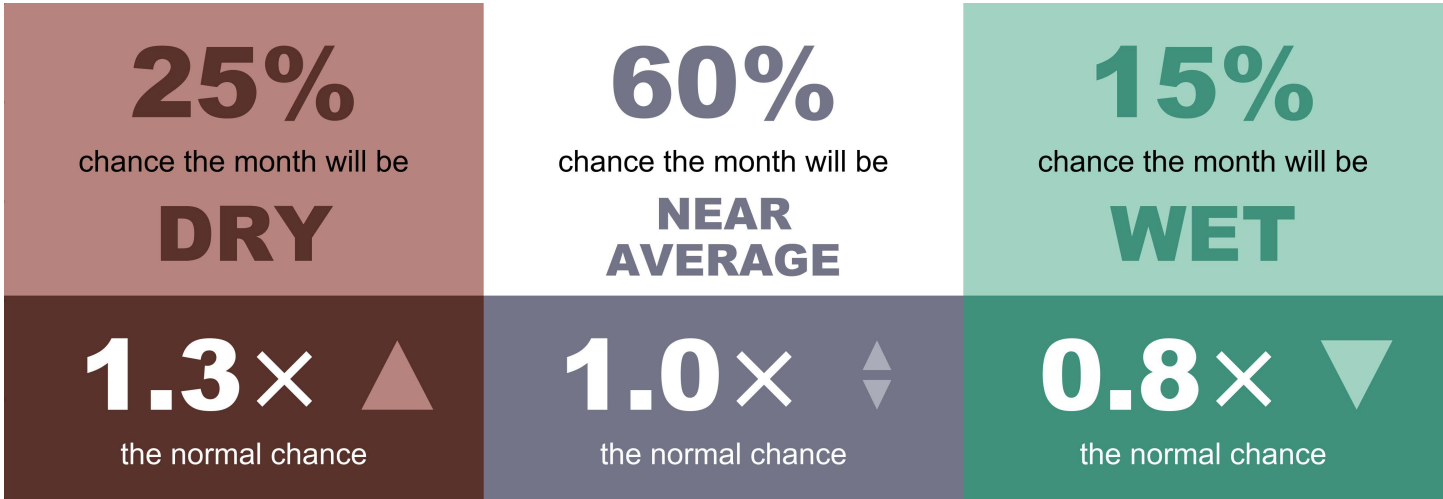
- An increased likelihood of settled conditions
- Greater than normal chance of periods of light winds and overnight fog
- Significantly more likely than normal to be warm, although more settled than normal conditions increases the chance of overnight frost
- Slightly more likely than normal to be dry

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:

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

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

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

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for October to December

Global weather patterns affect UK weather, and their influence acts to change the chances of the categories in the Outlook. We are now entering the time of year where these drivers and their influence on UK weather grows stronger, increasing confidence in the forecast.

Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- A most likely trend towards La Nina conditions, increasing the chance of high pressure patterns to the west of the UK and winds from a colder north to north-westerly direction
- An easterly phase of the QBO, increasing the chance of a weakening of the usual winds from the Atlantic
- Above-average sea-surface temperatures around the UK favouring warm conditions in October
- The influence of Atlantic tropical cyclones acting to lower confidence in October

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. There is relatively good agreement between models that on average high pressure will be located close to the UK in October. There is also good agreement for the 3-month period, with high pressure on average centred over the North Atlantic Ocean. This is consistent with the expected effect of La Nina and would increase the likelihood of winds from a north-westerly or northerly direction.

Impact

The increased likelihood of settled conditions in October brings greater-than-usual chances of frost, fog and light winds that may lead to issues for the renewable energy sector. During the 3-month period, the above-normal chance of north-westerly or northerly winds shows the potential for some cold spells despite the season overall being more likely than usual to be mild.

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

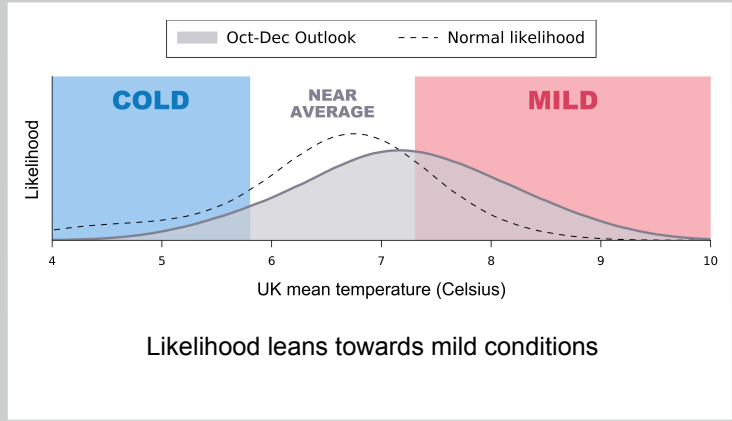
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- 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

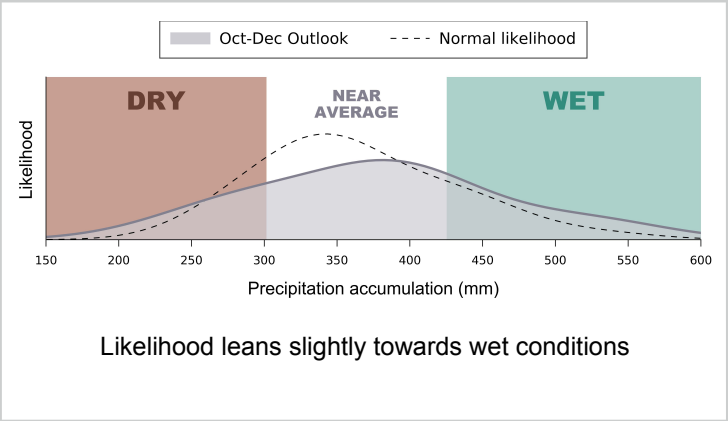
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood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

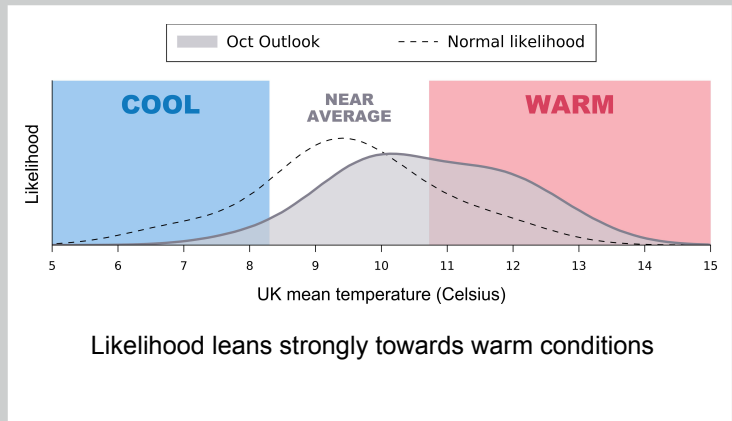
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



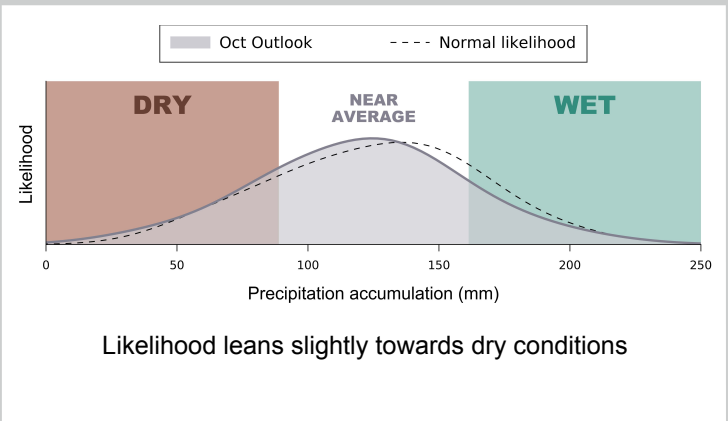
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



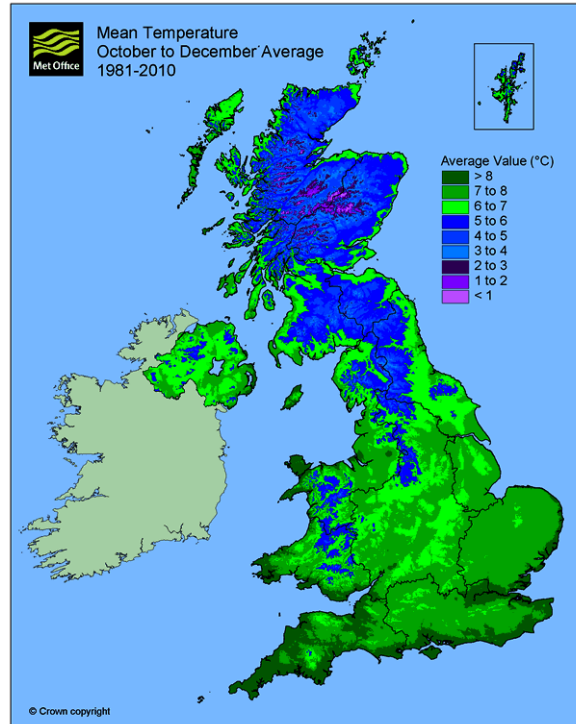
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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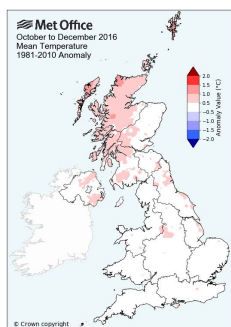
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

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).

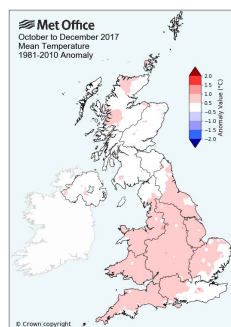


Average temperatures for October - December based on observations from past years.

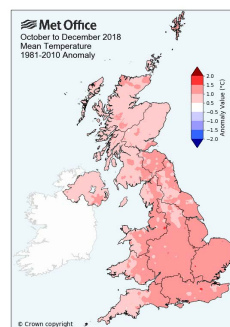
Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



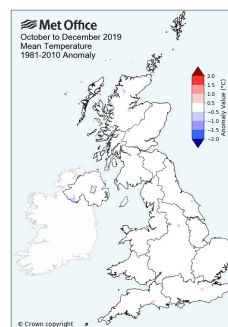
Oct-Dec 2016



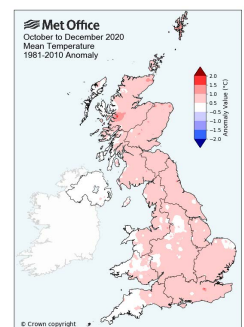
Oct-Dec 2017



Oct-Dec 2018

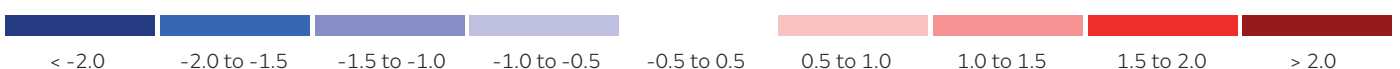


Oct-Dec 2019



Oct-Dec 2020

Anomaly (°C)

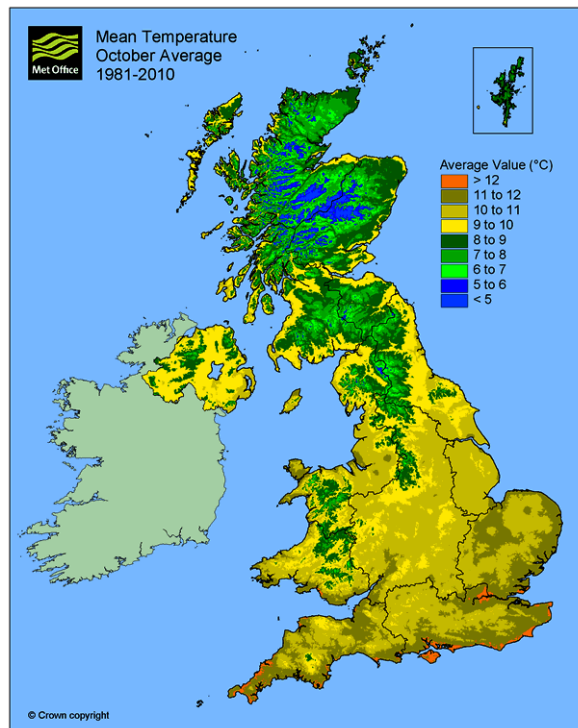


These maps show how October - December temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate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

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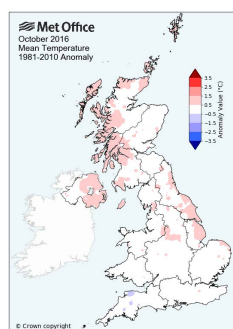
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

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

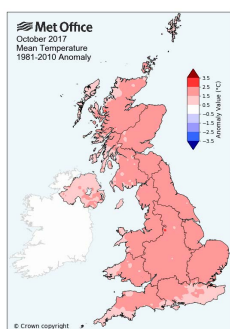


Average temperatures for October based on observations from past years.

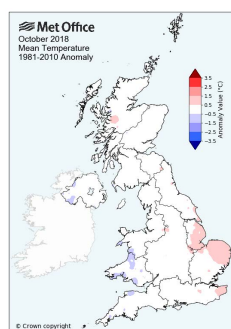
Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



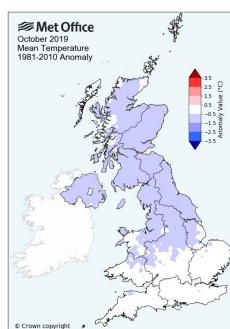
Oct 2016



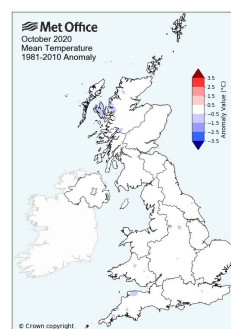
Oct 2017



Oct 2018



Oct 2019



Oct 2020

Anomaly (°C)

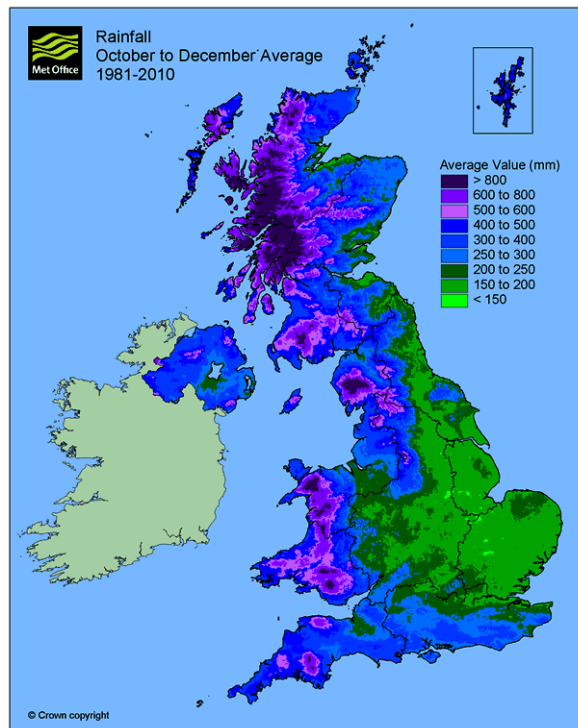


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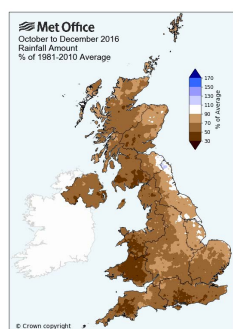
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

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

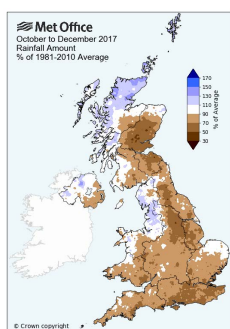


Average precipitation for October - December based on observations from past years.

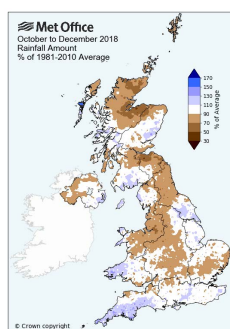
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



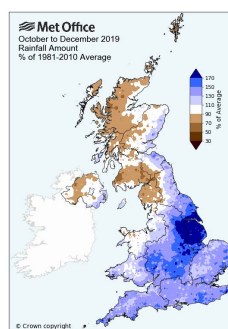
Oct-Dec 2016



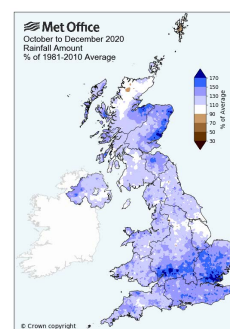
Oct-Dec 2017



Oct-Dec 2018

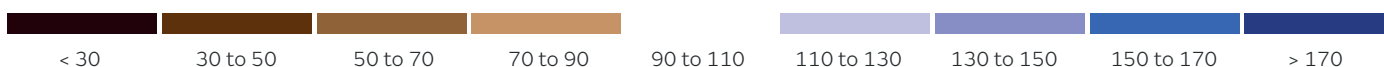


Oct-Dec 2019



Oct-Dec 2020

% of average

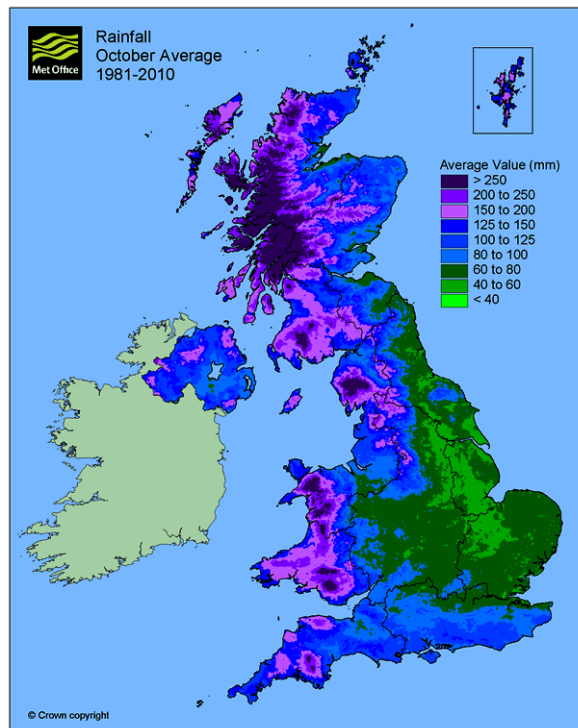


These maps show how October - December precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of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

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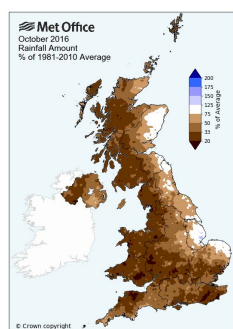
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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

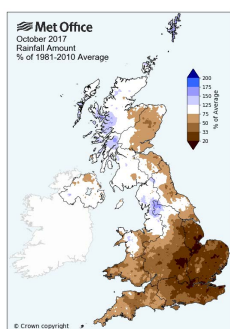


Average precipitation for October based on observations from past years.

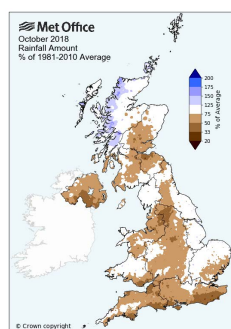
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



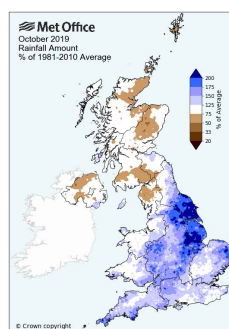
Oct 2016



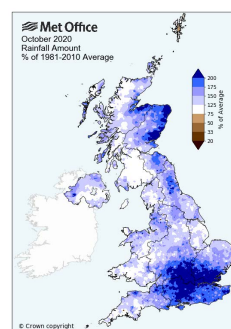
Oct 2017



Oct 2018



Oct 2019



Oct 2020

% of average



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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. Does a mild winter mean there is no chance of snow this winter?

A. The Outlook does not predict a mild winter, instead it gives the chances of it being cold or mild. If a mild winter were to occur, it would likely mean less snow overall. Even then, however, there could be some colder spells and snowfall.

Q. Does this outlook mean we are likely to see an Indian Summer?

A. An Indian summer is generally a warm, calm spell of weather in autumn, especially in October and November. Although the Outlook indicates there is an increased chance of warmer-than-average conditions in October, it cannot identify weather for a particular day or week. There remains a chance of colder-than-average conditions for the period overall and shorter spells of cooler or warmer weather are quite likely just through normal fluctuations within the season.

Q. Does this outlook mean we are likely to see a mild autumn and start to winter?

A. The Outlook indicates an increased chance of mild conditions for the period as a whole, but with a greater chance of relatively still conditions there is a greater likelihood of overnight frosts. In recent years, the likelihood of our coldest category has often been quite small reflecting the fact that UK climate has warmed. Above-average temperatures are not a guarantee of a prolonged sunny spell and periods of colder weather and regional variations in temperatures remain likely.

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 October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 1 October 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.