



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2018 Issue date: 23.08.18

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 31st August 2018.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For September, and for 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 around 5%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 40% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral phase (neither El Niño nor La Niña). Long-range predictions indicate that development of El Niño conditions is more likely than not by the end of the outlook period. Nevertheless, in autumn there are only weak connections between ENSO and the UK and so the influence on weather patterns in the next three months is likely to be small. Sea surface temperatures across much of the northern North Atlantic Ocean remain below average. This pattern moderately increases the chances of high pressure over Northern Europe during September. In early autumn, high pressure is often associated with above-average temperatures. Meanwhile, sea surface temperatures close to the UK continue to be well above average following the hot summer. This also increases the chances of above-average UK temperatures, mainly in the early part of the outlook period. For September, the Met Office long-range prediction system, along

with systems from other centres around the world, shows an increased likelihood of settled weather patterns, which implies the chances of warmer-than-average conditions are higher than usual (see left-hand graph of figure T2). While the peak season for impacts from high temperatures has now passed, there remains a chance of a spell of hot weather in September. For September-October-November, the consensus between long-range prediction systems, including the Met Office system, is for a moderately increased chance of high pressure near the UK. This implies more settled weather and, taken together with the high levels of background warmth globally, an increased likelihood of above-average temperatures. This is consistent with the higher UK temperatures experienced in the last 10 years compared to the 1981-2010 period used to assess 'normal' conditions (see right-hand graph figure T2).

Fig T1

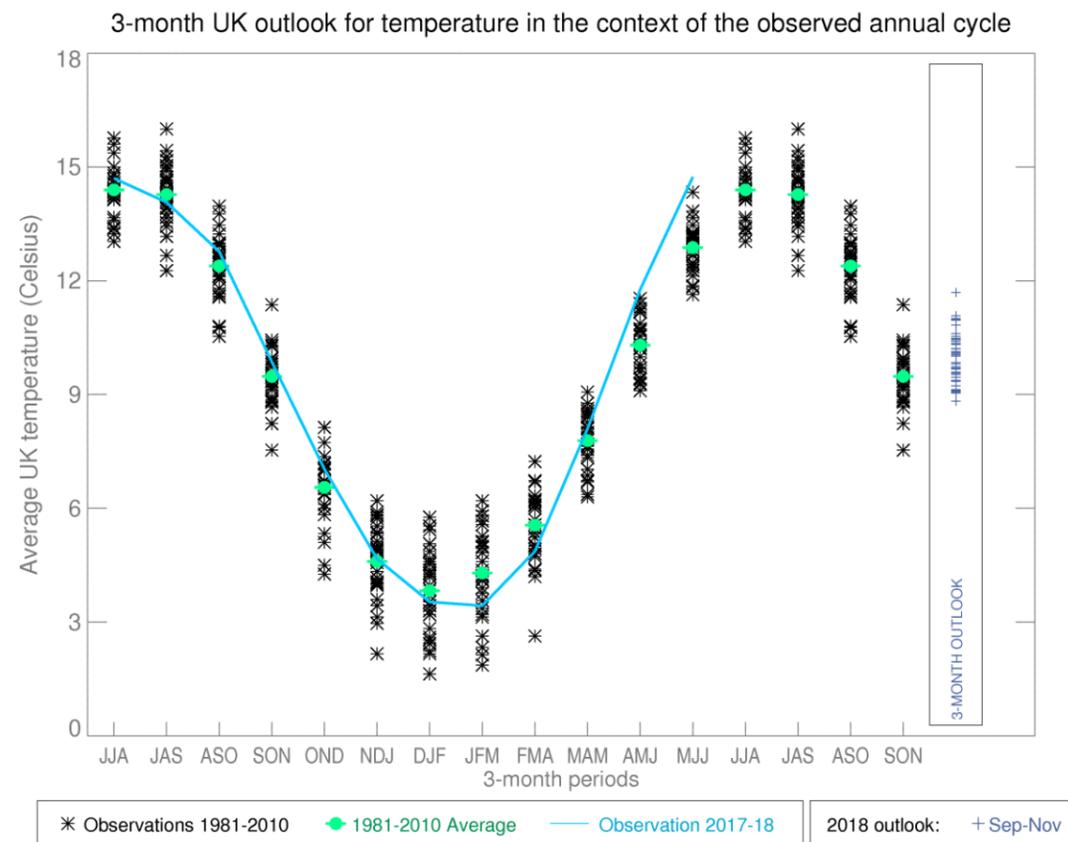


Fig T2

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

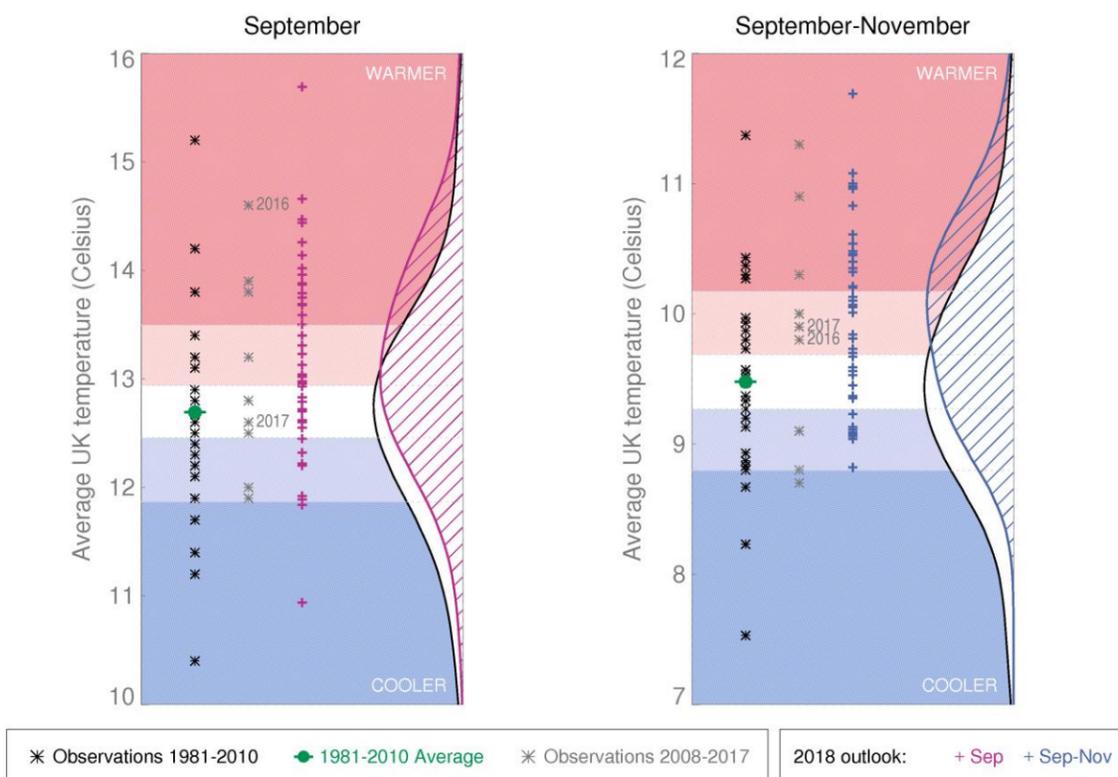
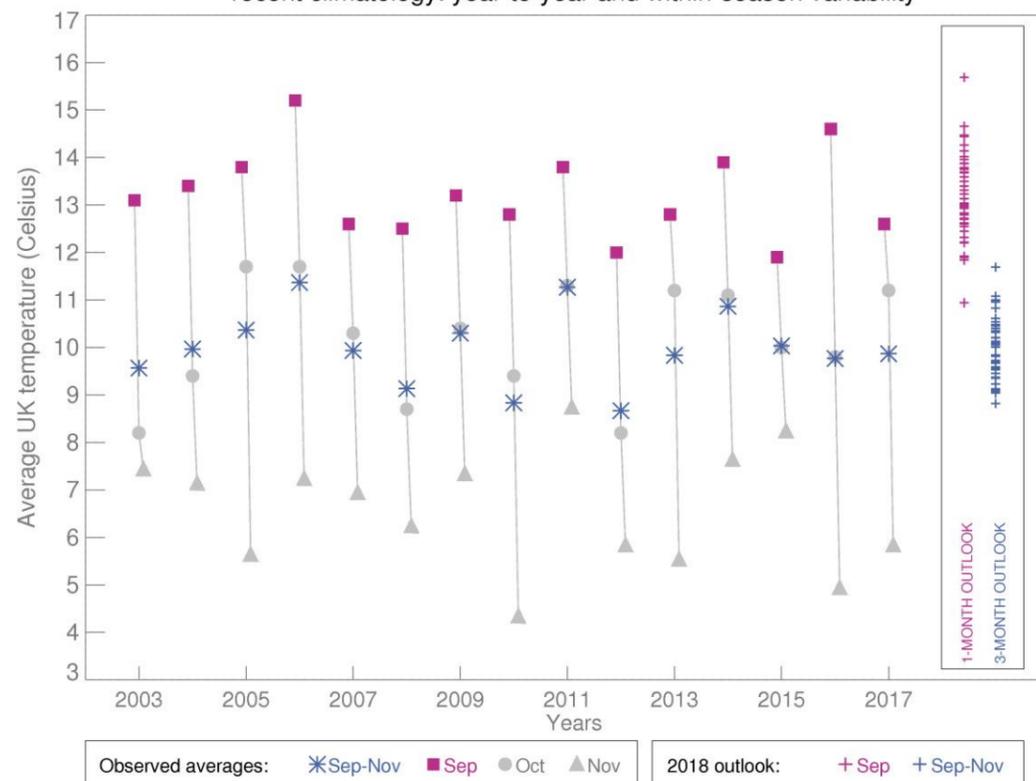


Fig T3

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-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.