



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August–October 2016 Issue date: 21.07.16

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 29 July 2016.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For August, near-average temperatures are more probable than either above- or below-average. For August-September-October as a whole, above-average temperatures are slightly more probable than below-average. Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for August-September-October will fall into the coldest of our five categories is 15% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The tropical Pacific Ocean is currently in a neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) state. The rate of cooling of sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean has slowed following the decline of the recent El Niño. In addition, seasonal prediction systems have decreased their confidence in an imminent La Niña compared with forecasts made in the past couple of months. However, it still seems more likely than not that a La Niña event will develop later this year. The effects of a developing La Niña on UK weather patterns during the coming three months are expected to be small. Previous cases have shown a slight increase in the occurrence of westerly winds across the UK compared to average.

In the North Atlantic Ocean, sea surface temperatures remain below-average in the central North Atlantic and above-average in the western Atlantic; this pattern of sea surface temperatures is thought to moderately increase the probability of above-average pressure in the central North Atlantic, leading to an increased frequency of westerly or north-westerly winds over the UK. At this time of year such a pressure pattern is often associated with near-average temperatures. For August, the Met Office seasonal prediction system, along with systems from other centres around the world, shows a slight increase in

the likelihood of lower-than-average pressure near, or to the north of, the UK, which would be expected to bring westerly winds. This is consistent with the temperature forecast in the left-hand graph of figure T2, which shows an increased probability of near-average temperatures and a reduction in the probability of significantly above- and below-average temperatures. Therefore, whilst short spells of hot weather are still possible during August, the chance of these being prolonged is reduced compared to normal.

For August-September-October as a whole, the Met Office seasonal prediction system shows a slightly increased probability of lower-than-average pressure to the north of the UK and higher-than-average to the south. This suggests an increased chance of cool or normal weather from the Atlantic Ocean. However, systems from other forecast centres show an increased likelihood of higher-than-average pressure closer to the UK, which would likely lead to above-average temperatures. In view of this uncertainty, we assess the chances of above- and below-average temperatures to be approximately similar. This can be seen in the right-hand graph of Figure T2, which shows only a slight shift in probability towards above-average temperatures.

Fig T1

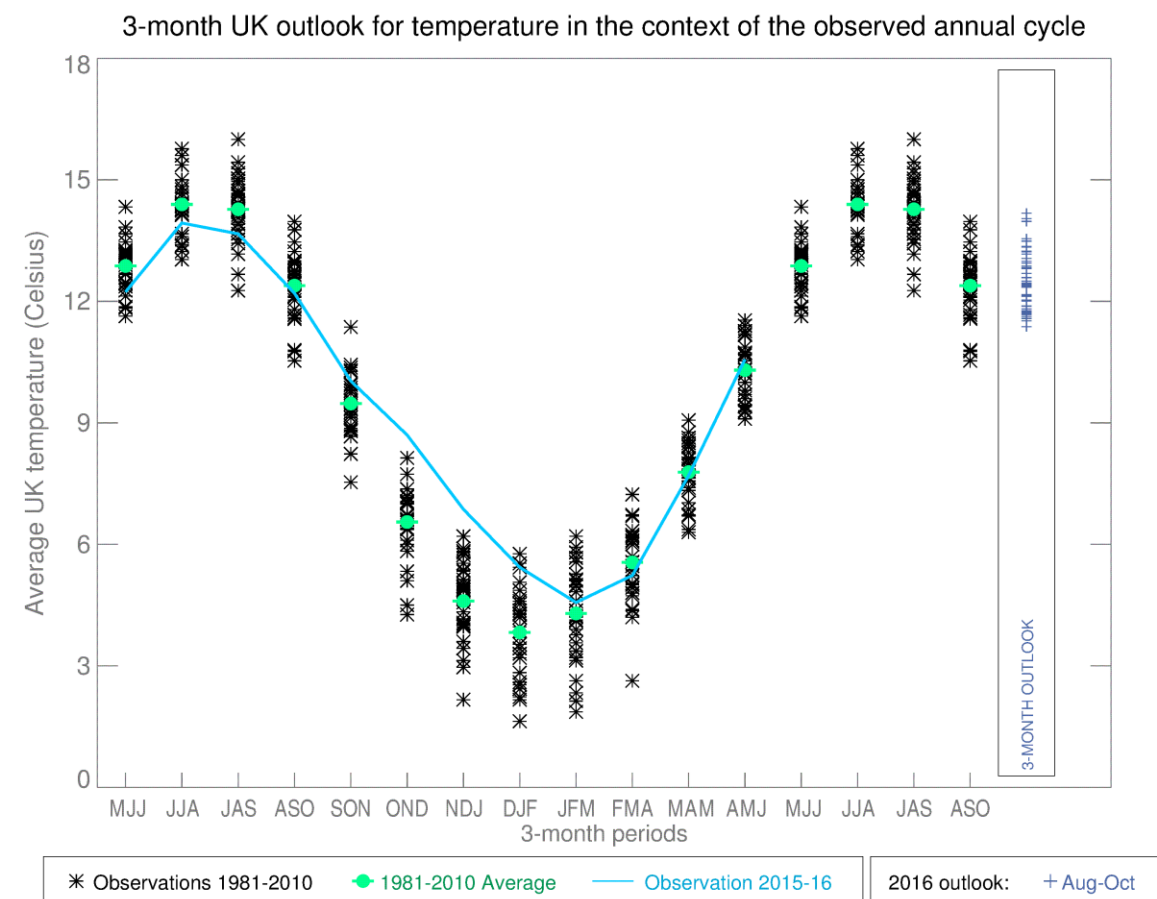


Fig T2

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

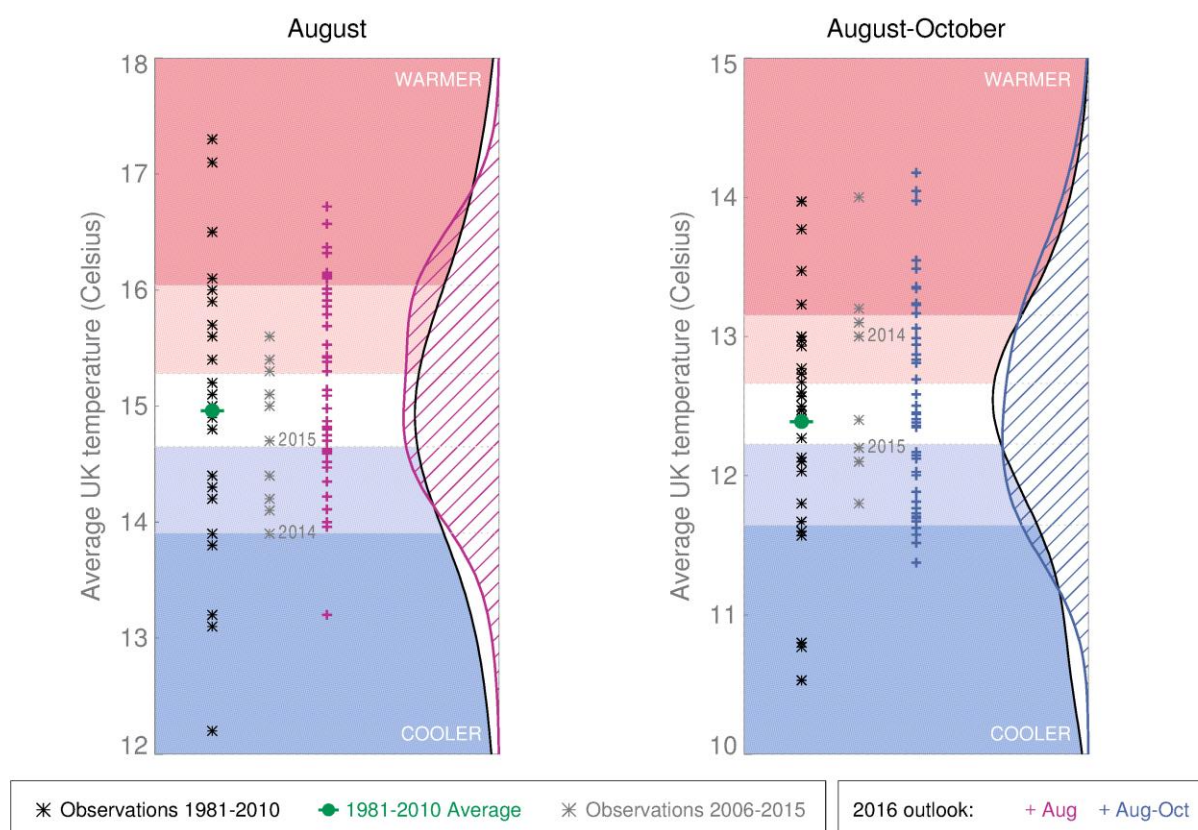
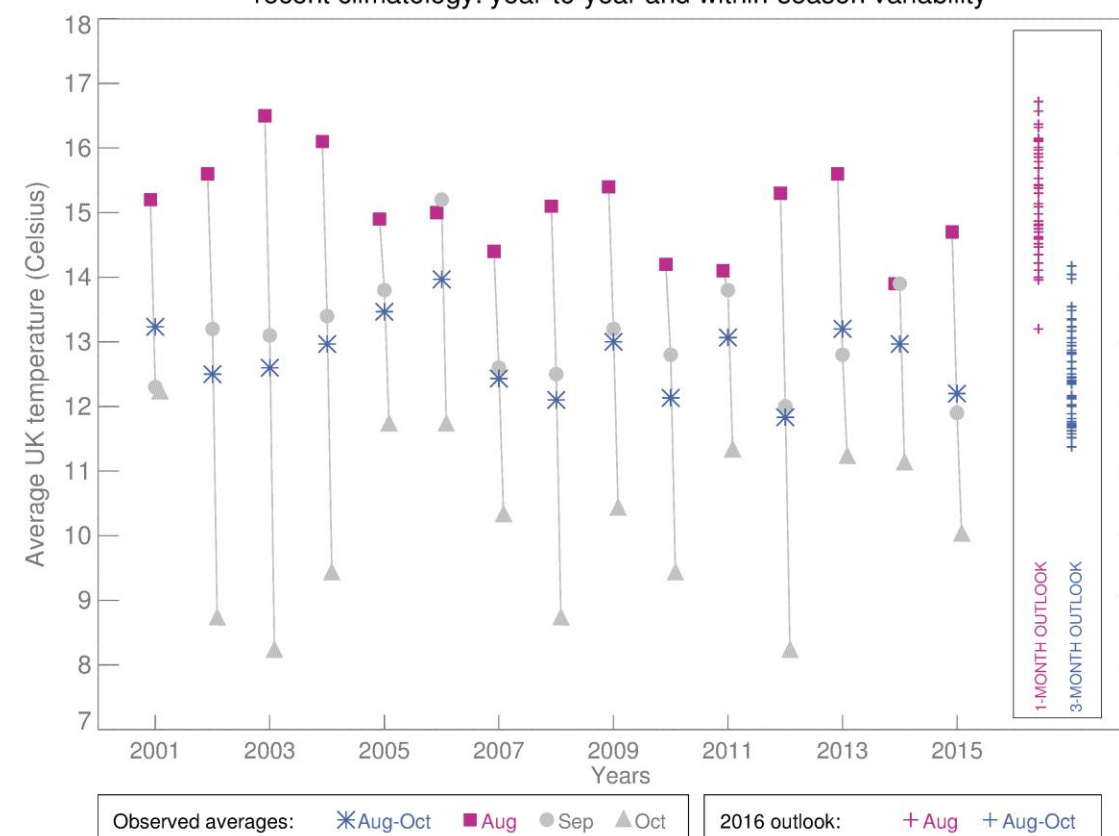


Fig T3

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.