

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: June – August 2018 Issue date: 24.05.18

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for June will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 4 June 2018.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For June, and for June-July-August as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for June-July-August 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 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), which is expected to continue during the outlook period. As a result, it will have very little influence on conditions over the UK in the coming months.

Sea surface temperatures to the west of the UK in the Northern North Atlantic Ocean are currently below average. This moderately increases the chances of high pressure and above-average temperatures over Northern Europe. Sea surface temperatures close to the UK have recovered due to recent warm weather, so are unlikely to have an effect on the 3-month period overall.

For June, long-range prediction systems from centres around the world show mixed signals. Overall, the chances of high- or low-

pressure systems being more prevalent are fairly balanced. As a result, temperatures in June are only slightly more likely to be above average than below average. This is consistent with conditions in recent years, which have tended to be warmer than the 1981-2010 reference period (see left-hand graph of figure T2).

For June-July-August, the Met Office long-range prediction system, along with predictions from other centres around the world, shows a slightly increased chance of high-pressure patterns across the UK compared to normal. The likelihood of above-average temperatures is greater than usual (see right-hand graph of figure T2). The graph also demonstrates that below-average temperatures, although less likely, remain a realistic possibility.

Fig T1

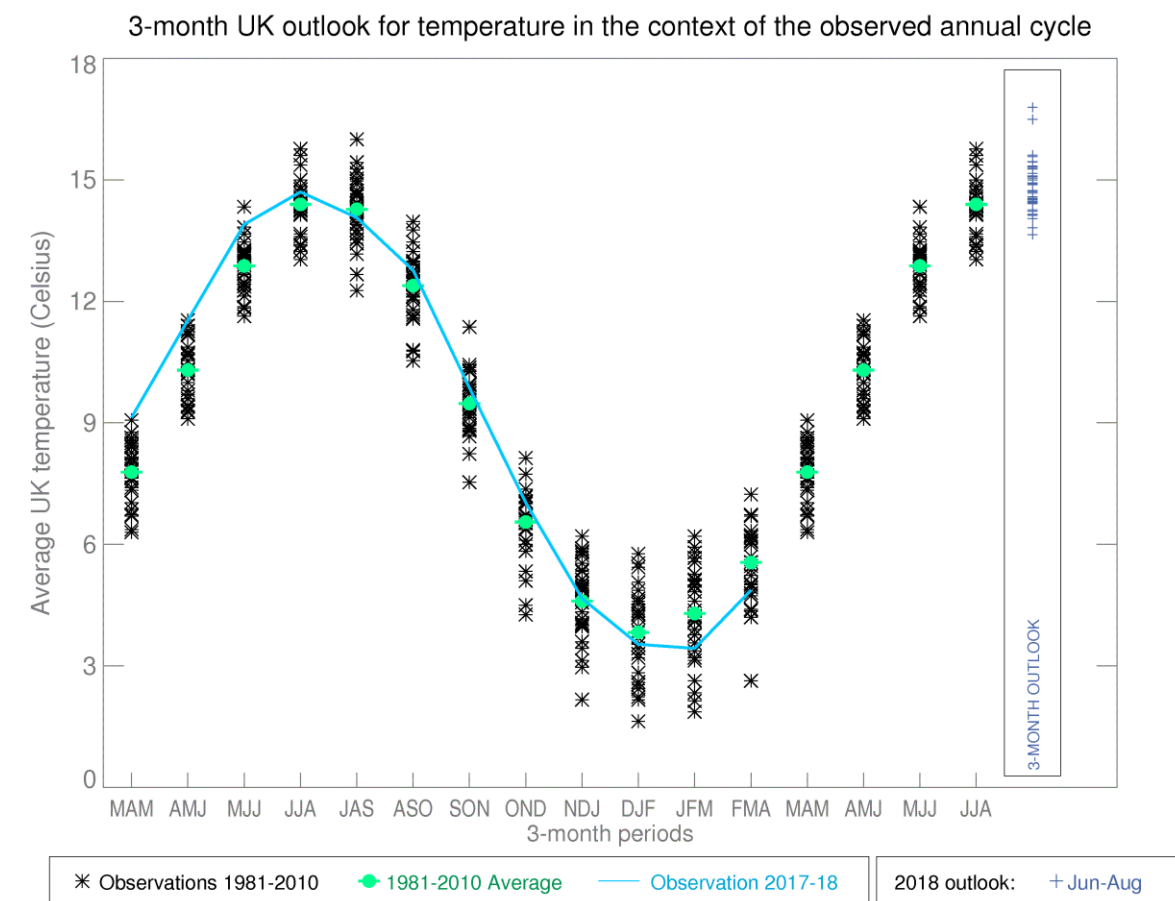


Fig T2

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

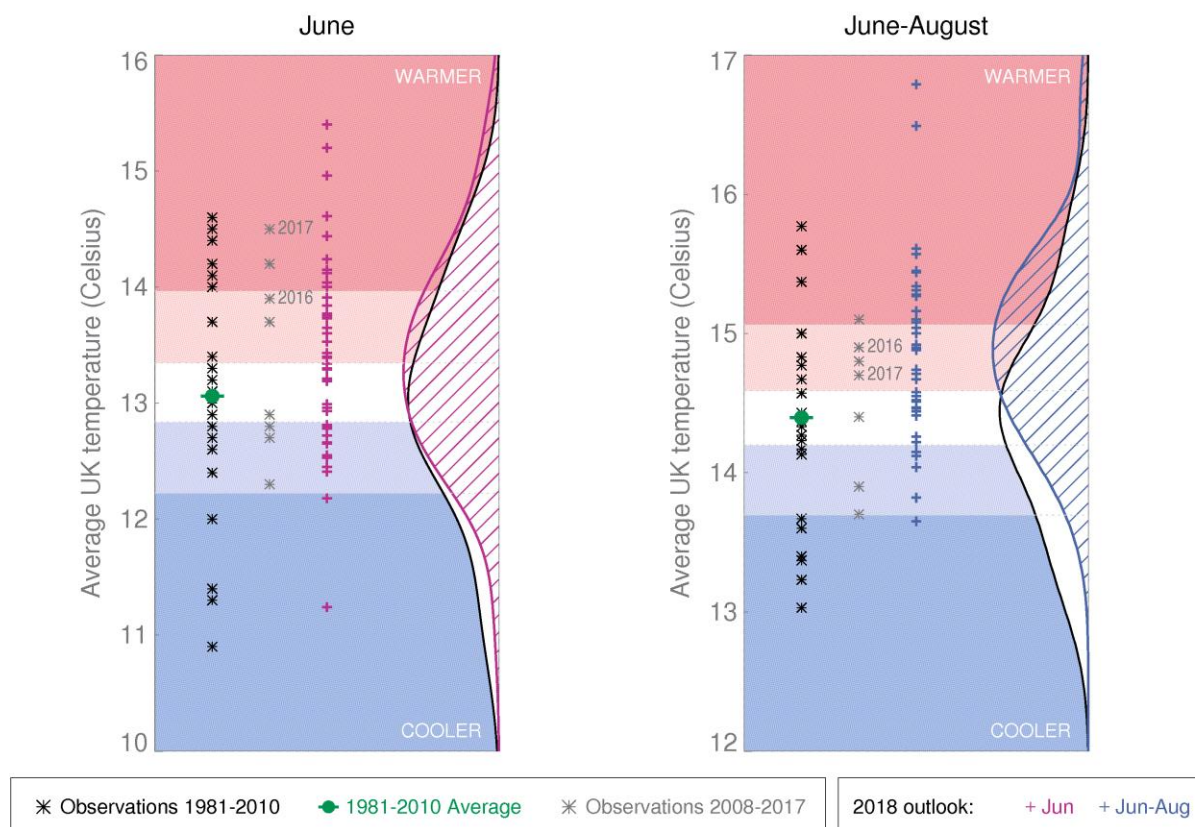
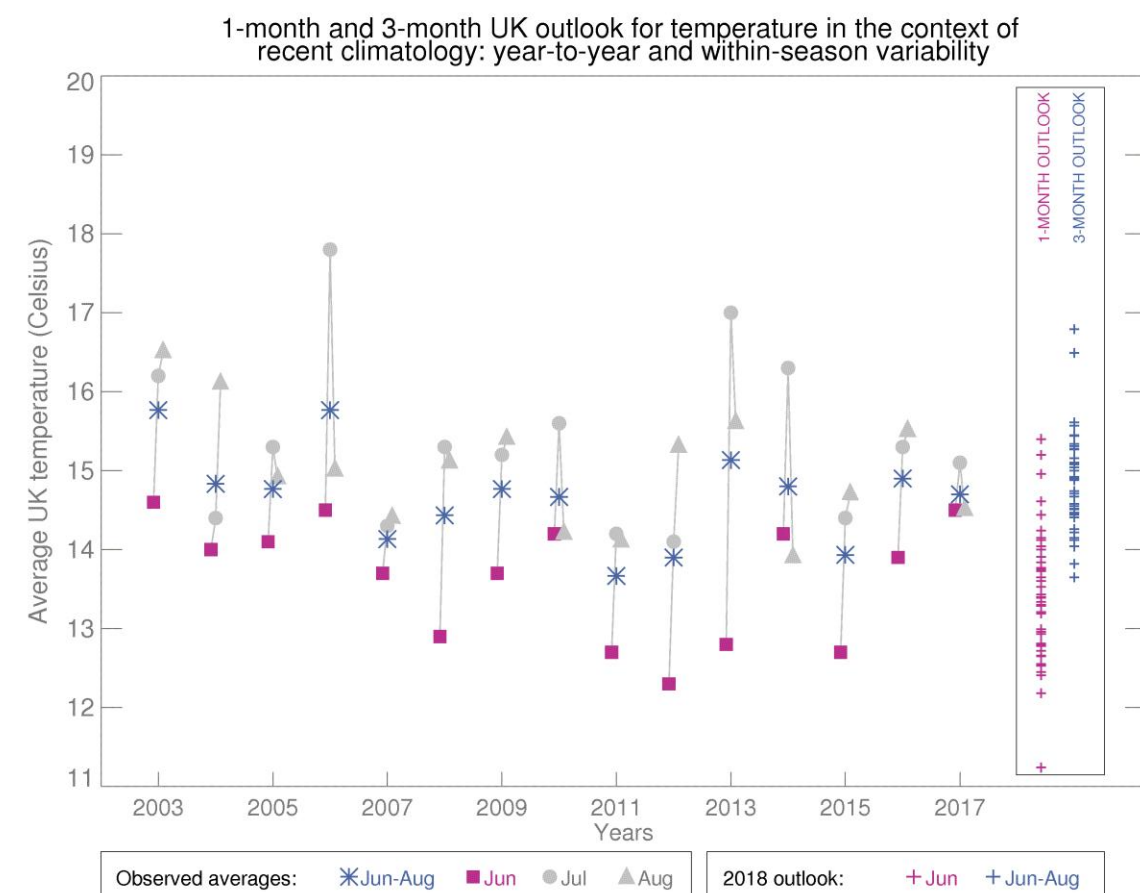


Fig T3



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.