



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2017 Issue date: 24.08.17

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 September 2017.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For September, the forecast for UK precipitation suggests that the chances of above- and below-average rainfall are fairly balanced. For September-October-November as a whole, above-average precipitation is considered slightly more probable than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK precipitation for September-October-November will fall into the driest of our five categories is 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Autumn is a season when, climatologically speaking, Atlantic depressions become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture, making it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (see figure P1).

As discussed in the temperature section, long-range prediction systems show a slight increase in the probability of below-average pressure near or to the north of the UK. This weather pattern is usually associated with above-average rainfall, particularly later in the outlook period. For September, however, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are very similar to those observed in

the period 1981-2010 which is used to define 'normal' conditions (see left-hand graph of figure P2). Septembers during the 1981-2010 period were wetter on average than in more recent years. There have been a number of dry Septembers in the last 10 years (see figure P3) so there is a good likelihood that September will be wetter than what may have come to be perceived as normal.

For September-October-November as a whole there is a slightly increased chance of higher-than-average precipitation. The right-hand graph of figure P2 shows a slight shift towards above-average rainfall, but also that a broad range of outcomes are possible.

Fig P1

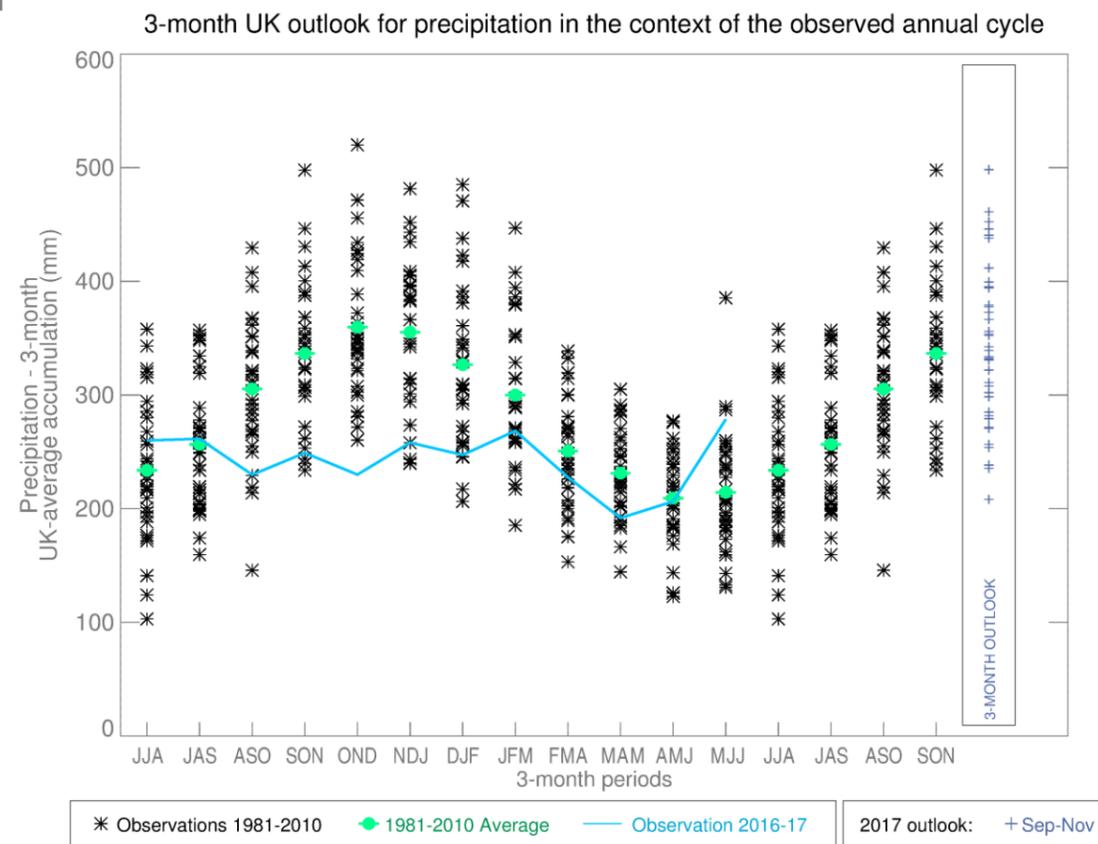


Fig P2

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

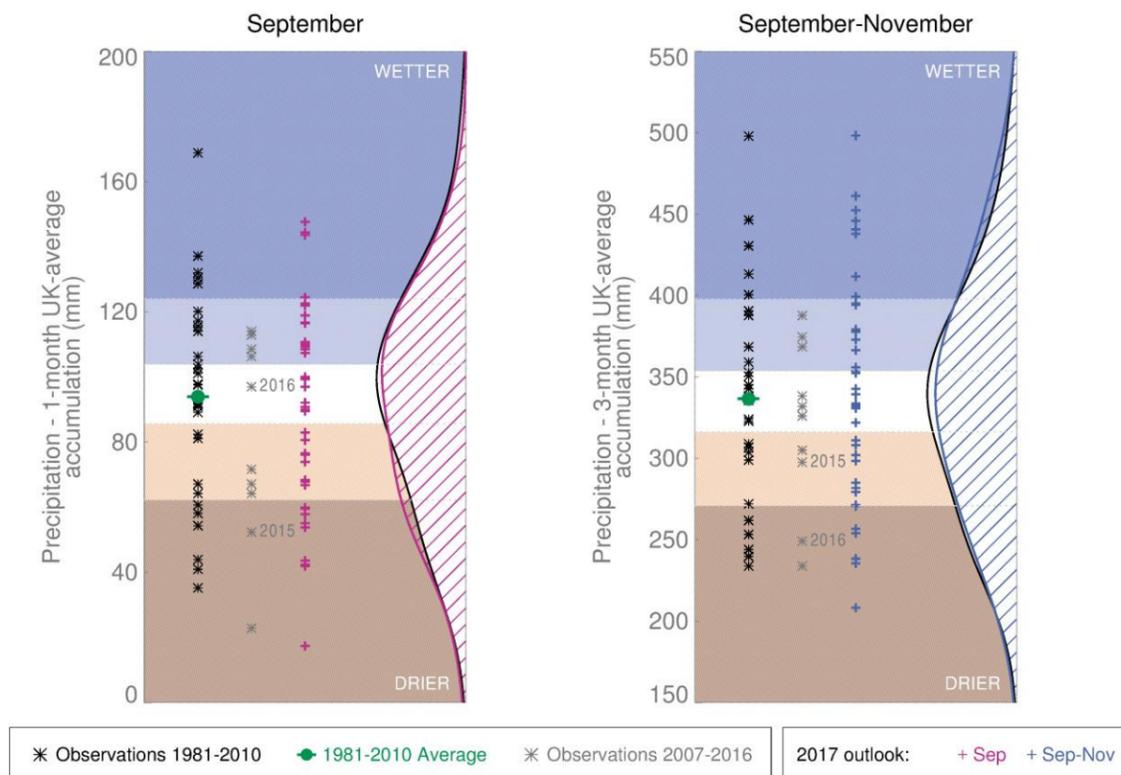
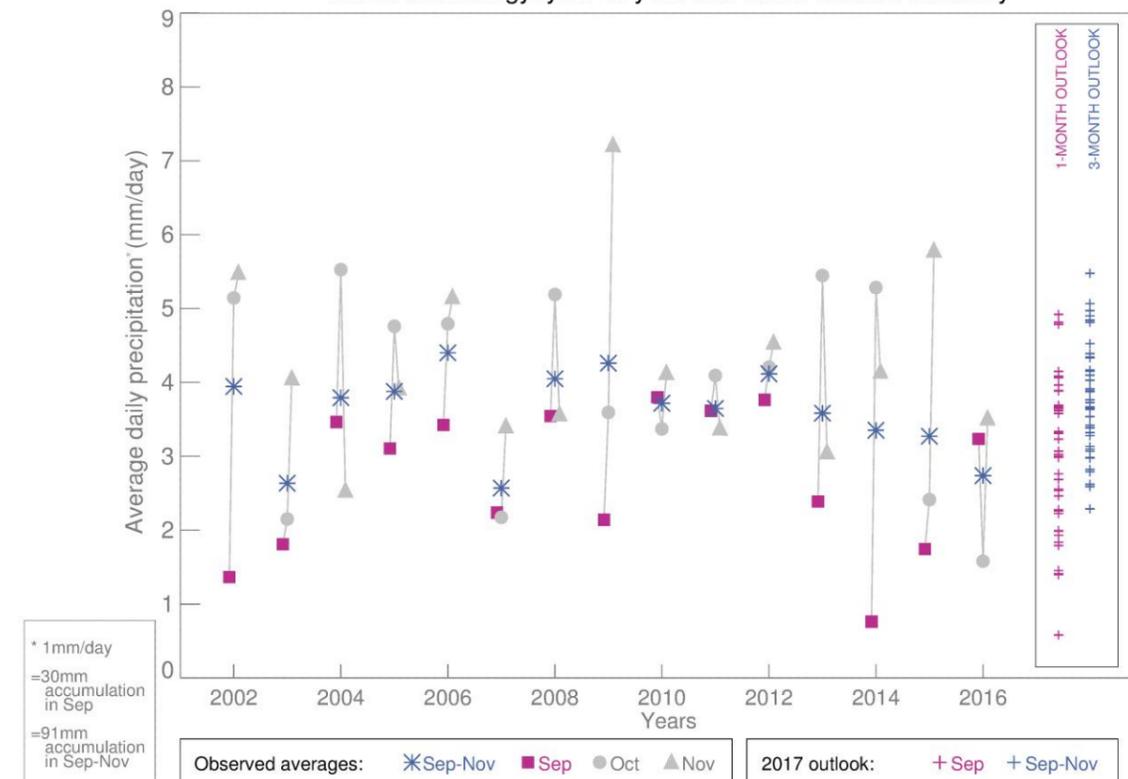


Fig P3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation 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.