



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: June – August 2013 Issue date: 24.05.13

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August period for the United Kingdom as a whole. This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical models and expert judgement.

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

For June, below-average UK-mean temperatures are more likely than above-average. For June-July-August as a whole, near-to-below-average temperatures are most probable. Sea surface temperatures of the surrounding seas are below-average, increasing the probability of below-average temperatures across the UK.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for June-July-August will fall into the warmest of our five categories is 15% and the probability that it will fall into the coldest of our five categories is 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Neutral conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña) have persisted through much of the year so far across the tropical Pacific. Recently below-average sea surface temperatures have been observed close to South America, whilst above-average sea surface temperatures are present around the Philippines and Indonesia. This developing pattern in sea surface temperatures anomalies is consistent with La Niña conditions forming; forecasts from the Met Office seasonal forecasting system indicate a trend towards La Niña conditions over the next few months, but uncertainty is large, with a variety of solutions evident in other models.

During the summer months, atmospheric larger-scale drivers, such as those in the tropical Pacific, tend to have less of an influence over weather patterns in northwestern Europe. However, La Niña slightly tilts the balance of probabilities towards cooler, unsettled conditions across northwestern Europe.

Sea surface temperatures across UK waters and the mid North Atlantic continue to remain below average. These cold anomalies are expected to persist for some time (at least another month) increasing the probability of colder-than-average conditions over the period as a whole.

The factors described above, along with computer models predicting a preference for westerly or southwesterly flow over the UK, increase the probability of below-average temperatures, although spells of warm weather are still possible. As seen in the forecast curve in figure T2, the probability of below-average temperatures is higher, but above-average temperatures are only slightly less likely than climatology.

Low sea surface temperatures could also lead to fog and low cloud affecting eastern and southern coastal regions more frequently than normal this summer.

Fig T1

3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of the observed annual cycle

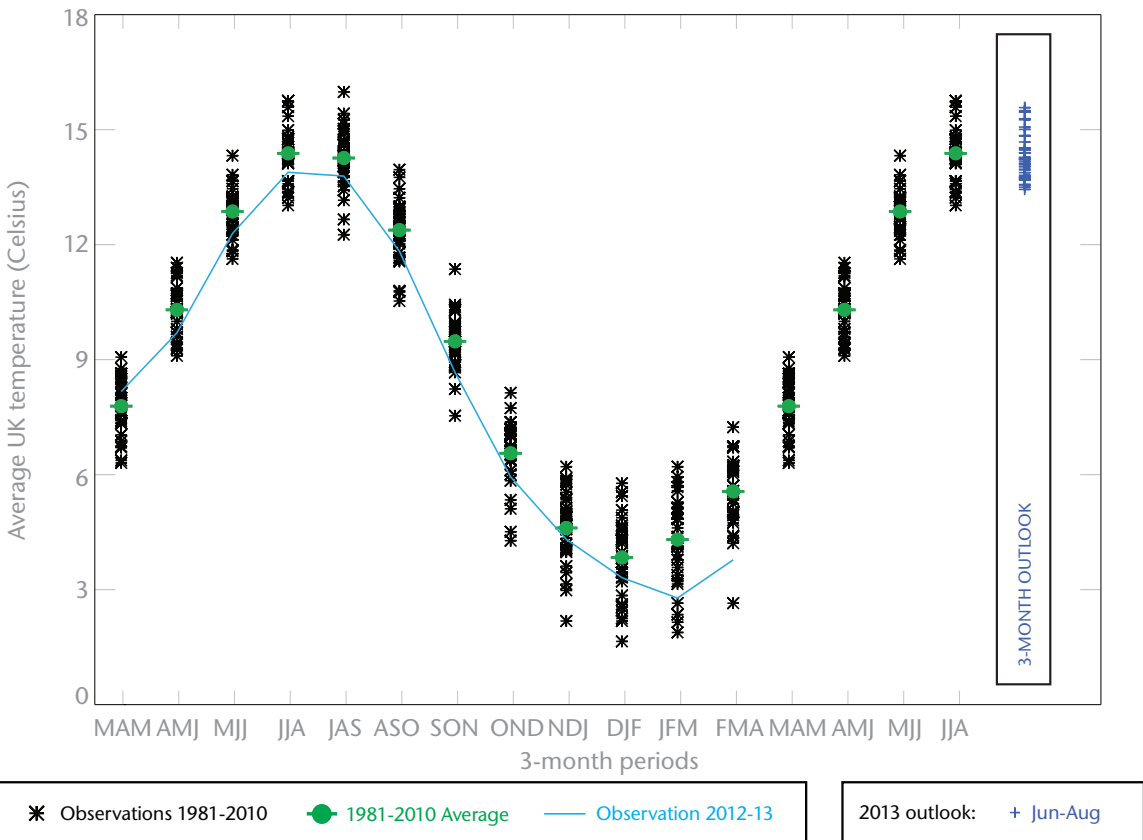


Fig T2

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

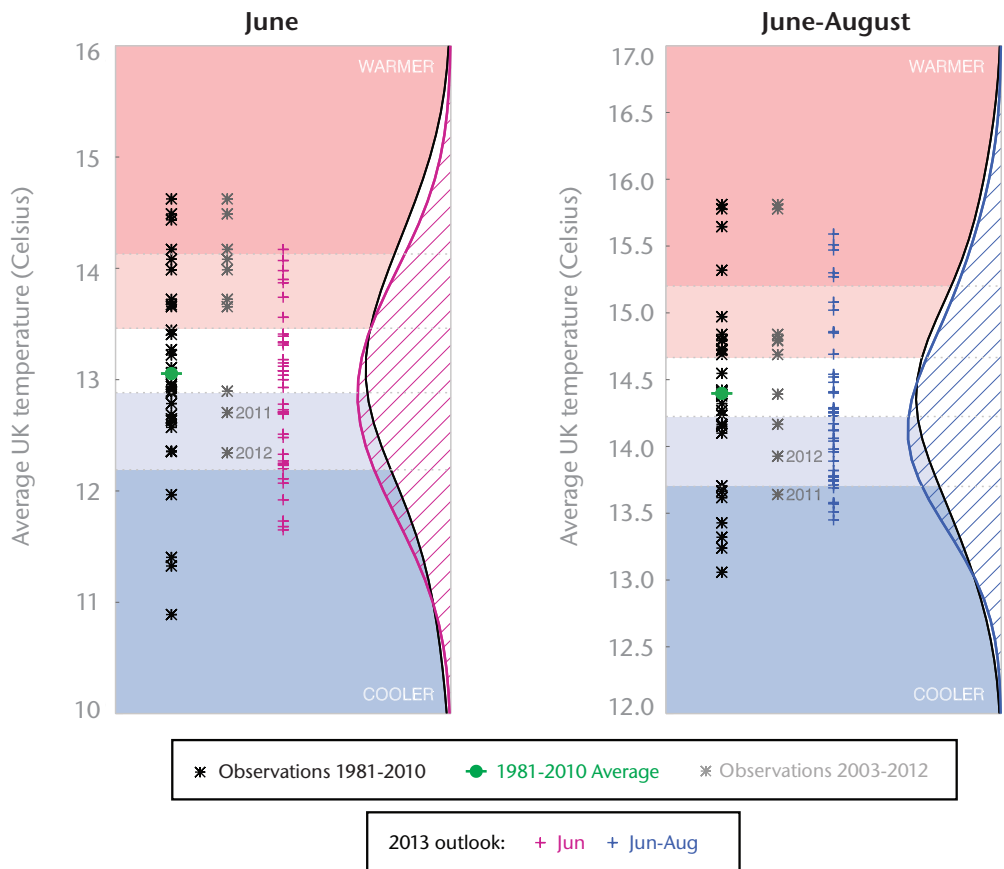
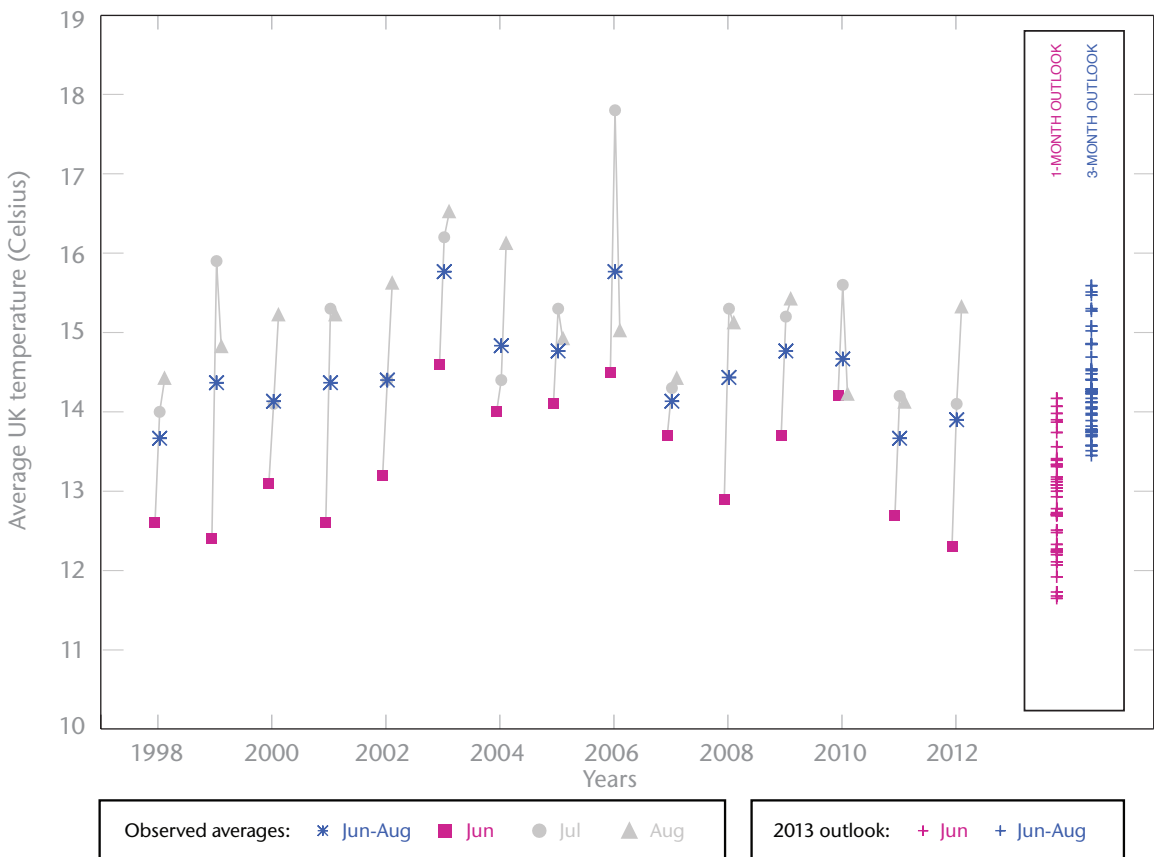


Fig T3

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.