

The forecast presented here is for May and the average of the May-June-July period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 May 2015.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

Latest predictions for UK precipitation favour a slight shift towards above-average rainfall for both May and May-June-July as a whole.

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

CONTEXT:

Climatologically the period through late spring and early summer is the one of the driest times of year across the UK, as can be seen in figure P1. At this time of year, predictability of UK precipitation is low, as there are few large-scale global factors that might influence weather patterns significantly across northern Europe.

As discussed in the temperature section, there is a slight preference early in the season for below-average pressure near and to the north of the UK; this circulation pattern is typically

associated with wetter-than-average conditions and this is reflected in the left-hand graph of figure P2, which shows a shift towards above-average precipitation during May.

It is worth noting that as we approach summer precipitation becomes more convective and localised in nature and there is often more regional variability. For May-June-July as a whole, although above-average precipitation is slightly favoured, uncertainty is large; this is highlighted in figure P2, where there is a broad range of outcomes.

Fig P1 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of the observed annual cycle

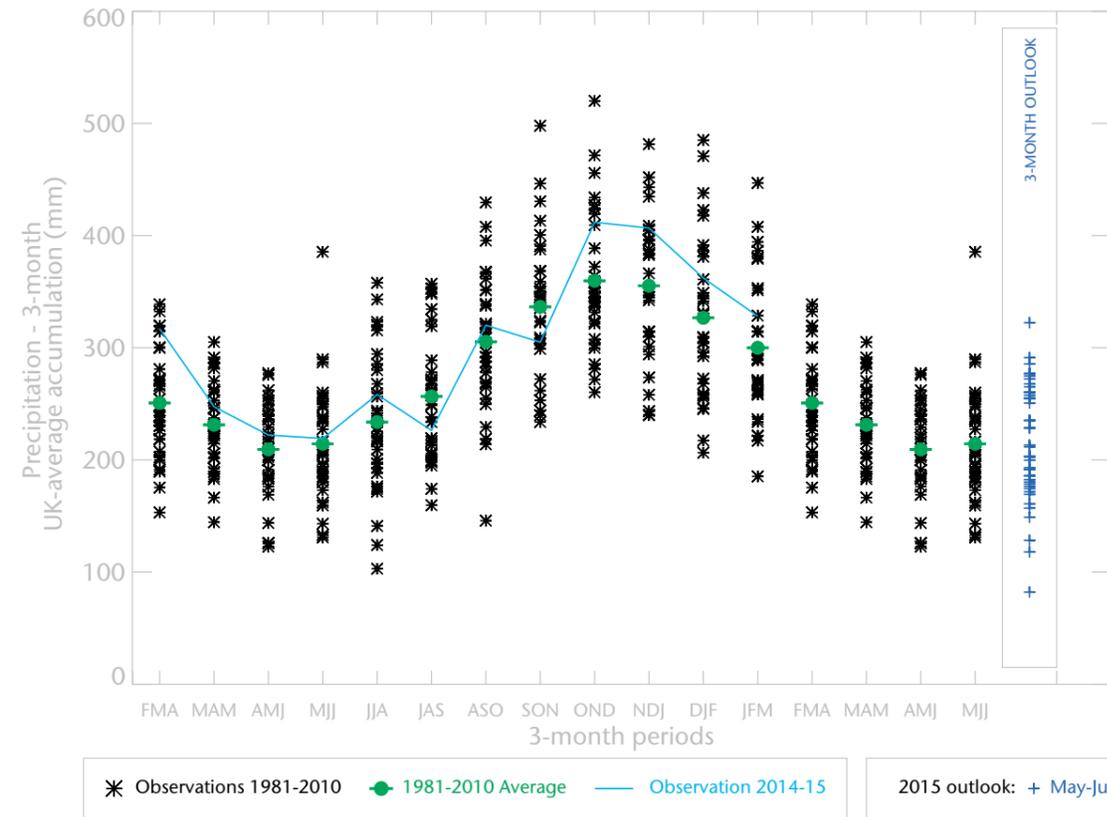
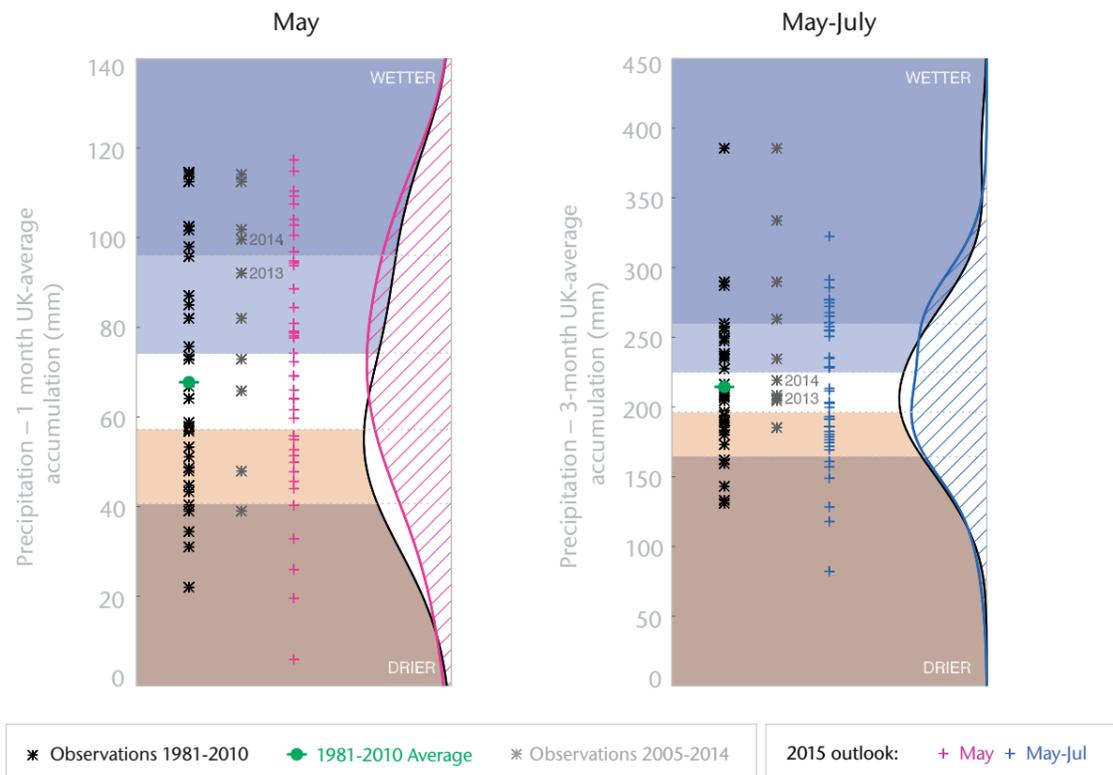
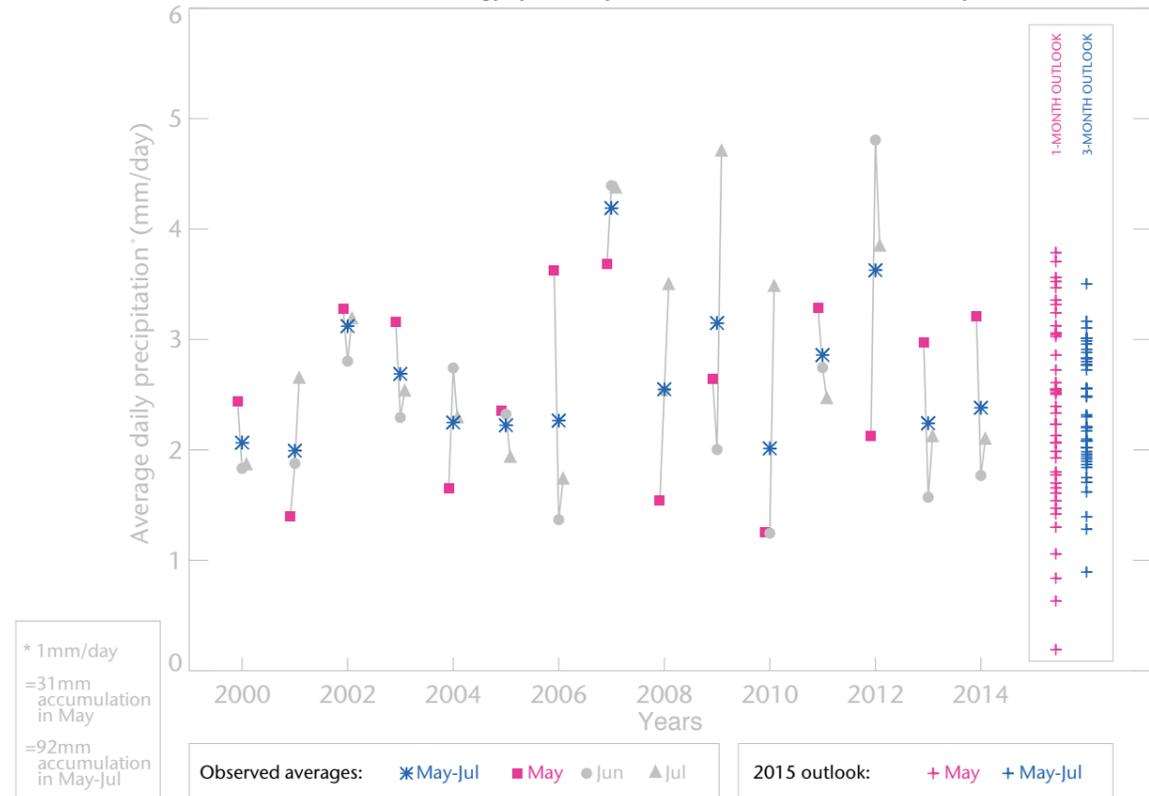


Fig P2 1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of observed climatology



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.