

The forecast presented here is for October and the average of the October-November-December period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 4th October 2013.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

Confidence in the forecast for precipitation across the UK over the next three months is low. There is a preference for near-to-below-average rainfall during October. For October-November-December as a whole the signal is similar to climatology, although with a slightly higher probability of above-average rainfall.

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

CONTEXT:

At this time of year, climatologically speaking, Atlantic depressions typically become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture, making the latter part of autumn and early winter often the stormiest and wettest part of the year, as can be seen in figure P1.

As discussed in the temperature section, the lack of large-scale forcing means that there is large uncertainty in the forecast for the next three months. Forecast models indicate a slight weakening of the prevailing westerly flow, but the effect of such a circulation pattern on UK precipitation at this time of year is unclear. There is no significant increase in the probability of a very wet or very dry season with respect to climatology, however the probability of a near-to-above-average rainfall for October-November-December is slightly enhanced – as can be seen on the right of figure P2.

Fig P1

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

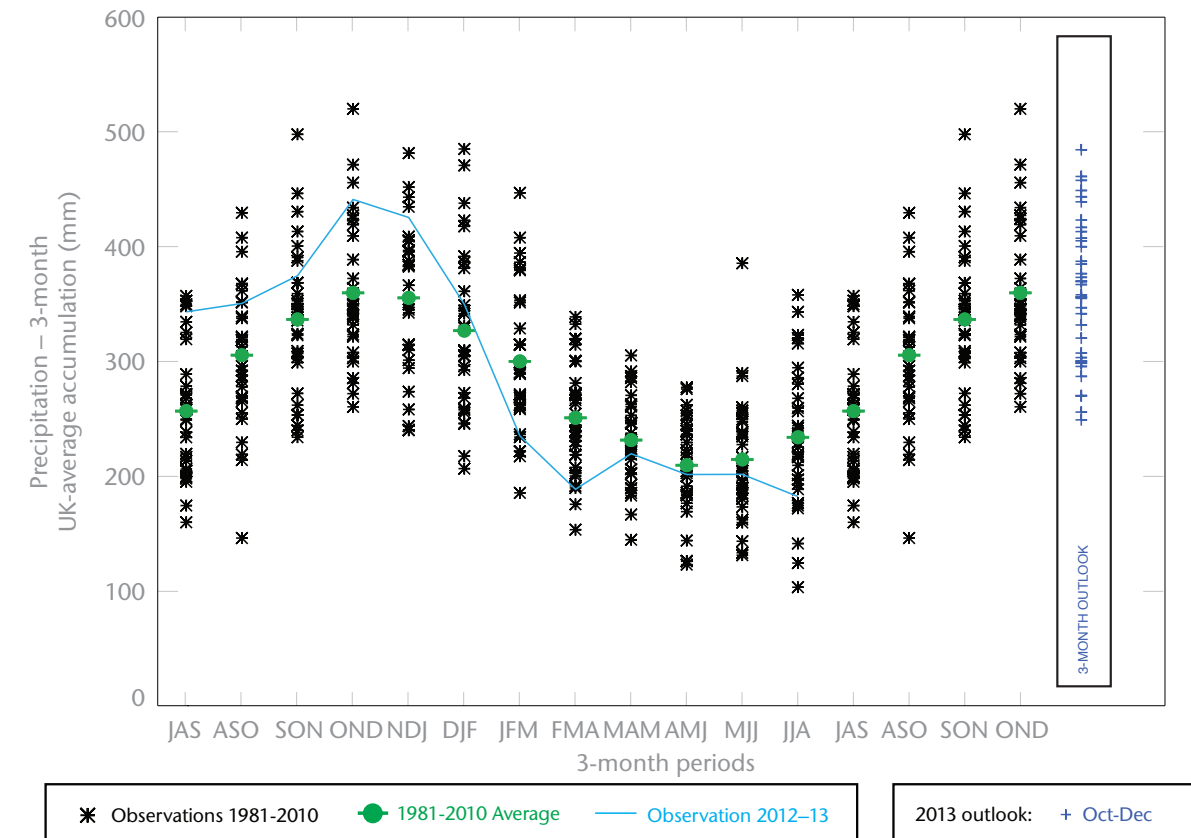


Fig P2

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

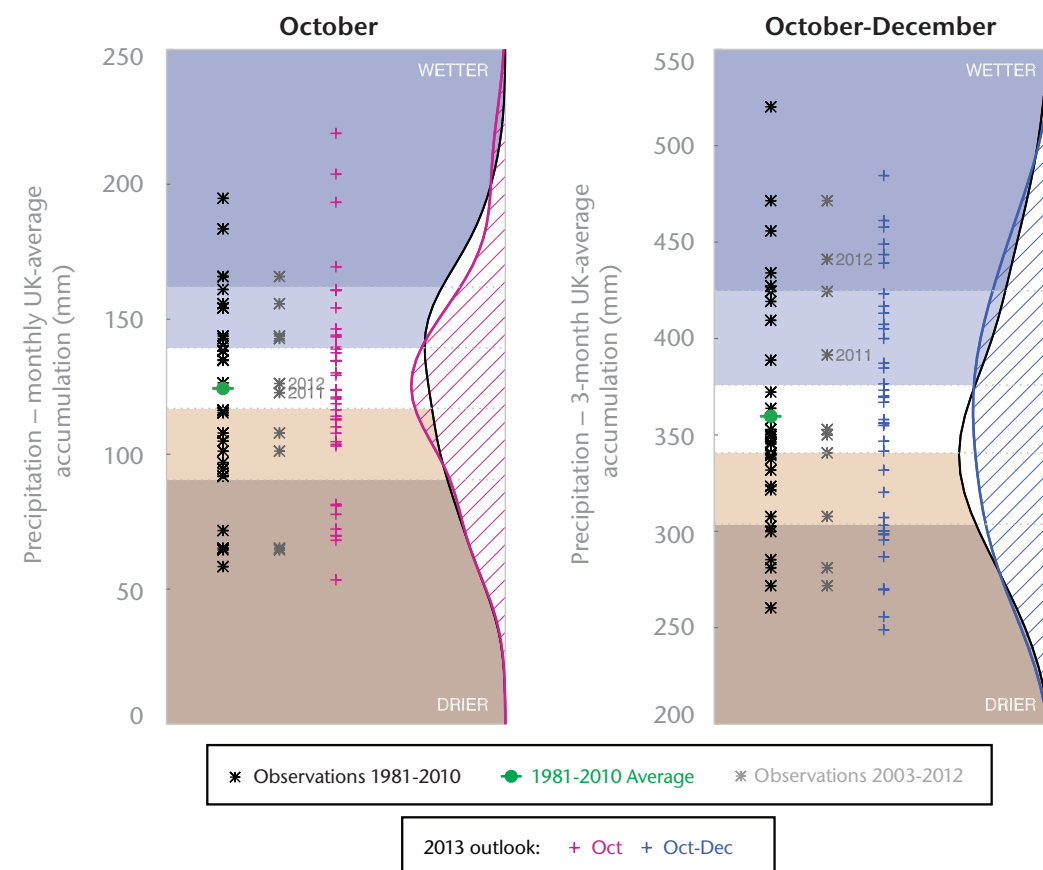
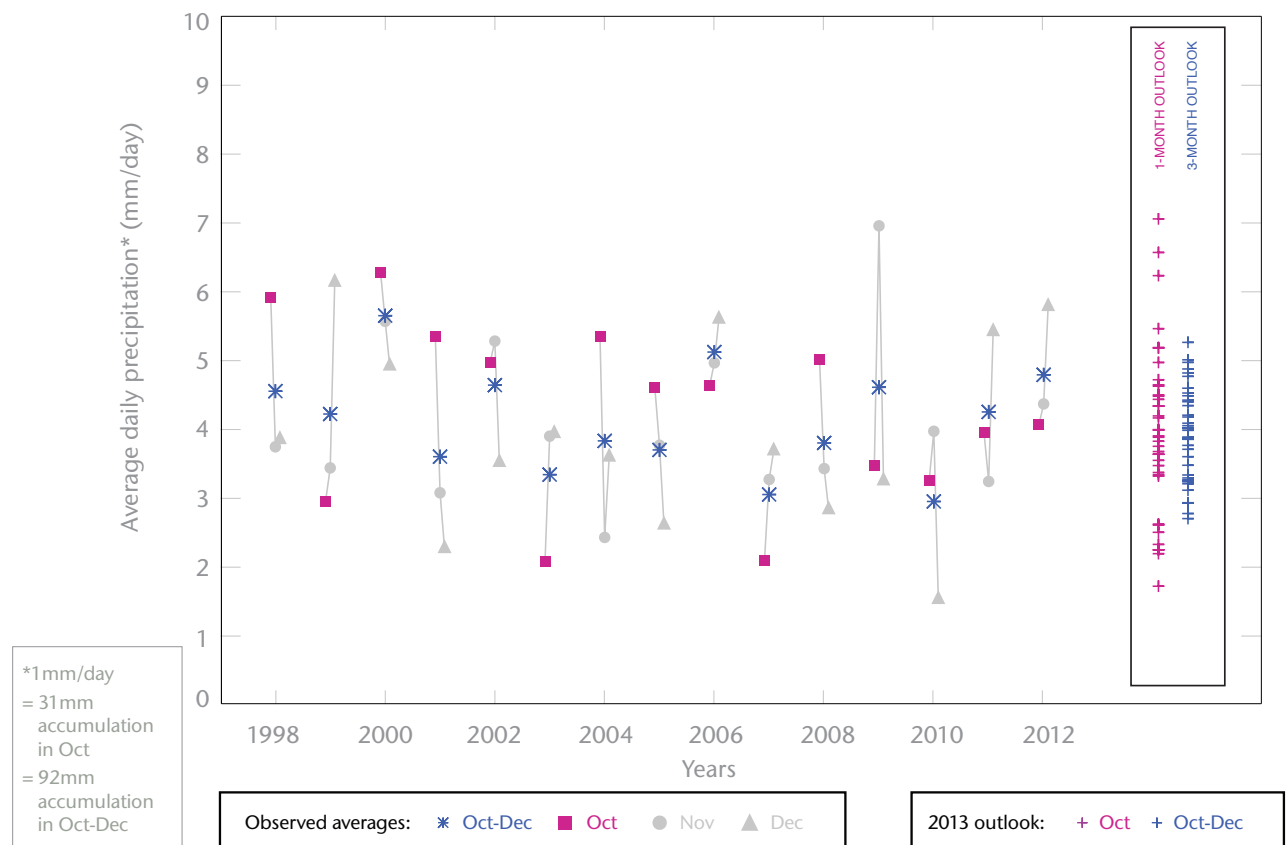


Fig P3

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.