



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Met Office Period: October – December 2020 Issue date: 25.09.20

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 The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2nd October 2020.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For October and October-November-December as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for October-November-December will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 15% 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:

October-November-December tends to be part of the wettest time of the year in the UK (see figure P1) with Atlantic depressions normally bringing spells of wet and windy weather.

As discussed in the temperature Outlook, global drivers of UK weather become more influential during this period. La Niña is linked to greater chances of dry conditions over the North Atlantic and wet conditions over Scandinavia. Since the UK sits between these,

however, small shifts in the pattern could have large consequences, meaning its impact on precipitation is quite uncertain.

For both October and October-November-December as a whole, long-range prediction systems are in relatively good agreement in representing the effect of La Niña on the UK region described above. As a result, wetter-than-average conditions are only slightly more likely than drier-than-average conditions (see graphs of figure P2).

Fig P1

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

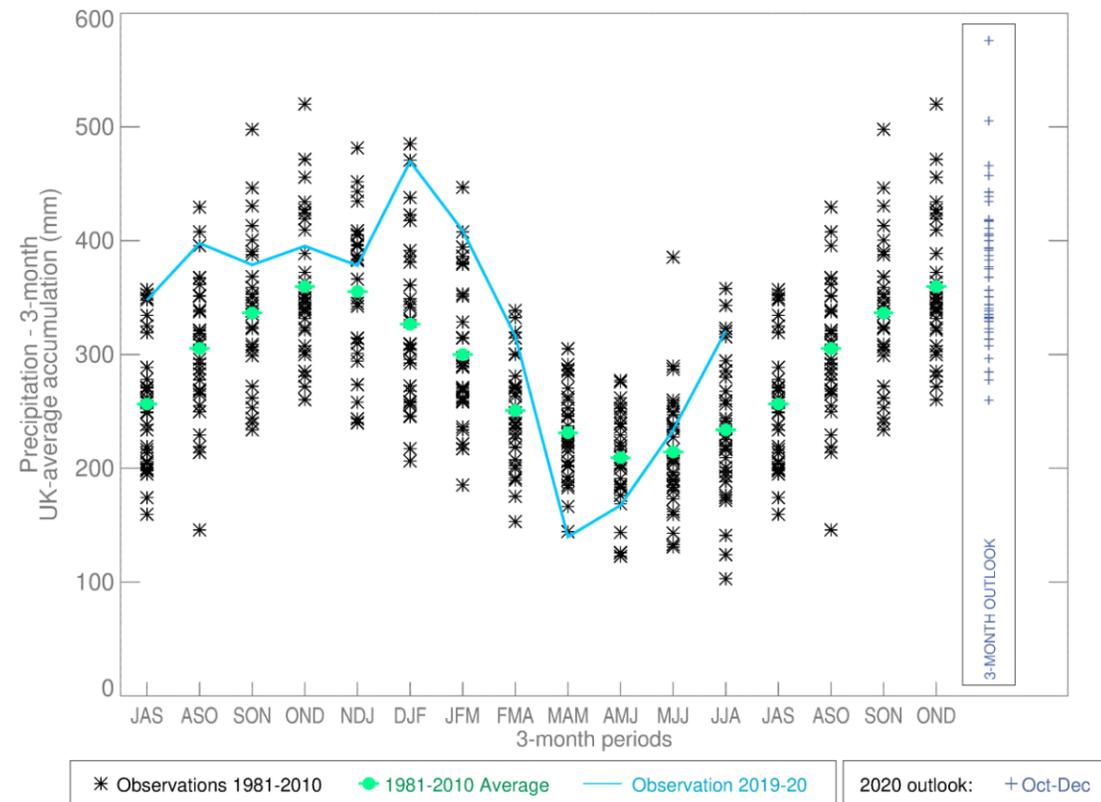


Fig P2

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

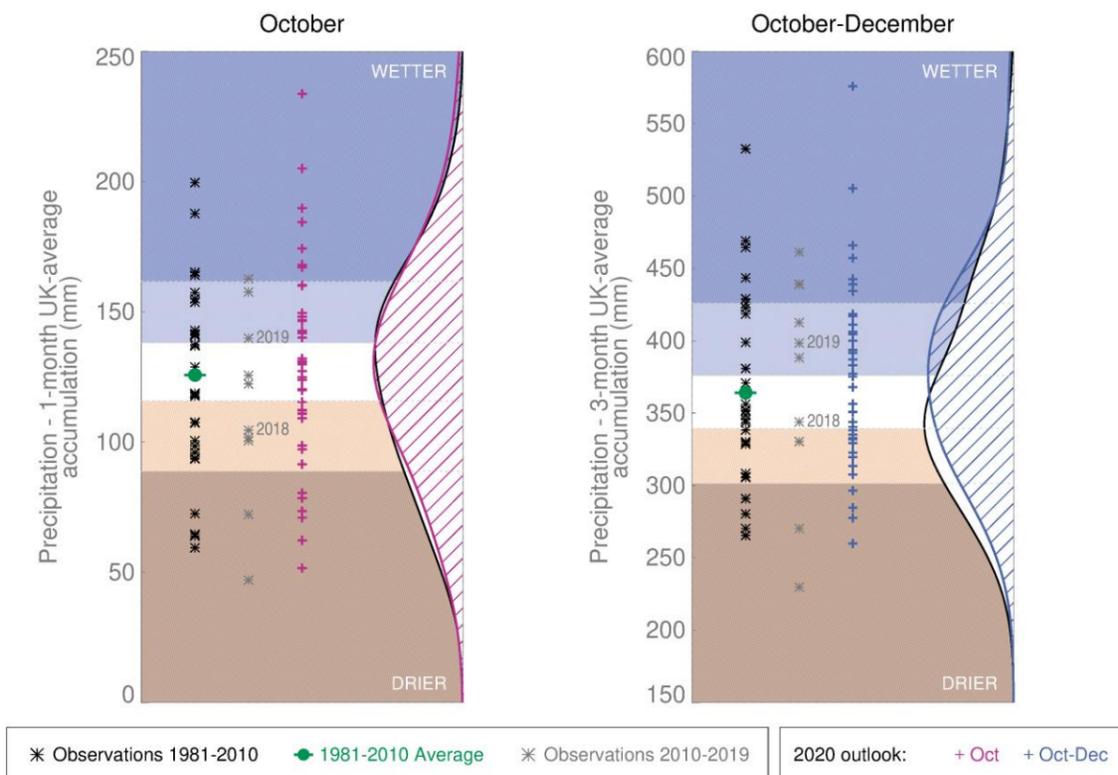
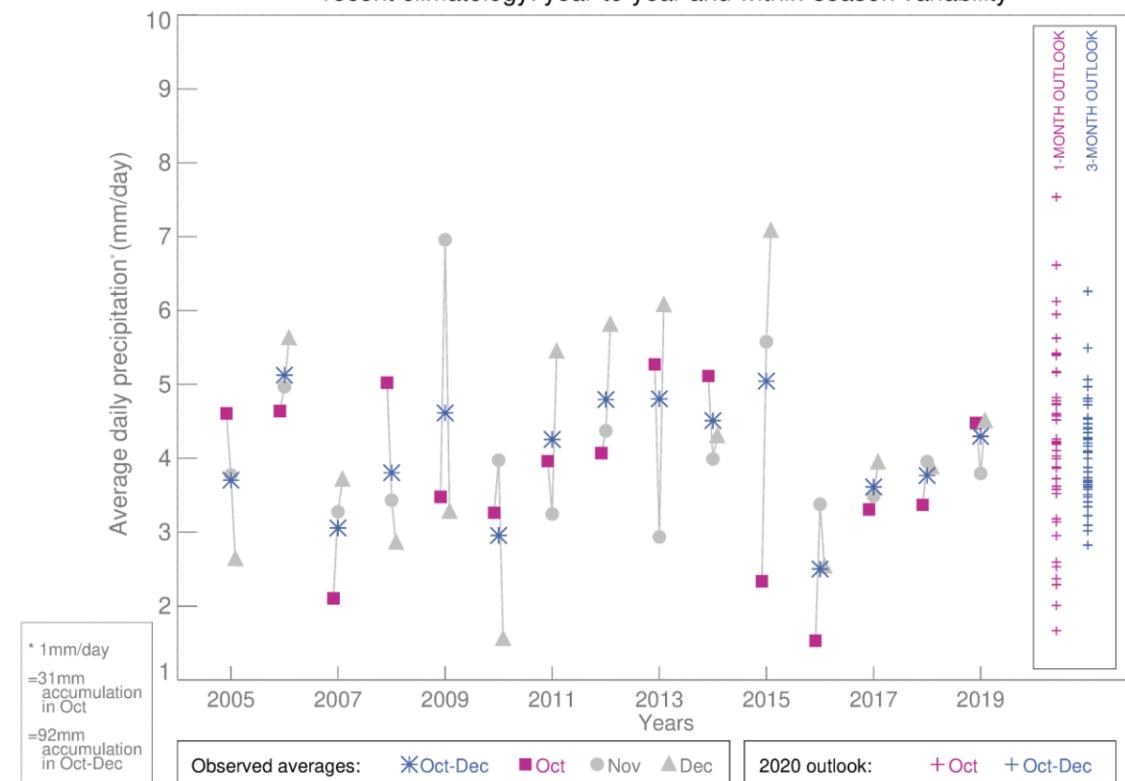


Fig P3

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-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.