



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September – November 2020 Issue date: 20.08.20

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 28th August 2020.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

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

The probability that UK-average 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 between 25% and 30% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

On average, autumn is one of the wettest times of the year in the UK (see figure P1). Atlantic depressions typically become more intense, bringing more frequent spells of wet and windy weather. As stated in the temperature Outlook, the developing La Niña event in the Pacific Ocean increases the likelihood of westerly winds from the Atlantic, which are associated with wetter- and windier-than-average conditions.

For both September and September-October-November as a whole, long-range prediction systems are consistent with this pattern, implying an increased chance of a wet autumn compared to normal (see graphs of figure P2). The likelihood of spells of windy or even stormy weather is greater than usual. It is, however, worth noting that whilst there is an increased likelihood of above-average precipitation, the chances of below-average precipitation remain similar to normal.

Fig P1

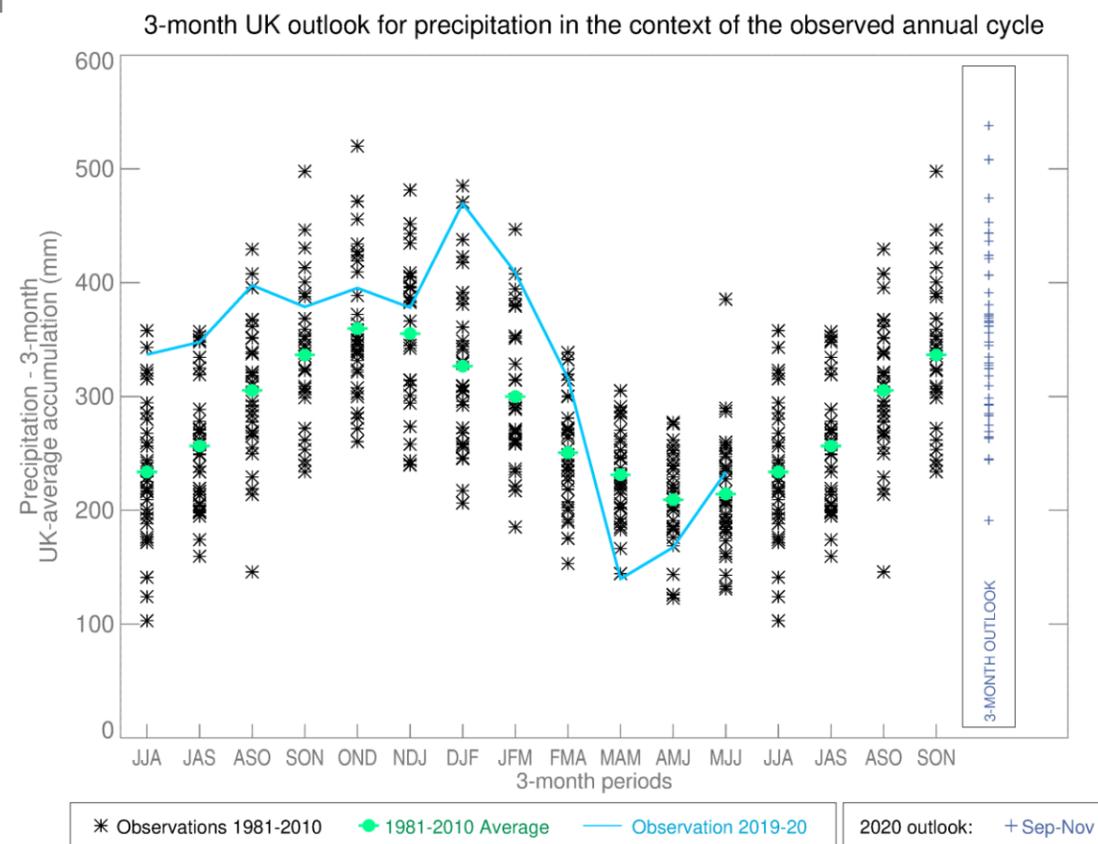


Fig P2

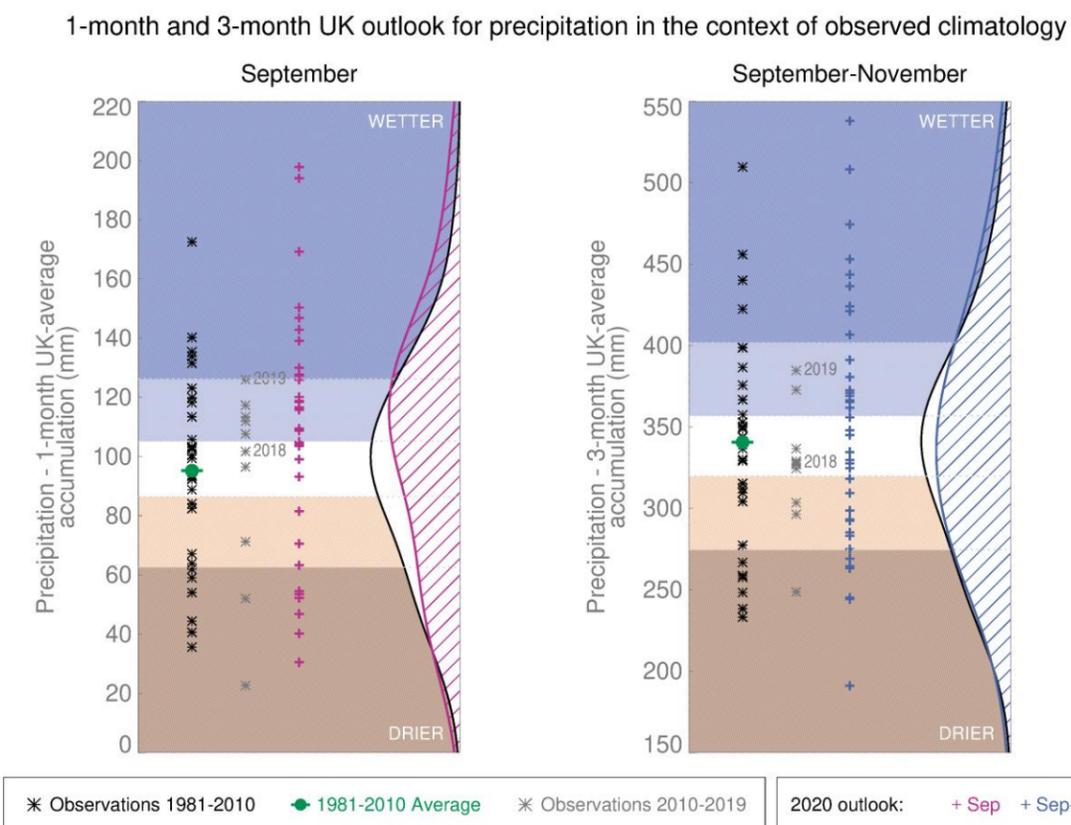
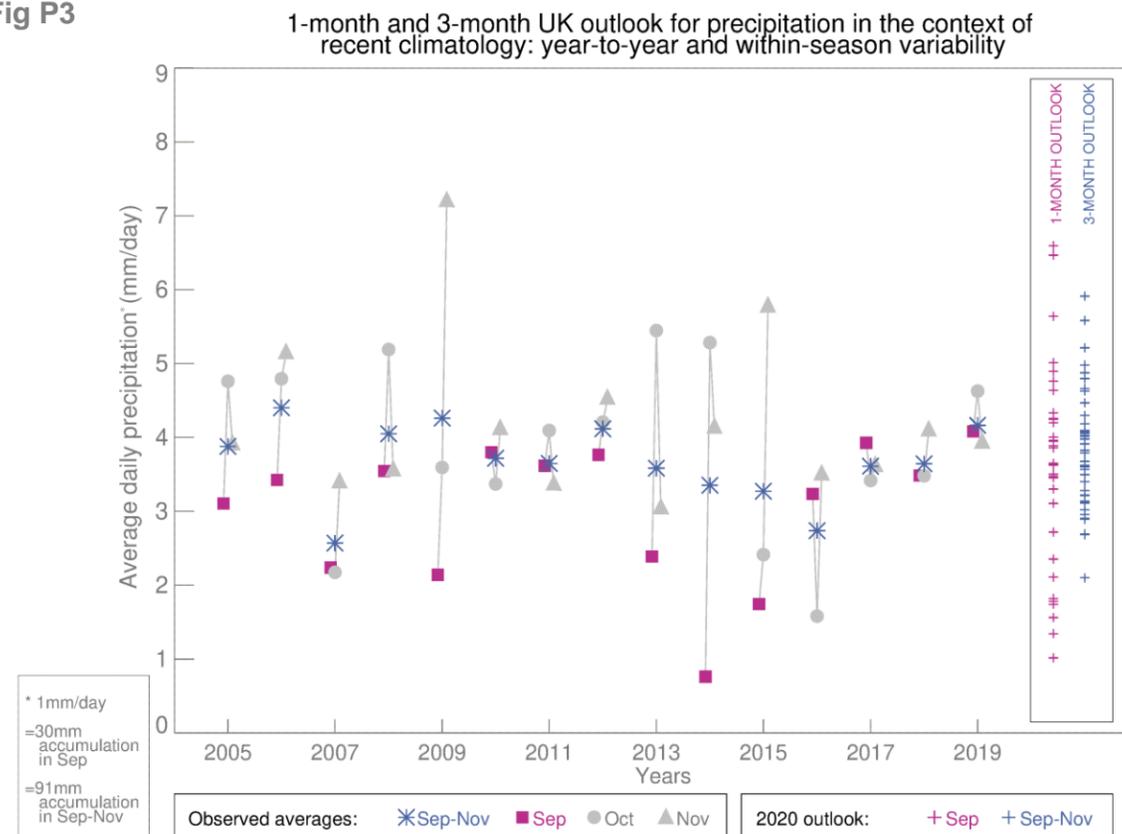


Fig P3



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.