

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 August 2014.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

The latest predictions for UK-mean precipitation for both August and August-September-October as a whole slightly favour above-average precipitation although below-average is almost as likely.

The probability that UK precipitation for August-September-October will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest category is 25-30% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Predictability of UK precipitation on seasonal timescales is generally low; this is especially true at the time of year of transition between summer, when convective, localised storms dominate the rainfall distribution, and autumn, dominated by synoptic weather systems.

As mentioned in the temperature section, large-scale influences are weak and models disagree on likely atmospheric circulation patterns. As a result, there is a wide spread in possible precipitation totals for the August-September-October period and the distribution is close to climatology.

For August there are indications of a return to more cyclonic conditions and thus above-normal rainfall is slightly favoured. Again the spread is large and the possibility of a dry August cannot be excluded.

Fig P1

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

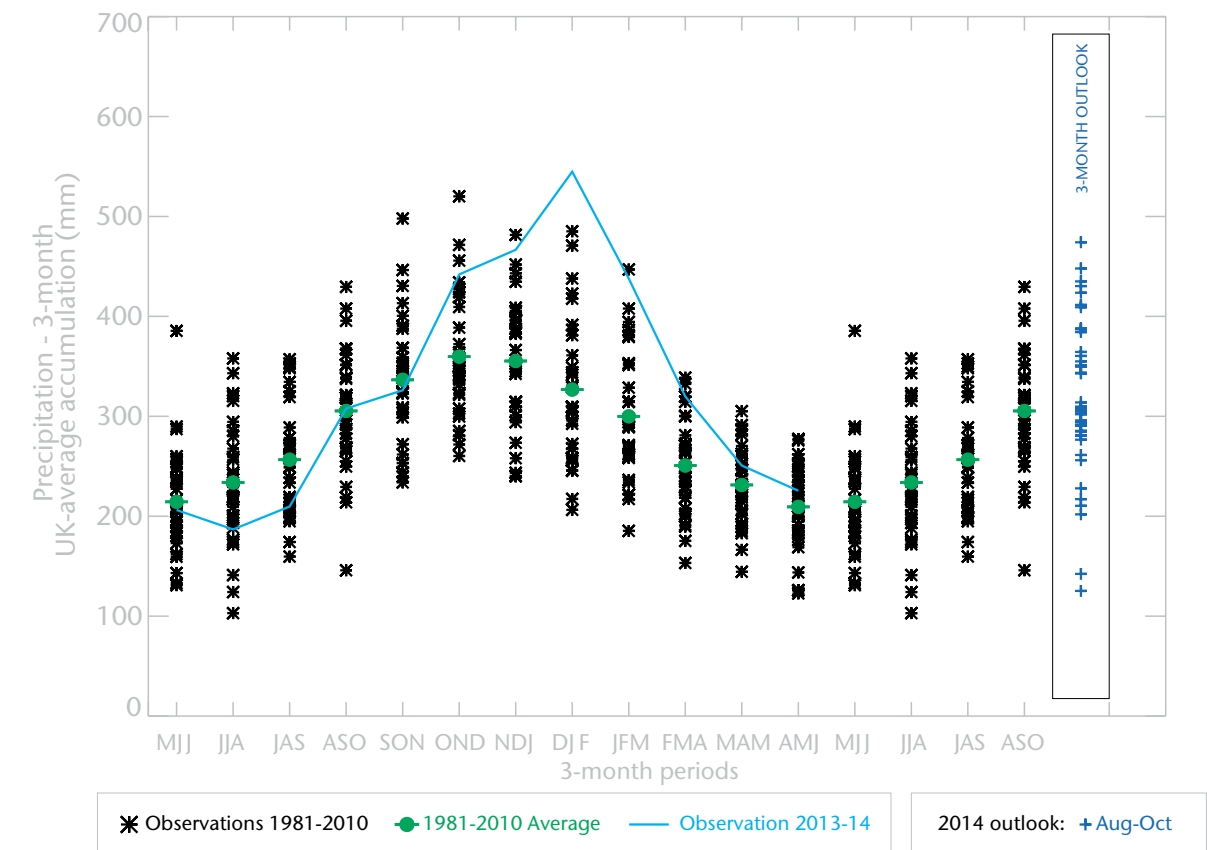


Fig P2

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

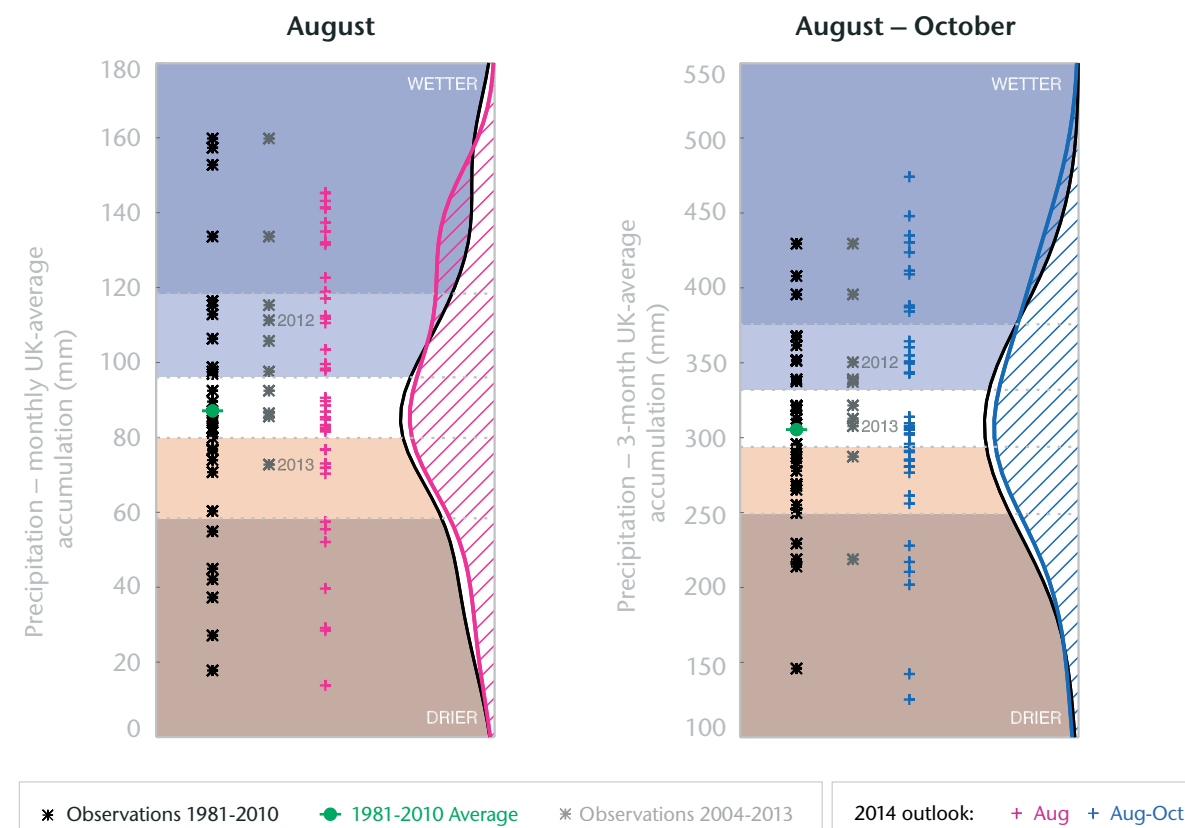
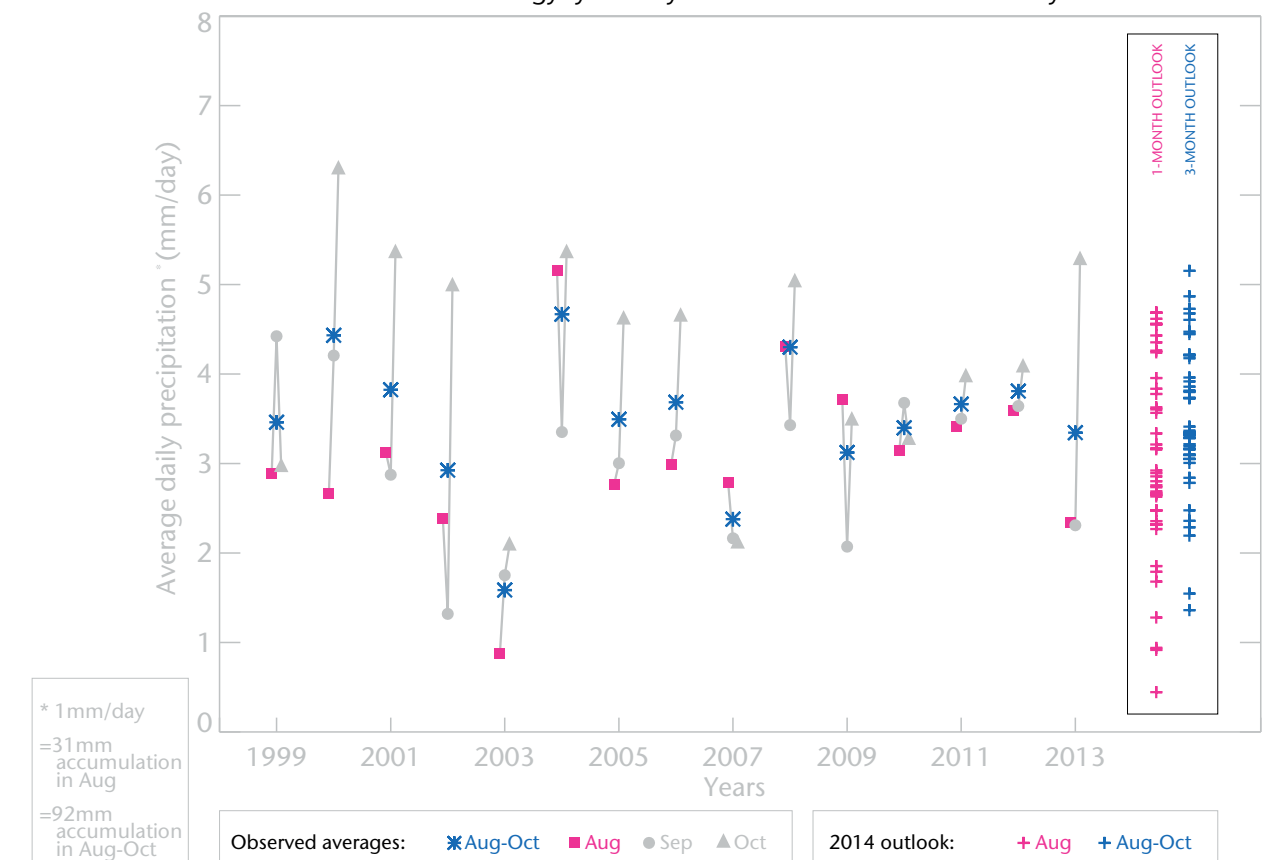


Fig P3

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.