

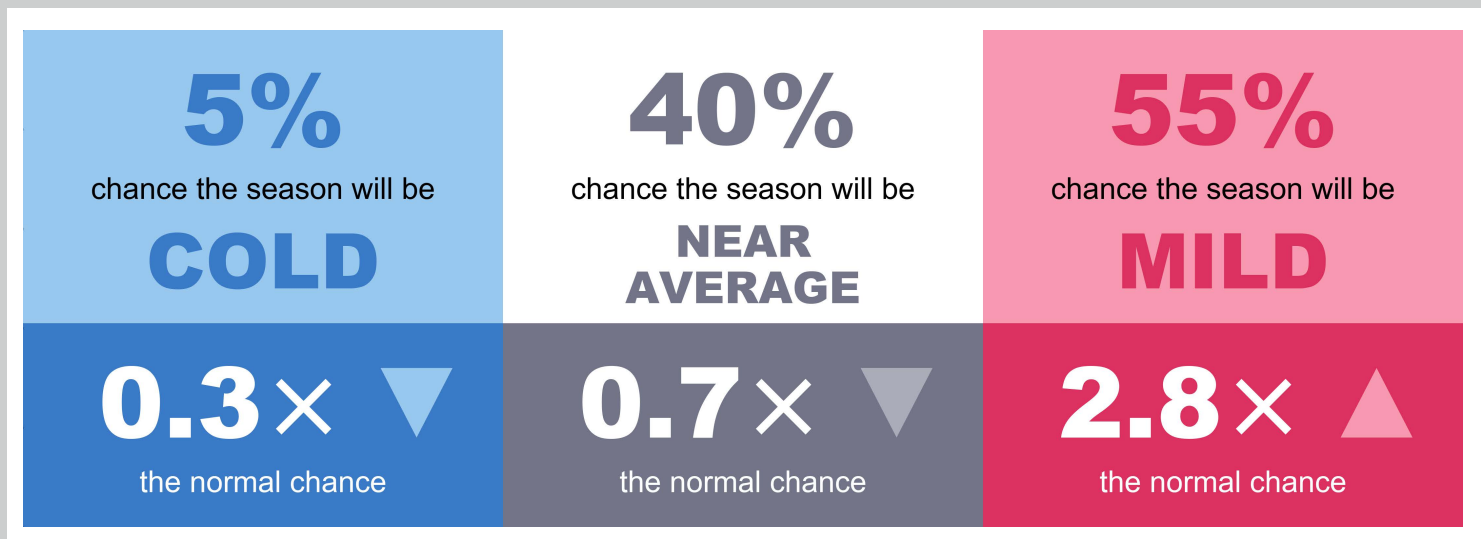
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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3-month summary

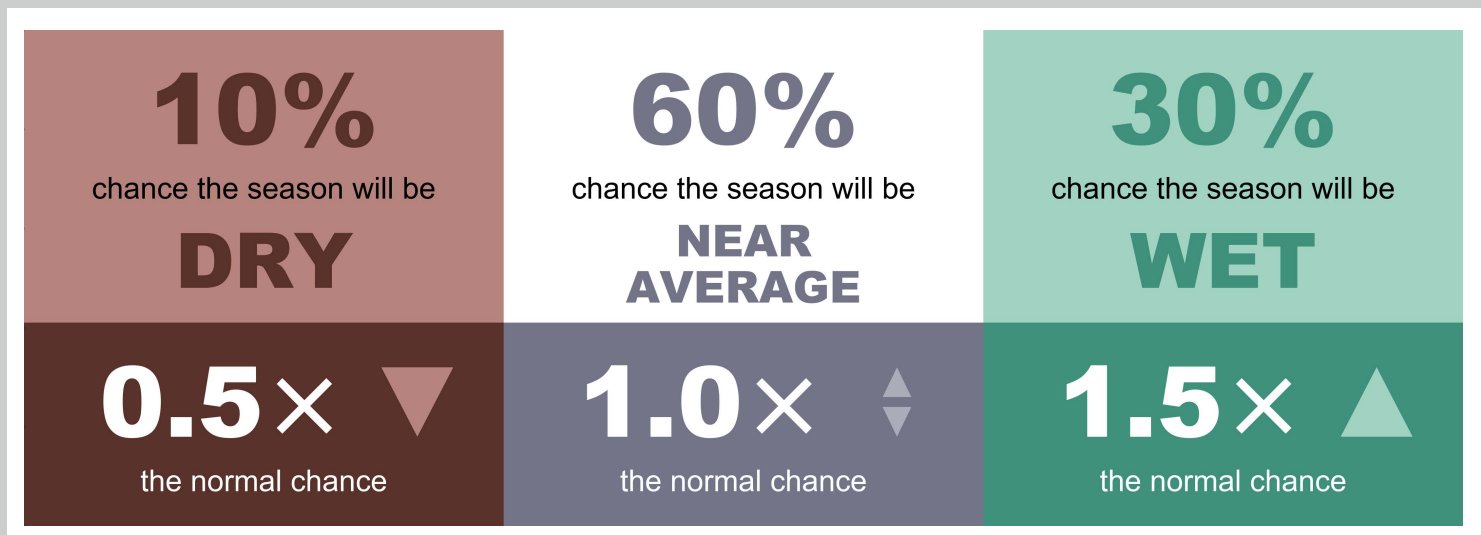
- Compared to normal, there is a reduced chance of the period as a whole being cold
- Chances of a wet period are slightly higher than usual
- Increased likelihood of impacts from heavy rainfall and strong winds

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



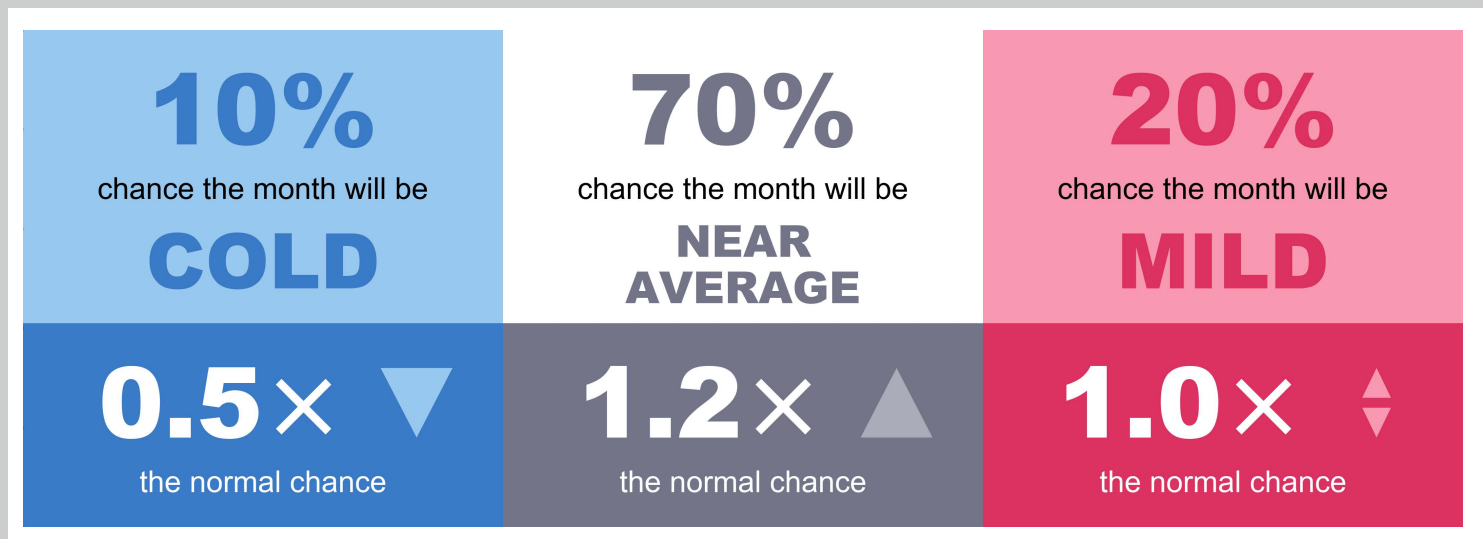
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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1-month summary

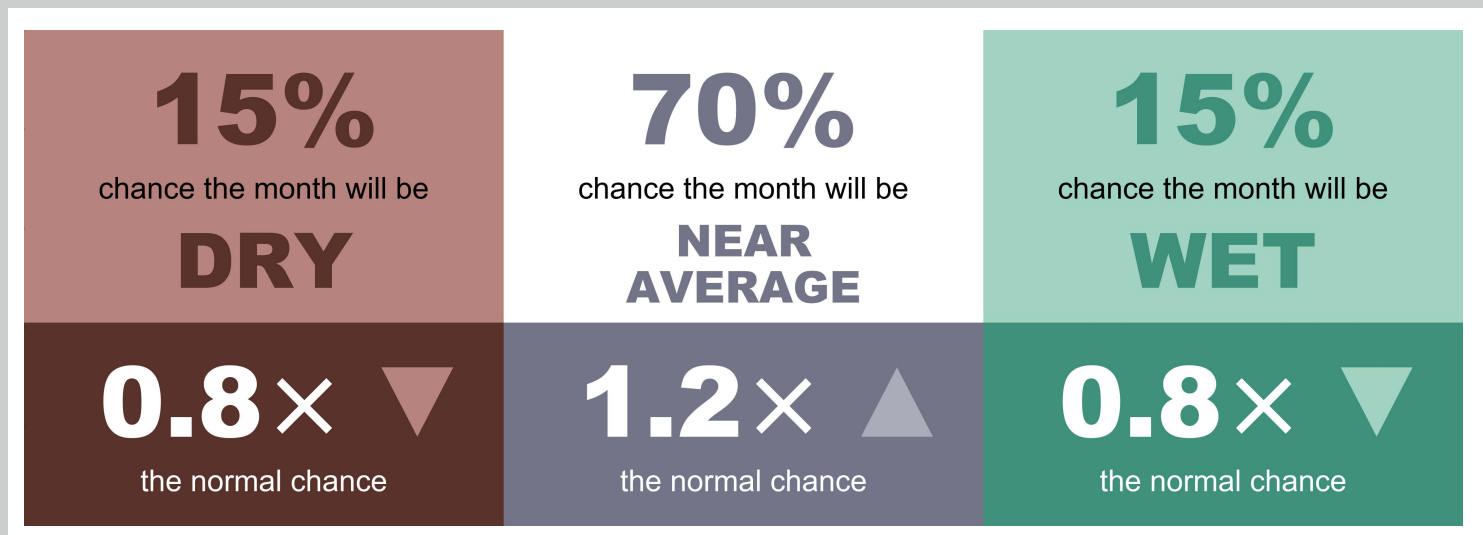
- The chance of a cold February is slightly lower than normal
- However, impacts from cold weather remain possible, particularly early in February
- The chance of a wet month is lower than normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature and precipitation in the next 1 and 3 months:

COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for temperature
 WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NEAR AVERAGE	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for February to April

Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season, and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- The Madden-Julian Oscillation which increases the likelihood of westerly winds around mid-February
- A moderate La Niña, which increases the chances of westerly winds
- The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
- A strong Stratospheric Polar Vortex (SPV), increasing the chance of westerly winds from the Atlantic

Long-range weather predictions

The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range predictions of conditions in the months ahead. For February, predictions vary in prevailing conditions but there is an increased likelihood of high pressure being located across or to the west of the UK, with winds blowing predominately from the northwest. There is better agreement for the 3-month period with increased likelihood of high pressure to the south of the UK, and low pressure to the north. This is consistent with the expected impact of La Niña and would increase the likelihood of winds from a west or southwesterly direction.

Impact

The increased chance of high pressure being located near the UK early in this period implies a higher likelihood of overnight frost and fog, but with temperatures overall near-normal. The chance of this pattern bringing a more significant cold spell of weather, with widespread frosts, snow and ice, is small. A cold 3-month period remains possible, though much less likely than normal. More likely is that west or southwest winds will be more dominant than usual bringing mild, wet, and windy conditions. In this regime, the wettest and windiest conditions are more likely to affect northern and western parts of the UK.

3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

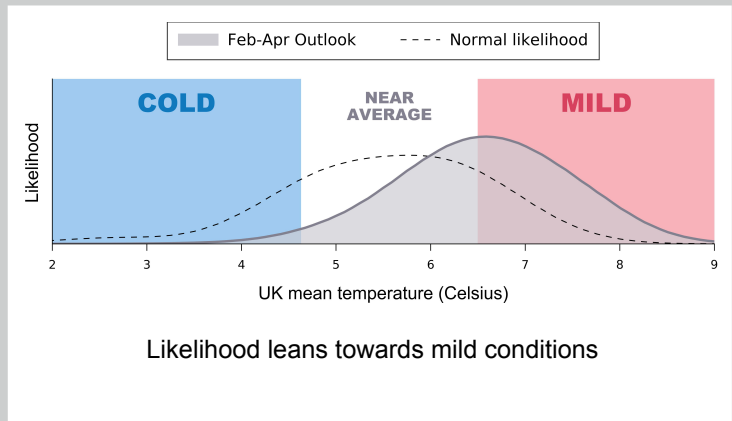
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

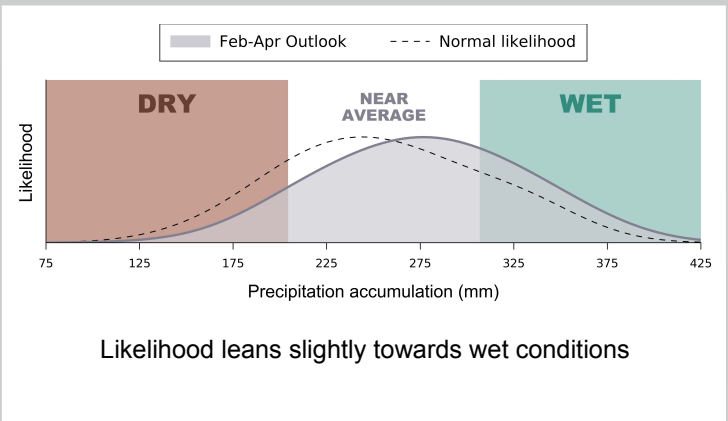
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chance of below-average temperature or precipitation. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

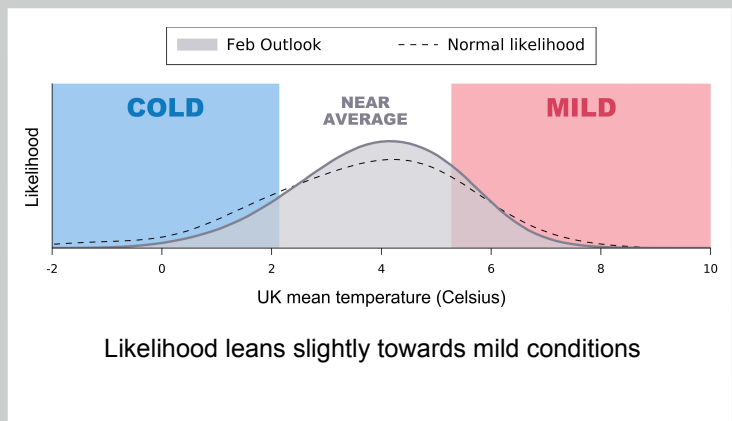
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



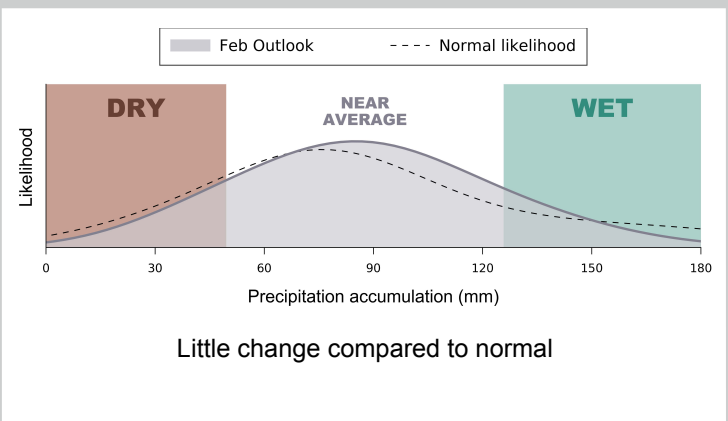
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



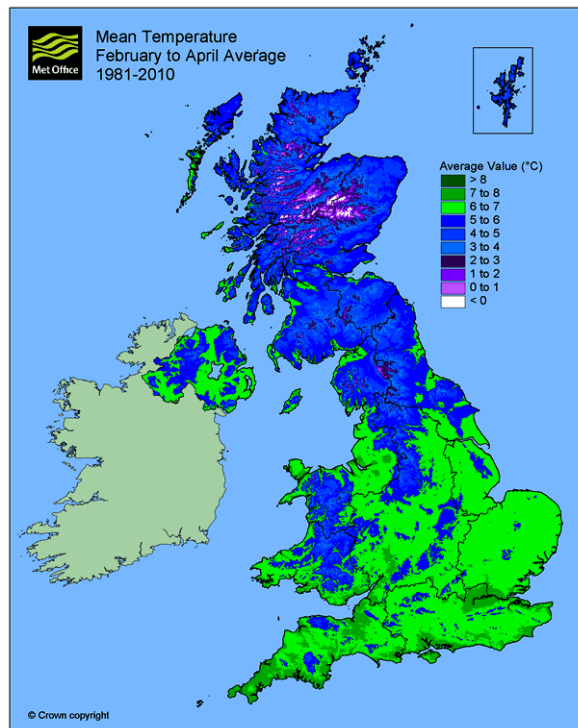
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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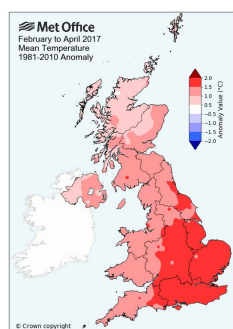
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK for the 3-month Outlook period. Long-term average temperatures for the 1-month period are on page 6. Long-term precipitation averages are shown on pages 7 (3-month) and 8 (1-month).

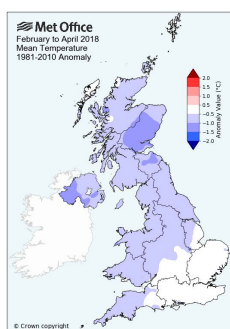


Average temperatures for February - April based on observations from past years.

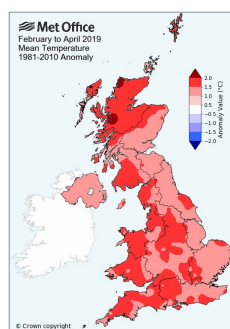
Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



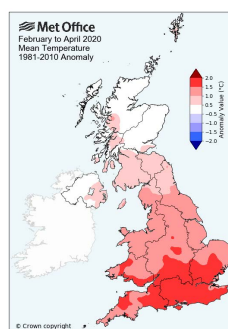
Feb-Apr 2017



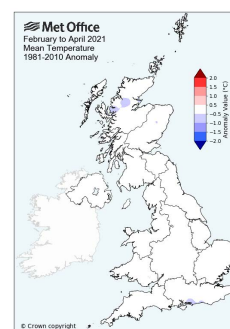
Feb-Apr 2018



Feb-Apr 2019

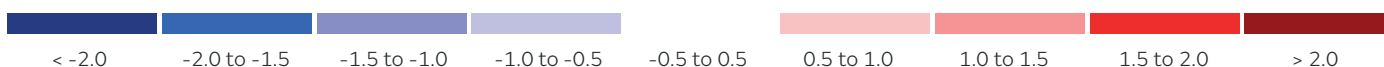


Feb-Apr 2020



Feb-Apr 2021

Anomaly (°C)

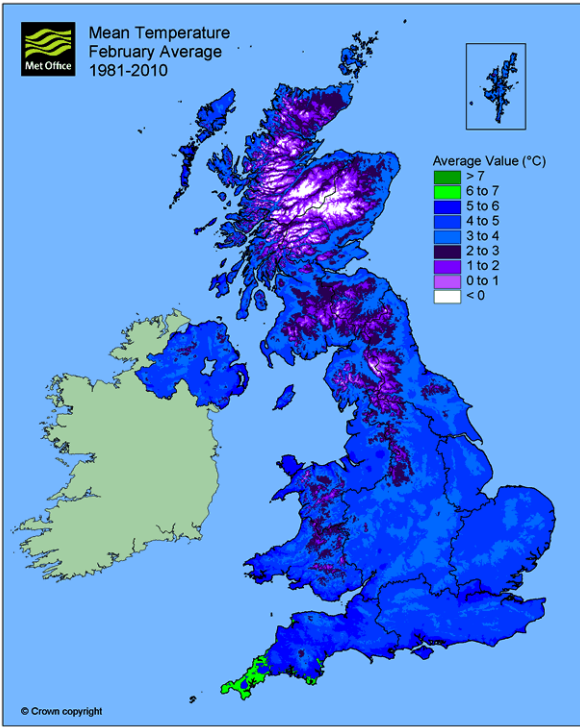


These maps show how February to April temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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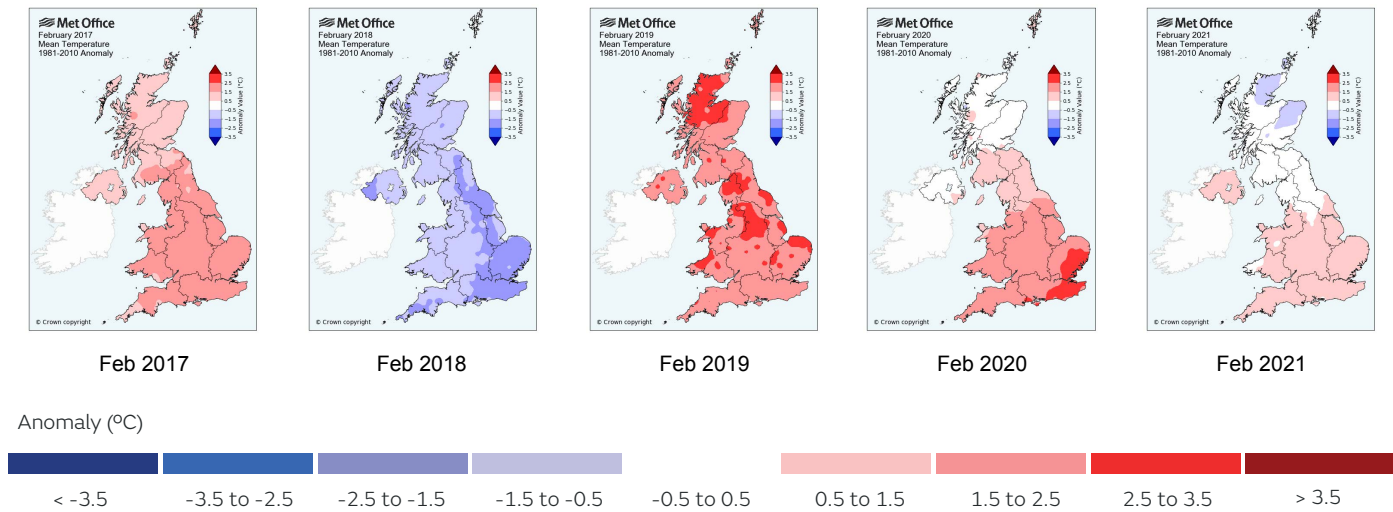
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK for the 1-month Outlook period.



Average temperatures for February based on observations from past years.

Last 5 years' temperatures, difference from average (1-month)

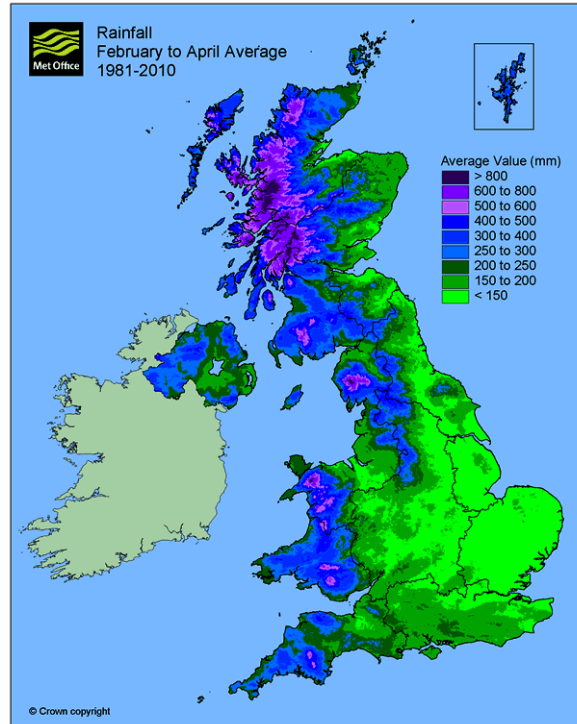


These maps show how February temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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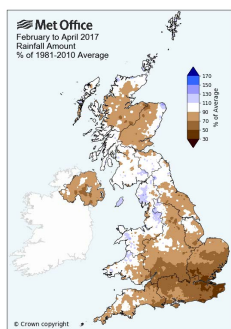
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK for the 3-month Outlook period.

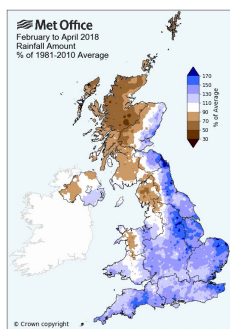


Average precipitation for February - April based on observations from past years.

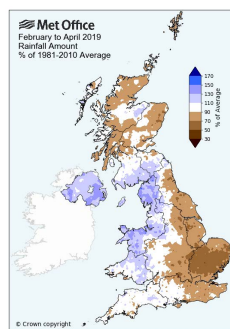
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



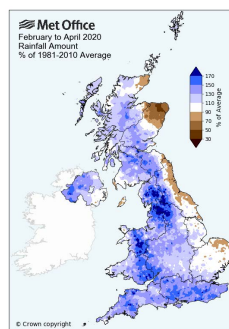
Feb-Apr 2017



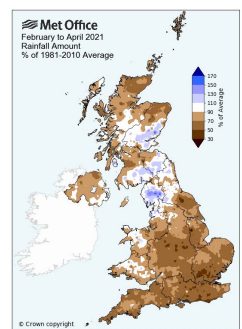
Feb-Apr 2018



Feb-Apr 2019

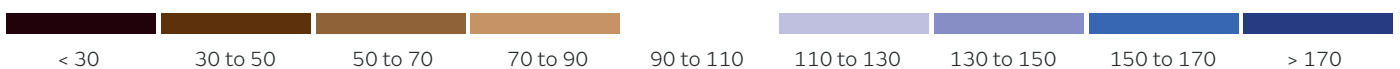


Feb-Apr 2020



Feb-Apr 2021

% of average

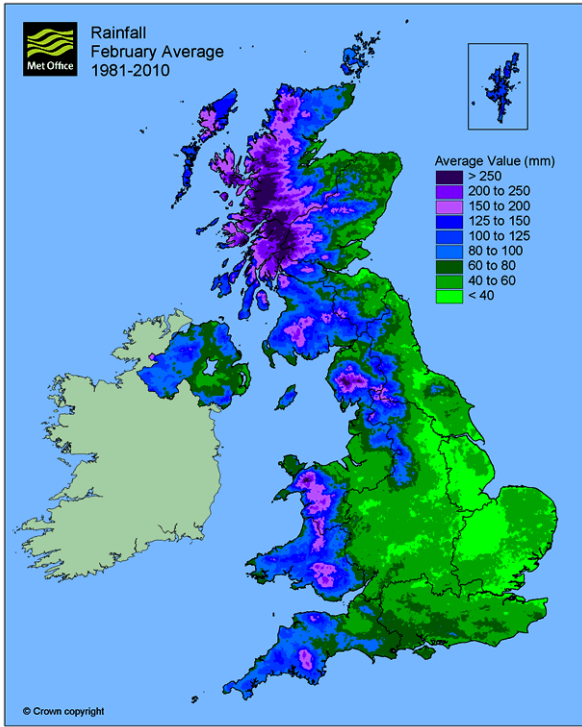


These maps show how February - April precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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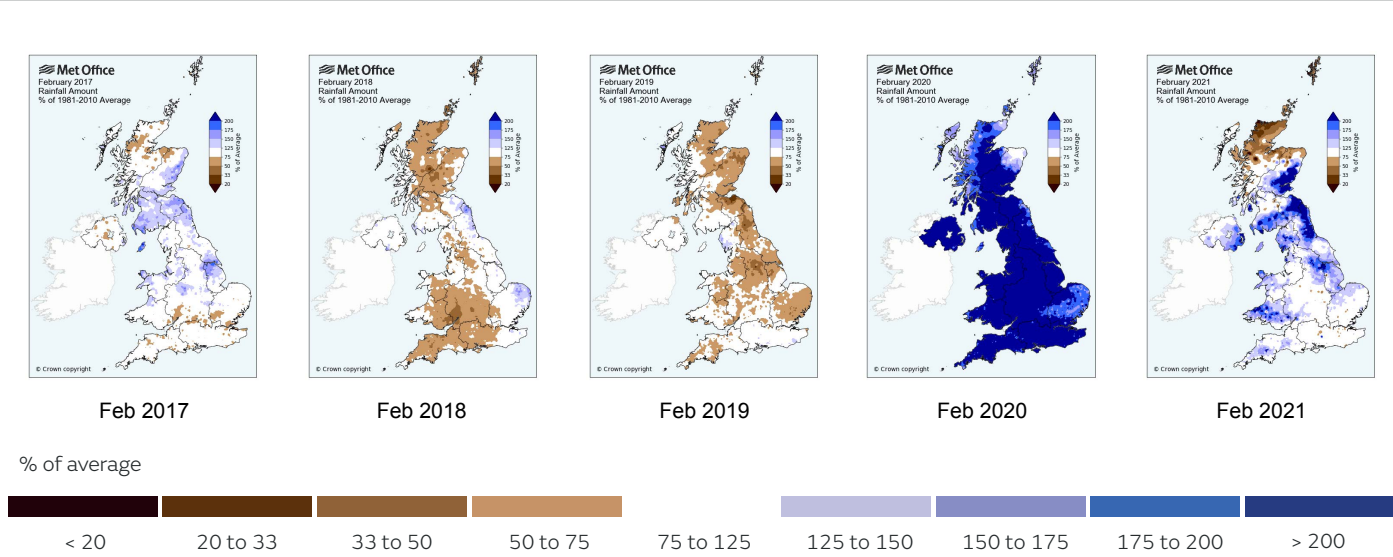
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK for the 1-month Outlook period.



Average precipitation for February based on observations from past years.

Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



These maps show how February precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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Q&A

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?

A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?

A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?

A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?

A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. With the Outlook suggesting an increased chance of wet, mild, and windy weather - does this mean we will see more named storms?

A. This Outlook indicates that, overall, west or southwesterly winds are more likely to dominate, pushing Atlantic weather systems across the UK and increasing the chance of mild and windy, or perhaps at times stormy weather, particularly in the north and west. However, the Outlook cannot specify the potential severity, duration or timings of specific events.

Q. Does this Outlook mean there is an increased chance of flooding?

A. Whilst the Outlook shows an increased chance of wetter than normal conditions, particularly in the north and west, it does not specify the details of any potential impacts. Regional rainfall variations within the UK can be substantial and you can check flooding risk in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for the United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website (<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).

Information for February will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 4 February 2022.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1981-2010.