



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: October-December 2016 Issue date: 23.09.16

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 The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 October 2016.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For October, the chance of seeing above-average precipitation is greater than the chance of seeing below-average precipitation. For the period October-November-December as a whole, there are equal chances of above-average and below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK precipitation for October-November-December as a whole 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 also 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Autumn is a season when, climatologically speaking, Atlantic depressions become more intense, carrying large amounts of moisture, making it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (as can be seen in Fig. P1). This pattern is more likely through October, with a general decrease in storminess expected through November and December, the reasons for this having been outlined in the temperature section.

There is good agreement for expected atmospheric circulations between long-range prediction systems from global forecast centres, including the Met Office. As such, westerly winds through October are likely to bring Atlantic storm systems close to or into the UK,

particularly early in the month, with these perhaps producing heavy rain at times. Through November and December long-range prediction systems are in good agreement that the atmospheric circulation pattern will often favour winds from either a northerly or easterly direction as higher pressure develops to the west or north of the UK. This would reduce the incidence of Atlantic storm systems affecting the UK, and therefore lead to a general reduction in precipitation amounts.

As such, for the period as a whole, there are equal chances of seeing above-average or below-average precipitation for the UK.

Fig P1

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

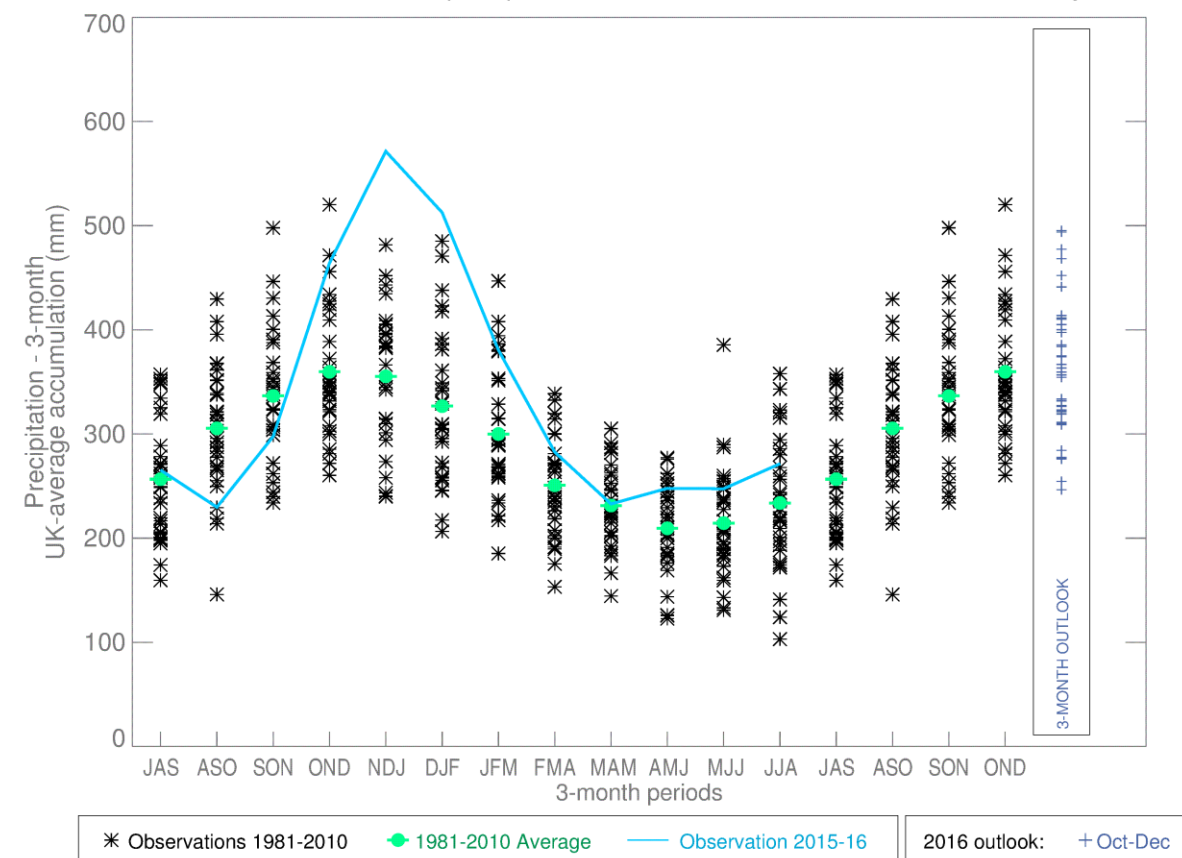


Fig P2

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

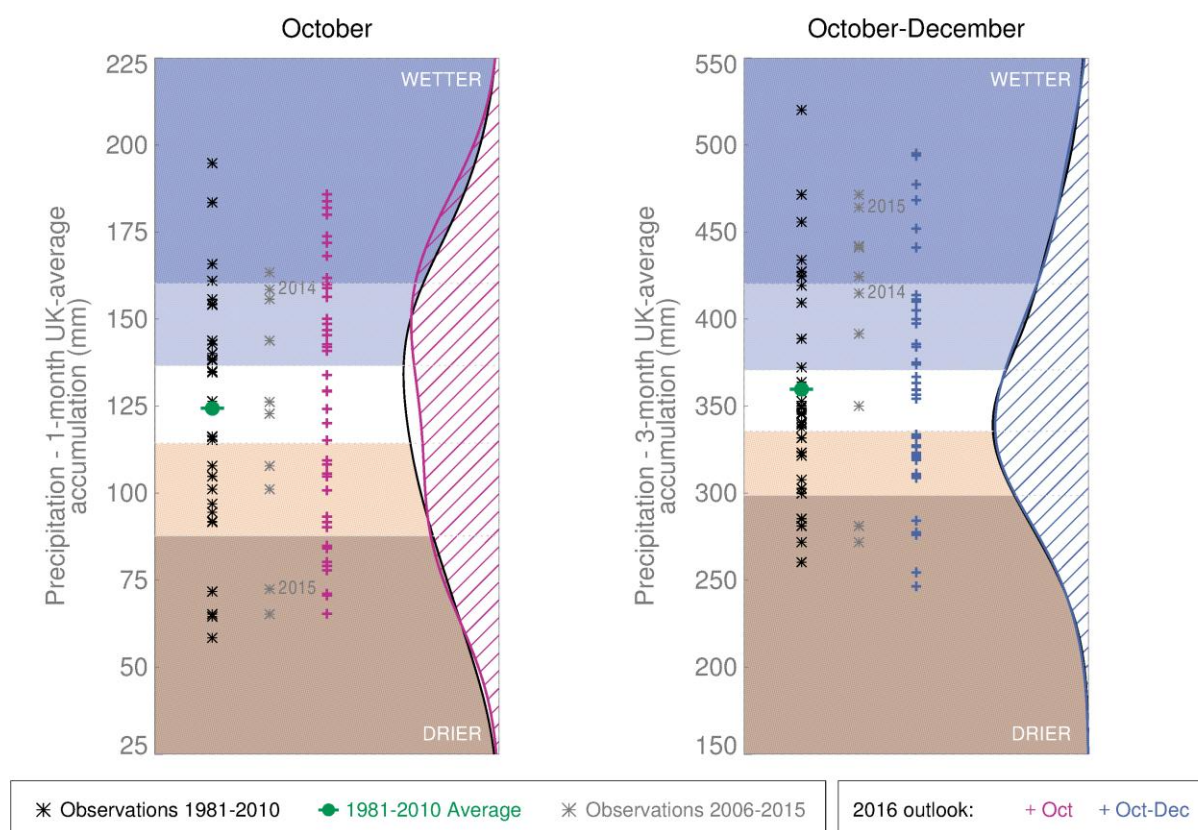
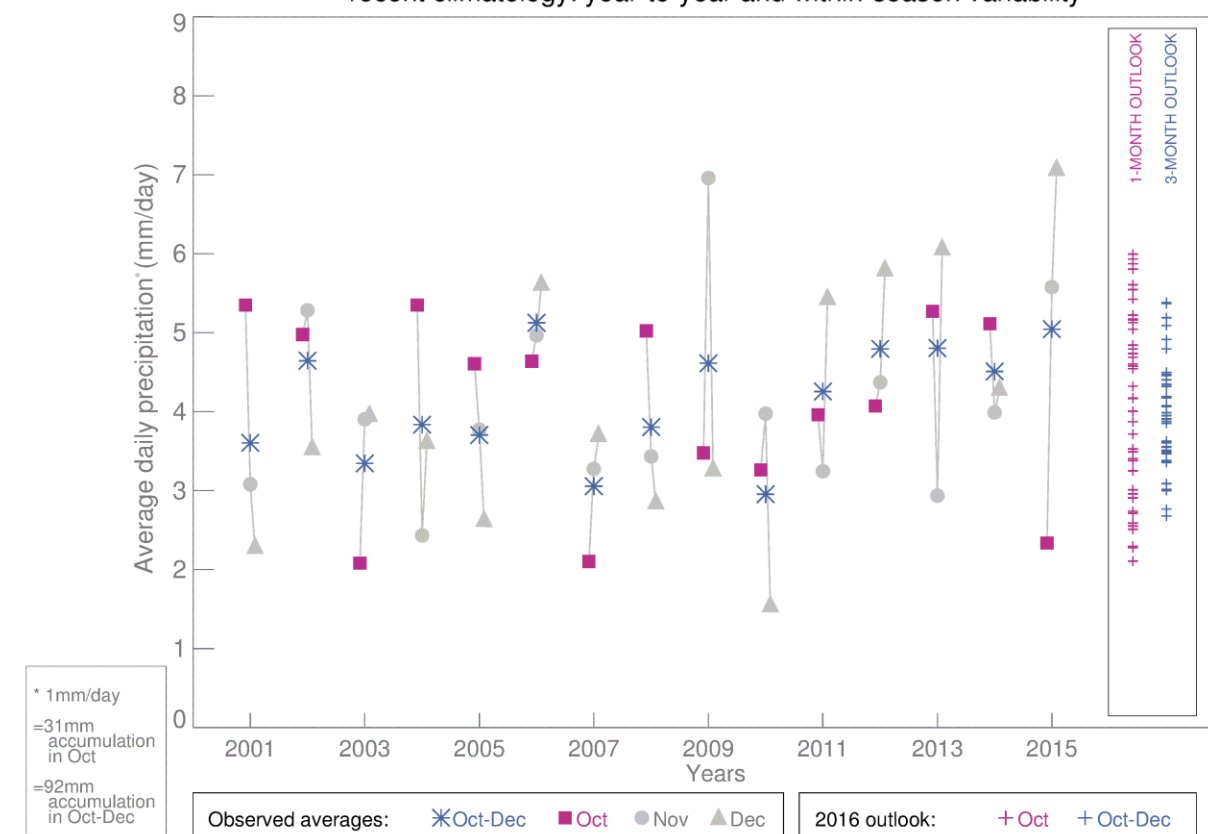


Fig P3

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.