



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: April – June 2017 Issue date: 23.03.17

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 01 April 2017.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For April and April-May-June, above-average temperatures are more probable than below-average.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for April-May-June will fall into the coldest of our five categories is 5% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 45% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%)

CONTEXT:

In the tropical Pacific Ocean, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral. Despite the likelihood of warming sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean, ENSO is expected to remain mostly in the neutral range in the next 3 months, so it is not expected to influence UK weather significantly through this period.

Sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic Ocean are mostly above average, consistent with the current high levels of global warmth. Below-normal sea surface temperatures have been a persistent feature in the northern North Atlantic in recent years. Currently, however, this feature is confined to the southwest of Iceland. Sea surface temperatures around the UK are above normal and this will increase the chances of warmer-than-average temperatures through the period.

The Met Office Long-Range Prediction System, along with systems from other forecast centres, shows an increase in the chances of an anticyclonic influence in April, with high pressure located close to, or east of, the UK. This increases the likelihood of warmer-than-average temperatures (see the left-hand graph of fig. T2) as a result of more frequent sunny spells and winds from the south. For the period April-May-June, signals from long-range prediction systems are relatively weak, consistent with a lack of large-scale global drivers. Overall, there is a slight increase in the likelihood of anticyclonic conditions. As a result of this, and the warmth being observed in many of the regions that act as sources for air travelling to the UK, there is an increased chance of warmer-than-average conditions in April-May-June (see the right-hand graph of fig. T2).

Fig T1

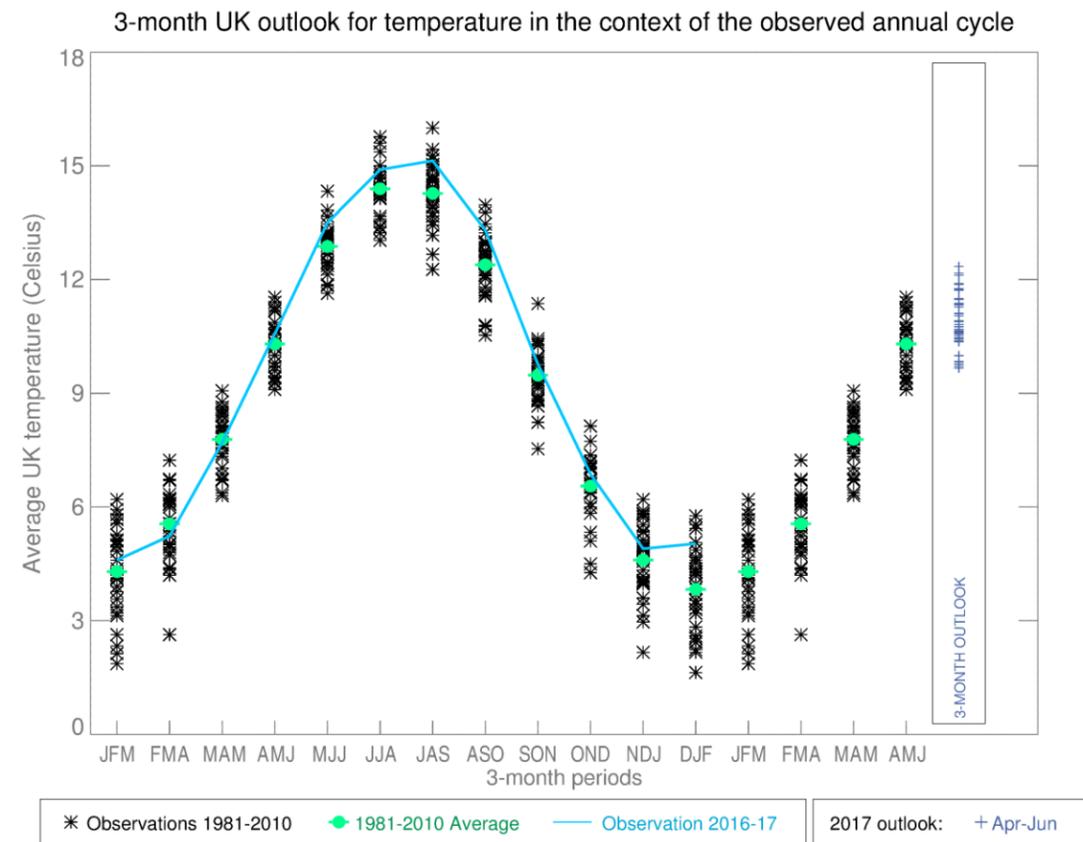


Fig T2

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

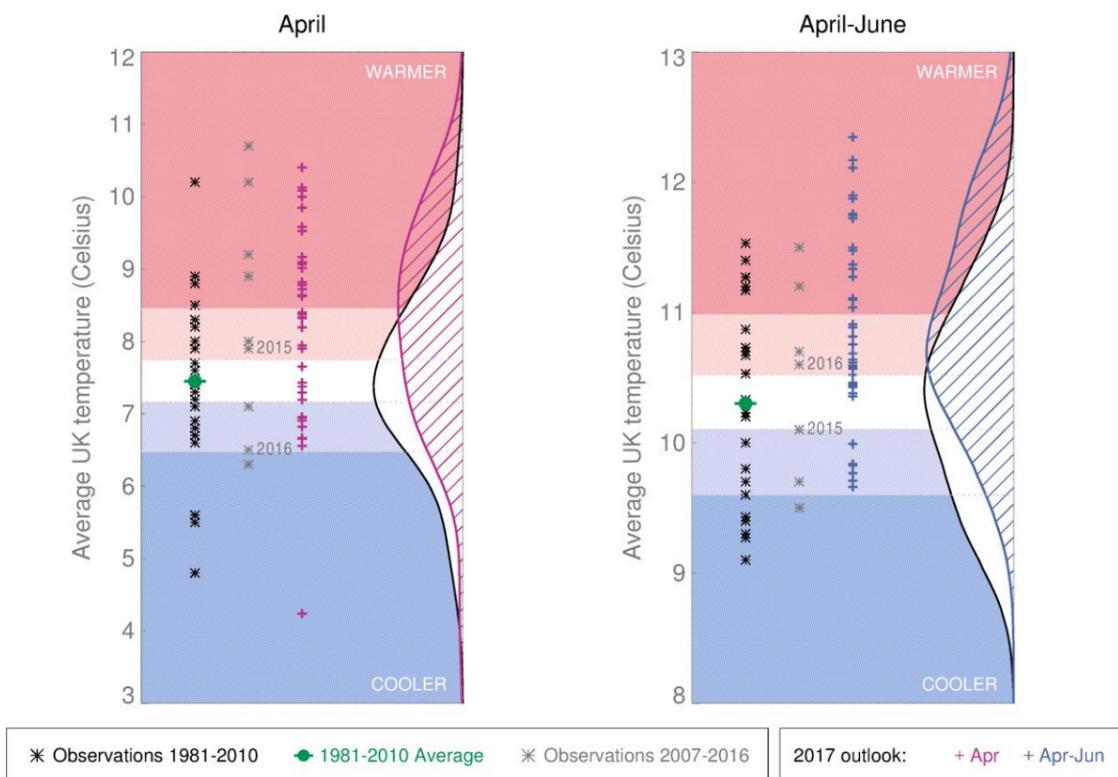
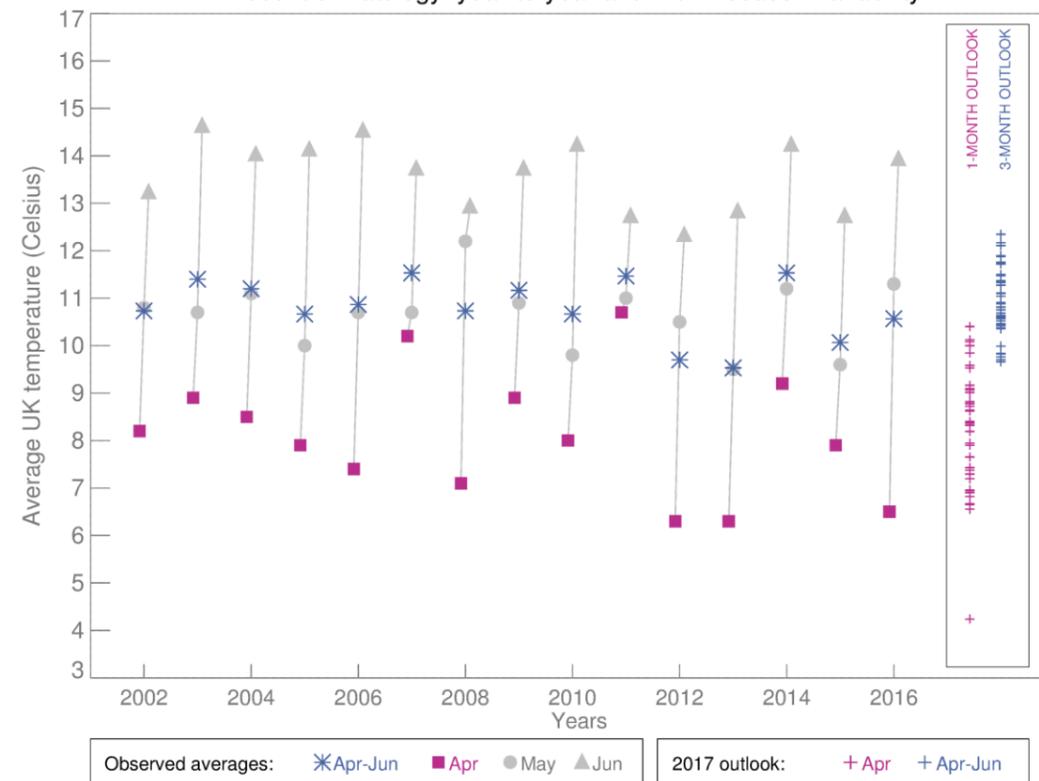


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature 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.