



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: October – December 2018 Issue date: 27.09.18

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 The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 5th October 2018.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For October, the chances of above- or below-average precipitation are similar. For October-November-December as a whole, above-average precipitation is more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for October-November-December will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 10% and 15% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is between 30% and 35% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Autumn is a season when Atlantic depressions become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture. This often makes it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (see figure P1). During October, the Met Office prediction system shows an increased chance of northwesterly winds compared to normal. This is a fairly neutral direction in terms of overall impact on UK rainfall. Uncertainty in the more likely weather patterns in prediction systems from other centres contributes to a broad range of possible outcomes for precipitation. The probabilities of above- and below-average rainfall do not differ significantly from normal (see left-hand graph of figure P2).

For October-November-December, the Met Office prediction system shows an increased likelihood of a positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and, as a result, an increased chance of above-average rainfall (see right-hand graph of figure P2). This is consistent with the effects of global drivers on the weather patterns near the UK (see discussion in temperature section). The chances of spells of very wet and stormy weather are increased this autumn compared to usual.

Fig P2

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

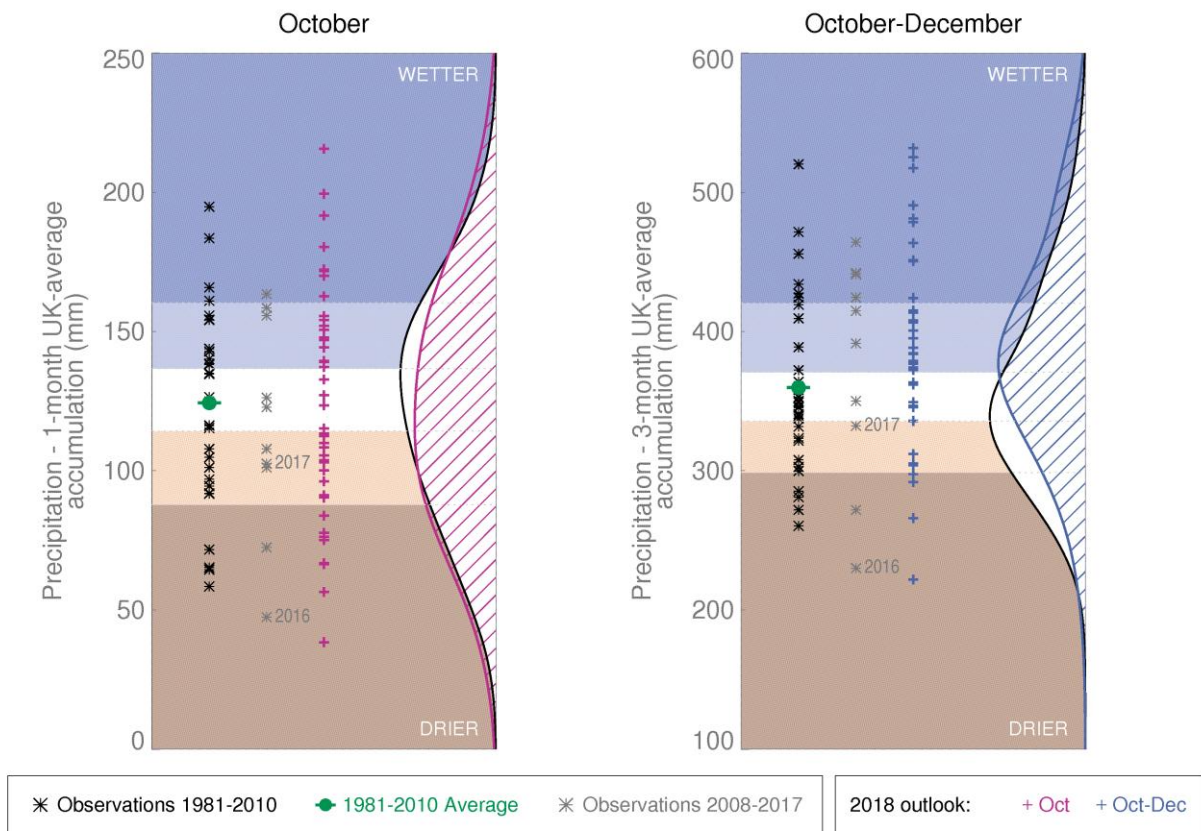


Fig P1

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

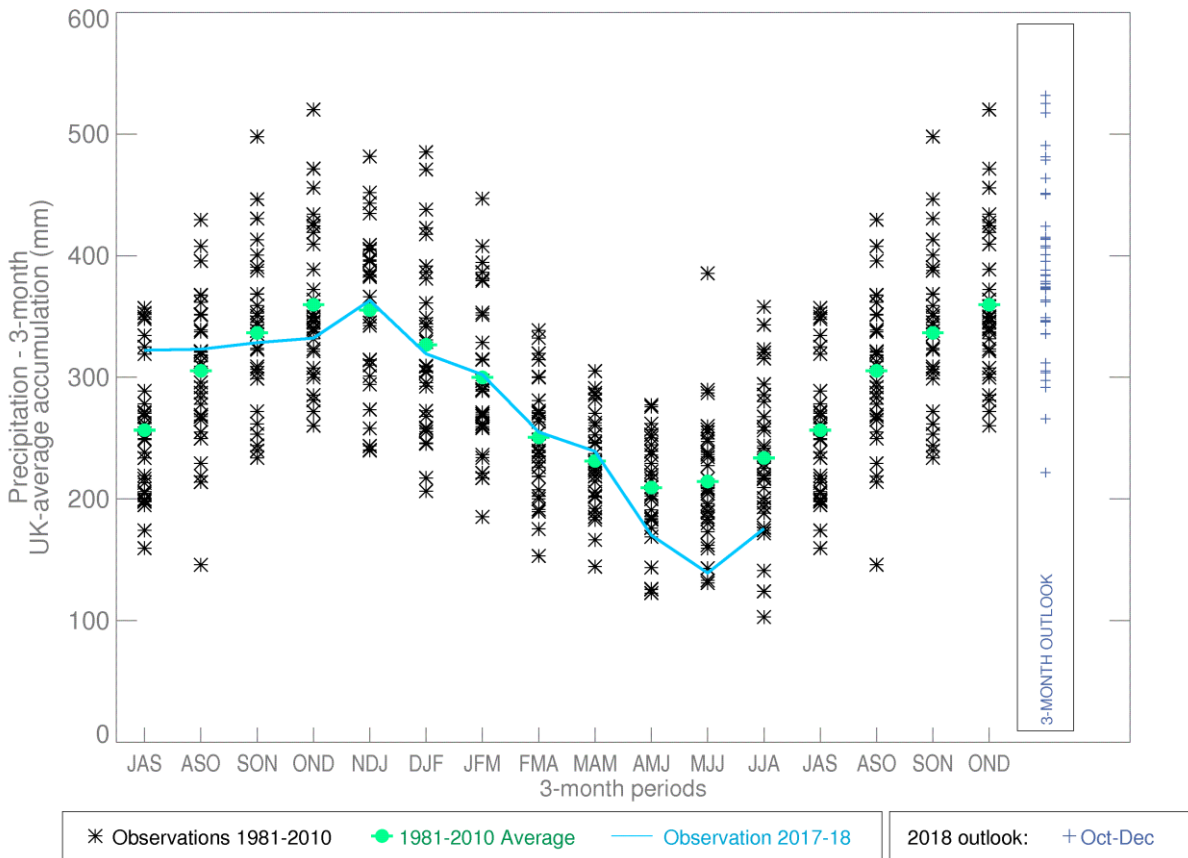
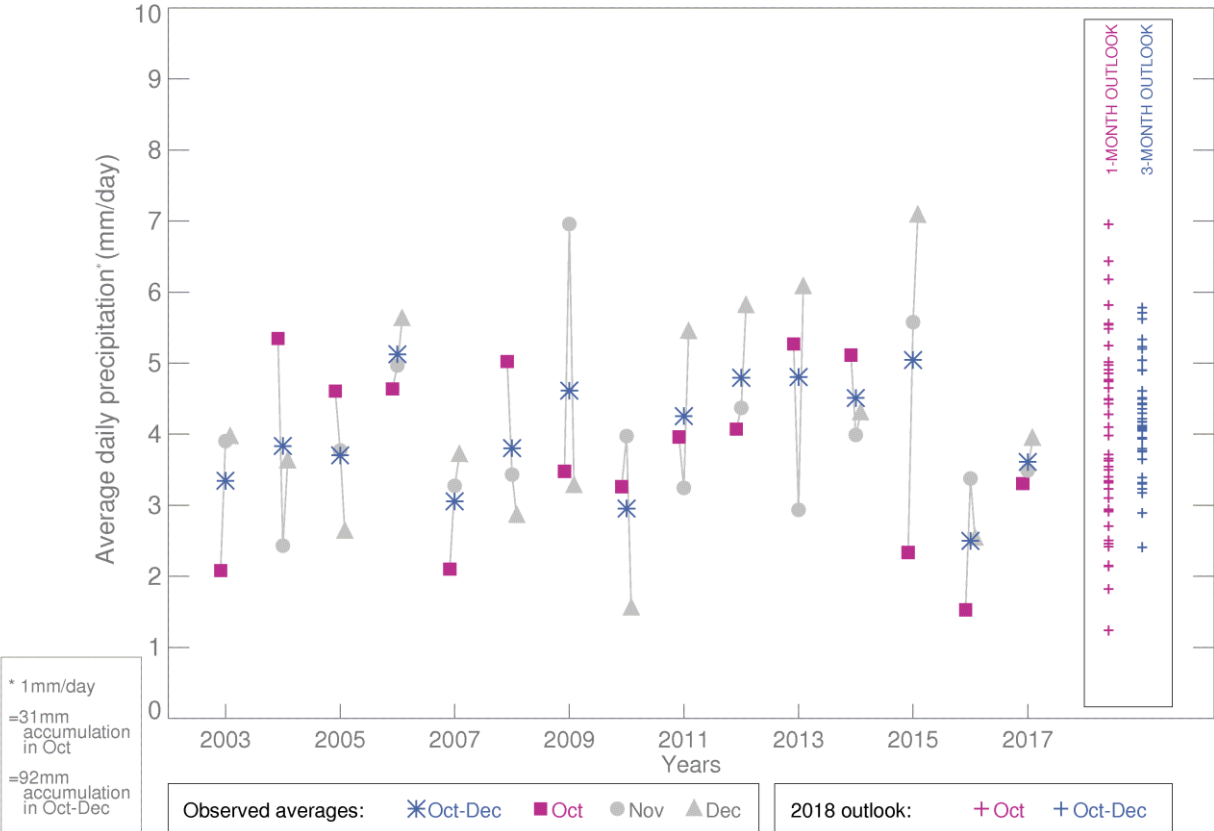


Fig P3

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.