



# Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: December 2017 –February 2018 Issue date: 24.11.17

The forecast presented here is for December and the average of the December-January-February period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for December will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page ([www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast)), starting from 1 December 2017.

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

### SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For December, below-average precipitation is slightly more likely than above-average precipitation.

For December-January-February as a whole, above-average precipitation is more likely than below-average precipitation. The likelihood of impacts from heavy rainfall and high winds is greater than usual.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for December-January-February 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:

As discussed in the temperature section, for December the Met Office long-range prediction system and other systems from other prediction centres show an increased likelihood of weather patterns with northerly or easterly winds. These types of weather pattern favour drier-than-average conditions for the UK.

The outlook for December-January-February overall shows an

increased likelihood of weather systems from the North Atlantic and above-average precipitation (see figure P2). There still remains a chance of drier-than-average conditions, though this is less likely than wetter-than-average conditions. The outlook also indicates that the likelihood of impacts from heavy rainfall and high winds is greater than usual.

Fig P1

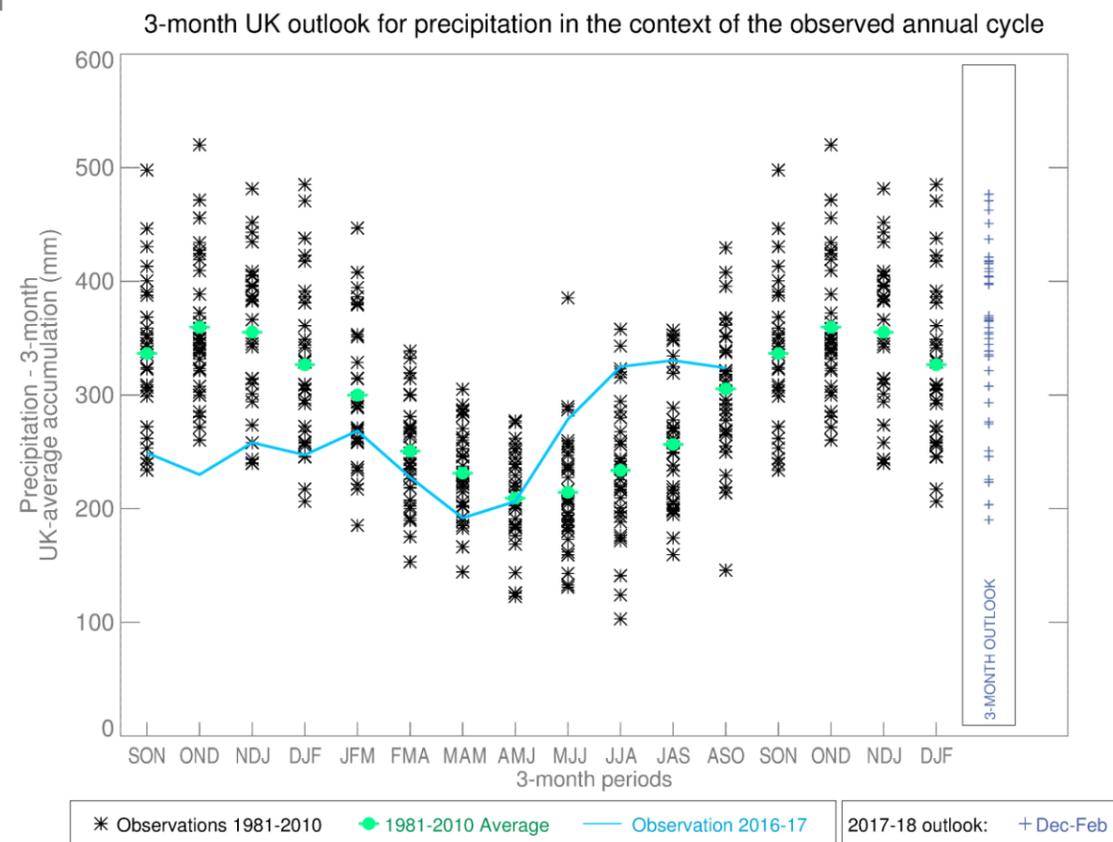


Fig P2

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

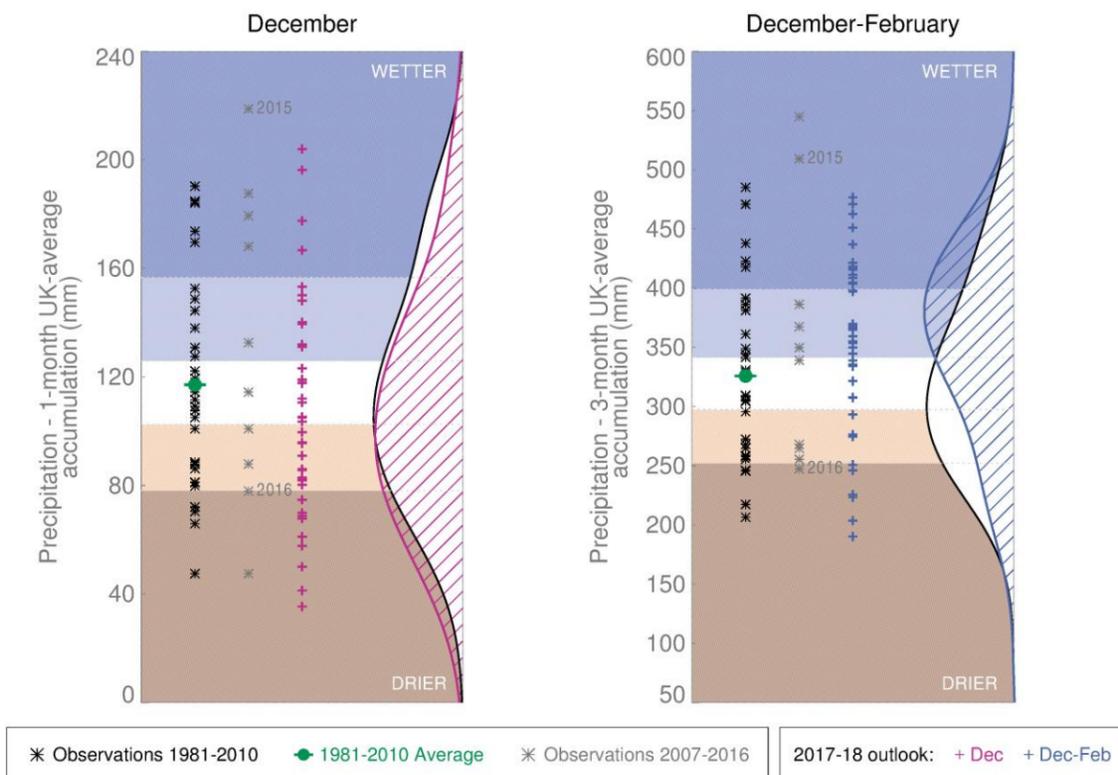
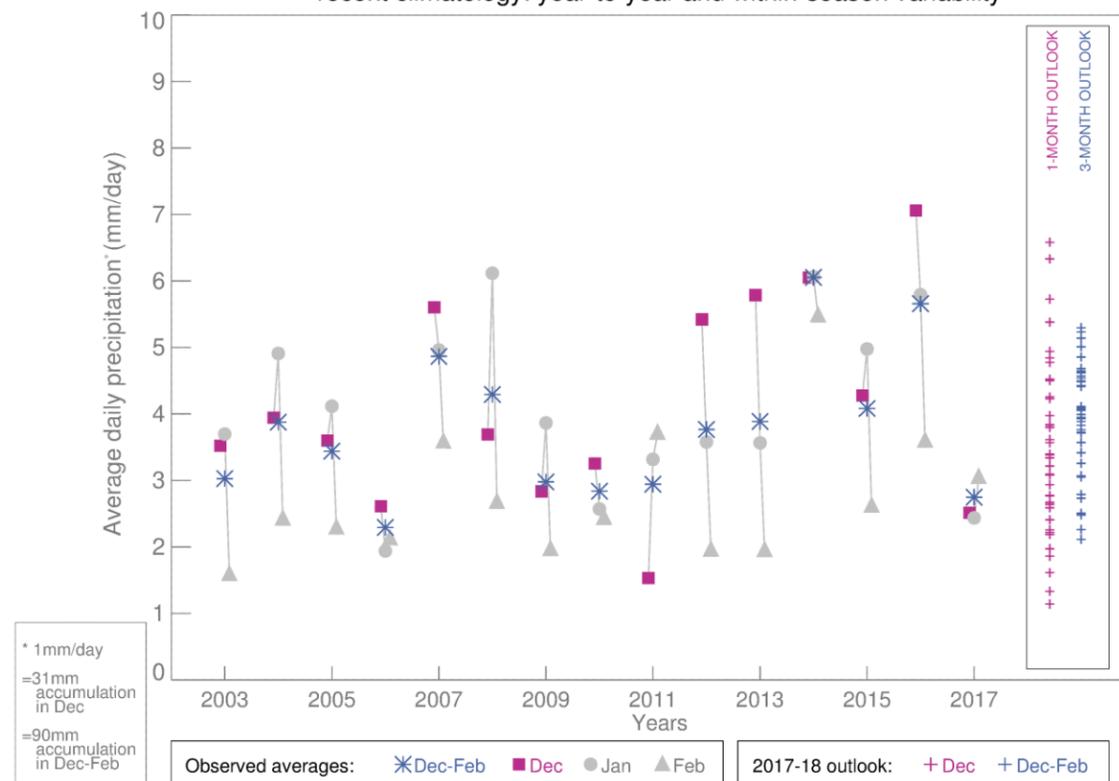


Fig P3

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.