

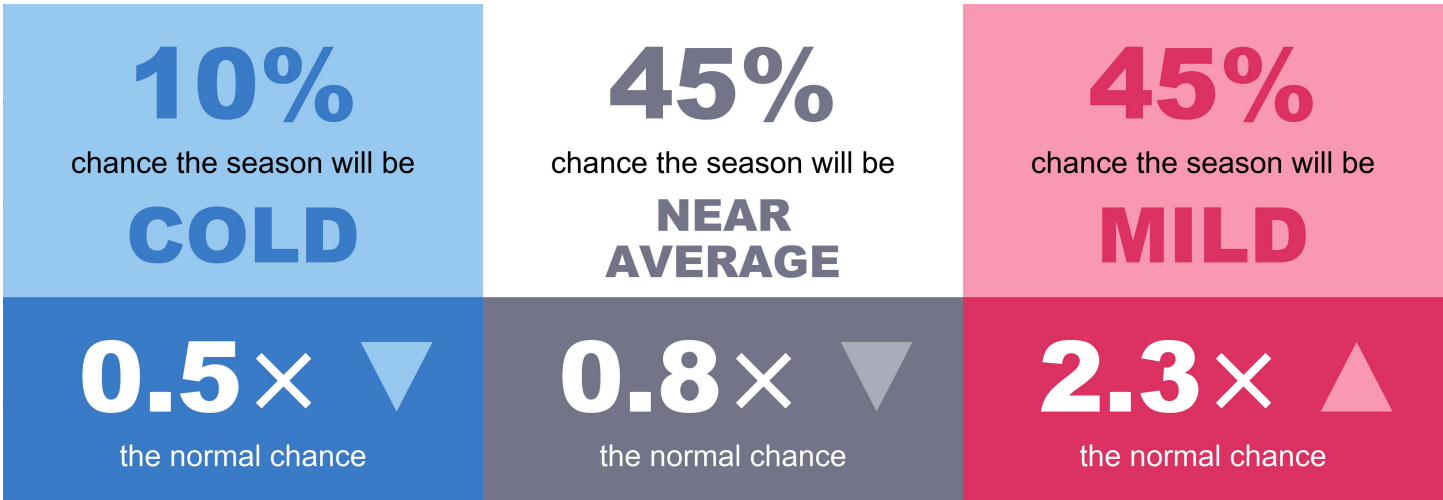
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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3-month summary

- A mild 3-month period is more likely than a cold one
- However, cold weather-related impacts, such as snow, remain possible
- These impacts are more likely during the first half of the period
- Higher than normal chance of wet conditions
- Increased likelihood of impacts from heavy rainfall and strong winds, especially later in the period

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



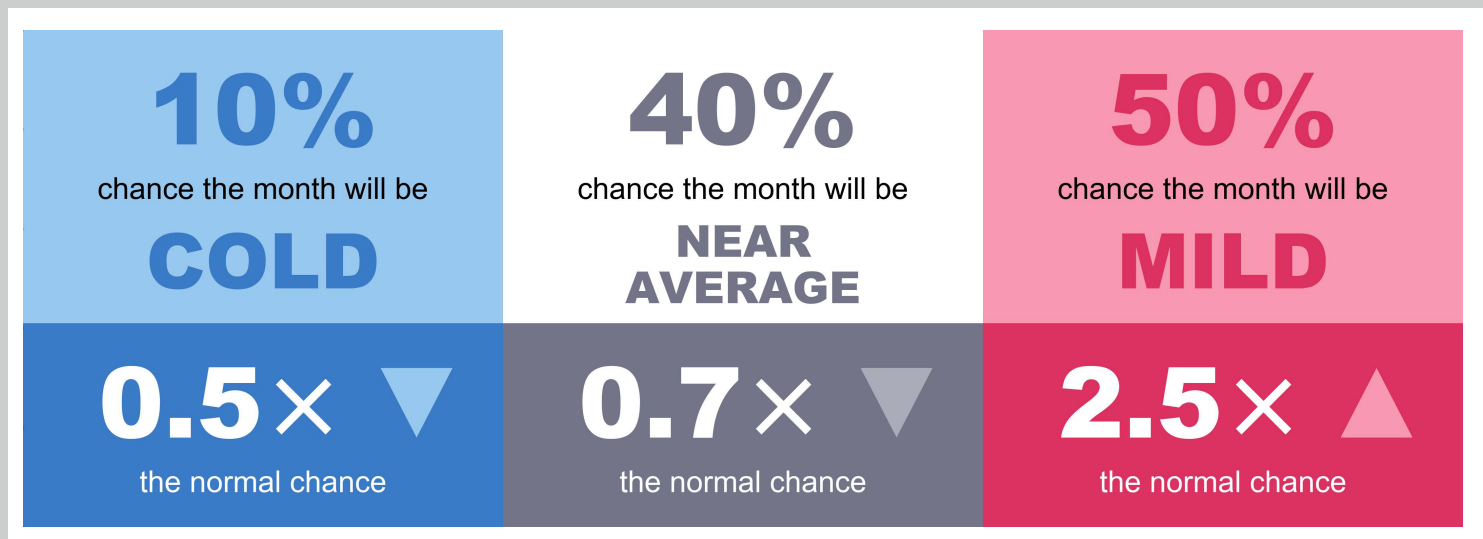
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
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1-month summary

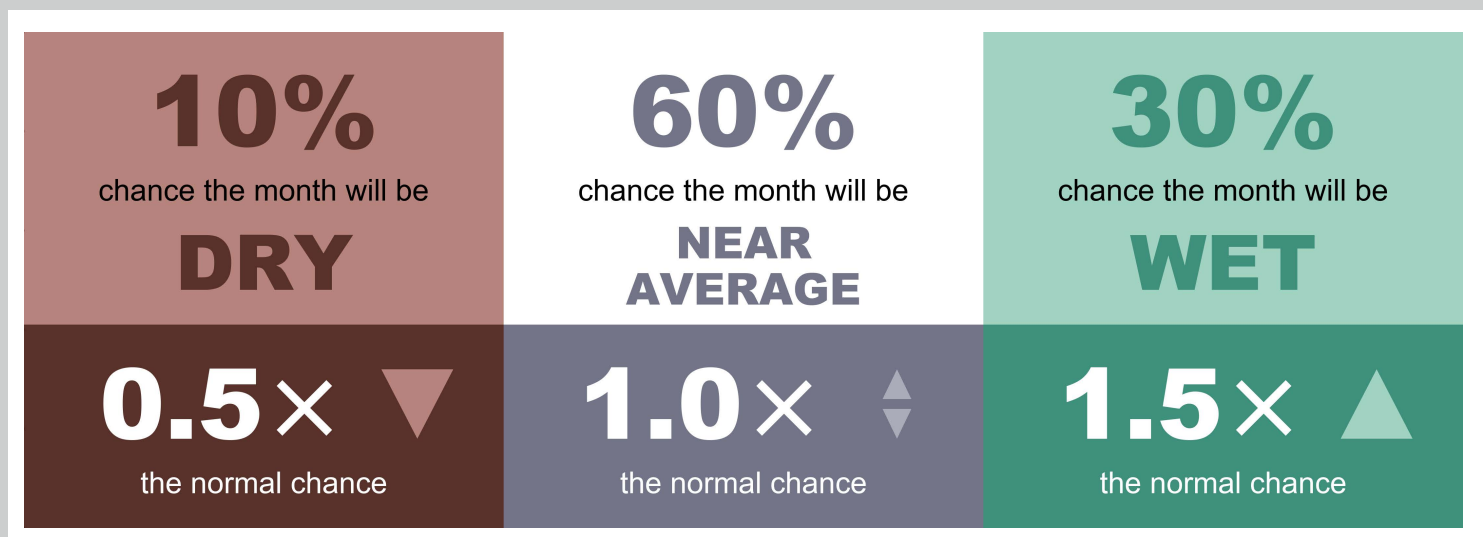
- Slightly lower chance of a cold November compared to normal
- The chance of a wet November is higher than normal
- A near average or dry month remains possible

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



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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

2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	MILD	COLD	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

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for November to January

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

- Weak to moderate La Niña event, which increases the likelihood of northerly or northwesterly winds early in the period and westerly winds later
- The easterly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO), which favours a reduction in the strength of the westerly winds over the UK

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. Consistent with the drivers described above, long-range forecasting systems overall predict an increased chance of northerly winds early in the period. Later on, there is a tendency for westerly winds to become more frequent.

Impact

Despite a reduction in the chance of cold, consistent with a warming climate, impacts from snow, ice and fog remain possible, particularly during the early part of this period. Overall, there is a shift towards wet conditions in this Outlook. As the period progresses, impacts from heavy rainfall and strong winds become more likely.

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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

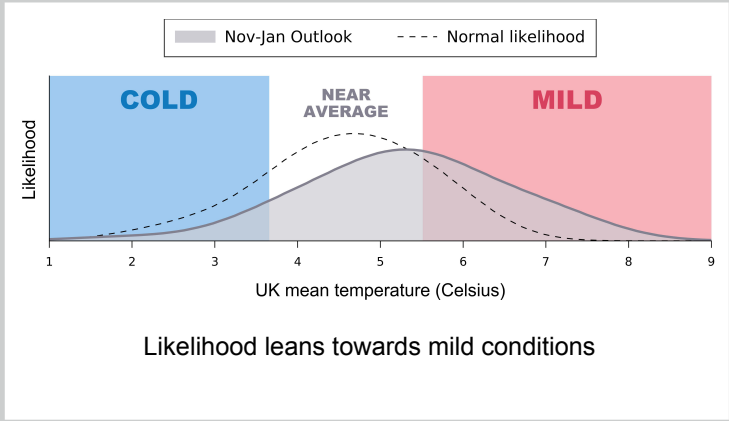
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- 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

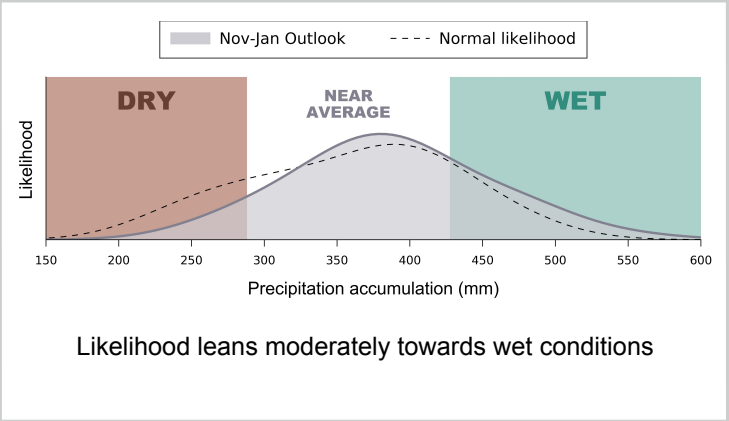
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood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

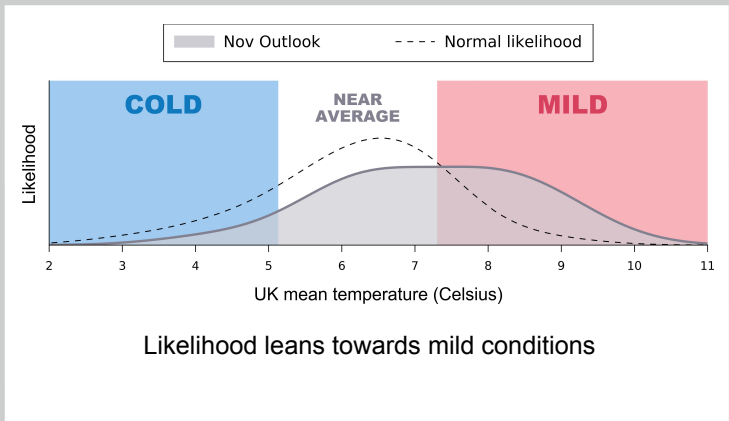
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



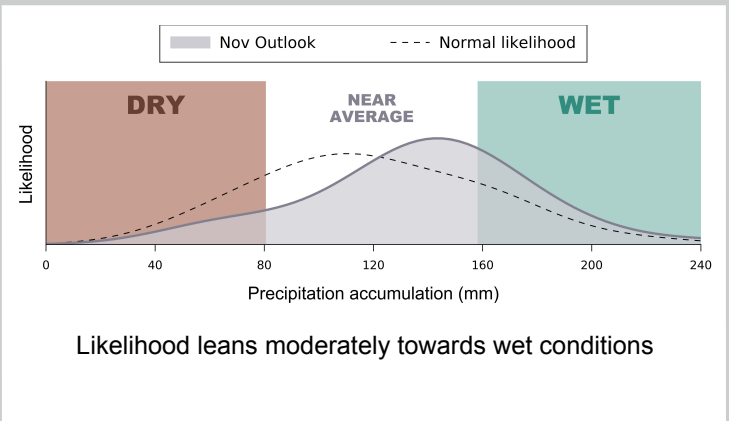
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



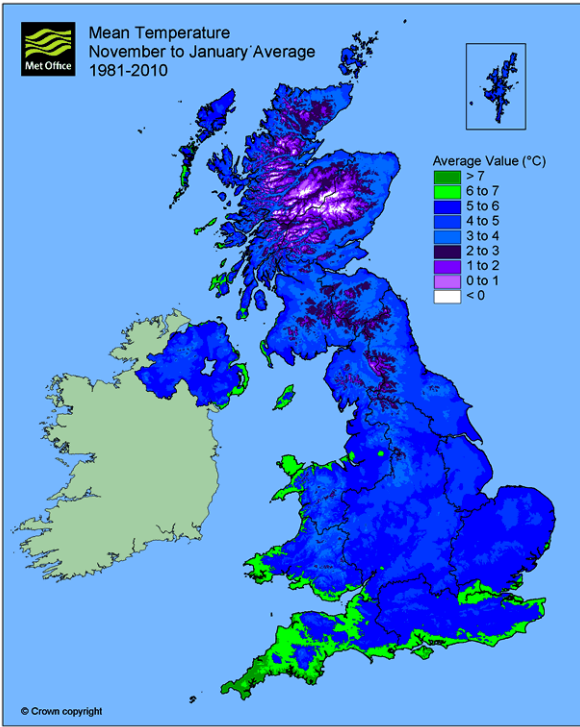
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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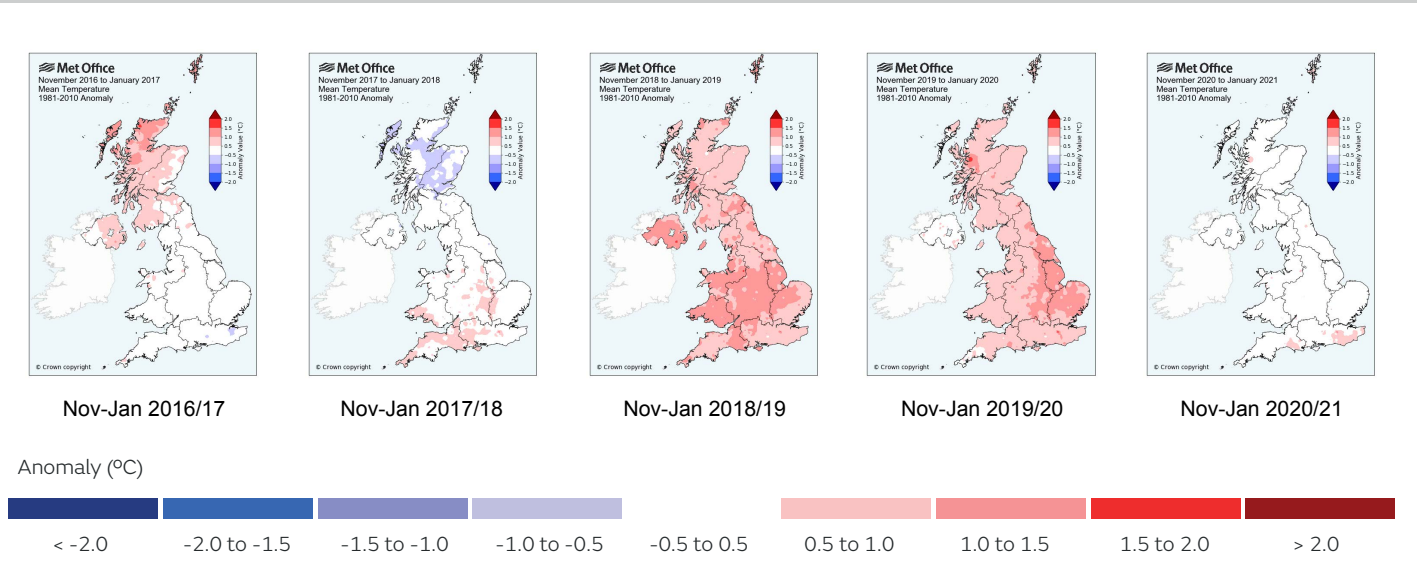
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

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 November - January based on observations from past years.

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

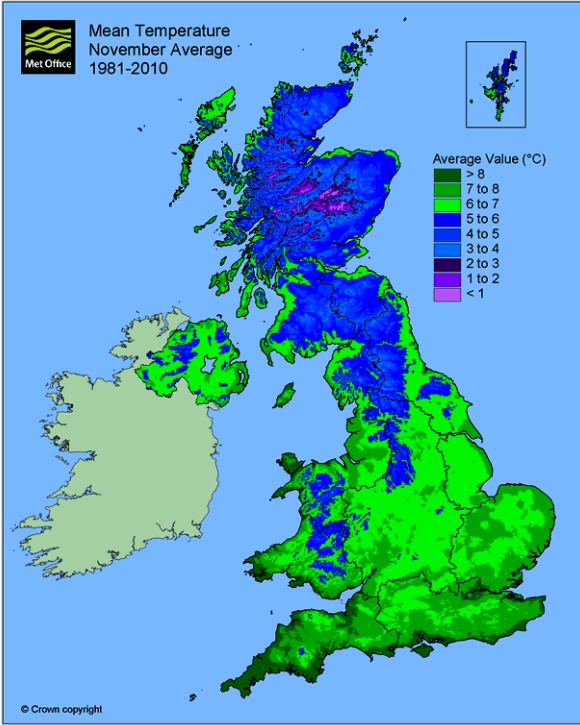


These maps show how November - January temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate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

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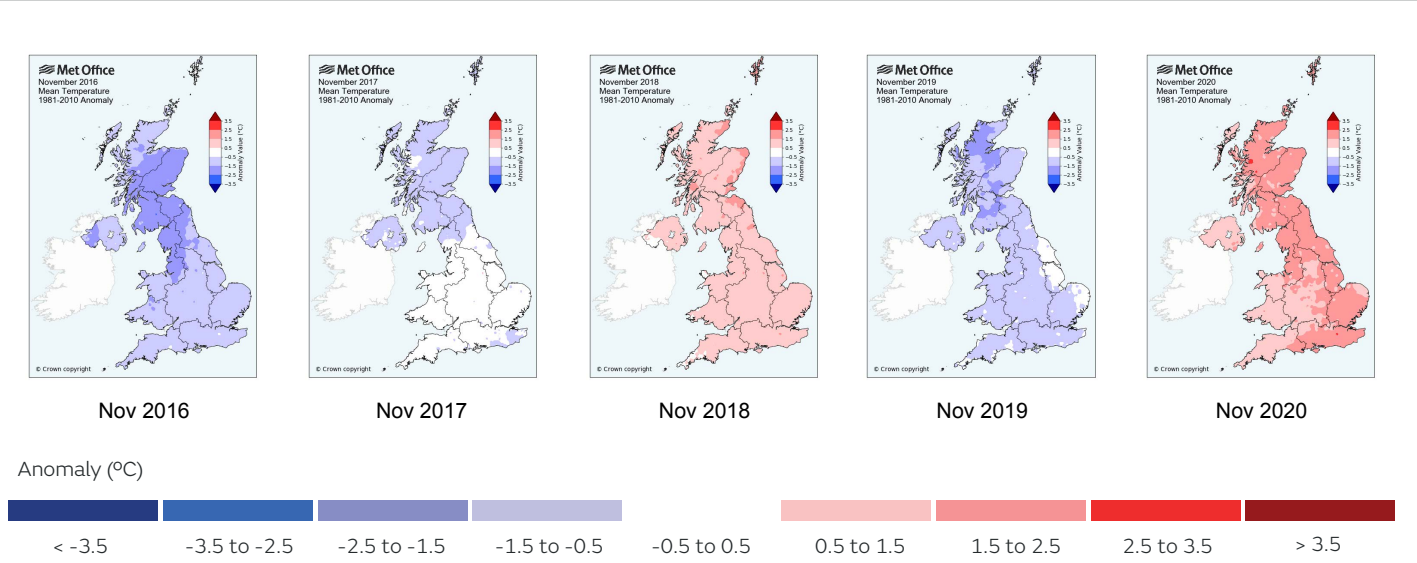
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

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



Average temperatures for November based on observations from past years.

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

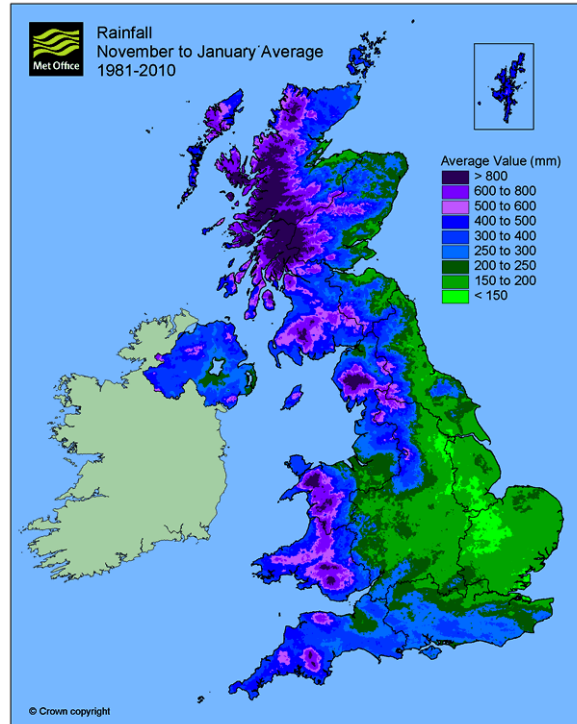


These maps show how November temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the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

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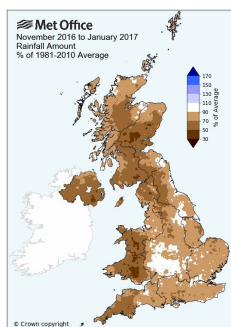
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

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

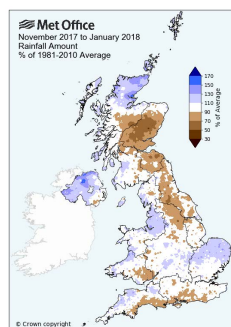


Average precipitation for November - January based on observations from past years.

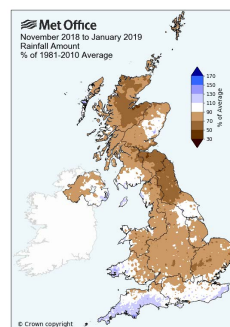
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



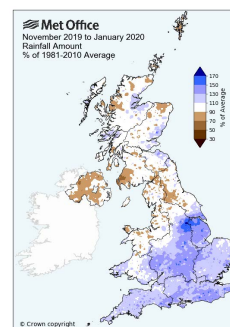
Nov-Jan 2016/17



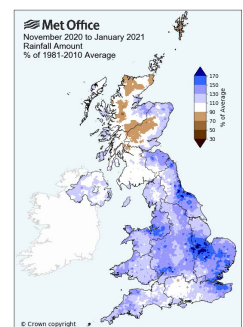
Nov-Jan 2017/18



Nov-Jan 2018/19



Nov-Jan 2019/20



Nov-Jan 2020/21

% of average

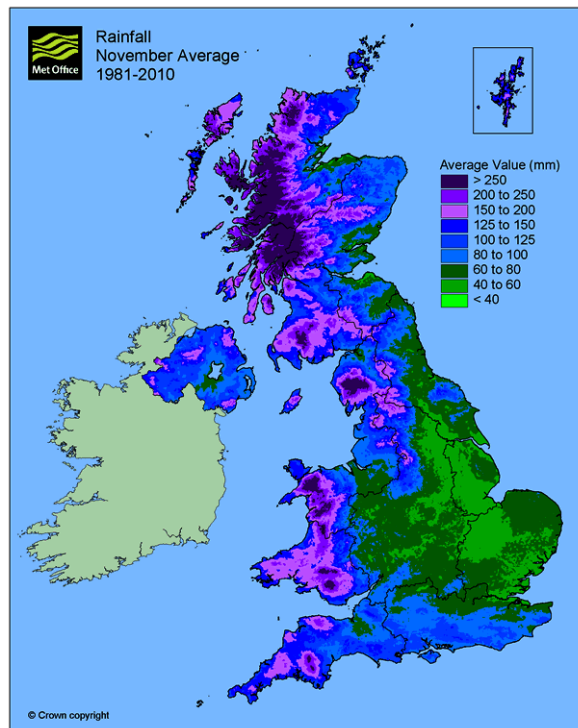


These maps show how November - January precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of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

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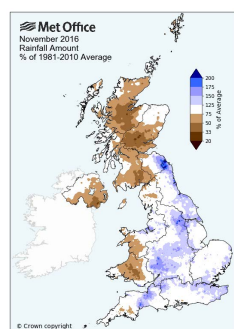
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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

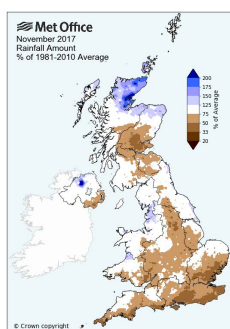


Average precipitation for November based on observations from past years.

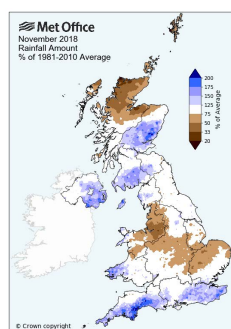
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



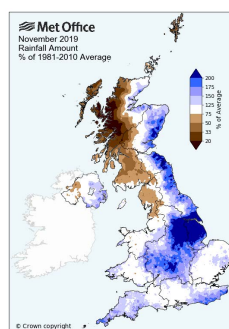
Nov 2016



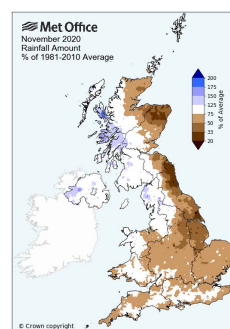
Nov 2017



Nov 2018



Nov 2019



Nov 2020

% of average



These maps show how November 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. Does Outlook mean there is an increased chance of storms and flooding?

A. Whilst the Outlook shows an increased likelihood of impacts from heavy rainfall and wind, particularly later in the period, it cannot specify the severity, duration, or timings of specific events such as storms. Keep up to date the latest National Severe Weather warnings and forecast for your area on our forecast pages. The risk of flooding should be monitored using the warnings on the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does this Outlook mean we will have snow this winter? What about a white Christmas?

A. The Outlook concerns weather themes over the whole 3-month period and cannot tell us whether or not we will have snow. Broadly speaking, milder UK winters have less snow, but it is still possible to have cold, snowy periods embedded within winters that are mild overall. Information about the Christmas period can be obtained nearer the time from our shorter-range forecasts on the website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

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 September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 29 October 2021.

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.