

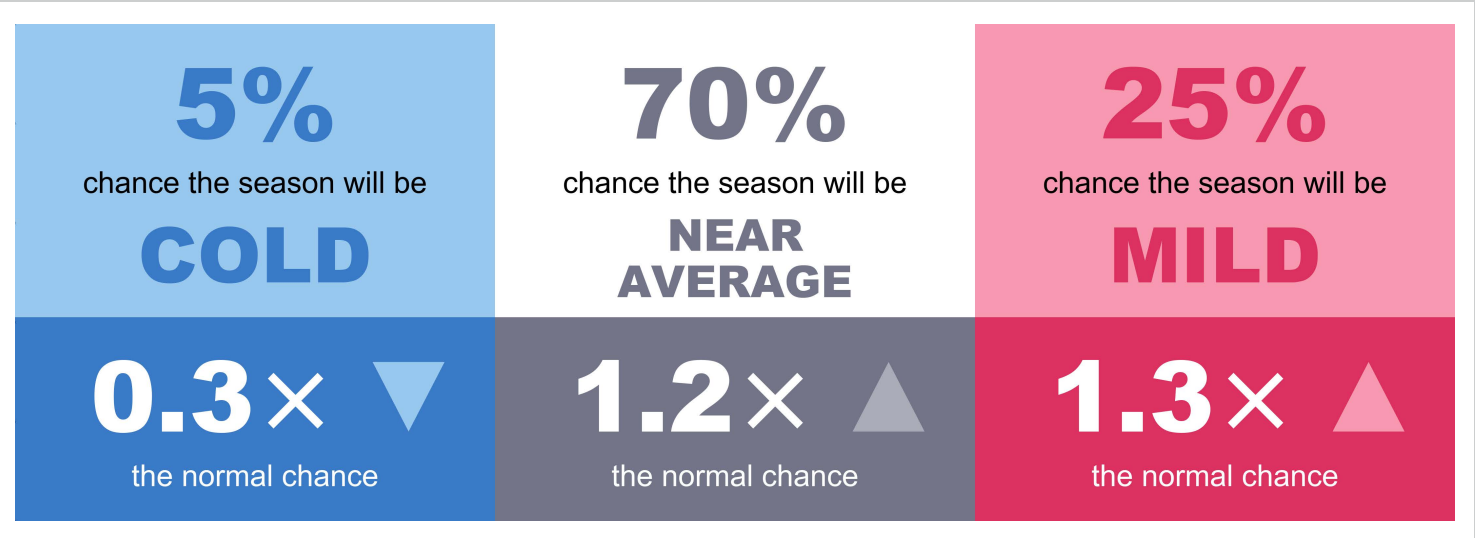
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
-----------------	-----------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------	-----

3-month summary

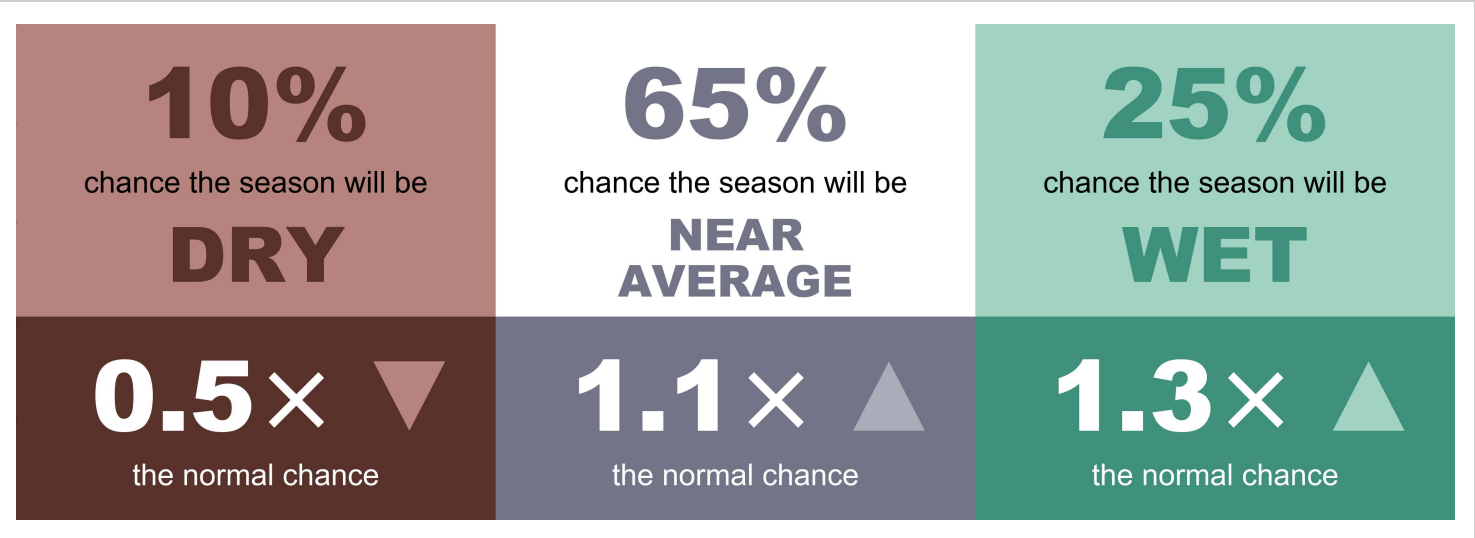
- Compared to normal, reduced chance of a cold period as a whole
- Impacts from cold weather are possible, more likely early in the period
- Chances of a wet period are slightly higher than usual
- Moderate increase in the potential for impacts from strong winds

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



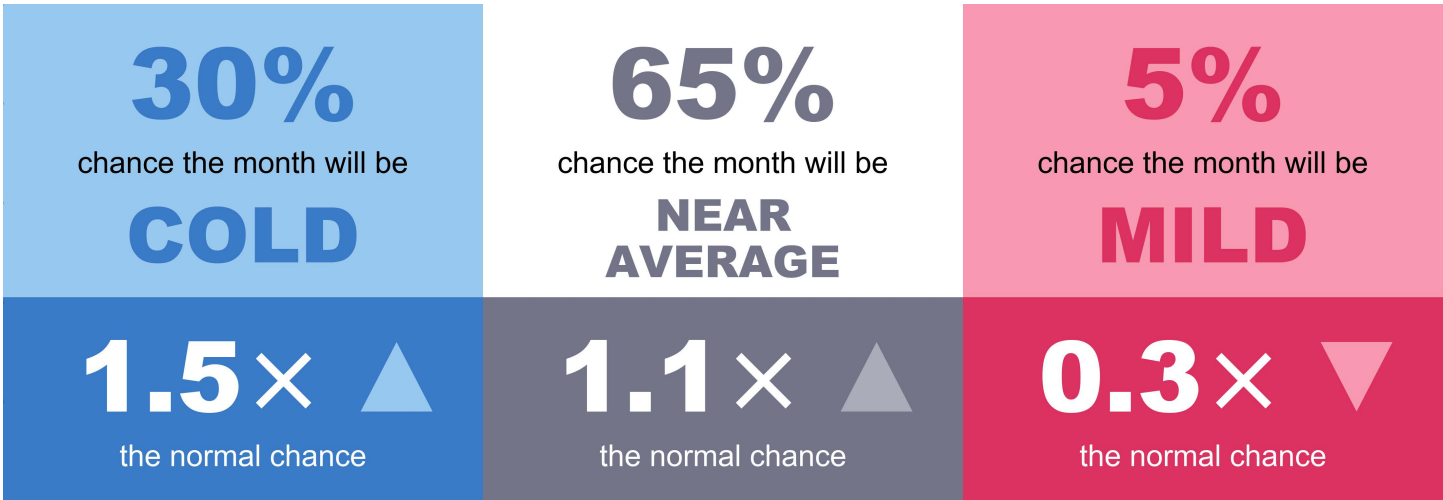
3-month summary	1-month summary	Guide to the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A
-----------------	-----------------	----------------------	----------------------	------------------	-----

1-month summary

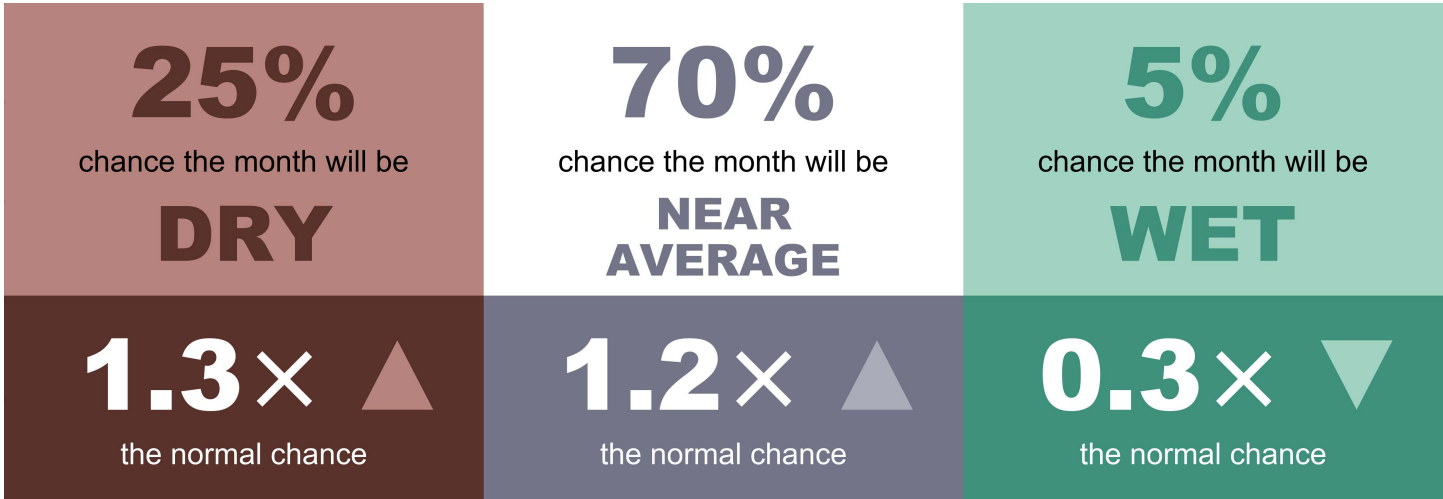
- A cold month is slightly more likely than normal
- This increases the chance of impacts from cold weather, particularly early in January
- The chance of a wet month is lower than normal

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



[3-month summary](#)
[1-month summary](#)
[Guide to the Outlook](#)
[Shifts in likelihood](#)
[What is average?](#)
[Q&A](#)

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

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
DRY	DRY	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for January to March

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

- The Madden-Julian Oscillation which increases the likelihood of easterly winds early in this period
- A moderate La Niña, which increases the chances of westerly winds during the latter part of winter
- The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
- An easterly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation, reducing the chance of westerly winds from the Atlantic

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. For January predictions vary in prevailing conditions but there is an increased likelihood of high pressure being located across or to the north of the UK. There is better agreement for the 3-month period with increased likelihood of high pressure to the south of the UK, and low pressure to the north. This is consistent with the expected impact of La Niña and would increase the likelihood of winds from a west or south-westerly direction.

Impact

The increased chance of settled conditions early in this period would most likely see often large amounts of cloud with temperatures a little below average. However, the pattern does bring an increased likelihood of spells of more significant cold weather with widespread frosts and a greater likelihood of impacts from snow and ice. A cold 3-month period remains possible, though less likely than normal. More likely is prevailing westerly or south-westerly winds. This pattern brings weather systems from the Atlantic meaning a greater chance of mild, wet and, at times, windy weather. Some colder spells may still occur in this regime.

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

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

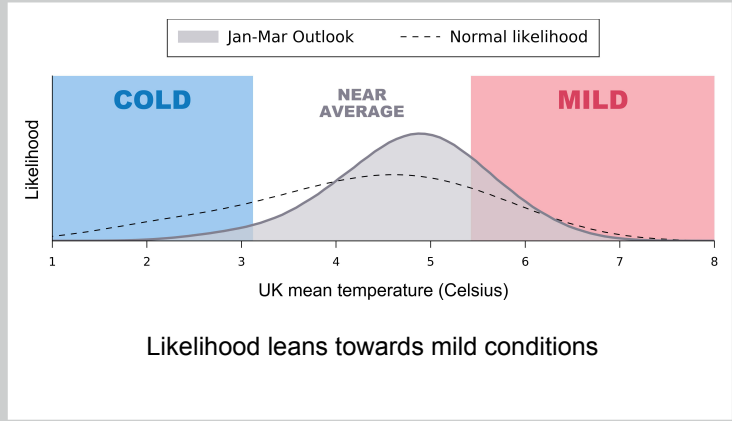
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature and precipitation taking specific values. In each case:

- 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

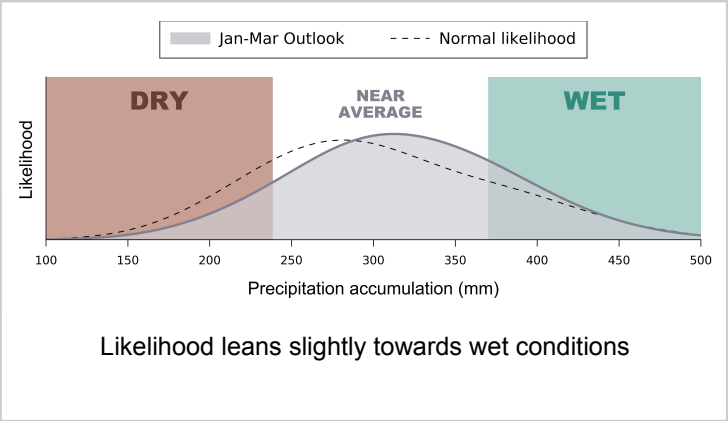
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature or precipitation at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood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

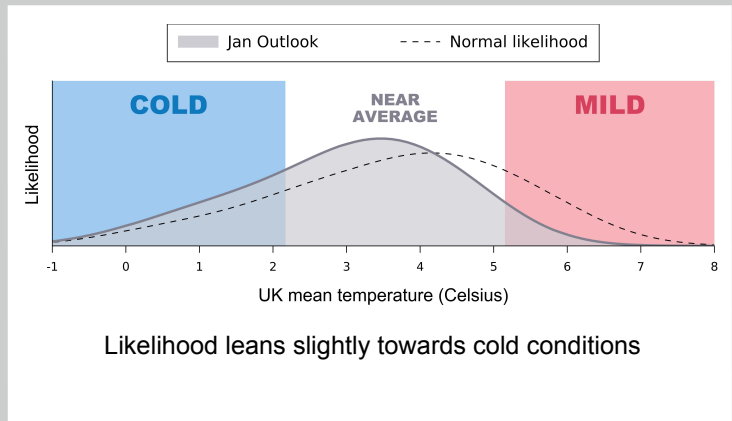
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



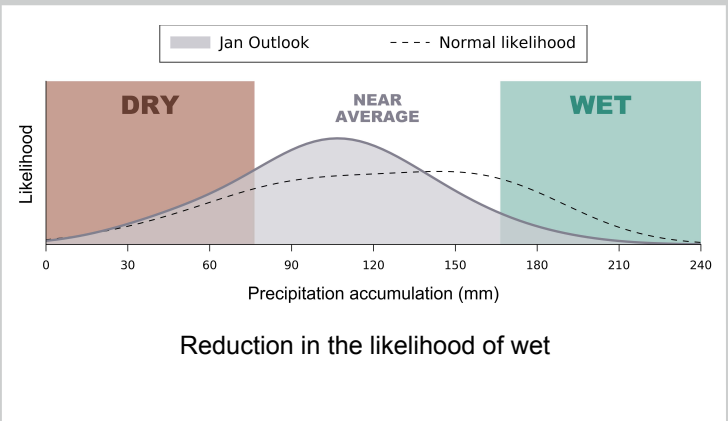
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



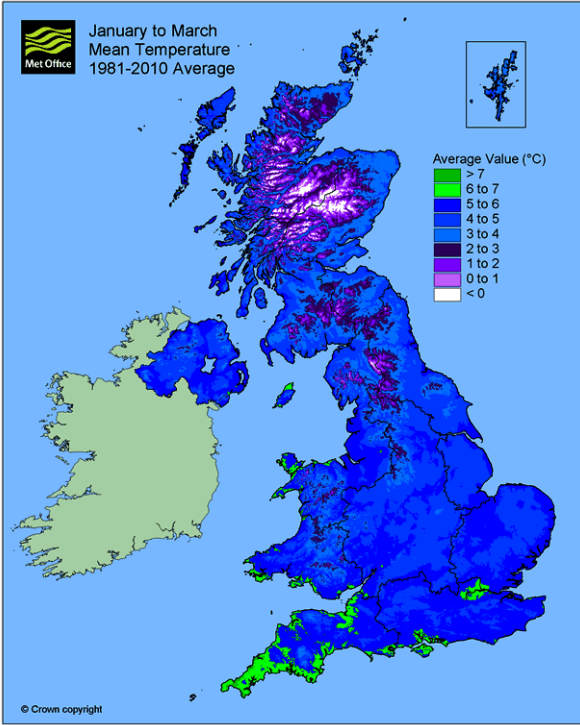
1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



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

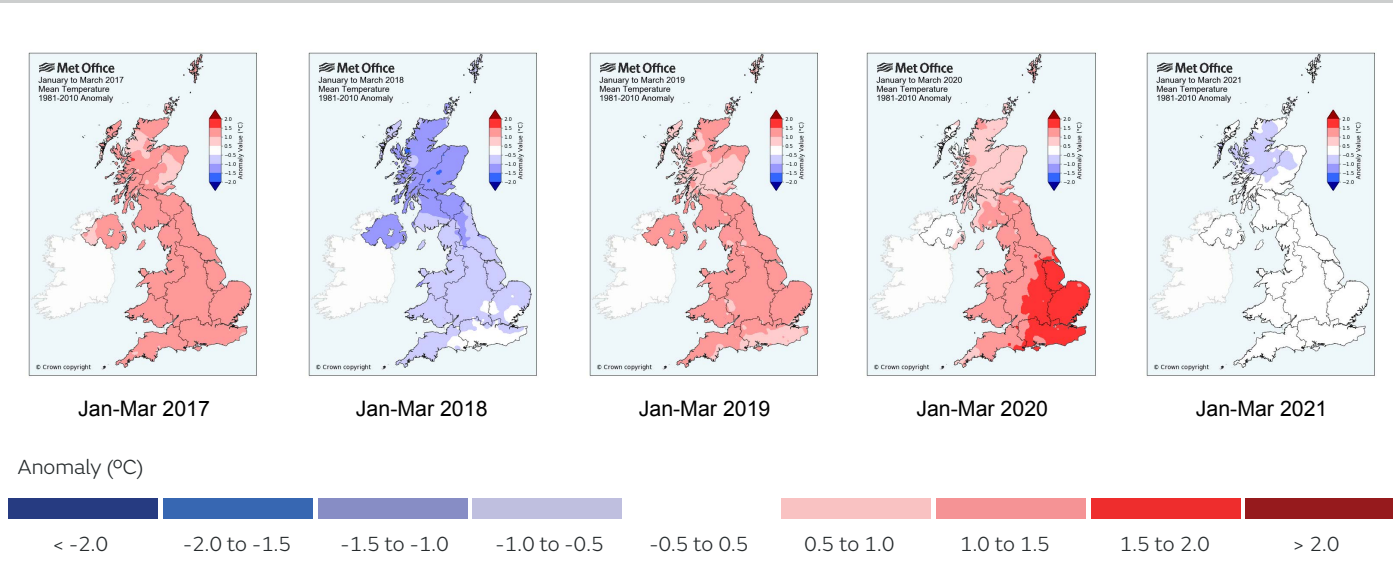
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

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 January - March based on observations from past years.

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

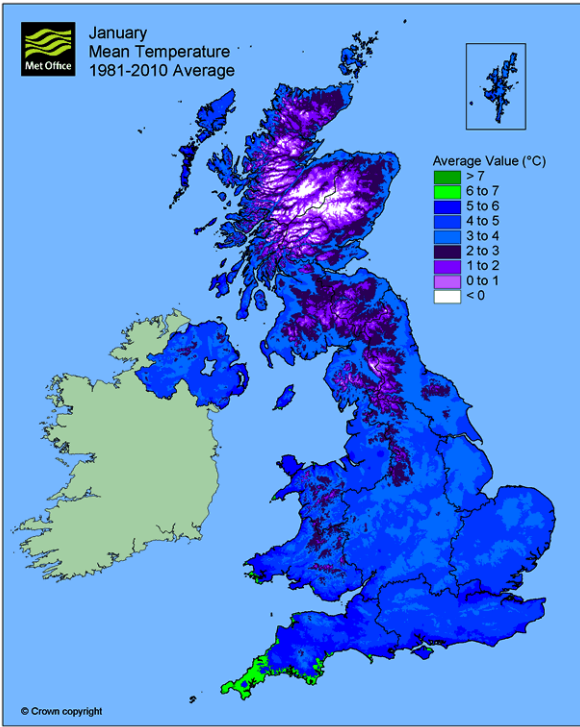


These maps show how January to March temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate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

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

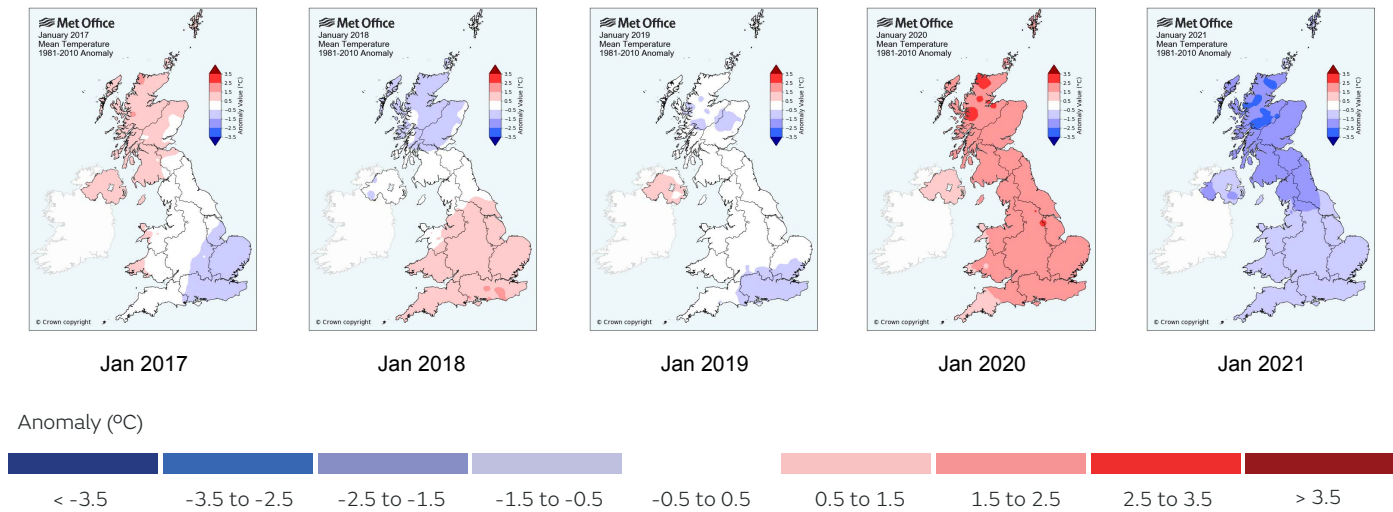
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

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



Average temperatures for January based on observations from past years.

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

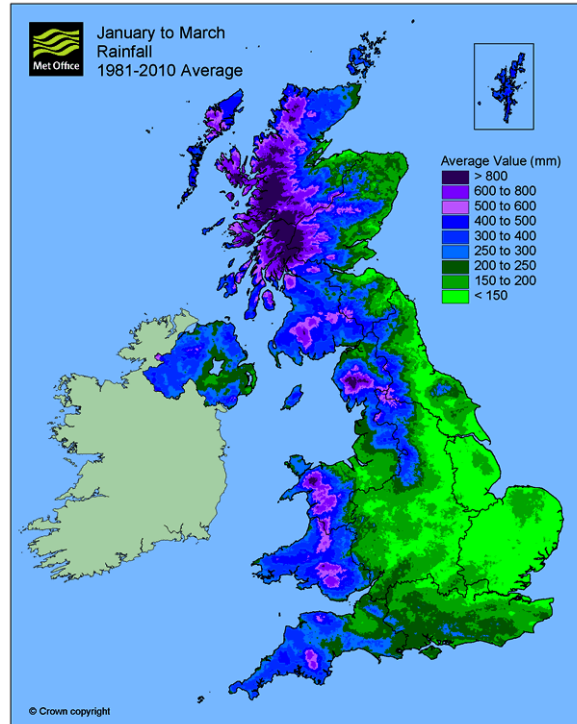


These maps show how January temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the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

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

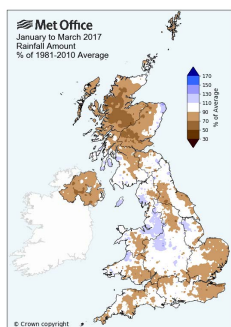
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

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

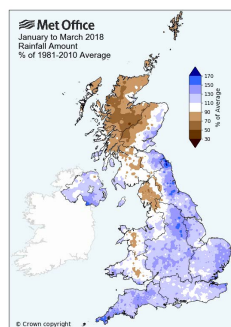


Average precipitation for January - March based on observations from past years.

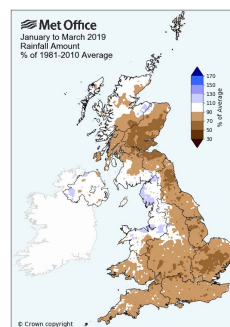
Last 5 years' precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



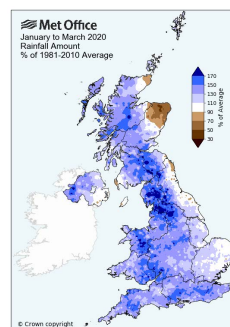
Jan-Mar 2017



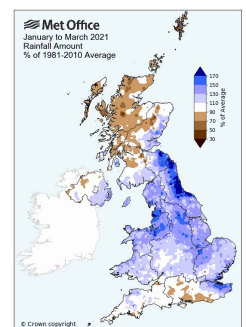
Jan-Mar 2018



Jan-Mar 2019

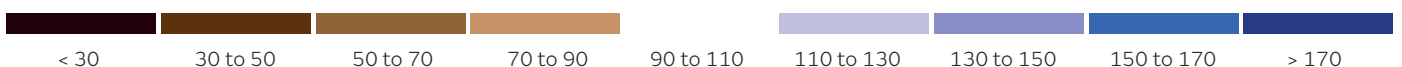


Jan-Mar 2020



Jan-Mar 2021

% of average

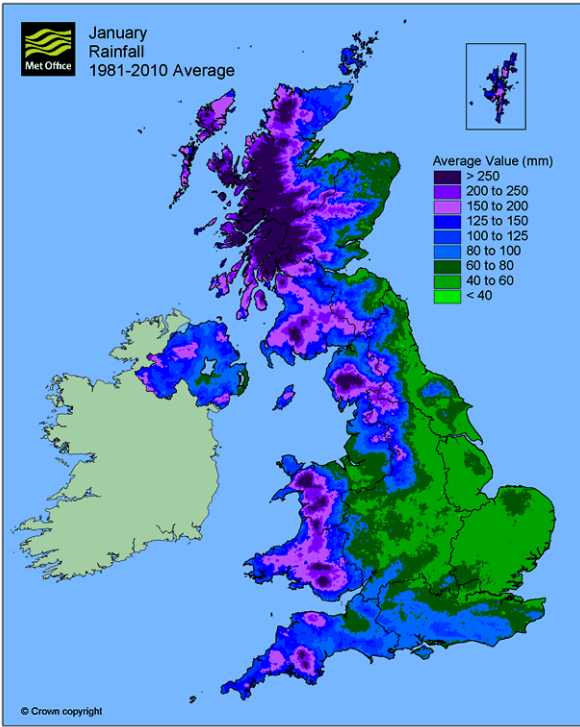


These maps show how January - March precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the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

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

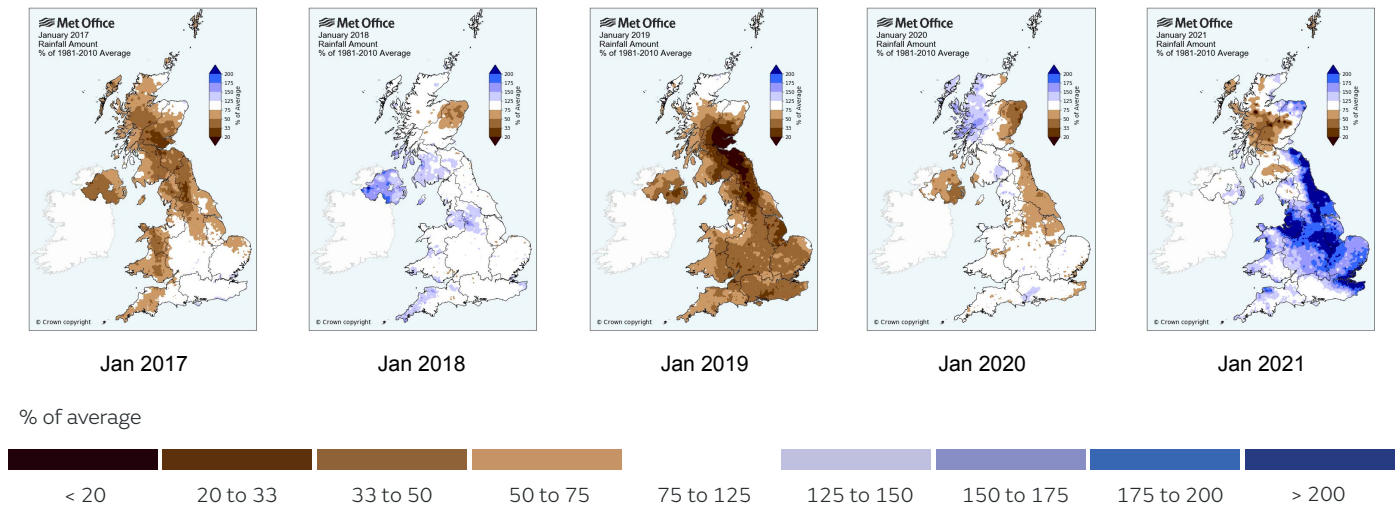
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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



Average precipitation for January based on observations from past years.

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



These maps show how 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.

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

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 the increased chance of mild conditions mean that we will not have snow during the rest of the winter?

A. The Outlook does not tell us if, or when, cold spells might come along, or whether or not they will include snow, as it concerns weather themes over the whole 3-month period. However, 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.

Q. The Outlook suggests there is an increased chance of wetter, milder weather - does this mean an increased chance of storms or flooding?

A. The Outlook indicates an increased chance of a trend towards westerly or south westerly winds affecting the UK. This pattern can favour an increase in the frequency of low pressure Atlantic storms, bringing wet and windy weather, however, the Outlook cannot specify the potential severity, location, duration or timing of specific events and the Outlook does not rule out other scenarios. Flood impacts are often related to individual storm events rather than seasonal trends. Those concerned about these risks should monitor our severe weather warnings and the flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales or NI Direct.

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 January will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page, starting from 3 January 2022.

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.