



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: June-August 2016 Issue date: 26.05.16

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August period for the United Kingdom as a whole. This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical forecast systems and expert judgement.

The forecast for June will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 30 May 2016.

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

For June, and for June-July-August as a whole, above-average temperatures are slightly more probable than below-average. The size of these shifts in probability are, however, moderate.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for June-July-August will fall into the coldest of our five categories is around 20% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 30% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%). The right-hand graph in figure T2 shows a slight shift in probability towards above-average temperatures.

CONTEXT:

Unlike in the recent winter and spring, the influence of global climatic drivers on UK weather is expected to be relatively weak during this period. This implies that the chances of experiencing any given weather pattern are not greatly modified from what would normally be expected. Indeed, the Met Office forecast system, and systems from other leading forecast centres around the world, lacks strong signals that might favour particular weather patterns during this period.

Sea surface temperatures across the tropical Central and Eastern Pacific continue to cool. The recent strong El Niño event has now declined to near-neutral levels. The majority of forecast systems, including the Met Office forecast system, signal the cooling trend to continue with a high probability of the development of La Niña conditions within the forecast period. La Niña is the counterpart to El Niño, and is marked by lower-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the equatorial East Pacific Ocean. Historically, there is a tendency for La Niña events to

develop after strong El Niño events. There remains some uncertainty, however, over the speed and extent of the transition.

The effects of a developing La Niña on UK weather patterns during the coming three months are expected to be relatively subtle. Previous cases have, on average, shown a slight increase in westerly winds across the UK, implying a small signal for near- or below-average temperatures.

In the North Atlantic Ocean, sea surface temperatures to the west of the UK are below-average; this pattern of sea surface temperatures is thought to moderately increase the probability of above-average pressure over northern Europe in summer. At this time of year such a pressure pattern is often associated with above-average temperatures, although this effect may be moderated by the influence of the cool oceanic temperatures.

Fig T2

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

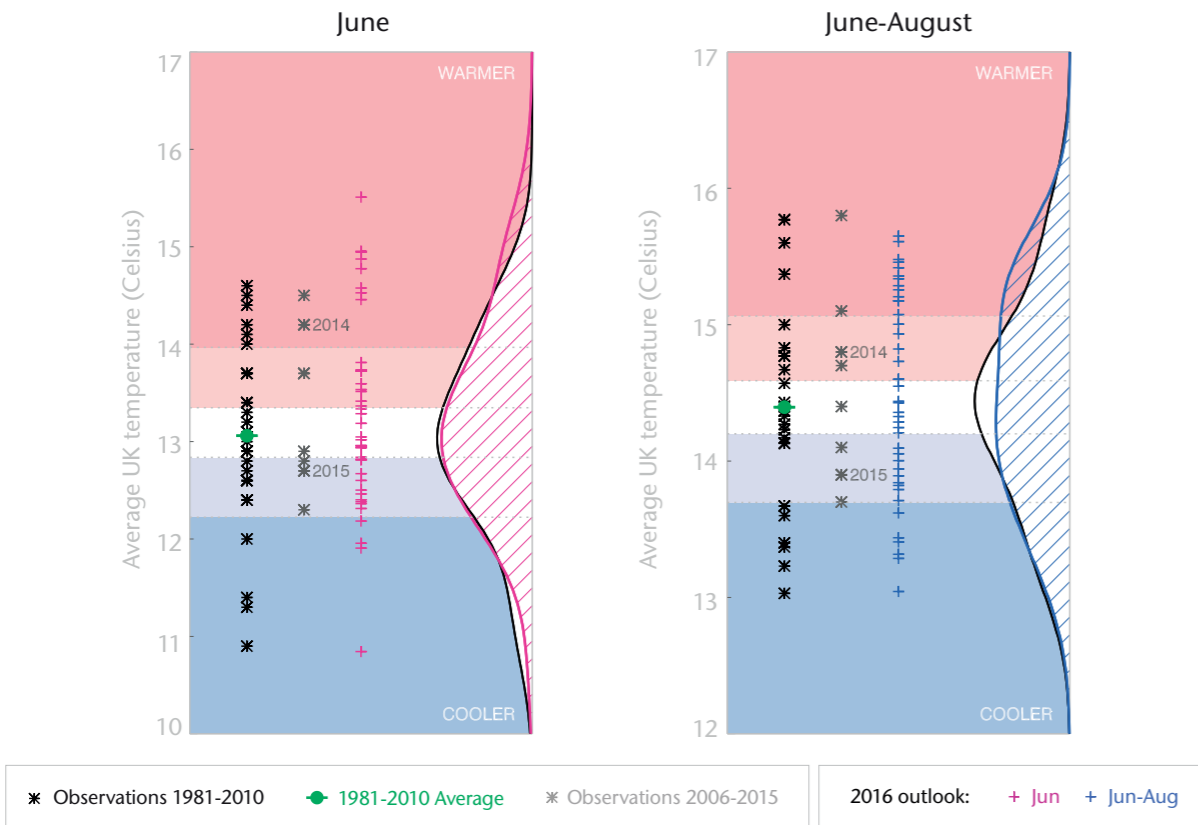


Fig T1

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

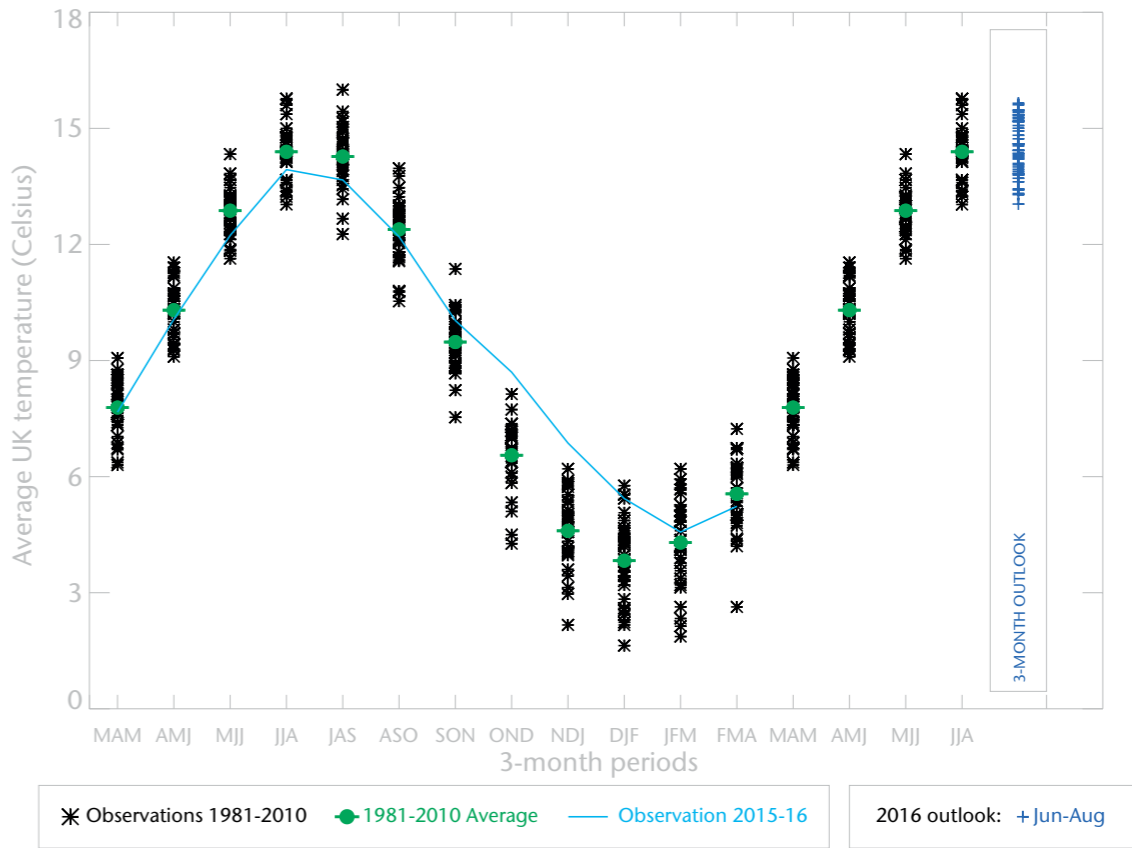
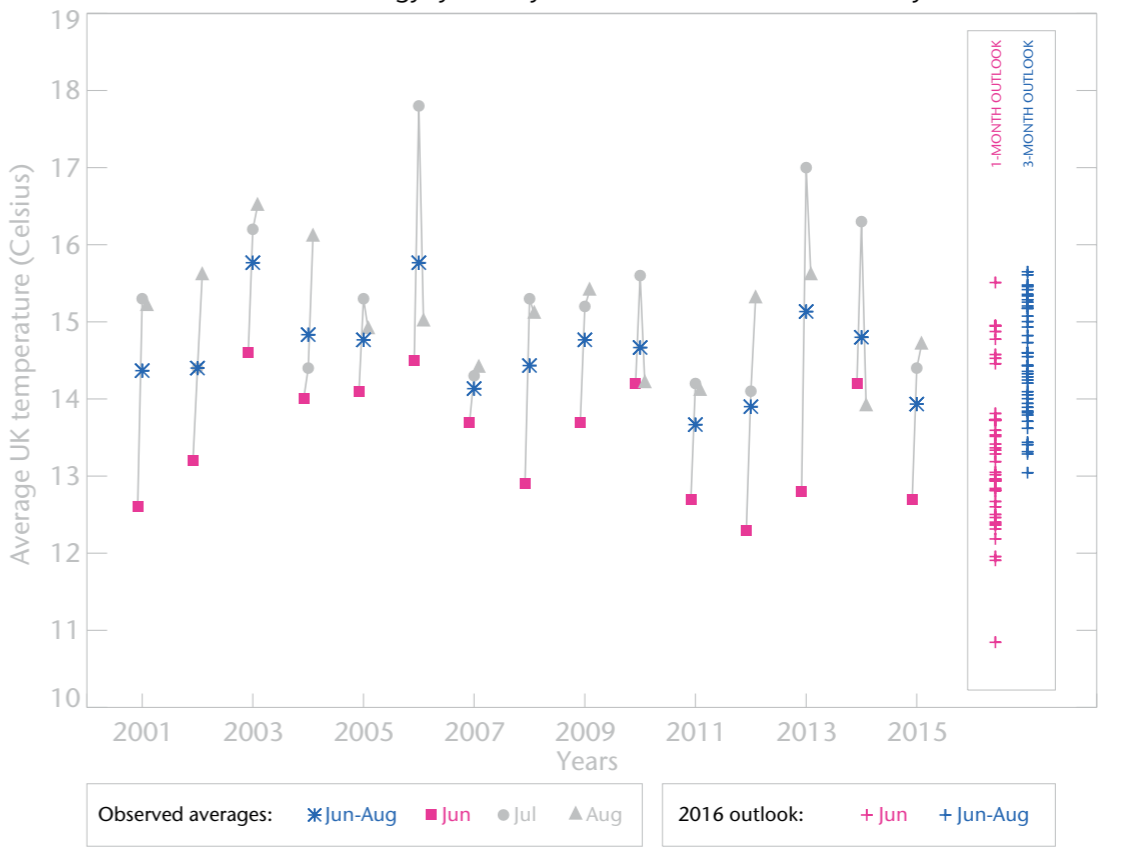


Fig T3

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.