



Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: January – March 2019 Issue date: 14.12.18

The forecast presented here is for January and the average of the January-February-March period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for January will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2nd January 2018.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For January and January-February-March as a whole, below-average precipitation is more probable than above-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for January-February-March will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 20% and 25% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 15% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

As discussed in the temperature section, there is an increase in the likelihood of negative NAO in this period. Conventionally, this would be associated with a greater likelihood of drier-than-average conditions at this time of year, as moisture-bearing Atlantic depressions deviate towards Southern Europe. In this instance, the

extent of this deviation is predicted to be less extreme with an increased likelihood of weather systems moving over France and giving precipitation over the southern half of the UK. For UK-wide average precipitation, therefore, this results in only a small shift in the probabilities towards below-normal precipitation (see figure P2).

Fig P1

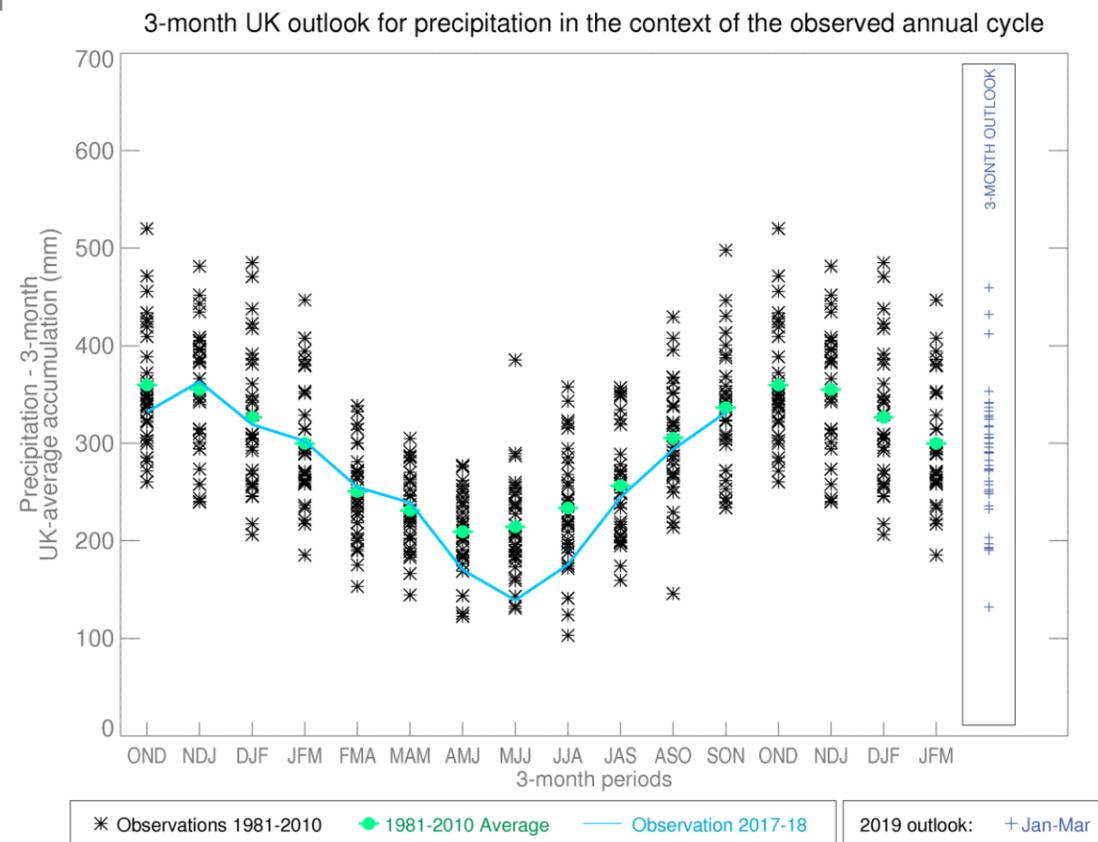


Fig P2

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

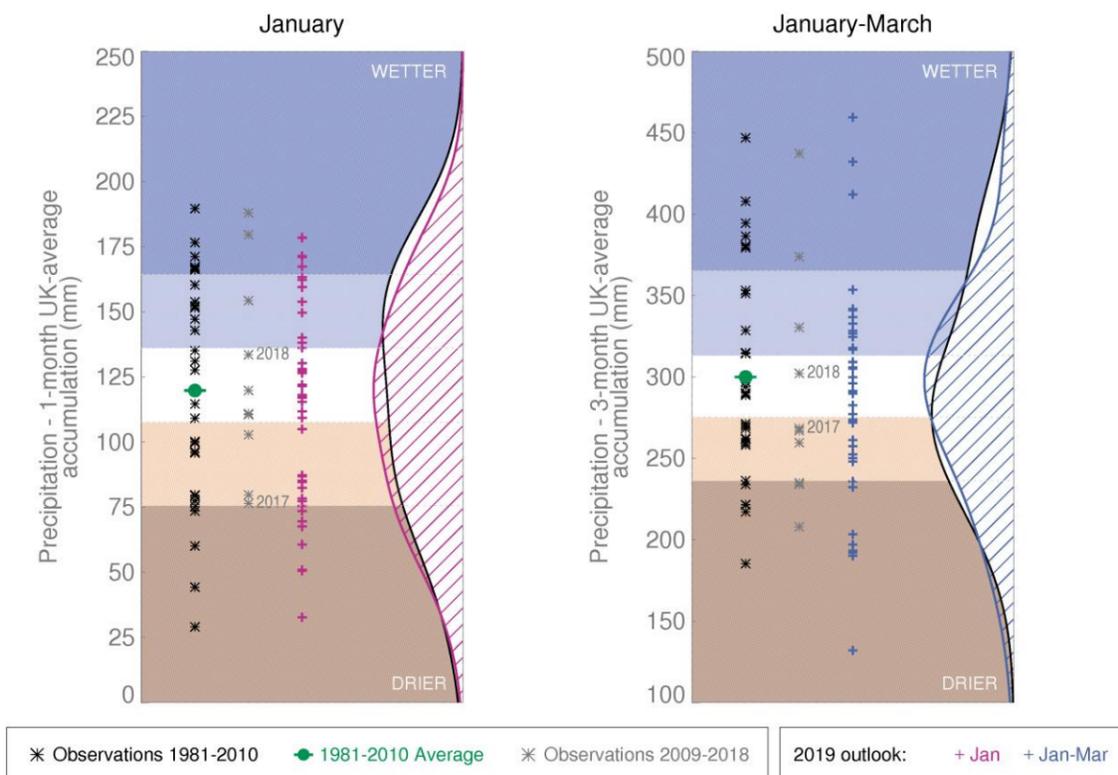
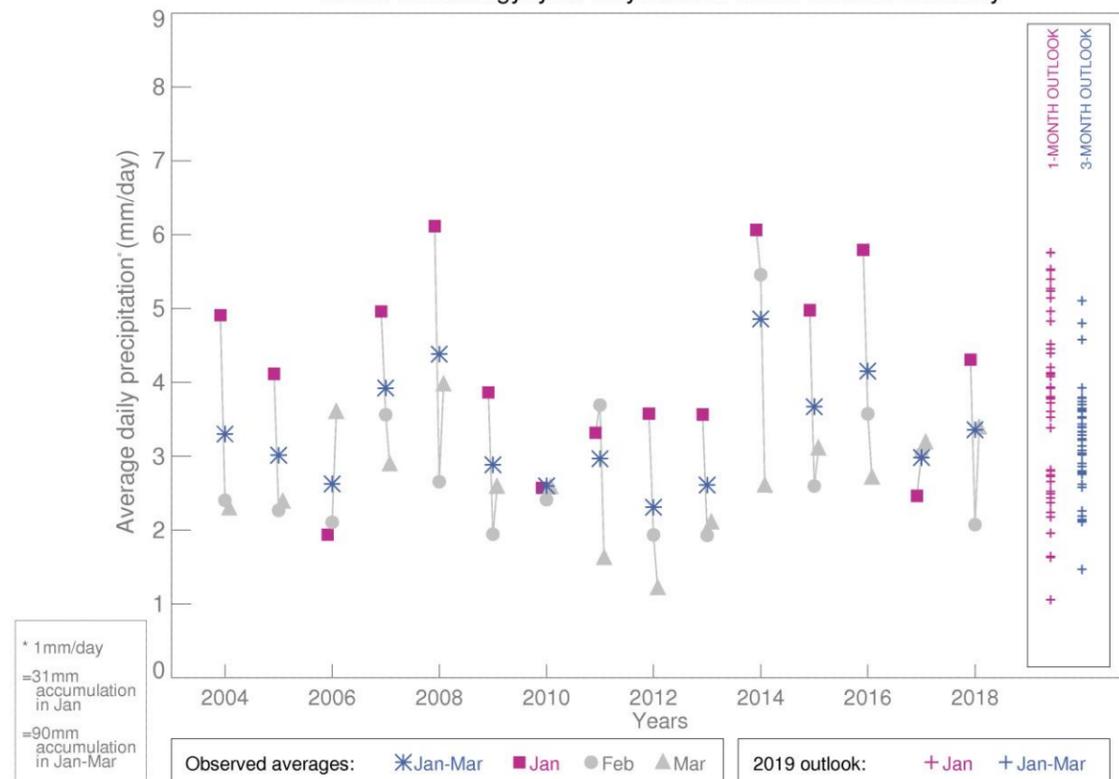


Fig P3

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-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.