

The forecast presented here is for May and the average of the May-June-July period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 May 2014.

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

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

Latest predictions for UK-mean temperature favour near- or above-average temperatures for May; the forecast for May-June-July as a whole is largely indistinguishable from climatology.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for May-June-July will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 25% and the probability of falling into the coldest of our five categories is close to 20% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Although there are currently no significant sea surface temperature anomalies across the tropical Pacific, latest observations continue to support model predictions that a transition to El Niño conditions is more likely than not later this year. At this stage it is too early for El Niño to exert an influence on European weather for the rest of this spring and during early summer, but should El Niño conditions develop they will start to influence global weather patterns later this year.

Factors that can influence the UK's weather during the late spring and early summer currently provide no clear indication of likely dominant weather types during this period. Likewise, computer model signals are indistinct regarding likely atmospheric circulation types affecting Britain during the coming months.

Overall the ensemble forecast shows a weak preference for slightly higher-than-average frequency of blocked weather patterns over or near the UK for at least part of late spring and early summer. This lends some support to the increased likelihood of near-or above-average temperatures in May, leaving May 2014 most likely warmer than May 2013 (note how very few of the red crosses on the left-hand panel of Figure T2 are as low as the grey cross labelled 2013).

Taking the May-June-July period as a whole there is very little evidence to separate the forecast temperature distribution from the climatological distribution, as shown in Figure T2.

Fig T1

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

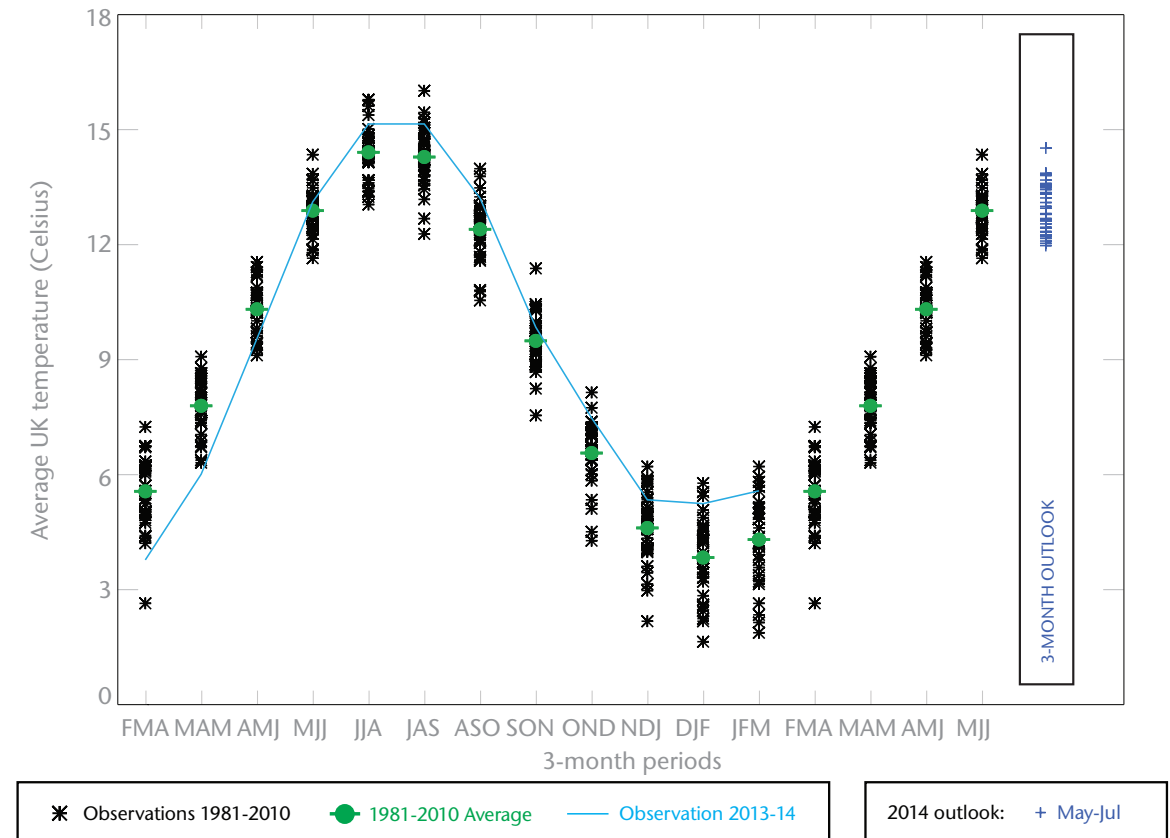


Fig T2 1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of observed climatology

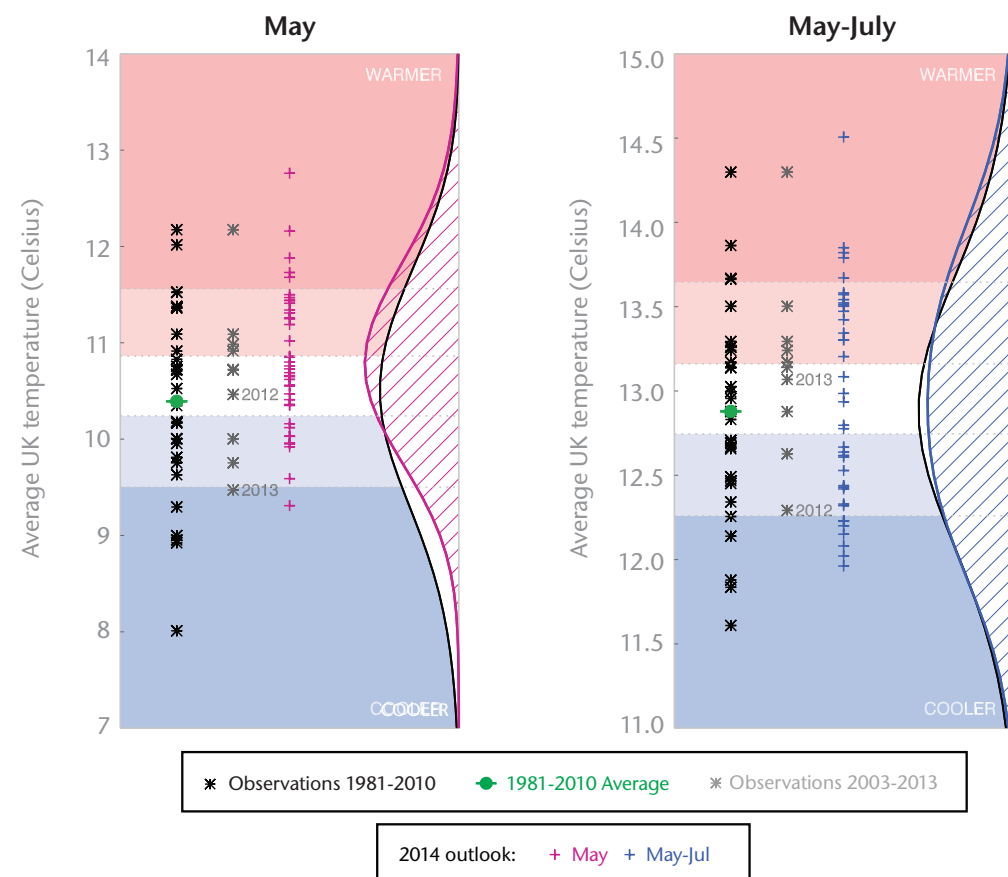


Fig T3

1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability

