

The forecast presented here is for October and the average of the October-November-December period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 4th October 2013.

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

SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

Indications are that October will most likely be slightly warmer-than-average. For October-November-December as a whole uncertainty is large with above- and below-average temperatures both equally probable.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for October-November-December will fall into either the warmest or the coldest category is between 20 and 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

There are currently no significant sea surface temperature anomalies across the tropical Pacific and therefore neither El Niño nor La Niña conditions prevail. Computer models favour a continuation of near-neutral conditions in the coming months. In the mid-North Atlantic sea surface temperatures are above average, whilst further north sea surface temperatures are a little below average. The influence of these forcing factors is weak and not expected to contribute predictive value for conditions across Europe over the next three months.

Arctic sea ice has just reached its annual minimum extent, which is still well below the climatological average but not as low as last year's record minimum. Whilst this might play some part in determining the weather over the northern hemisphere during winter, as yet there is no clear predictive association.

The lack of strong influences, described above, suggests that predictability for the coming three months is low. However, models

have a weak signal for slightly higher-than-average pressure to the north of the UK, suggesting a slight weakening of the prevailing mean westerlies, which could allow a greater-than-average incidence of blocking patterns. This period is a transitional time of year in which a given circulation pattern can result in very different temperature outcomes between the beginning and the end of the season. For example, a blocked pattern in October could lead to warmer-than-average conditions, whereas in November and December will most likely be associated with lower-than-average temperatures.

This is reflected in the temperature forecast for October-November-December, with warmer-than-average and colder-than-average outcomes both equally probable and slightly enhanced relative to climatology – as can be seen on the right of figure T2.

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

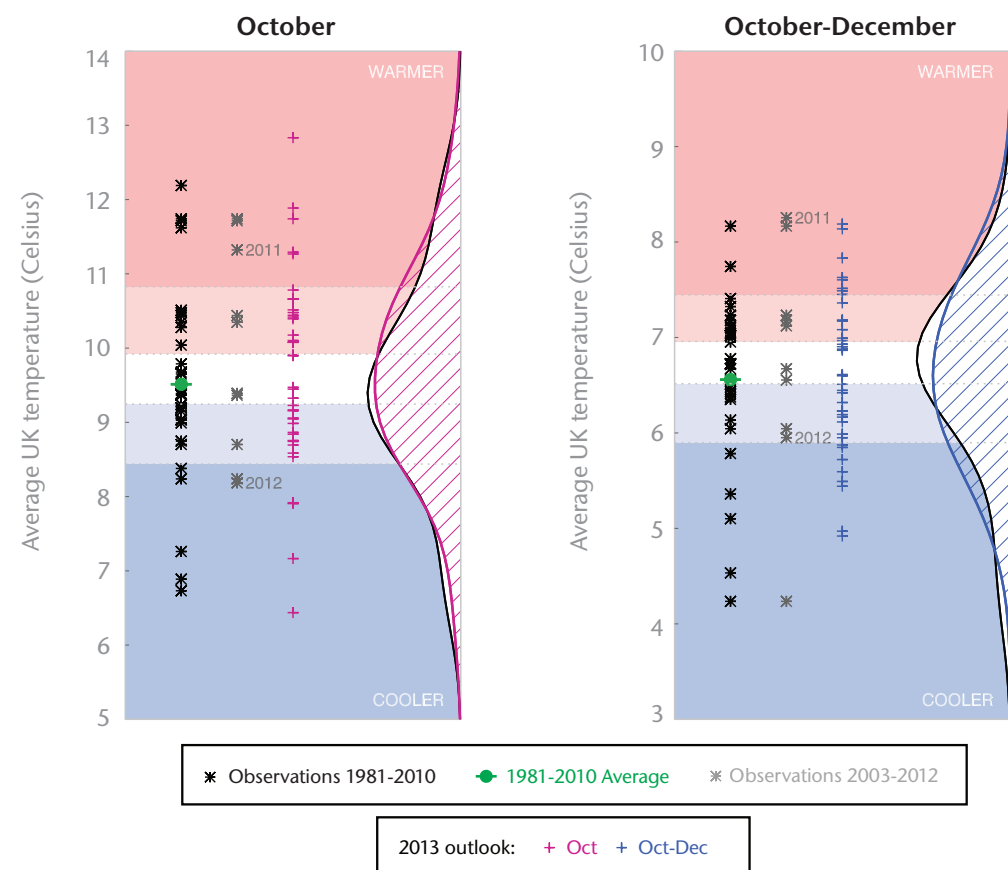


Fig T1

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

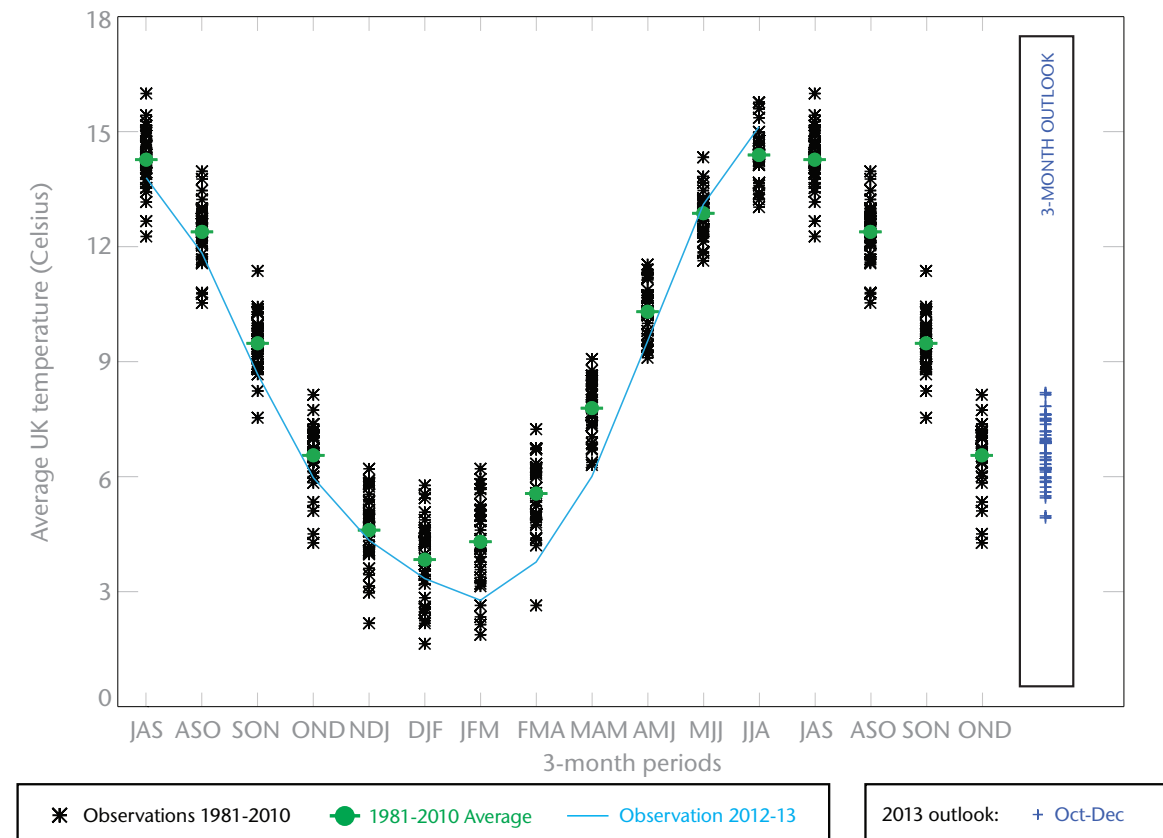
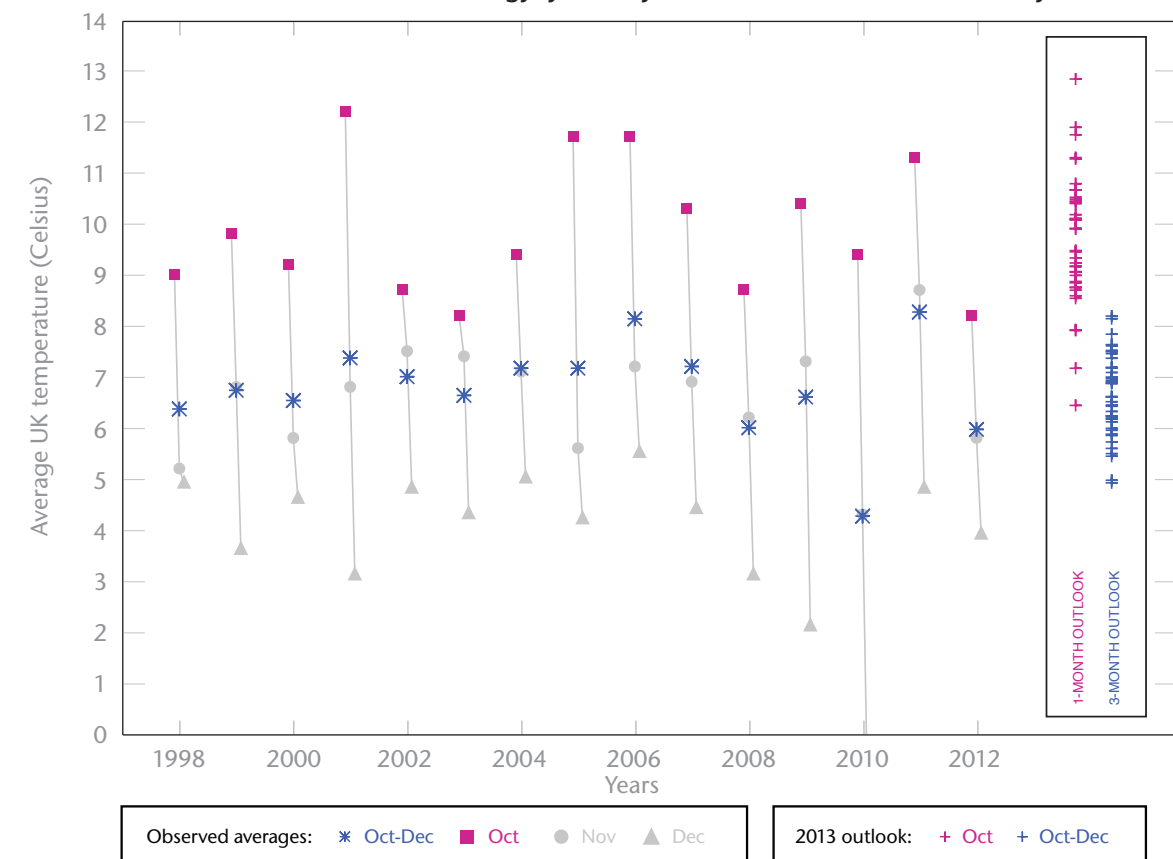


Fig T3

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.