



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: September-November 2016 Issue date: 25.08.16

The forecast presented here is for September and the average of the September-October-November period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 September 2016.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For September, the forecast for UK precipitation suggests that the chances of above- and below-average rainfall are fairly balanced. For September-October-November as a whole, above-average precipitation is considered slightly more probable than below-average.

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

CONTEXT:

Autumn is a season when, climatologically speaking, Atlantic depressions become more intense, often carrying large amounts of moisture, making it one of the stormiest and wettest parts of the year (as can be seen in Fig. P1). As discussed in the temperature section, long-range prediction systems are not giving a consistent signal for any particular types of weather to be favoured over the next three months. Given the weak signals in long-range prediction

systems and lack of strong forcing factors, our overall assessment is that there is no significant increase in the likelihood of weather-related risks compared to normal. Note, however, that this level of risk still includes the potential for storms or heavy rain at this time of year. Figure P2 shows a slight shift towards above-average rainfall for both periods, but also that a broad range of outcomes are possible.

Fig P2

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

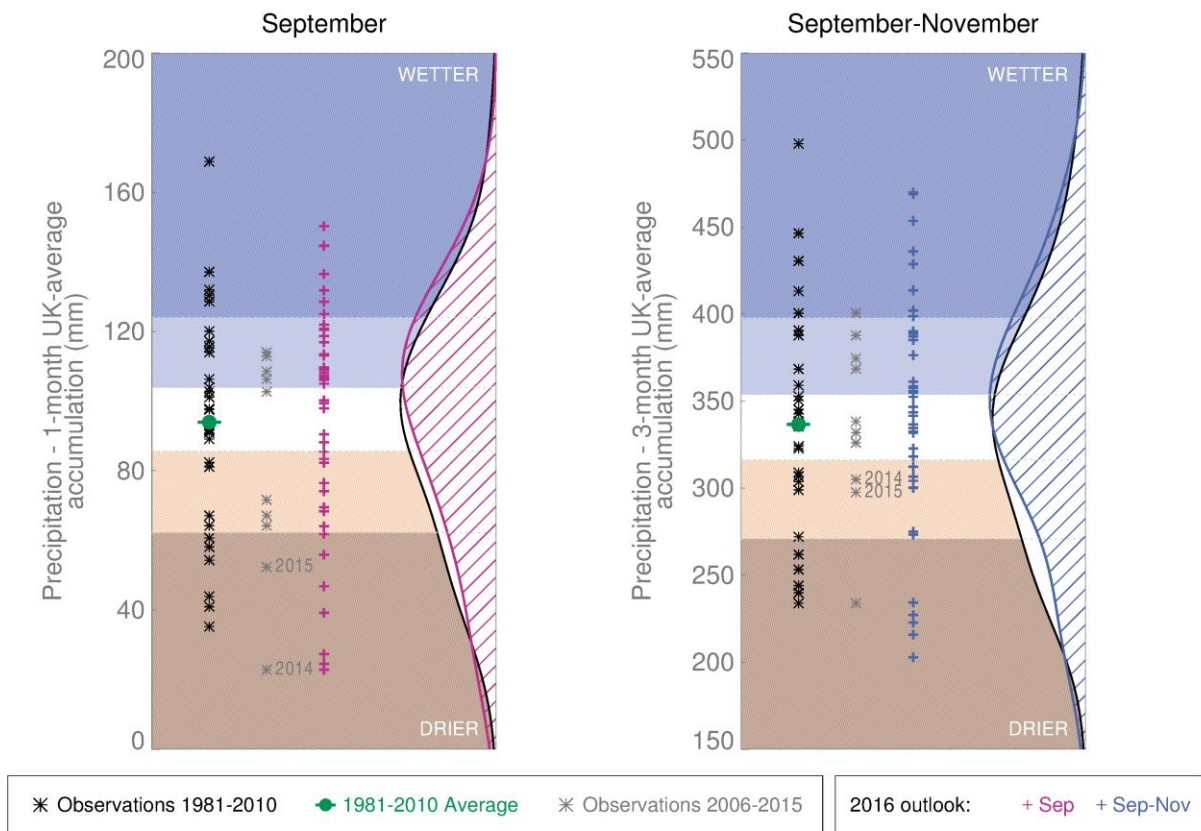


Fig P1

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

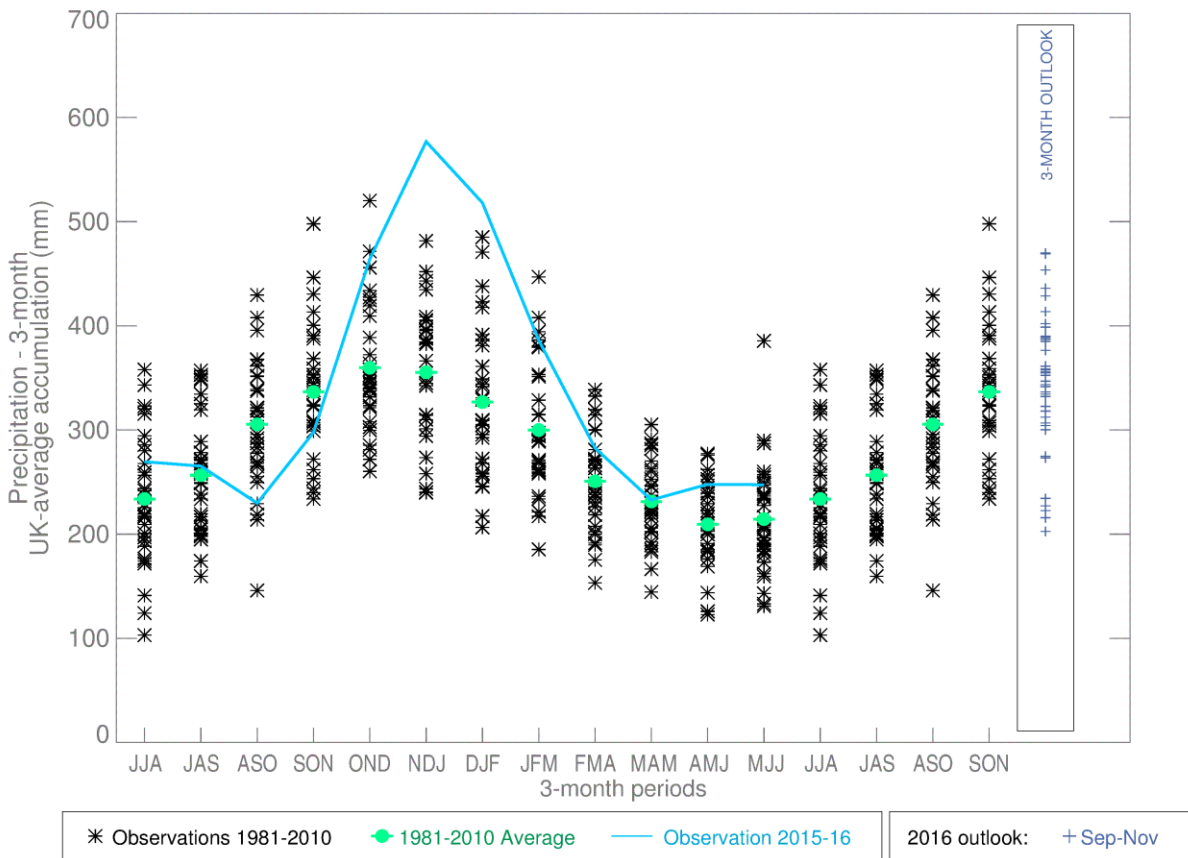
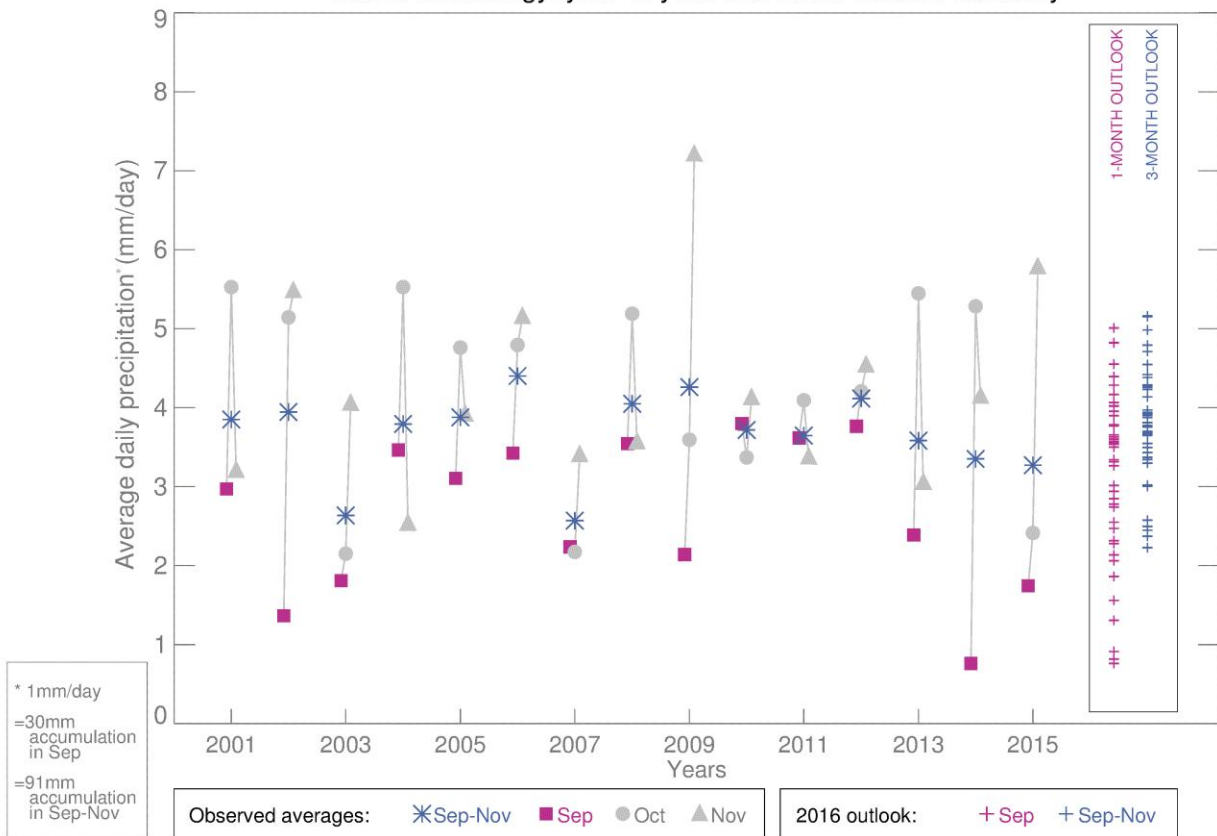


Fig P3

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-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.