

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 The forecast for September will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 5 September 2014.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

The latest predictions for UK precipitation slightly favour below-average rainfall for both September and September-October-November as a whole.

The probability that UK precipitation for September-October-November will fall into the driest of our five categories is around 30% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest category is 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The autumn marks a shift in character of the precipitation across the UK. In summer it is often convective in nature which can lead to quite large localised variations in accumulations across any given region. In autumn it becomes increasingly dominated by larger scale weather systems driven by Atlantic depressions bringing more widespread periods of rain. This shift is reflected in figure P1 which shows the autumn, climatologically, marking the start of the wettest period of the year.

The signal for a greater than average incidence of atmospheric blocking discussed in the temperature section also has implications for precipitation, with computer model signals consistent in suggesting drier than average conditions being more likely than wetter than average. However, this does not exclude the possibility of some spells of heavy rainfall through Atlantic depressions affecting the UK, with the chance of above normal seasonal totals.

Fig P1

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

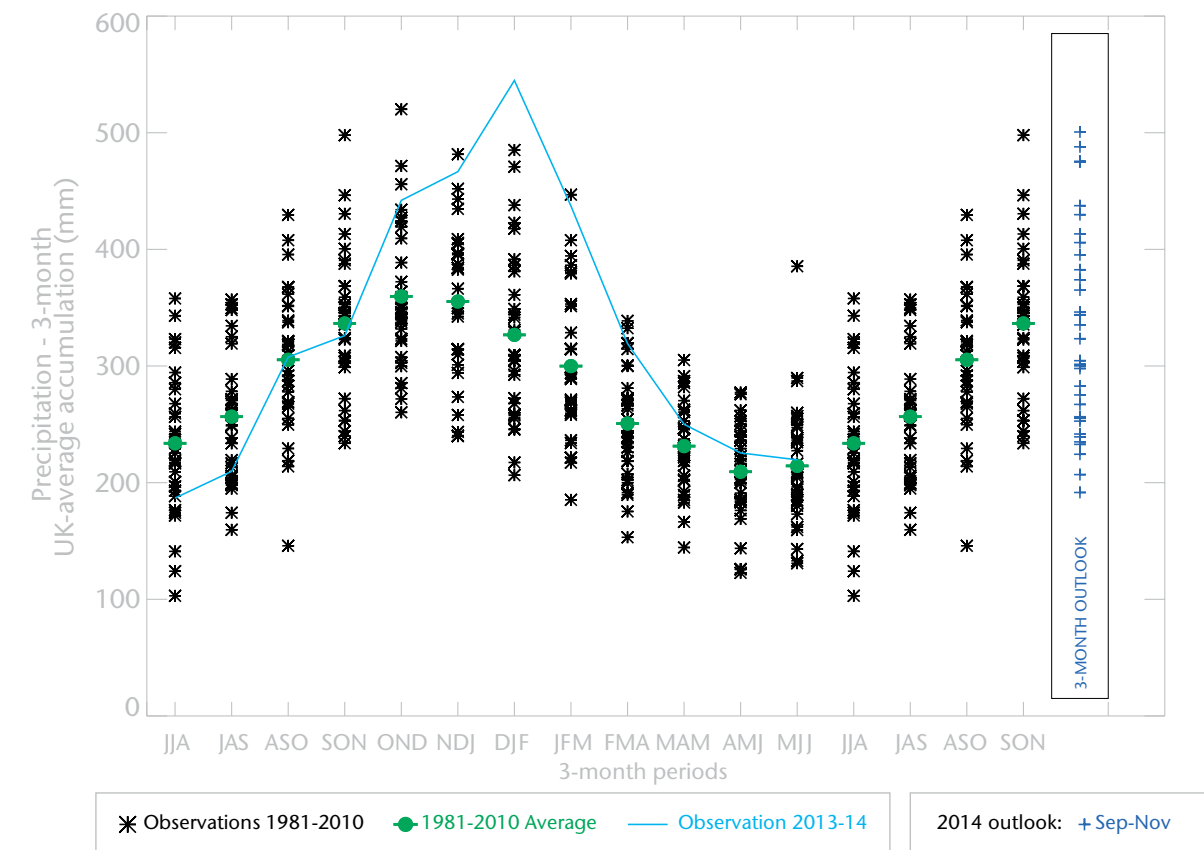


Fig P2

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

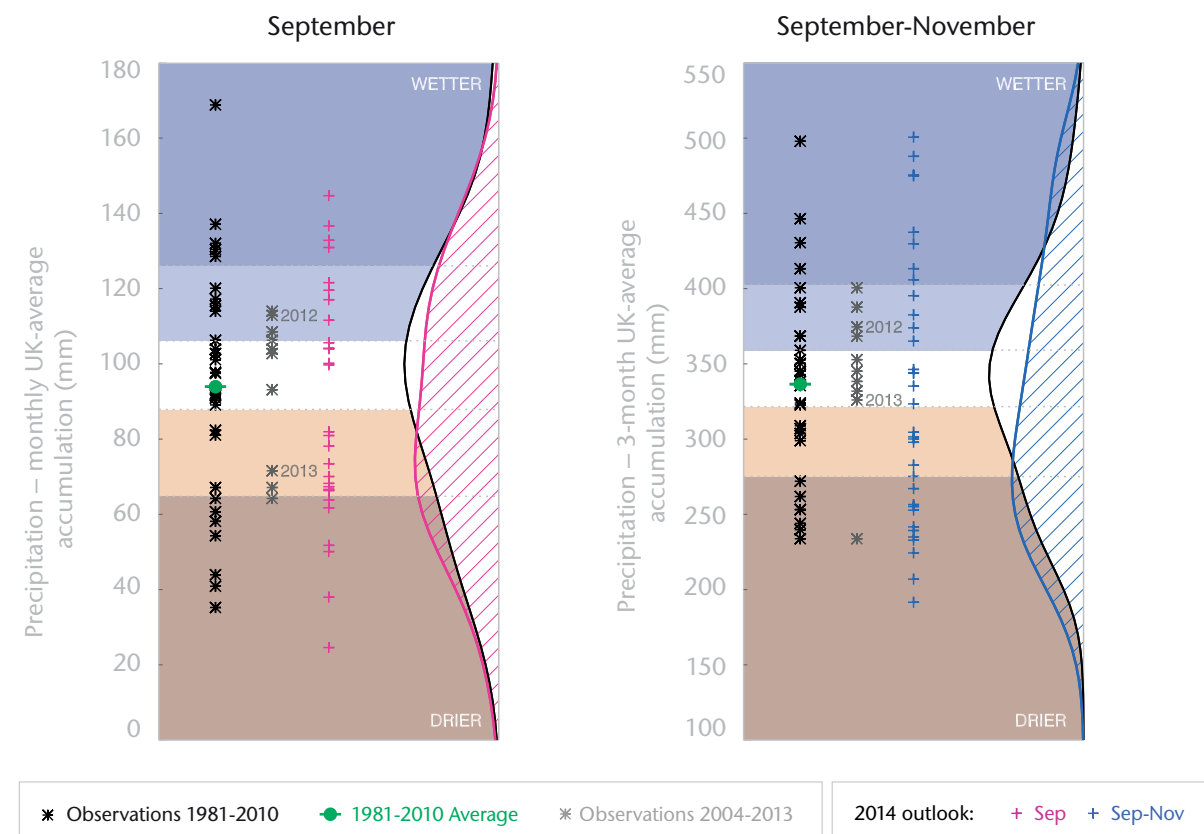
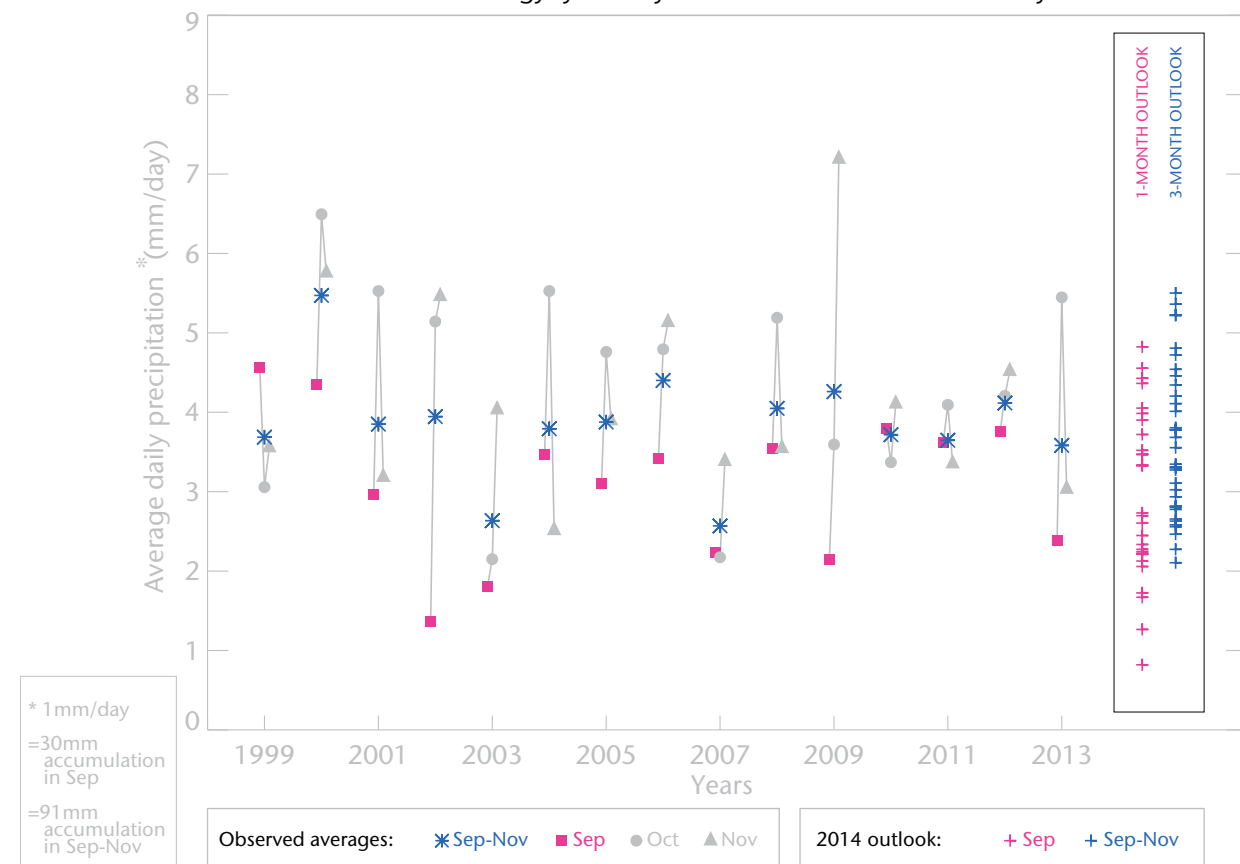


Fig P3

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