



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: February – April 2019 Issue date: 24.01.19

The forecast presented here is for February and the average of the February-March-April period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for February will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1st February 2019.

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

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

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

The probability that UK-average precipitation for February-March-April will fall into the driest of our five categories is 15% 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:

As discussed in the temperature section, there is an increase in the likelihood of negative NAO in this period due to the recent SSW event. Conventionally, this would be associated with greater likelihood of drier-than-average conditions at this time of year, as moisture-bearing Atlantic depressions deviate towards Southern Europe. However, long-range forecast systems continue to show that these depressions are more likely to track closer to the UK. In this

pattern, above-average precipitation would be more likely across southern parts, with the greatest likelihood of below-average precipitation across the Northwest of the UK. For UK-wide average precipitation, therefore, this results in a moderate shift in the probabilities towards above-normal precipitation for both February and February-March-April as a whole (see figure P2).

Fig P1

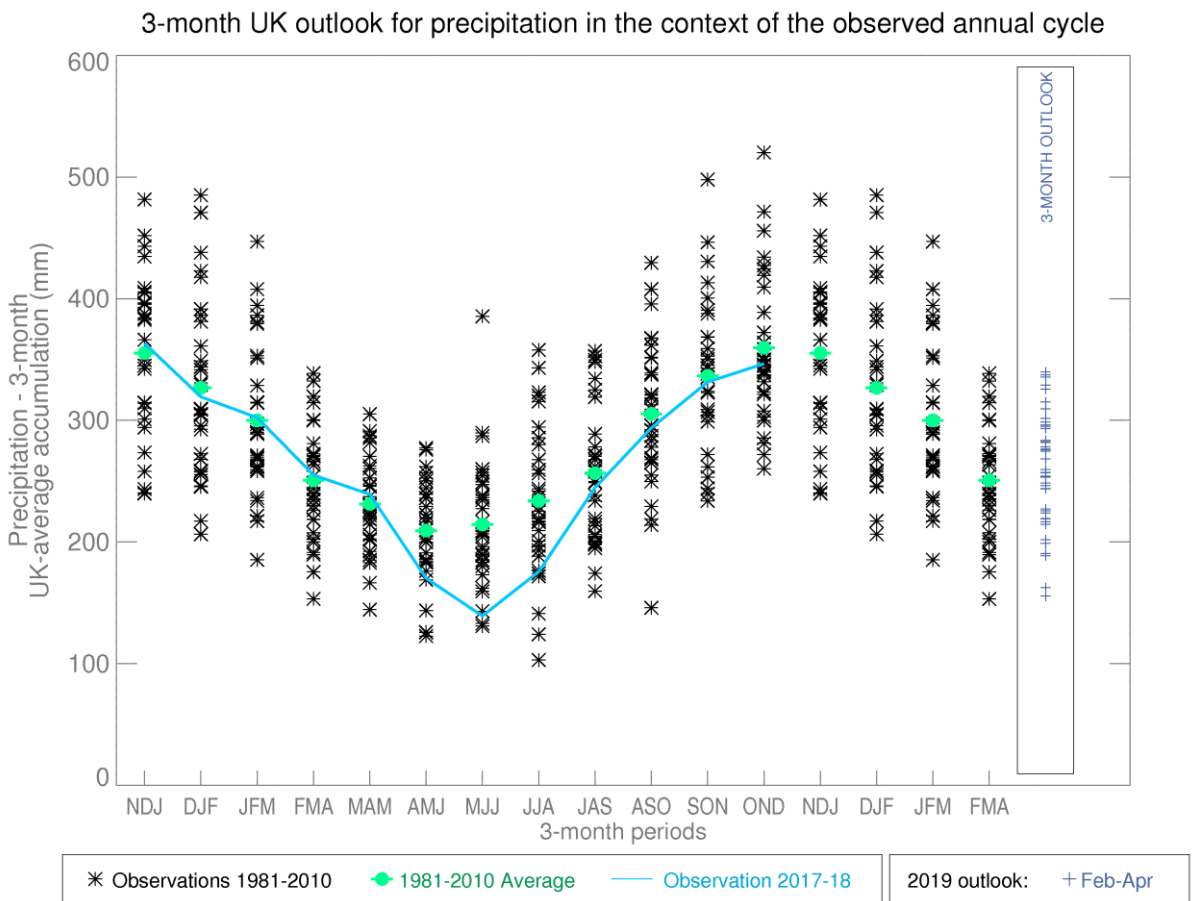


Fig P2

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

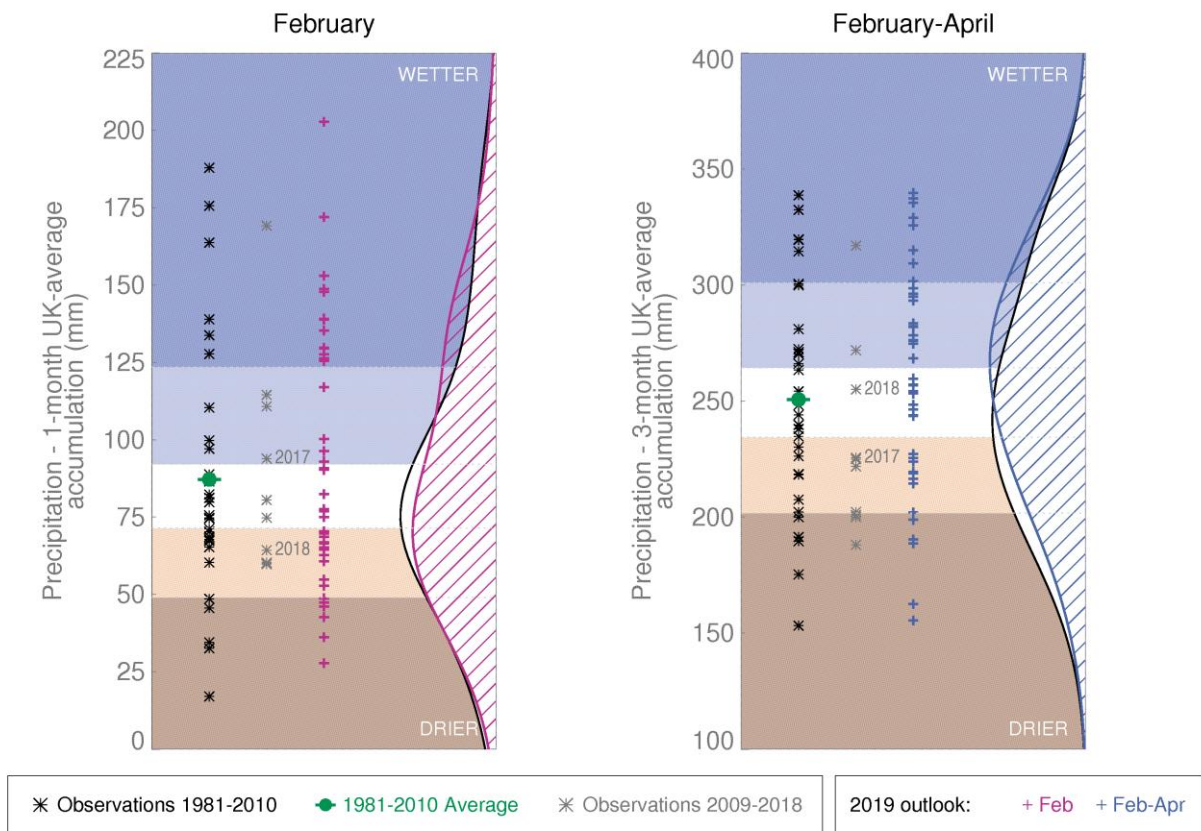
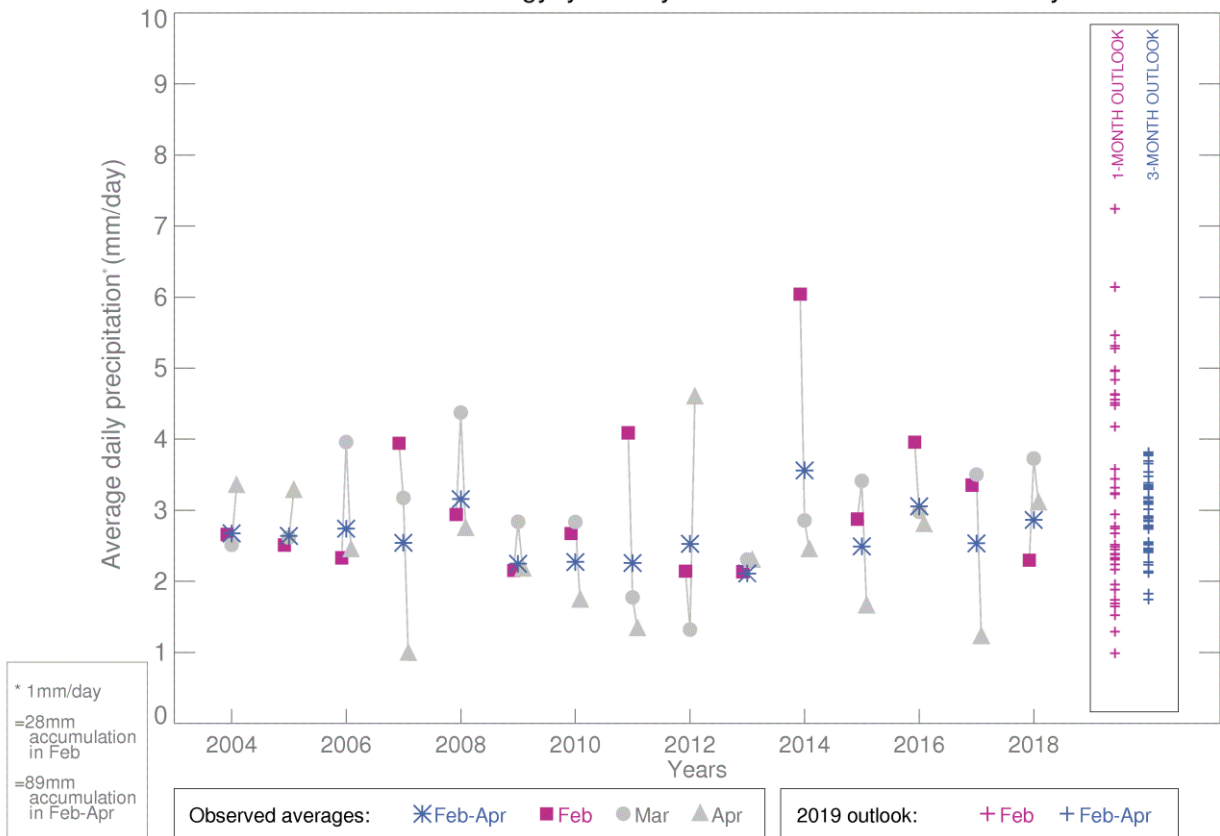


Fig P3

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.