

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 The forecast for October will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 2 October 2015.

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

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

For October, the forecast for UK precipitation has a wide spread and its distribution is indistinguishable from the usual range of conditions at this time of year. For October-November-December precipitation is more likely to be above-average than below-average.

The probability that UK precipitation for October-November-December 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 35% (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 figure P1).

During October weak atmospheric circulation signals are found in seasonal prediction systems. This leads to a broad range of possible outcomes in the forecast for precipitation. The probabilities of above- and below-average rainfall do not differ significantly from normal; this can be seen in the left-hand graph in figure P2.

As discussed in the temperature section, the ongoing El Niño event, together with the westerly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO) and North Atlantic temperatures, are likely to have an influence

on the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), increasing the probability of the positive phase becoming more prevalent. The positive phase of the NAO is associated with above-average precipitation. The Met Office seasonal prediction system, along with systems from other global forecast centres, supports an increased risk of above-average rainfall. The right-hand graph in figure P2 highlights a clear shift towards above-average precipitation consistent with the predicted shift in the likelihood of positive NAO. This pattern is also associated with an increase in the frequency of Atlantic storms crossing the UK, and spells of windy or stormy weather are more likely than is usual for this time of year.

Fig P1

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

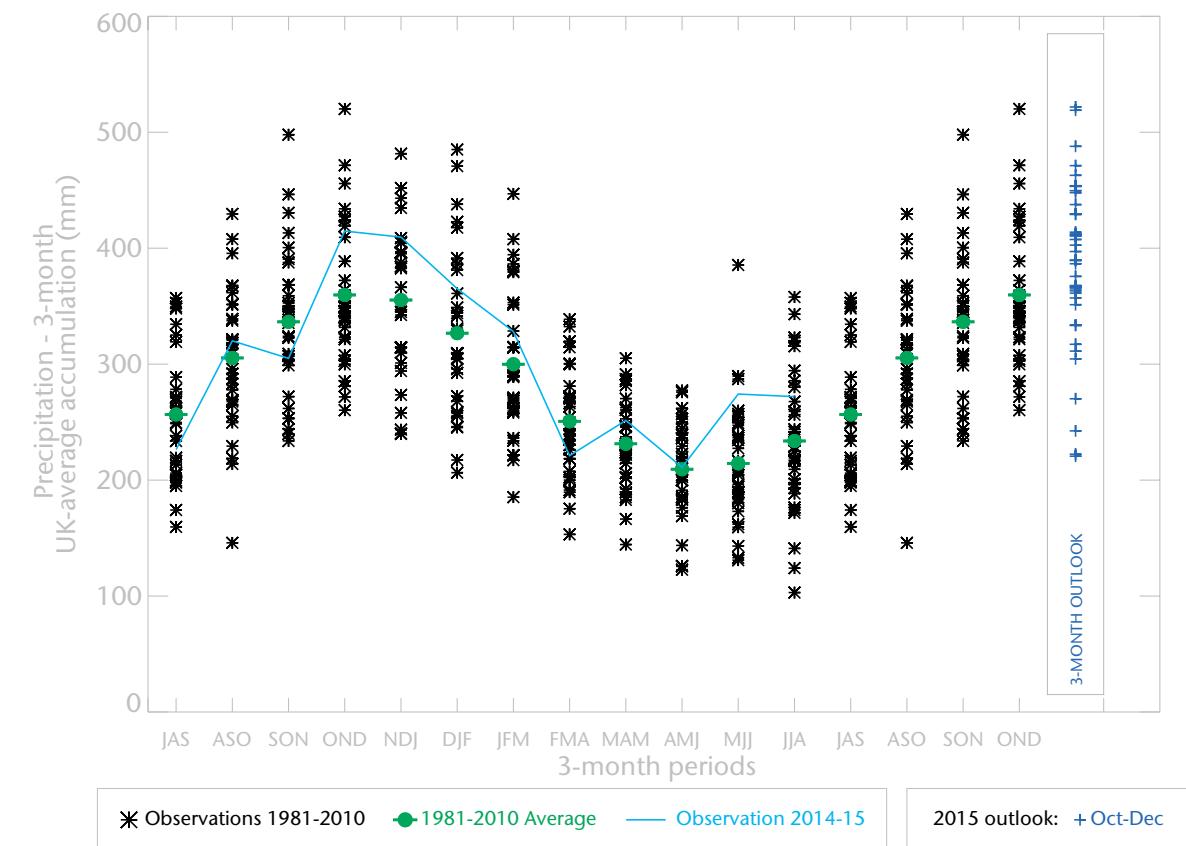


Fig P2

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

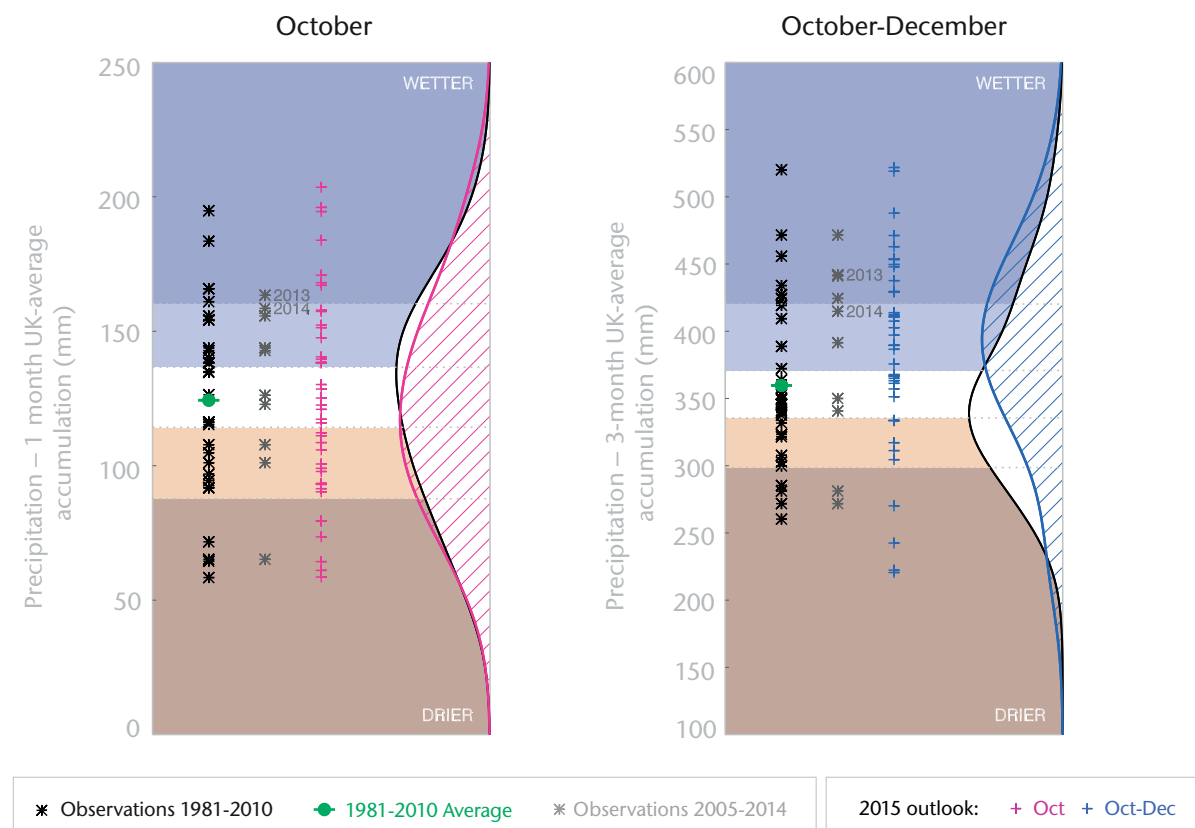
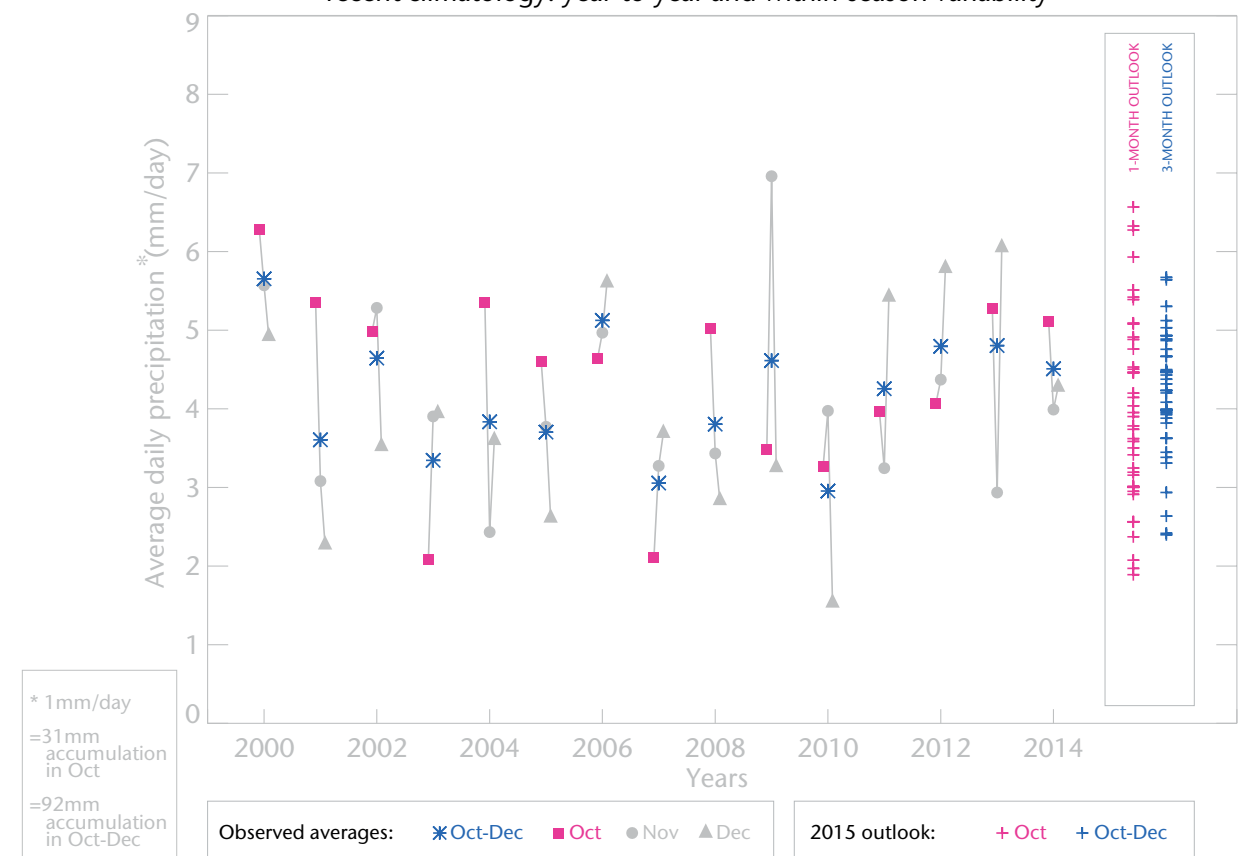


Fig P3

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.