

The forecast presented here is for April and the average of the April-May-June period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for April will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page ([www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast)), starting from 4 April 2014.

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

## SUMMARY - TEMPERATURE:

Latest predictions for UK-mean temperature favour above-average temperatures for both April and for April-May-June as a whole.

Overall, the probability that the UK-mean temperature for April-May-June will fall into the warmest of our five categories is between 25 and 30% and the probability of falling into the coldest of our five categories is between 5 and 10% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

## CONTEXT:

Although there are currently no significant sea surface temperature anomalies across the tropical Pacific and so neither El Niño nor La Niña currently prevails, latest observations support model predictions that a transition to El Niño conditions is more likely than not during the year. At this stage it is too early for El Niño to exert an influence on European weather this spring, but should El Niño conditions develop, they will start to influence global weather patterns later this year.

Two factors that do have some potential to influence weather conditions over the British Isles during April are stratospheric conditions and the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO). The final breakdown of the stratospheric winter vortex, which occurs as the sun begins to heat the Arctic stratosphere in spring, is likely to occur two to three weeks earlier than average. This favours a greater chance of blocked weather patterns and easterly weather types during April. Conversely, the MJO is expected to enter its active phase over the Indian Ocean during early April and this may favour the positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation developing, although this association is strongest during winter.

The ensemble of seasonal forecasts suggests some preference for a higher-than-average frequency of blocked weather patterns over the UK during April. This would manifest itself as a greater-than-usual incidence of a broadly easterly weather types and lower-than-average frequency of Atlantic frontal zones progressing across Britain.

April is still a period of transition in weather patterns from winter to summer and forecasting temperatures during easterly weather types can depend on conditions over continental Europe. Given that North Sea temperatures are above normal and snow cover across Europe is below average any easterly flow during April is likely to be less cold than average.

For the 3-month period, April, May and June, the forecasts indicate that temperatures above the climatological normal are more likely. The cold temperatures experienced in 2012 and 2013 are considered to be unlikely.

Fig T1

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

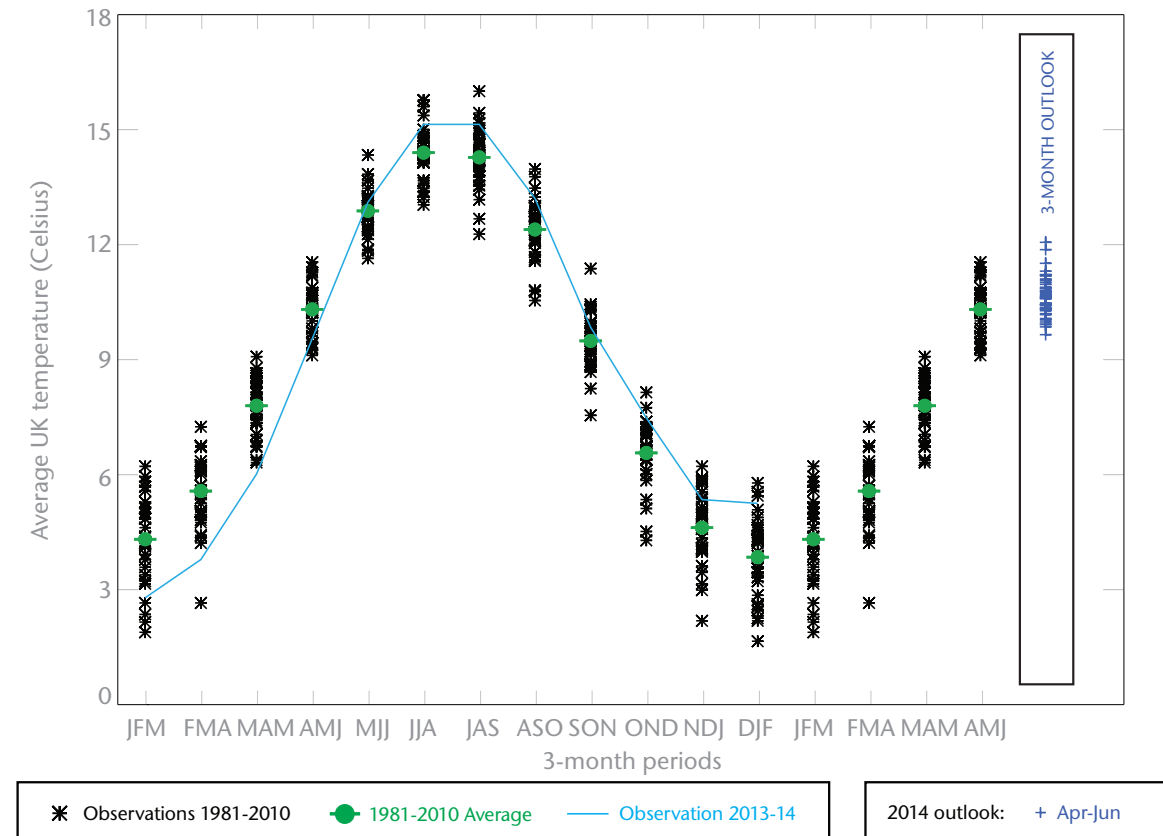


Fig T2

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

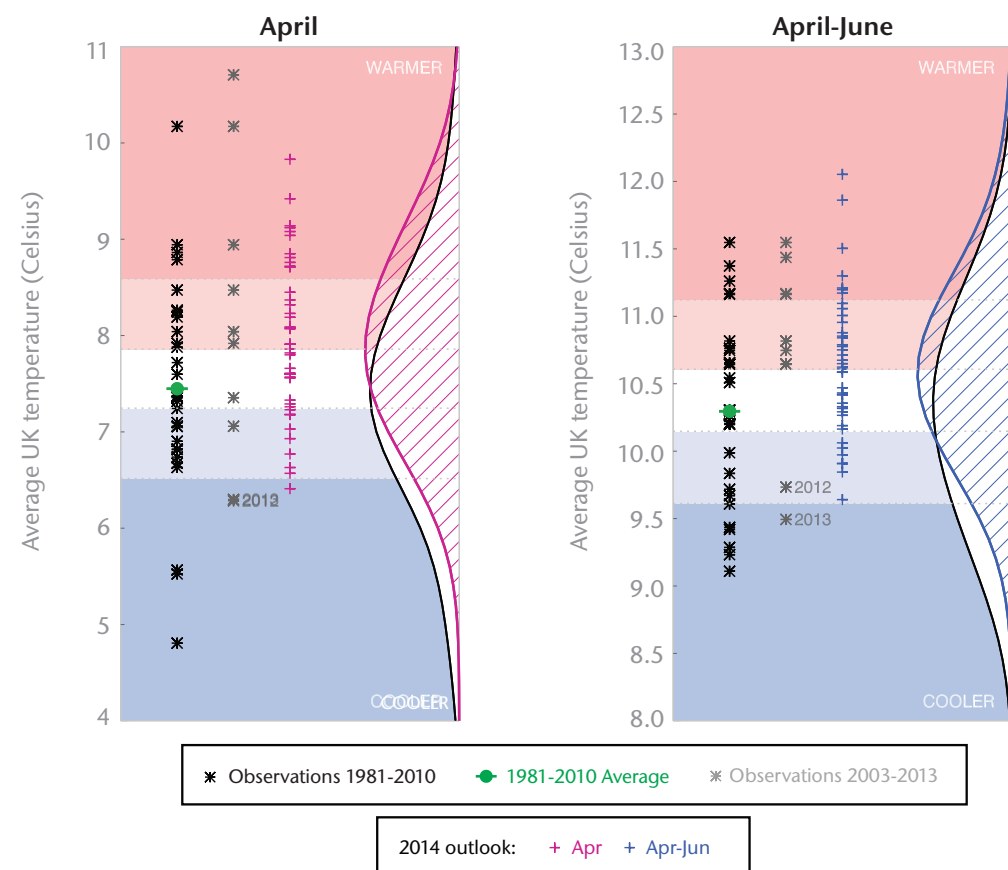
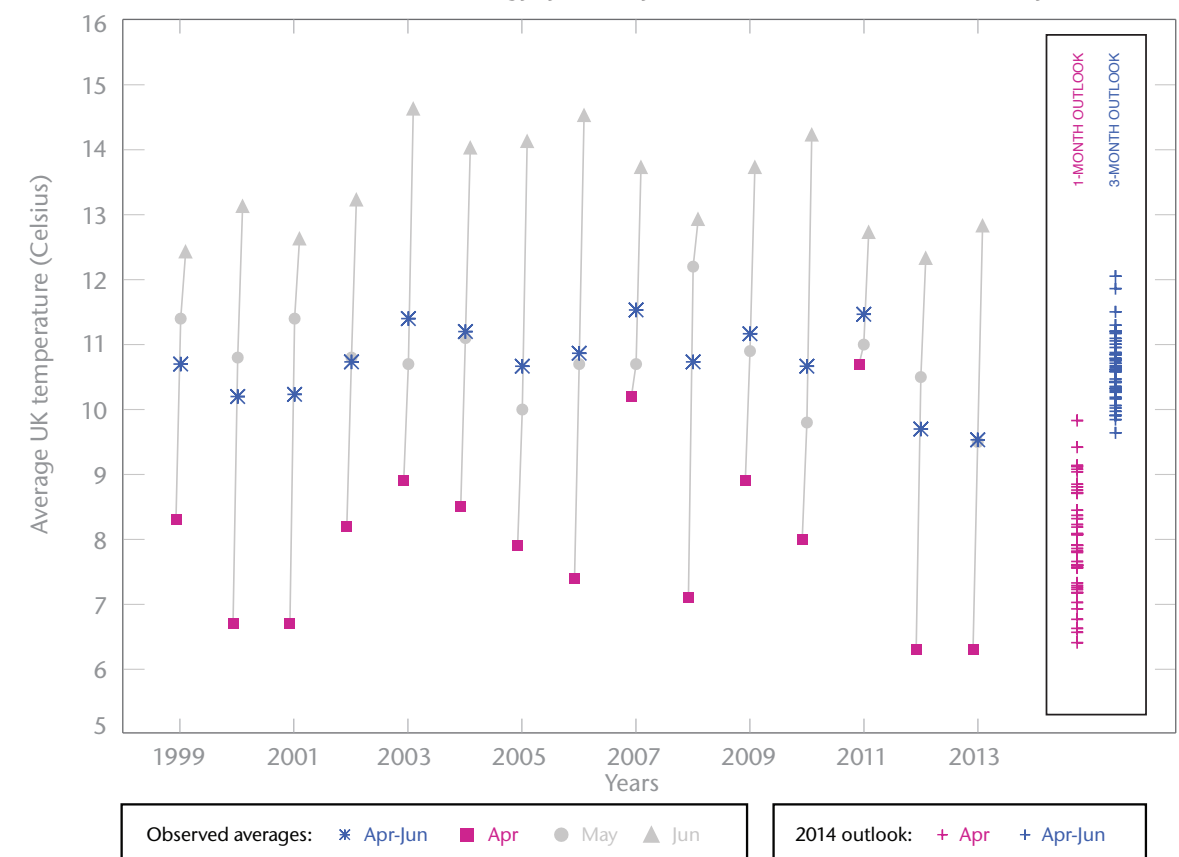


Fig T3

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.