



Met Office

Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: June – August 2020 Issue date: 21.05.20

The forecast presented here is for June and the average of the June-July-August period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for June will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 29th May 2020.

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

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For June and June-July-August as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for June-July-August will fall into the coldest of our five categories is less than 5%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 50% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Global drivers of UK weather, such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), have a smaller influence at this time of year. This means seasonal predictability tends to be lower than in winter. ENSO is likely to remain in a neutral phase during the Outlook period. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical central and eastern Pacific have fallen recently, and there is an outside chance of a La Niña event developing later in the period. This is less likely than the continuation of neutral conditions, however, and it is unlikely ENSO will influence UK weather patterns. SSTs remain below average in the mid-North Atlantic Ocean to the west of the UK. This pattern has been linked to greater incidence of high pressure in summer, implying increased chances of higher-than-normal temperatures. However, this influence is not as large as in recent years such as the warm summer of 2018. The seas around the UK are currently warmer-than-average and this increases the likelihood of above-average temperatures.

For June, the Met Office seasonal prediction system, along with systems from other prediction centres around the world, indicates an increased likelihood of high pressure near the UK. For June-July-August as whole, signals are generally weak, with slightly higher chances of high pressure near the UK than of other weather patterns. High pressure would lead to more settled weather and, combined with the warming climate, this means greater-than-usual chances of above-average temperatures (see graphs of figure T2). While the relatively high probability of our warmest forecast category does suggest that the chance of spells of very hot weather is increased compared to usual, it does not imply extreme weather throughout the whole 3-month period. The increased likelihood of this category could mean more days with temperatures that are above average to a more modest degree. Above-average temperatures can also arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

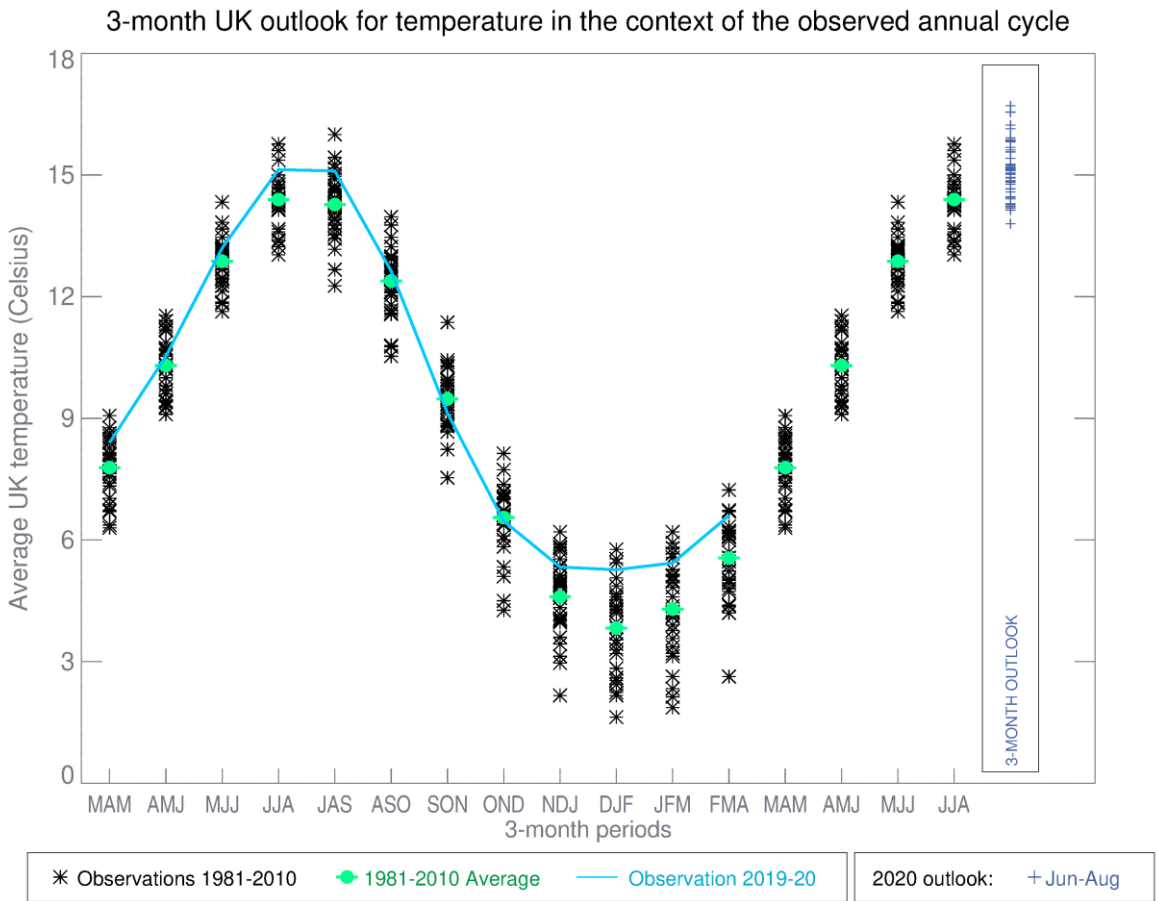


Fig T2

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

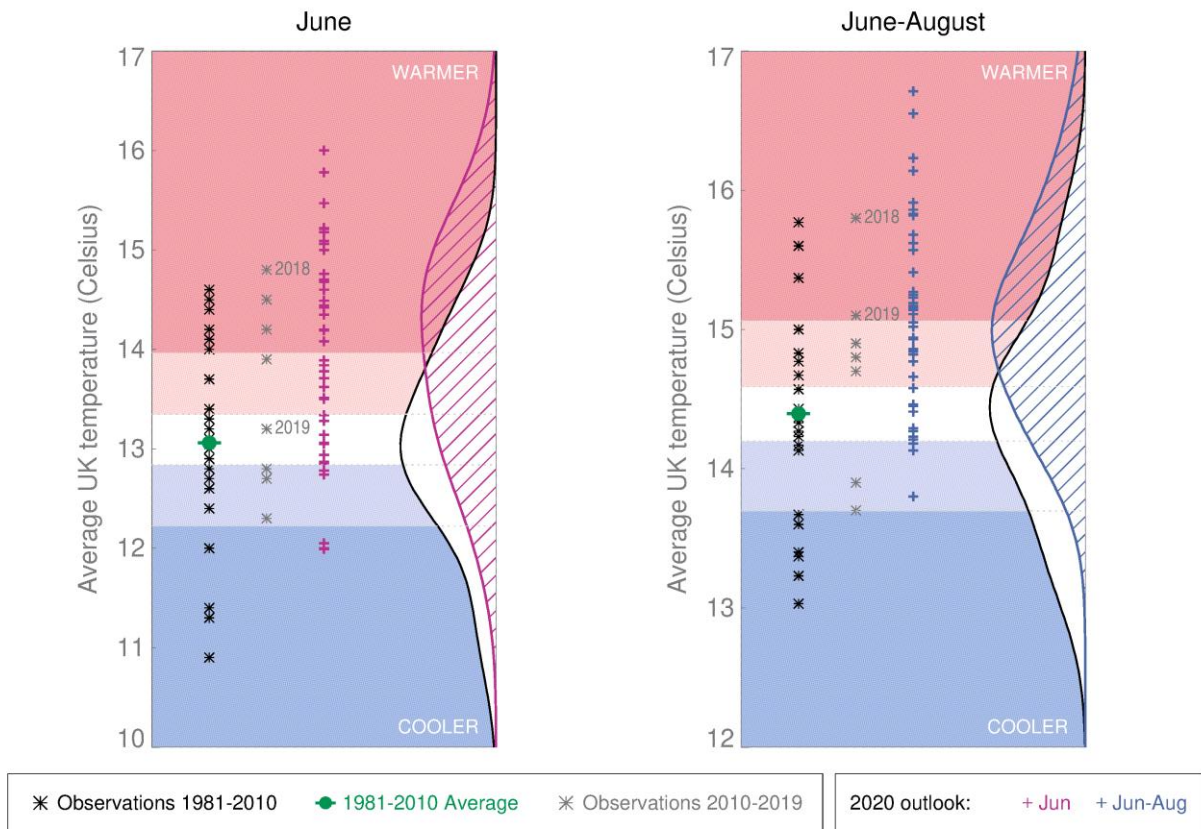
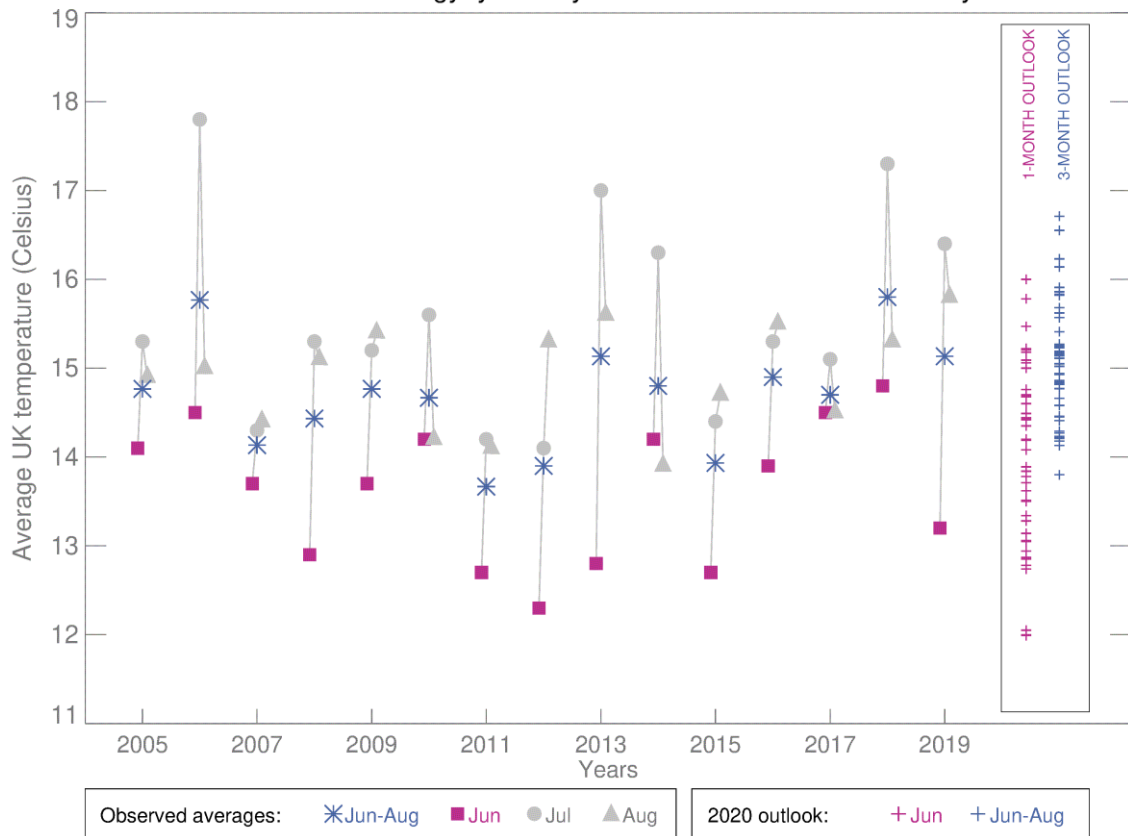


Fig T3

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-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.