

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical models and expert judgement.

SUMMARY - PRECIPITATION:

The balance of probabilities suggests that the dry, settled conditions experienced in July may not persist through August; currently near-to-average rainfall is slightly favoured. For August-September-October as a whole the signal is largely indistinguishable from climatology.

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

CONTEXT:

As discussed in the temperature section, there is a slight tendency for lower-than-normal surface pressure over the UK region, for August as a whole. Such a pattern can lead to wetter-than-average conditions. However, the signal for above-average precipitation is weak, suggesting scope for some more settled spells of weather as well. The forecast curve on the left in figure P2 does show a wide range of possible outcomes, giving large uncertainty in the forecast.

For the August-September-October period there is little signal in the forecast for surface pressure, and consequently in the seasonal average rainfall. This is reflected in the curve on the right of figure P2, which is largely indistinguishable from climatology.

Fig P1

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

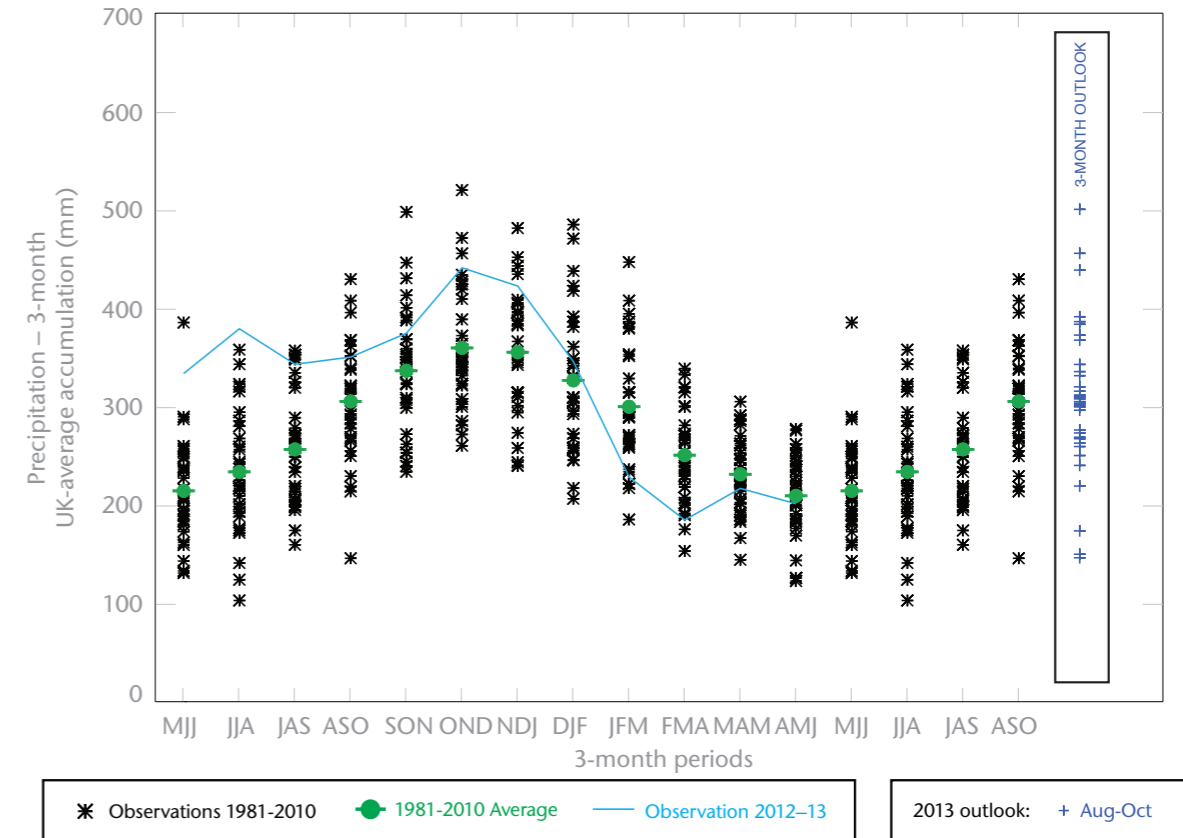


Fig P2

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

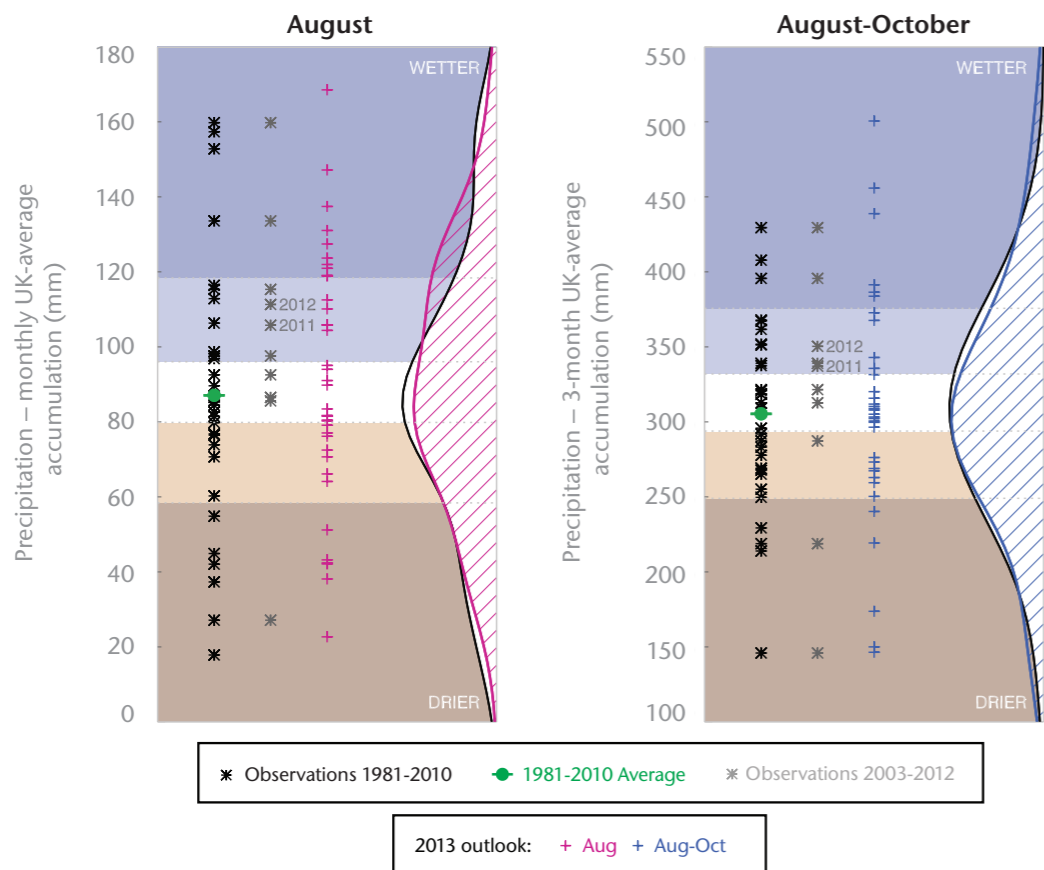
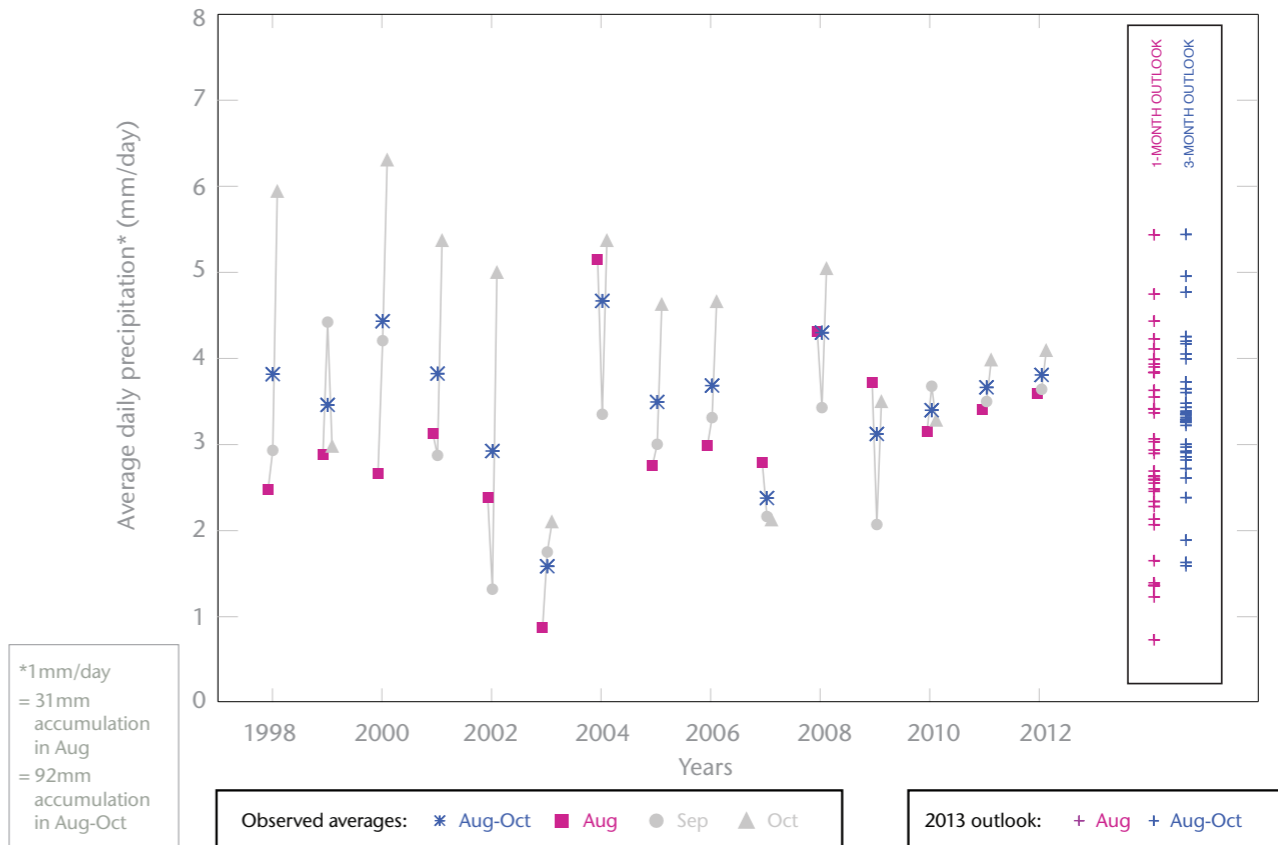


Fig P3

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.