

3-month	1-month	About the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A	Find out more
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3-month summary

- Spells of wet and windy weather along with associated impacts are more likely early in spring
- The chances of either a dry or wet spring overall are both near normal
- While some colder spells and wintry hazards remain possible early in the period, a cool spring is very unlikely

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature



Precipitation



Wind speed



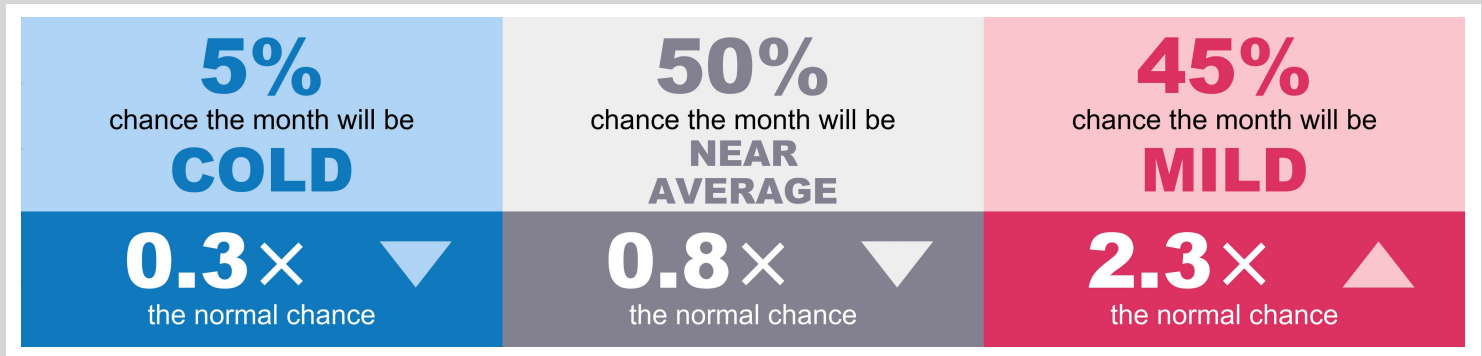
3-month	1-month	About the Outlook	Shifts in likelihood	What is average?	Q&A	Find out more
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1-month summary

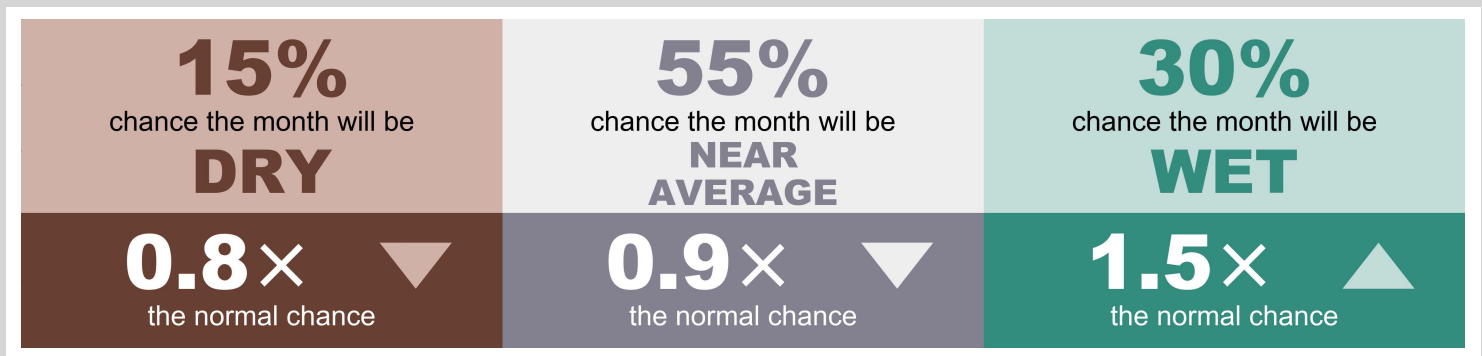
- Higher than normal chance of a wet month, especially in the northwest of the UK
- Impacts from heavy rain are more likely than normal
- The likelihood of a windy month is also higher than normal increasing the risk of spells of stormy weather
- Only a small chance of March being cold overall though wintry hazards remain possible

1-month likelihood of impact

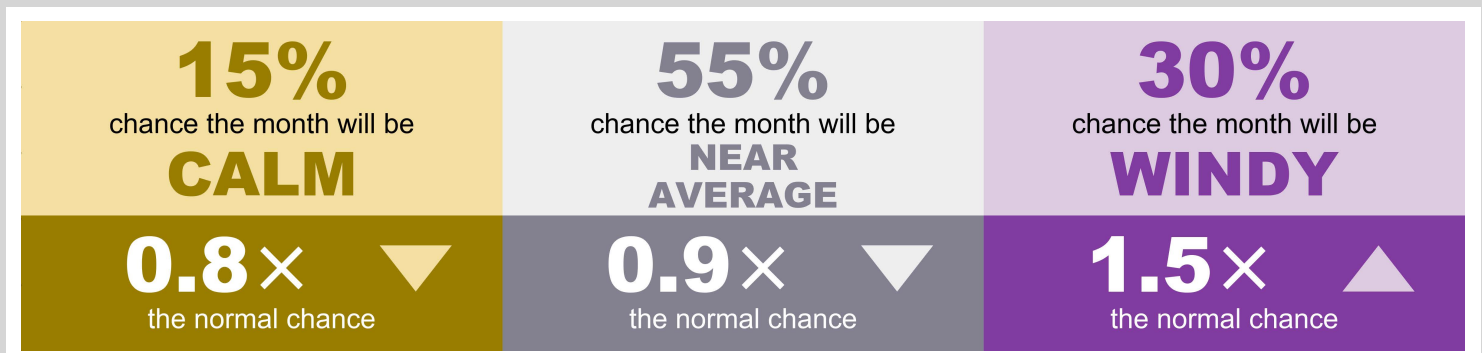
Temperature



Precipitation



Wind speed



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Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

- COLD, NEAR AVERAGE and MILD for 1-month temperature
- COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for 3-month temperature
- WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
- CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM	COOL	WARM	NEAR AVERAGE	WARM
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	NEAR AVERAGE	WET
WINDY	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM	CALM	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	MILD	COLD	MILD	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WET	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	DRY	WET	WET
WINDY	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	WINDY	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE	CALM	NEAR AVERAGE	NEAR AVERAGE

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for March to May

Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. The influence of many of these drivers on UK weather patterns tends to reduce during spring. Drivers relevant to the current Outlook are:

- The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends
- La Niña in the tropical Pacific increases the chance of positive NAO patterns and westerly winds in the UK during early spring
- A westerly phase of the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO) in the tropical stratosphere, increasing the likelihood of westerly winds
- A stronger-than-usual stratospheric polar vortex at the start of this period favours westerly winds in March

Long-range weather predictions

The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. During March, there is an increase in the likelihood of pressure to be higher than average near or to the south of the UK, with lower than average pressure to the north of the UK. This pattern would lead to winds blowing more frequently from the Atlantic Ocean, which reduces the likelihood of a cold month and increases the chance of wet and windy conditions. By April and for the remainder of spring, signals become weaker but there is a greater chance of spells of high pressure moving across the country, particularly across the south.

Impacts

The chance of impacts from heavy rain is higher than normal during March. The wettest conditions are more likely across northwestern parts of the UK. There is also a higher than normal chance of a windy March suggesting an increased risk of some stormy spells. As is typical during spring, the risk of impacts from wind and rain reduces later in this period. Should spells of high pressure become dominant through the season this would increase the incidence of morning fog. Consistent with our warming climate along with a greater likelihood of west or southwesterly winds, there is only a small chance of a cool spring. Some colder spells and wintry hazards remain possible in early spring but should these occur they are unlikely to be prolonged.

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Outlook compared to normal likelihood

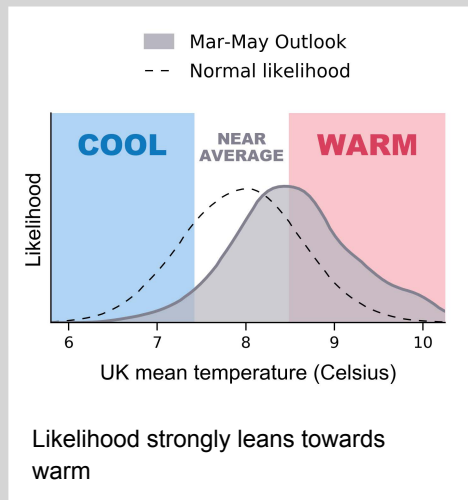
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

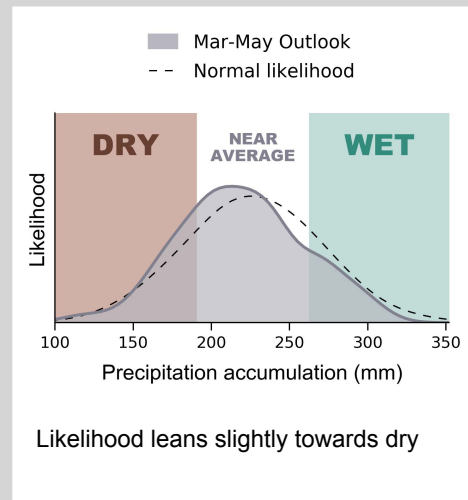
The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

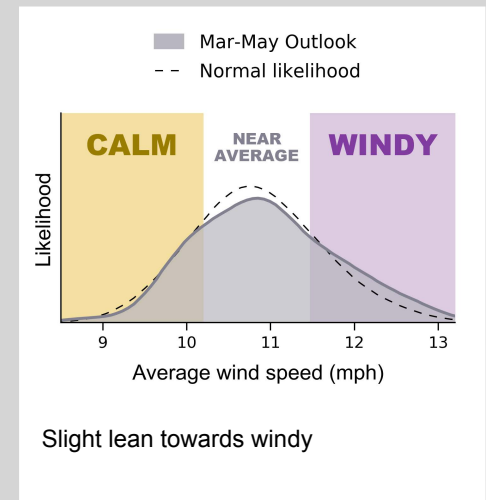
3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



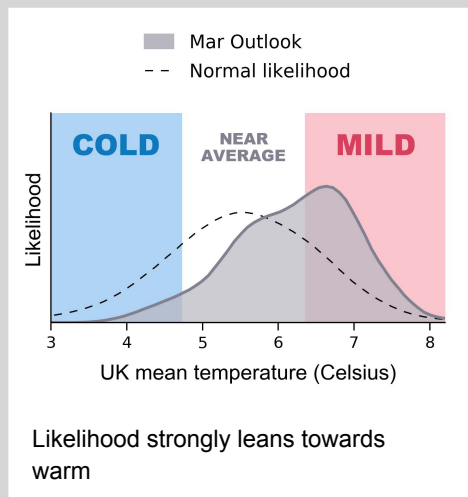
3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



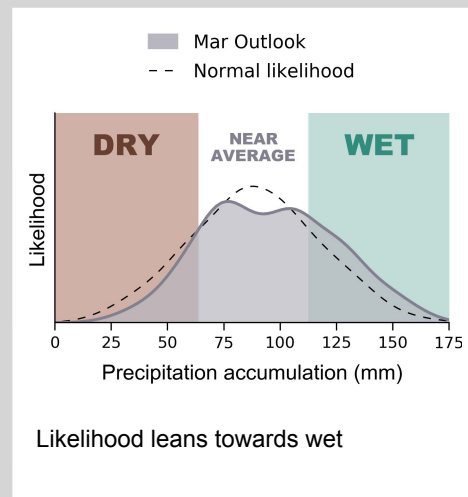
3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



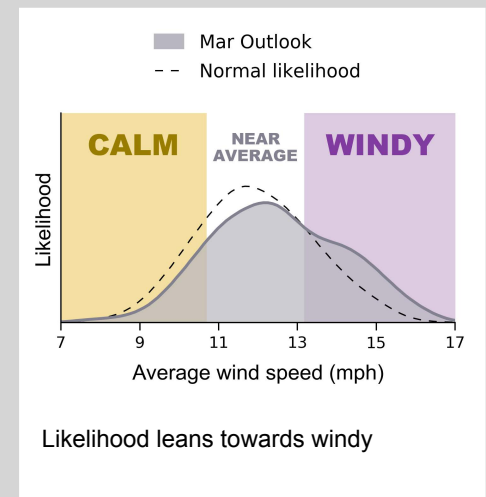
1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



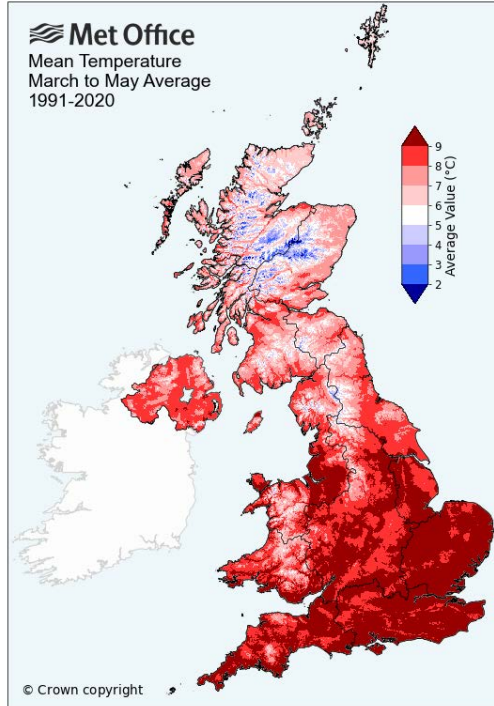
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



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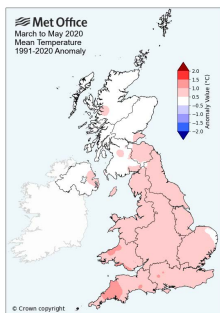
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

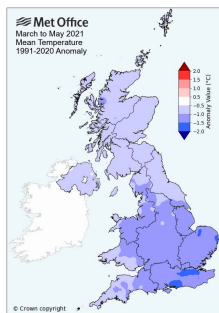


Average temperatures for March - May based on observations of past years.

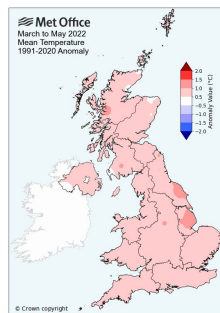
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



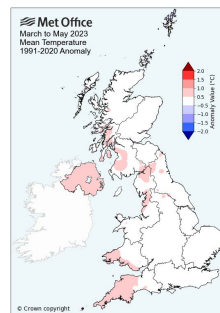
Mar - May 2020



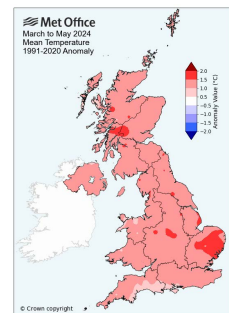
Mar - May 2021



Mar - May 2022

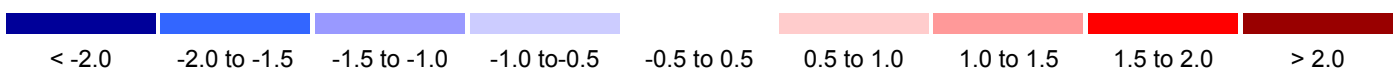


Mar - May 2023



Mar - May 2024

Anomaly (°C)

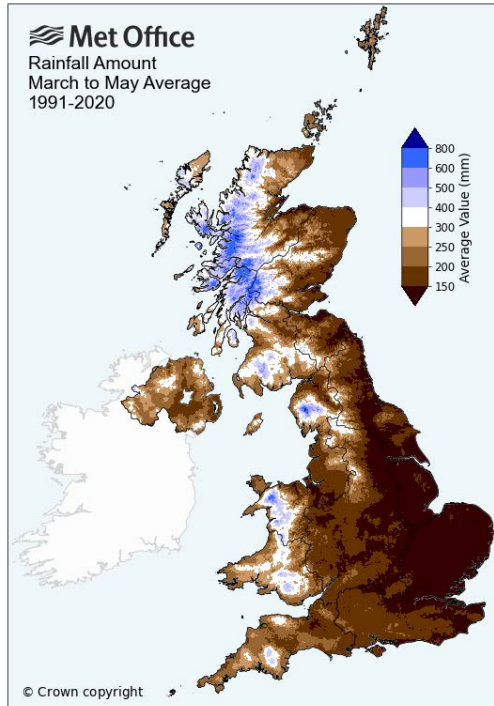


These maps show how March - May temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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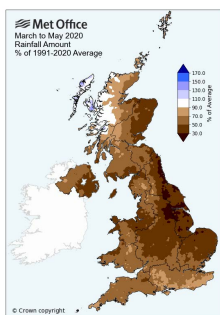
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

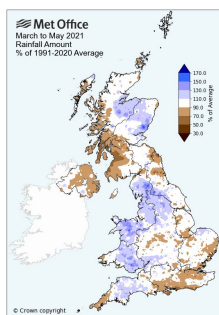


Average precipitation for March - May based on observations of past years.

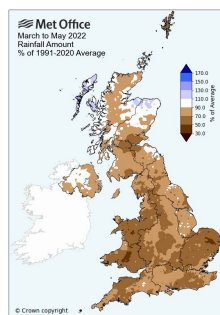
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



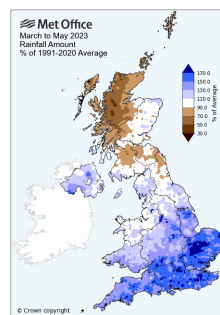
Mar - May 2020



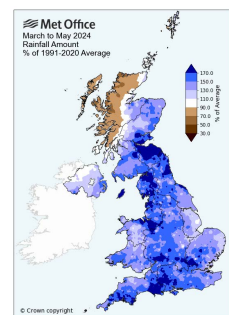
Mar - May 2021



Mar - May 2022

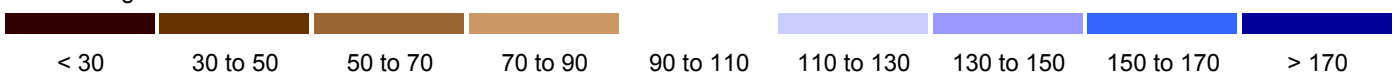


Mar - May 2023



Mar - May 2024

% of average

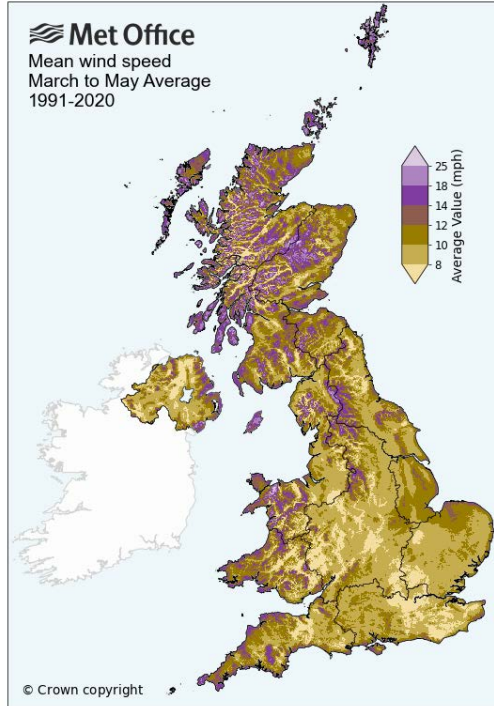


These maps show how March - May precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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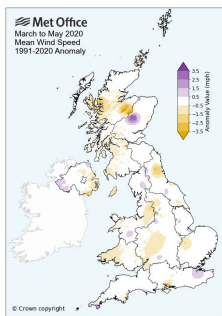
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

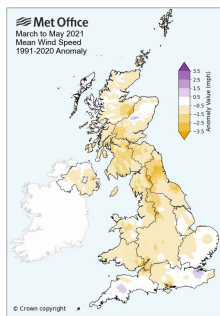


Average wind speed for March - May based on observations of past years.

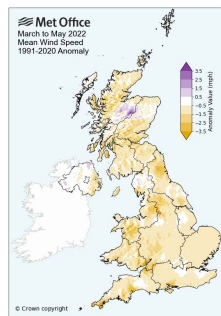
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



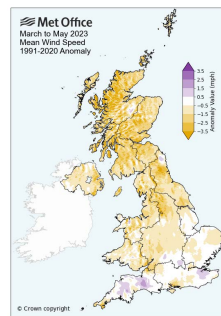
Mar - May 2020



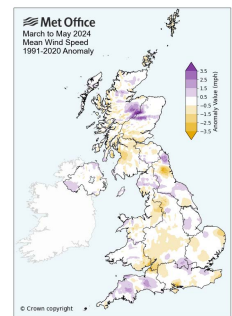
Mar - May 2021



Mar - May 2022

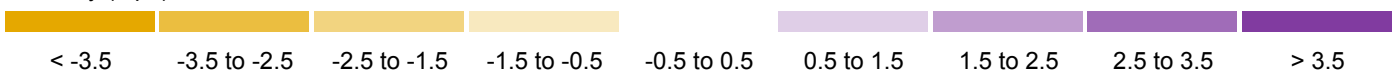


Mar - May 2023



Mar - May 2024

Anomaly (mph)

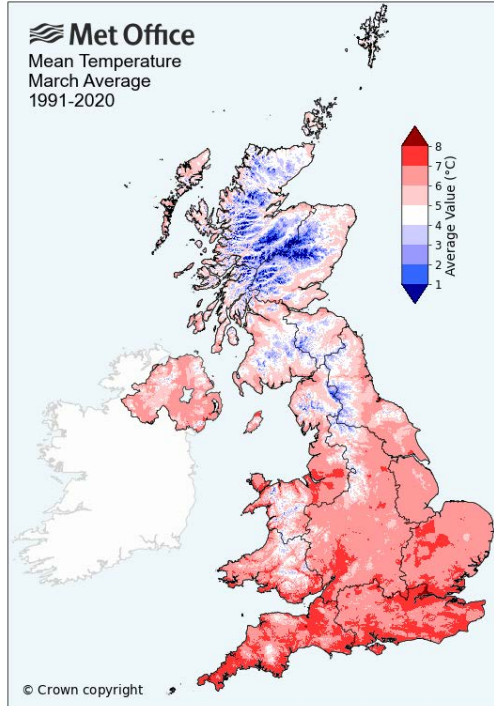


These maps show how March - May wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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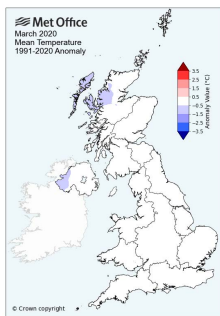
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

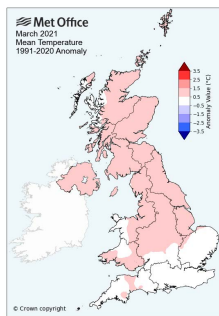


Average temperatures for March based on observations of past years.

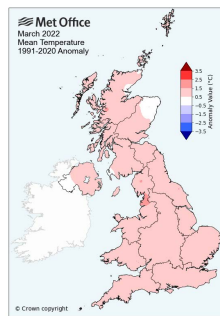
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



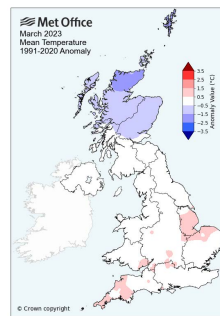
Mar 2020



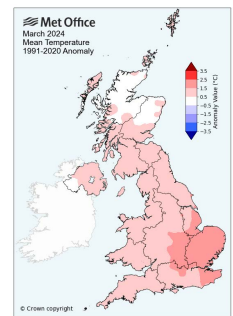
Mar 2021



Mar 2022

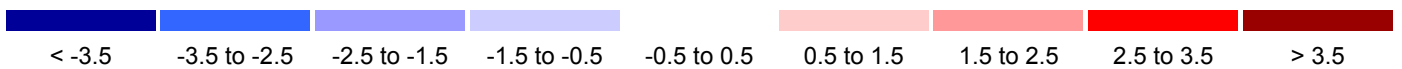


Mar 2023



Mar 2024

Anomaly (°C)

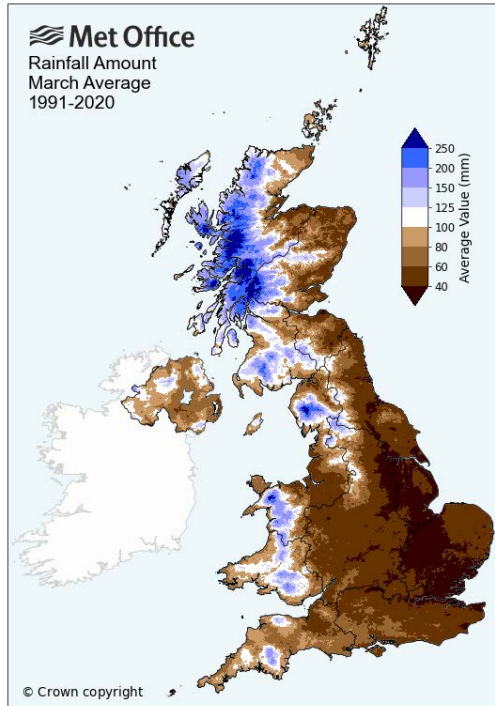


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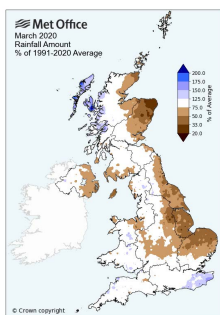
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

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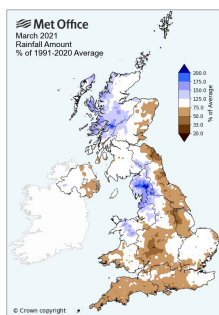


Average precipitation for March based on observations of past years.

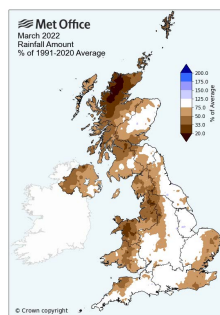
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



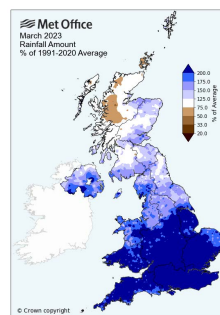
Mar 2020



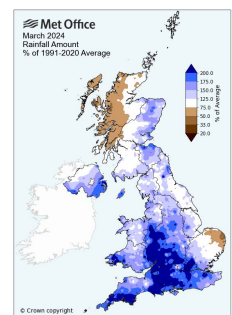
Mar 2021



Mar 2022

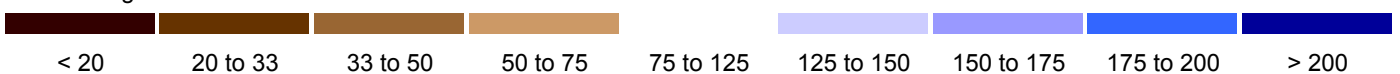


Mar 2023



Mar 2024

% of average

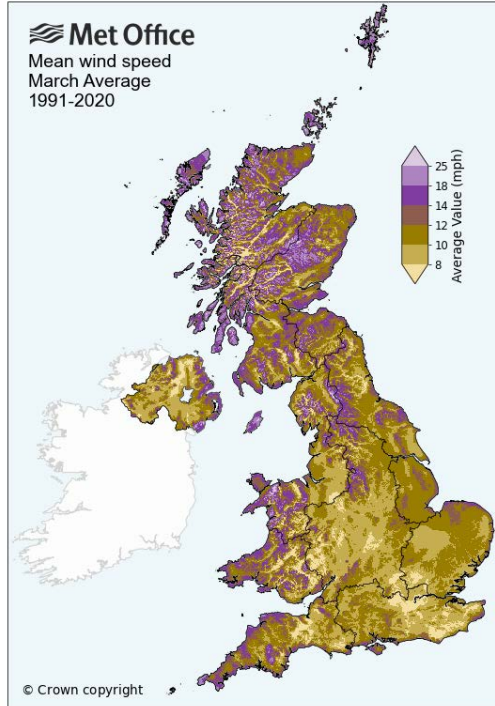


These maps show how March precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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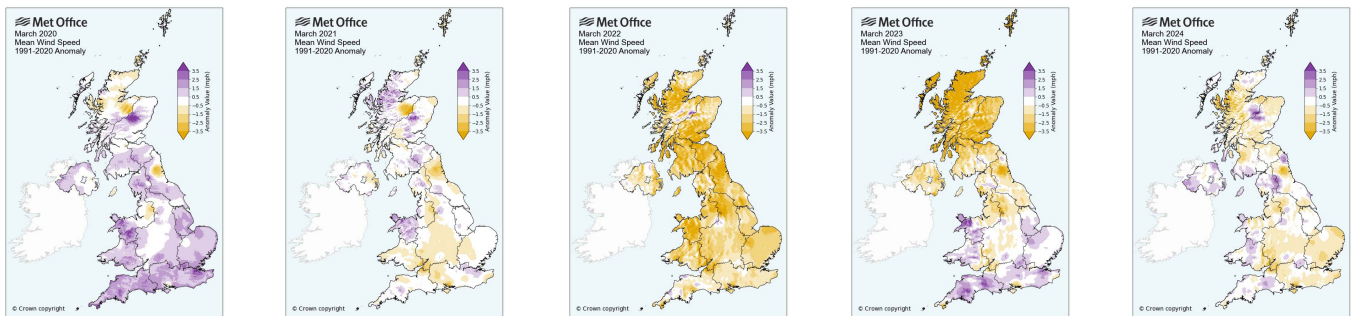
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.



Average wind speed for March based on observations of past years.

Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



Mar 2020

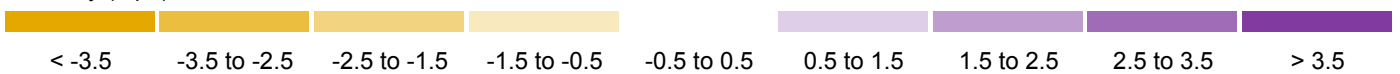
Mar 2021

Mar 2022

Mar 2023

Mar 2024

Anomaly (mph)



These maps show how March wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

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Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?

A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?

A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?

A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?

A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. Are we likely to see impacts from heavy rain and flooding this spring?

A. There is an increased chance of wet and windy conditions early in the spring which increases the risk of some stormy spells. There are indications that heavy rain is more likely across north-western parts of the UK, however, the Outlook cannot specify the severity, location, or timings of specific weather events. As is typical during spring, the risk of impacts from wind and rain reduces later in this period. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages and check the risk of flooding in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does this Outlook mean there will be no cold weather this spring?

A. Whilst this Outlook suggests an increased chance of a warmer period this does not imply that the period will be dominated by warm, fine weather. More modest warmth, a mix of warm and cooler days, or warm nights, could all contribute to an above-average spring temperature. With a greater likelihood of west or southwesterly winds this spring is unlikely to be cool overall. However, this does not preclude the possibility of some cold spells, with related impacts, such as snow and ice, particularly early in the period. Should these occur they are unlikely to be prolonged. You can find out more by keeping up to date with the latest forecast on our website or by following us on social media.

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About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance>
- Explaners on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources>
- Contingency planners page:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>

Contact us

Website:

www.metoffice.gov.uk

Email:

enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this [link](#) or QR code to share your thoughts.

