

Dry in eastern New Zealand, wetter in the west of both islands

Temperature	Temperatures were above average (0.51°C to 1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) in much of Northland, parts of Auckland, the Coromandel Peninsula, parts of Hawke's Bay, Manawatū-Whanganui, Wellington, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. Near average temperatures ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) were observed in much of the central and eastern North Island, Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, and Fiordland.
Rainfall	Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) in parts of Taranaki, eastern Marlborough, the central and lower West Coast, Fiordland, and western Southland. Below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall was observed in eastern Northland, parts of Auckland, the Coromandel Peninsula, much of the central, eastern, and lower North Island, Tasman, Canterbury, and northern Otago. Near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) was observed elsewhere.
Soil Moisture	At the end of April, soil moisture levels were below normal or well below normal in northern and eastern Northland, much of Auckland, the Coromandel Peninsula, Bay of Plenty, southern Taranaki, the eastern and lower North Island, Tasman, Nelson, western Marlborough, and Canterbury. Soil moisture levels were near normal or above normal in western Northland, western Waikato, northern Taranaki, eastern Marlborough, the West Coast, interior Otago, and Southland.

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Overview

April 2024 was characterised by lower than normal mean sea level pressure (MSLP) located south of Aotearoa New Zealand and higher than normal pressure to the north of the country. This produced more northwesterly airflows than normal and contributed to the observed rainfall pattern during April, where the west of both islands generally saw much more rainfall than eastern areas. This was characteristic of a continued, but weakening, El Niño during April. The conditions during the month were fairly mundane with the exception of an atmospheric river that brought high-impact weather to the country from 9-12 April. Very heavy rain affected the West Coast, where high-elevation stations including Tuke Tuke and Cropp Waterfall received around 1,000 mm of rain, or about 10% of their annual normal rainfall in just three days. This resulted in slips and closed roads in the West Coast and Southland, while more than 70 flights around the country were either cancelled or delayed during the

event. In addition, high winds resulted in power outages across several Auckland suburbs on 11 April. (see *Highlights and extreme events* section below for more details).

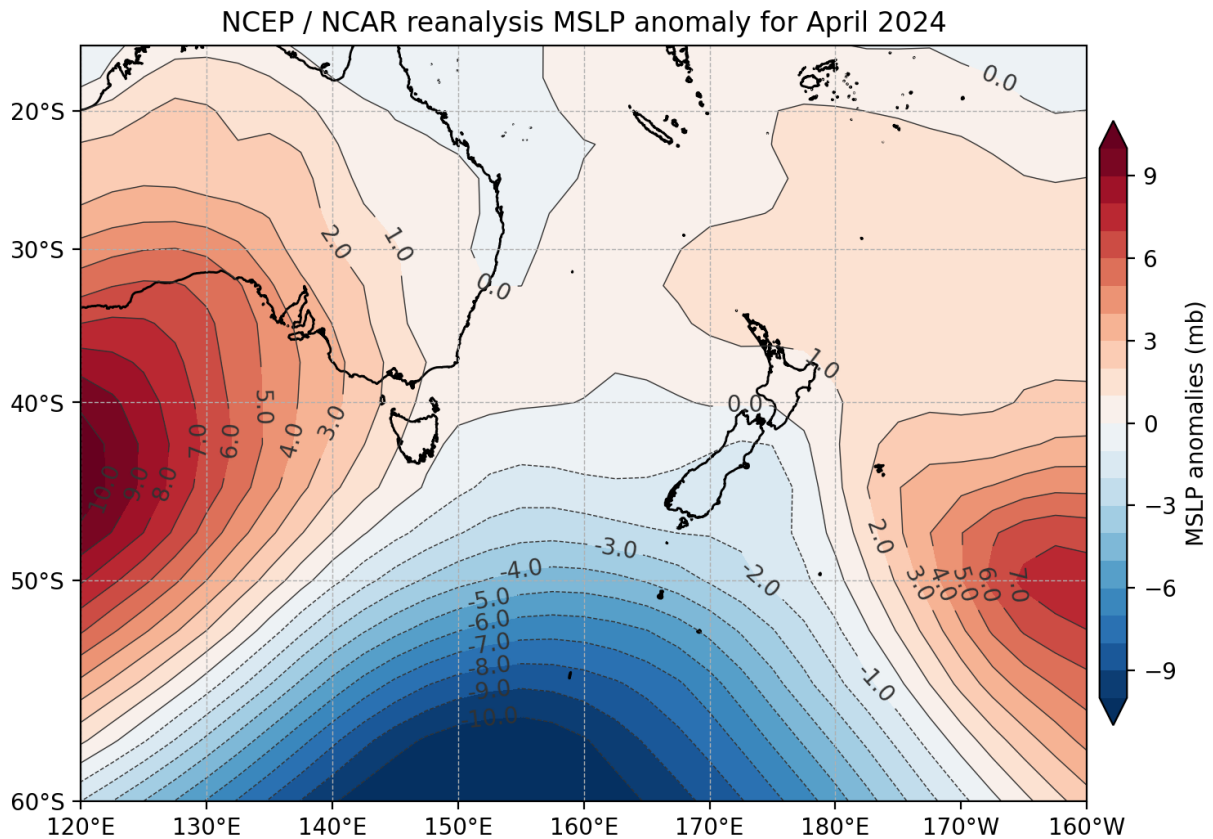


Figure 1: Mean Sea Level Pressure (MSLP) anomaly map for April 2024.

Temperatures were above average (0.51°C to 1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) in much of Northland, parts of Auckland, the Coromandel Peninsula, parts of Hawke’s Bay, Manawatū-Whanganui, Wellington, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. Near average temperatures ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) were observed in much of the central and eastern North Island, Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, and Fiordland.

The nationwide average temperature in April 2024 was 13.8°C. This was 0.4°C above the 1991-2020 April average from NIWA’s seven station temperature series which begins in 1909.

Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) in parts of Taranaki, eastern Marlborough, the central and lower West Coast, Fiordland, and western Southland. Below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall was observed in eastern Northland, parts of Auckland, the Coromandel Peninsula, much of the central, eastern, and lower North Island, Tasman, Canterbury, and northern Otago. Near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) was observed elsewhere.

Further Highlights:

- The highest April temperature was 29.1°C, observed at Kaikohe on 11 April.
- The lowest April temperature was -4.4°C, observed at Medbury on 27 April.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 265 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 10 April.
- The highest wind gust was 161 km/h, observed at Waipawa on 11 April.
- Of the six main centres in April 2024, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Tauranga was the sunniest, Wellington was the wettest, and Dunedin was the least sunny.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four regions so far in 2024 are Marlborough (1061 hours), wider Nelson (1051 hours), Taranaki (1039 hours), and Tasman (1022 hours).

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Temperature: A warm month for many regions, especially in the South Island

Despite many regions (including a majority of the South Island) experiencing above average mean temperatures during April, only two locations recorded near-records. In addition, Kawerau had its warmest April mean daytime temperature since records began there in 1954, while Waipawa had its coldest mean night-time temperature for April since records began in 1945. The atmospheric river that affected New Zealand in the middle of the month brought a subtropical air mass to the country, resulting in 56 locations recording record or near-record warm night-time temperatures between 10-12 April.

Record¹ or near-record mean air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Middlemarch	11.5	1.3	2000	3rd-highest
Five Rivers	11.0	1.1	1982	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Record or near-record mean maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kawerau	22.8	1.8	1954	Highest
Clyde	19.3	1.6	1978	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Pukekohe	18.4	-1.7	1969	4th-lowest

Record or near-record mean minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Middlemarch	4.8	1.4	2000	3rd-highest
Five Rivers	5.8	1.1	1982	4th-highest
Waipounamu	5.7	1.1	1980	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Waipawa	4.8	-2.4	1945	Lowest
Whakatu	5.9	-2.2	1965	2nd-lowest

¹ The rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.) in all Tables in this summary are relative to climate data from a *group* of nearby stations, some of which may no longer be operating. The current climate value is compared against all values from any member of the group, without any regard for homogeneity between one station's record, and another. This approach is used due to the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

Rainfall: Dry in eastern New Zealand, but record rainfall in the lower West Coast

Rainfall amounts varied widely across the country in April, with two locations (Haast and Lake Moeraki) experiencing their wettest April on record, while conversely four locations had near-record dry months. Notably, Haast had 251% of its normal monthly rainfall, making it the wettest April there since records began in 1941. In addition, Haast recorded 147 mm of rain on 9 April alone, making it the town's wettest April day on record. Overall, 10 locations set records or near-records for 1-day rainfall totals during April.

Record or near-record April rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Lake Moeraki	636	220	1985	Highest
Haast	532	251	1941	Highest
Ōkārito	449	183	1981	2nd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Cheviot	7	11	1982	2nd-lowest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	76	37	2000	3rd-lowest
Dannevirke	22	26	1951	3rd-lowest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	27	45	2002	4th-lowest

April climate in the six main centres

April temperatures were near average in all main centres. Rainfall was near normal in Auckland and Wellington, below normal in Hamilton and Dunedin, and well below normal in Tauranga and Christchurch. Of the six main centres in April 2024, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Tauranga was the sunniest, Wellington was the wettest, and Dunedin was the least sunny.

April 2024 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	16.7	+0.1	Near average
Tauranga ^b	16.1	+0.2	Near average
Hamilton ^c	14.4	-0.1	Near average
Wellington ^d	14.2	+0.4	Near average
Christchurch ^e	12.1	+0.2	Near average
Dunedin ^f	12.3	+0.5	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	77	84	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	53	40	Well below normal
Hamilton ^c	62	70	Below normal
Wellington ^d	105	83	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	26	46	Well below normal
Dunedin ^f	35	57	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	178		
Tauranga ^b	205		
Hamilton ^g	187		
Wellington ^d	172		
Christchurch ^e	182		
Dunedin ^f	137		

^a Māngere ^b Tauranga Airport ^c Hamilton Airport ^d Kelburn ^e Christchurch Airport ^f Musselburgh ^g Ruakura

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

The highest April temperature was 29.1°C, observed at Kaikohe on 11 April.

The lowest April temperature was -4.4°C, observed at Medbury on 27 April.

Between 10-12 April, 56 locations around the country observed record or near-record warm night-time temperatures as northerly winds brought a warm, humid air mass from the subtropics.

Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	29.1	11th	1973	Highest
Takapau Plains	26.6	10th	1962	Highest
Hawera	24.2	10th	1977	Equal highest
Ngawi	25.0	11th	1972	Equal 2nd-highest
Hanmer Forest	27.6	11th	1906	Equal 2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	23.6	22nd	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Waipounamu	23.7	9th	1980	Equal 3rd-highest
Dannevirke	25.9	10th	1951	4th-highest
Five Rivers	24.3	9th	1982	4th-highest
Waipara West	27.8	11th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Matamata	18.7	12th	1999	Highest
Whakatāne	19.9	12th	1975	Highest
Taumarunui	18.3	12th	1947	Highest
Wairoa	20.1	12th	1972	Highest
Hawera	17.9	11th	1977	Highest
Ohakune	16.3	12th	1972	Highest
Hanmer Forest	18.6	11th	1972	Highest
Waipara West	20.3	11th	1973	Highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	17.2	11th	2002	Highest
Akaroa	19.6	10th	1978	Highest
Kaitaia	20.6	11th	1948	2nd-highest
Dargaville	19.9	11th	1951	2nd-highest
Purerua	19.7	11th	1983	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	19.8	11th	1951	2nd-highest

Hamilton (Airport)	18.7	12th	1946	2nd-highest
Martinborough	18.0	10th	1986	2nd-highest
Hastings	18.4	12th	1972	2nd-highest
Blenheim	18.4	11th	1947	2nd-highest
Kaikōura	17.1	11th	1972	2nd-highest
Waiau	18.1	10th	1974	2nd-highest
Rangiora	18.0	10th	1972	2nd-highest
Pukaki	14.6	10th	1972	2nd-highest
Oamaru	14.1	10th	1972	Equal 2nd-highest
Kaikohe	18.8	11th	1973	3rd-highest
Whangārei	20.1	11th	1967	3rd-highest
Whitianga	19.7	11th	1971	3rd-highest
Kawerau	18.6	12th	1954	3rd-highest
Motu	15.4	12th	1990	3rd-highest
Waikeria	18.7	12th	1972	3rd-highest
Reefton	15.7	12th	1972	3rd-highest
Motueka	17.1	11th	1972	3rd-highest
Medbury	18.6	10th	1927	3rd-highest
Christchurch (Airport)	18.1	11th	1863	3rd-highest
Ranfurlly	14.6	10th	1897	3rd-highest
Rotorua	17.2	12th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Whakatu	18.1	12th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Greymouth	16.3	12th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Lincoln	18.3	10th	1881	Equal 3rd-highest
Le Bons Bay	17.0	10th	1984	Equal 3rd-highest
Whangaparāoa	19.0	11th	1982	4th-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	20.0	11th	1971	4th-highest
Auckland (Airport)	19.8	11th	1961	4th-highest
Whanganui	18.5	12th	1972	4th-highest
Ōkārīto	16.0	11th	1983	4th-highest
Haast	15.6	11th	1949	4th-highest
Richmond	17.5	11th	1862	4th-highest
Nelson	18.0	11th	1862	4th-highest
Orari	14.0	10th	1972	4th-highest
Middlemarch	13.0	11th	2000	4th-highest
Te Anau	14.6	10th	1973	4th-highest
Five Rivers	14.5	10th	1982	4th-highest
Roxburgh	15.3	10th	1950	4th-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	18.5	12th	1940	Equal 4th-highest
Port Taharoa	18.9	11th	1974	Equal 4th-highest
Te Kuiti	18.0	12th	1959	Equal 4th-highest
Stewart Island	13.5	10th	1975	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Whakatu	-1.3	28th	1965	2nd-lowest
Cheviot	-3.2	27th	1982	2nd-lowest
Medbury	-4.4	27th	1927	Equal 3rd-lowest
Rangiora	-2.6	27th	1965	Equal 3rd-lowest
Christchurch (Airport)	-2.9	27th	1863	4th-lowest

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 265 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 10 April.

An atmospheric river brought heavy rain to the country from 9-12 April. On 9 April, SH6 was closed due to a slip between Haast and Fox Glacier, and then extended to Franz Josef on 10 April due to a second slip. Due to several downed power poles, emergency management warned Haast residents that they could face several days without power.

Air New Zealand cancelled nearly 50 domestic flights on 11 April due to adverse weather conditions. On 12 April, more than 20 flights into and out of Auckland were either cancelled or delayed due to heavy rain and strong winds.

On 11 April, flooding washed away part of the Lower Hollyford bridge in Southland. In Spring Creek near Blenheim, residents of 70 homes were advised to evacuate as a precaution due to rising water on the Wairau River.

On 12 April, flood waters washed away a pier supporting the rail bridge over the Rangitata River, resulting in a portion of the bridge starting to sag and halting all train traffic.

During the multi-day event, high-elevation stations in the West Coast including Tuke Tuke and Cropp Waterfall received around 1,000 mm of rain, or about 10% of their annual normal in just three days.

On 12 April, heavy rain affected parts of Wellington, including Greta Point which recorded 59 mm. This was Greta Point's wettest autumn day in seven years and wettest day overall since February 2022.

Record or near-record April extreme 1-day rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Lake Moeraki	162	9th	1985	Highest
Haast	147	9th	1943	Highest
Pukaki	39	11th	1972	Highest
Roxburgh	41	11th	1950	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	36	12th	1983	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	36	11th	1949	4th-highest
Five Rivers	42	11th	1982	4th-highest
Lumsden	40	11th	1982	4th-highest
Clyde	28	11th	1978	4th-highest
Alexandra	30	11th	1922	4th-highest

Wind

The highest wind gust was 161 km/h, observed at Waipawa on 11 April.

On 11 April, high winds in Auckland resulted in trees and powerlines coming down, along with reports of roofs being lifted. Power outages were reported in suburbs including Karekare, Piha, Henderson Valley, Dairy Flat, Long Bay, Clevedon, Takanini, and Flat Bush. High winds also resulted in the cancellation of several Auckland ferry services on 11-12 April.

On 25 April, strong winds cancelled six flights at Wellington Airport, while the National Anzac Day Commemoration was also cancelled and a reduced service was moved indoors.

Record or near-record April extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Reefton	57	11th	1999	Highest
Middlemarch	108	25th	2000	Highest
Hawera	96	12th	1986	2nd-highest
Waiouru	106	11th	1970	2nd-highest
Kaikohe	80	11th	1986	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	130	9th	1994	3rd-highest
Alexandra	96	25th	2001	3rd-highest
Franz Josef	75	26th	2003	4th-highest
Lincoln	78	25th	1999	4th-highest
Windsor	86	25th	2001	4th-highest
Ranfurly	76	25th	2000	4th-highest
Clyde	79	25th	1983	4th-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

On the morning of 26 April, Bluff was hit by a hailstorm which left accumulating hailstones on the ground. Later in the day, a severe thunderstorm moved through the Christchurch area, bringing large hail to several locations, including Belfast, Woodend, and Christchurch Airport.

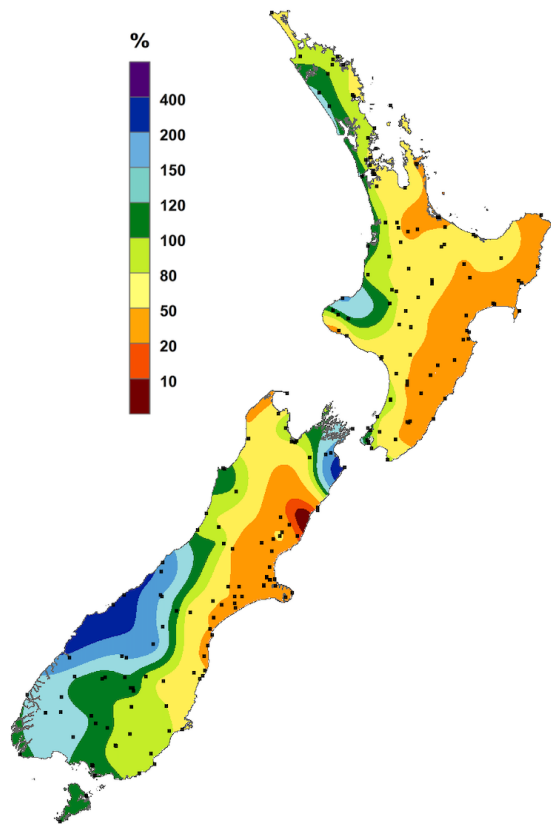
Cloud and fog

On 16 April, four flights bound for Christchurch were delayed by fog at Christchurch Airport, while three outbound flights were also delayed.

On 20 April, seven flights into and out of Christchurch Airport were cancelled due to fog.

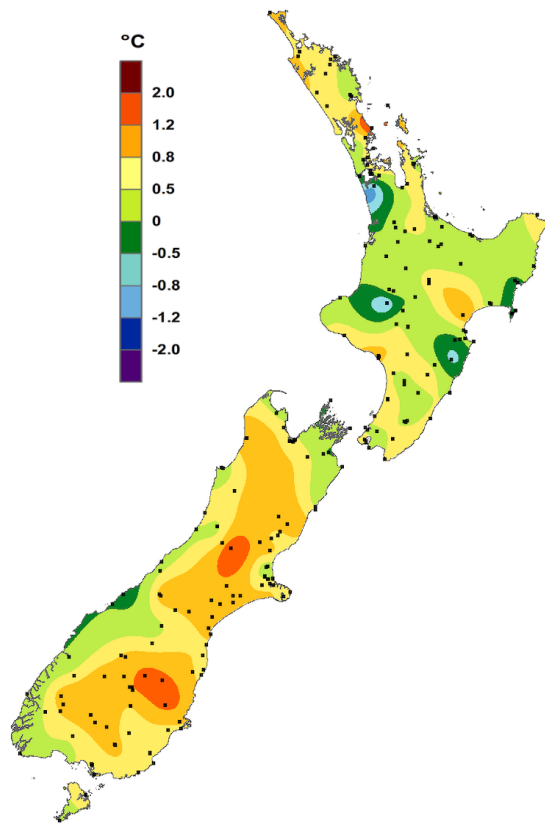
For further information, please contact:

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April rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



April temperature

Expressed as a departure from the 1991-2020 average in degrees Celsius.

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate>

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