

A dry month for most, cool for some parts of the country

Temperature	Temperatures were below average (0.51-1.20°C below average) for southwestern Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatū-Whanganui, Kāpiti Coast, Nelson, much of Marlborough, northeastern Canterbury, and parts of Central Otago. Temperatures were near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) for most remaining parts of the country.
Rainfall	Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for parts of every region. Rainfall was near normal (89-119% of normal) for much of Southland, Queenstown, Christchurch, Wellington, coastal Wairarapa, Hamilton, and Tauranga. Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) in northern parts of Northland, Wairoa, Castlepoint, and Balclutha.
Soil Moisture	At the end of August, soil moisture levels were lower than normal for central parts of Hawke's Bay. Soil moisture was higher than normal for eastern Hurunui, and eastern parts of Central Otago. Near normal soil moisture levels were typical for the remainder of the country.

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Overview

August 2025 mean sea level air pressure was higher than normal over and surrounding Aotearoa New Zealand, particularly over and to the west of the South Island. This was associated with more southeasterly winds than normal for the northern North Island, with prolonged periods of relatively fine, settled weather for much of the country. ENSO-neutral (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) conditions remained present in the tropical Pacific, but La Niña-like patterns became more established during the month. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around New Zealand were mostly above average, particularly off the west coast of the country with Marine Heatwave (MHW) conditions¹ experienced in these areas.

The nationwide average temperature in August 2025 was 8.7°C. This was 0.2°C below the 1991-2020 August average, making it New Zealand's coolest month of winter 2025. It was a relatively cool month for southwestern Waikato, Taranaki, Manawatū-Whanganui, Kāpiti Coast, Nelson,

¹ Defined as five or more consecutive days with SSTs above the 90th percentile for the time of year.

much of Marlborough, northeastern Canterbury, and parts of Central Otago, where temperatures were below average (0.51-1.20°C below average). It was an especially cold August for Taumarunui and Ohakea, where temperatures were well below average (>1.20°C below average).

Temperatures were mostly near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) remaining areas of the country. The exception was Tauranga, southwestern Fiordland, and Stewart Island, where temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average).

It was a dry August for much of the country, and rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for parts of every region. Approximately 54% of New Zealand's regularly reporting climate stations observed below normal or well below normal August rainfall. Near normal rainfall (89-119% of normal) occurred for much of Southland, Queenstown, Christchurch, Wellington, coastal Wairarapa, Hamilton, and Tauranga. Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) in northern parts of Northland, Wairoa, Castlepoint, and Balclutha.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 22.3°C, observed at Kaitaia on 28 August.
- The lowest temperature was -7.9°C, observed at Middlemarch on 4 and 5 August.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 88 mm, recorded at Kaikohe on 24 August.
- The highest wind gust was 185 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 29 August.
- Of the six main centres in August 2025, Tauranga was the warmest and sunniest, Christchurch was the coolest, Wellington was the wettest and least sunny, and Dunedin was the driest.
- The sunniest four regions in 2025 so far are Taranaki (1788 hours), Bay of Plenty (1708 hours), Auckland (1693 hours) and wider Nelson (1664 hours).

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Temperature: Mild days and cool nights

Across the country's regularly reporting climate stations, the mean daily maximum temperatures were about 0.3°C higher than average, while the mean daily minimum temperatures were about 0.5°C lower than average. This increased diurnal temperature range (i.e. the difference between daily maximum and minimum temperatures) is a hallmark of prolonged fine and settled weather in New Zealand, which was observed during August 2025. The prevalence of clear skies enables enhanced daytime heating by the sun, while clearer skies at night enhance radiational cooling, bringing lower overnight temperatures than would otherwise occur. Seven locations observed their lowest mean daily minimum temperatures for August on record.

New Zealand's coolest location relative to normal was Ohakea, where the mean temperature of 8.4°C was 1.4°C below its August normal. The country's warmest location relative to normal was Campbell Island, where the mean temperature of 6.6°C was 1.3°C above its August normal.

Record² or near-record mean air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	6.6	1.3	1991	Highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Windsor	14.2	2.0	2000	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	13.4	1.2	1985	3rd-highest
Kawerau	17.0	1.1	1954	4th-highest
Campbell Island	8.1	0.7	1991	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	5.0	1.8	1991	Highest
South West Cape	7.1	1.1	1991	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Kuiti	1.8	-2.7	1959	Lowest
Taumarunui	0.3	-2.5	1947	Lowest
Appleby	0.3	-2.0	1932	Lowest
Pukaki Aerodrome	-4.0	-2.0	1972	Lowest
Windsor	-0.5	-1.2	2000	Lowest
Middlemarch	-2.2	-1.9	2000	Lowest
Clyde	-3.2	-2.1	1978	Lowest
Palmerston North	2.9	-2.3	1928	2nd-lowest
Tara Hills	-3.0	-2.2	1949	2nd-lowest
Tūrangi	0.4	-1.7	1968	3rd-lowest
Lower Retaruke	1.7	-2.1	1966	3rd-lowest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	-1.3	-0.9	2000	3rd-lowest
Paraparaumu	3.8	-2.0	1953	3rd-lowest
Reefton	-0.5	-2.8	1960	4th-lowest

² 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: A dry month for most of the country

August 2025 was characterised by rather fine and settled weather, due to the prevalence of high mean sea level pressure over the country. Seven locations observed record or near-record low August rainfall. Perhaps most notable was Levin, which observed its second-driest August since records began in 1895. New Zealand’s driest location relative to normal was Middlemarch, where just 7 mm of rain (12% of normal) was recorded. In contrast, Kaikohe observed nearly double its normal August rainfall, with 319 mm (196% of normal) recorded.

The lack of rainfall was accompanied by ample sunshine for the month of August. Ten locations observed their highest August sunshine hour totals on record:

- Te Kuiti (177 hours)
- Taumarunui (196 hours)
- Tūrangi (197 hours)
- New Plymouth (233 hours)
- Greymouth (209 hours)
- Franz Josef (197 hours)
- Aoraki Mt Cook Village (156 hours)
- Ashburton (213 hours)
- Middlemarch (189 hours)
- Dunedin (173 hours)

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	319	196	1956	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
South West Cape	71	69	1991	Lowest
Levin	28	31	1895	2nd-lowest
Tākaka	45	24	1976	3rd-lowest
Lower Retaruke	80	49	1966	4th-lowest
Waipawa	22	36	1945	4th-lowest
Palmerston North	31	37	1928	4th-lowest
Windsor	8	24	2000	4th-lowest

August climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were above average in Tauranga, while it was a cool August for Auckland and Hamilton where temperatures were below average. It was a dry August for Auckland and Dunedin, where rainfall was below normal. August rainfall was near normal for the remaining four main centres. It was a sunny month for many main centres – Dunedin observed its highest August sunshine total on record, Auckland, Hamilton, and Tauranga’s observed their second-highest, third-highest, and fourth-highest August sunshine totals on record, respectively. Of the six main centres in August 2025, Tauranga was the warmest and sunniest, Christchurch was the coolest, Wellington was the wettest and least sunny, and Dunedin was the driest.

August 2025 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	11.1	-0.7	Below average
Tauranga ^b	11.7	+0.7	Above average
Hamilton ^c	9.0	-0.7	Below average
Wellington ^d	9.5	-0.2	Near average
Christchurch ^e	6.9	-0.4	Near average
Dunedin ^f	8.3	+0.5	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	63	53	Below normal
Tauranga ^b	128	115	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	107	90	Near normal
Wellington ^d	130	93	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	52	89	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	37	67	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	201		
Tauranga ^b	204		
Hamilton ⁱ	186		
Wellington ^d	156		
Christchurch ^e	182 ³		
Dunedin ^f	173		

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

³ Missing one day of data.

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 22.3°C, observed at Kaitaia on 28 August. The lowest temperature was -7.9°C, observed at Middlemarch on 4 and 5 August.

From 27-28 August, a warm northerly airflow delivered record or near-record high daily maximum August temperatures at 10 North Island locations.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	22.3	28th	1948	Highest
Tūrangi	19.0	27th	1968	Highest
Kawerau	22.0	28th	1954	Equal highest
Te Kuiti	20.3	27th	1959	2nd-highest
Lower Retaruke	20.0	27th	1966	2nd-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	13.8	27th	2000	2nd-highest
Taumarunui	20.0	27th	1947	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	18.2	27th	1944	Equal 3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	19.6	27th	1973	4th-highest
Te Puke	19.8	28th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Middlemarch	-7.9	4th	2000	3rd-lowest
High records or near-records				
Tiwai Point	10.3	28th	1972	Equal highest
South West Cape	11.0	7th	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Oban (Stewart Island)	10.2	28th	1975	Equal 4th-highest
Campbell Island	8.4	7th	1991	Equal 4th-highest

Rain, flooding, and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 88 mm, recorded at Kaikohe on 24 August. This was the town's 3rd-highest August daily rainfall total since records began there in 1956.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Campbell Island	34	27th	1991	Highest
Purerua	72	16th	1983	2nd-highest

Kaikohe	88	24th	1956	3rd-highest
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Wind

The highest wind gust was 185 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 29 August.

On 19 August, strong southerly winds and large swells in the Cook Strait forced the cancellation of *Bluebridge* and *Interislander* sailings.

On 31 August, strong southwesterly winds occurred over many parts of the North Island. Motorists driving over the Auckland Harbour Bridge were warned to take extra care. Auckland Airport measured a maximum gust of 115 km/h, which was its second-highest August wind gust since records began in 1971.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Te Kuiti	65	31st	2003	Highest
Clyde	104	28th	1983	Highest
Cape Reinga	141	31st	1974	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	115	31st	1971	2nd-highest
Te Puke	61	31st	1987	3rd-highest
Whatawhata	82	31st	2003	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	113	31st	1978	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	131	7th	1994	3rd-highest
Brothers Island	137	19th	1997	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	83	28th	2000	3rd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	78	31st	1994	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	157	27th	1986	4th-highest

Snow and ice

On 8 August, caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH6 between Lumsden and Kingston, and the Crown Range Road, due to snow. Farther north, snow closed SH8 between Lake Pukaki and Fairlie, and chains were required for vehicles travelling between Arthur's Pass and Otira (SH73). SH73 from Springfield to Castle Hill (Porters Pass) was closed for heavy and towing vehicles due to snow, with all other vehicles required to use chains.

On 9 August, SH73 from Springfield to Castle Hill (Porters Pass) was closed for heavy and towing vehicles due to snow. The Desert Road (SH1) was closed between Waiouru and Rangipo from 6:00-9:10 a.m. due to snow.

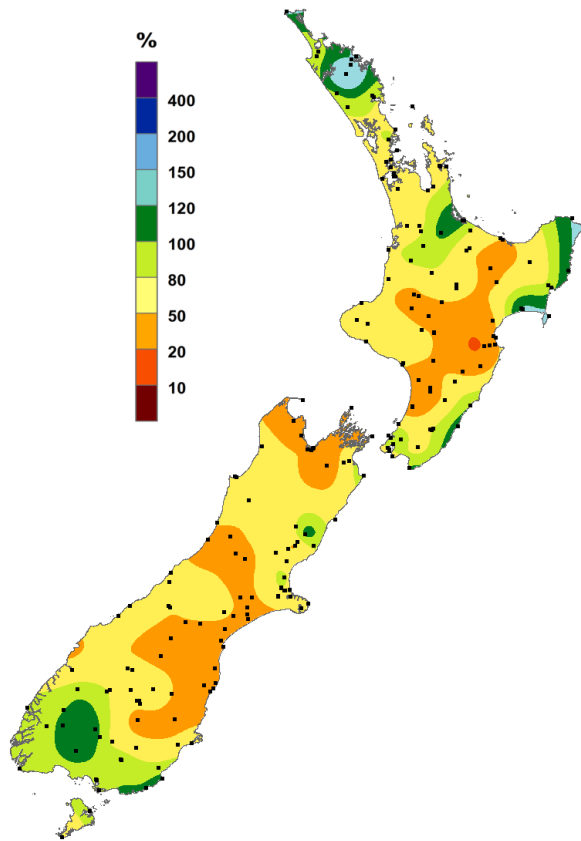
On 10 August, Desert Road (SH1) was again closed by snow between Waiouru and Rangipo.

On 19 August, the Lindis Pass (SH8) and SH8 from Fairlie to Lake Pukaki were closed due to snow, while chains were required for vehicles travelling over the Crown Range. Caution was required by motorists travelling on SH73 from Arthur's Pass to Kumara, SH85 from Palmerston to Kyeburn, and SH87 from Outram to Kyeburn due to snow.

For further information, please contact:

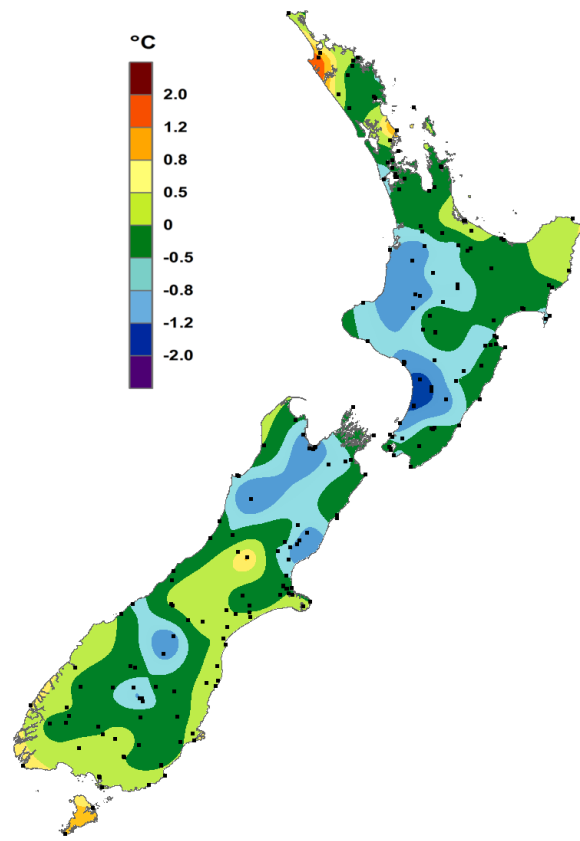
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August rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



August temperature

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

<https://earthsciences.nz/research/climate-and-weather>

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