

September 2025

Issued: 7 October 2025

A windy, warm, and damp September

Temperature	September overall has been a warm month for Aotearoa New Zealand. Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) in Canterbury, Marlborough, Tasman, Wellington, the Manawātū, most of Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Taranaki, and much of the Waikato, Auckland, and Northland. Fiordland experienced temperatures below average (0.51-1.20°C below average). The remaining parts of the country were near average for temperatures ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average).
Rainfall	Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for the east coast of both islands, mainly centred on Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, and coastal Otago. Rainfall was well above normal (>149% of normal) or above normal (120-149% of normal) for the West Coast, Southland, inland Otago, Taranaki, Waikato, and the Bay of Plenty. Elsewhere, near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) fell in September.
Soil Moisture	At the end September, soil moisture levels were lower than normal for central parts of Hawke's Bay, and isolated parts of Marlborough and northern Otago. Soil moisture was higher than normal for inland and central parts of Otago. Elsewhere, near normal soil moisture levels were typical for the remainder of the country.

Click on the link to jump to the information you require:

[Overview](#)[Temperature](#)[Rainfall](#)[September 2025 climate in the six main centres](#)[Highlights and extreme events](#)

Overview

Mean sea level air pressure was higher than normal across the top of the North Island and in the Pacific Ocean north of Aotearoa New Zealand, while low pressure was strong and persistent across the South Island. The resulting pressure gradient (difference of air pressure between low and high pressure) led to strong westerlies across the country. The westerlies were most pronounced across the South Island in September. The result was a wet and unsettled month in the west of the South Island, with multiple gale wind events in the east of the South Island. ENSO-neutral (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) conditions remained present in the tropical Pacific, but like August, 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. In contrast with August, SSTs were cooler near the southeast of the country, and SSTs were below average for many areas east of both the North Island and upper South Island.

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

The nationwide average temperature in September 2025 was 11.3°C. This is 0.8°C above the 1991-2020 September average, making it New Zealand's 6th-warmest September on record. The month was relatively warm across the entirety of the North Island. Northland and a portion of Hawke's Bay experienced the warmest weather, with temperatures well above average (>1.20°C above average). Temperatures for remaining portions of the North Island were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) except in the Central North Island, where temperatures in parts of Waikato, Manawatū, interior Hawke's Bay and inland Bay of Plenty were mostly near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average). Across the South Island, much of Canterbury and Blenheim experienced well above average temperatures in September (>1.20°C above average), while remaining parts of Marlborough, Tasman, and portions of Otago saw temperatures above average (0.51-1.20°C above average). Fiordland experienced below average temperatures (0.51-1.20°C below average). The remaining areas of the South Island had temperatures that were mostly near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average).

September was a wet month for the west and south of the South Island and the west and the north of the North Island, with drier than normal conditions for the east of the North Island and the east and the top of the South Island. Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) centred on Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Wairarapa, Cape Reinga, parts of Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, and coastal Otago. Rainfall was well above normal (>149% of normal) or above normal (120-149% of normal) for the West Coast, Southland, inland Otago, and portions of Taranaki, northern parts of the Waikato, southern Auckland, around the Bay of Islands in Northland, and a small portion of the western Bay of Plenty. Elsewhere, near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) fell in September.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 26.4°C, observed at Hastings on 28 September.
- The lowest temperature was -6.5°C, observed at Pukaki on 11 September.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 195 mm, recorded at Arthur's Pass 17 September.
- The highest wind gust was 232 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 10 September.
- Of the six main centres in September 2025, Auckland (Māngere) was the warmest, Christchurch was the driest, coolest and sunniest, Hamilton was the wettest and least sunny.
- The sunniest four regions in 2025 so far are Taranaki (1979 hours), wider Nelson (1899 hours), Bay of Plenty (1884 hours), and Auckland (1879 hours).

For further information, please contact:

Chester Lampkin

Meteorologist

Tel. 021 241 8534

Temperature: A warm start to spring

An active westerly pattern, with alternating cold fronts but regular warm spells led to above normal temperatures across most of the country. Warm and humid airmasses generally led to a warmer than average month in the North Island, with smaller diurnal temperature swings compared to August. Much of the warmth in parts of the South Island was driven by foehn wind events across Canterbury and portions of Otago and Marlborough. Four locations observed their highest mean air temperature for September, spread out across both islands.

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	14.7	1.3	1948	Highest
Kerikeri	14.2	1.0	1945	Highest
Whitianga	14.1	1.3	1962	Highest
Akaroa	12.4	1.5	1978	Highest
Cape Reinga	14.3	1.0	1951	2nd-highest
Purerua	14.4	1.1	1983	2nd-highest
Leigh	15.1	2.8	1966	2nd-highest
Whangaparāoa	14.2	1.0	1982	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	13.8	1.2	1945	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	14.2	1.1	1959	2nd-highest
Blenheim	12.7	1.5	1932	2nd-highest
Medbury	10.7	1.4	1927	2nd-highest
Dargaville	14.3	1.2	1943	3rd-highest
Whitianga	13.7	1.3	1962	3rd-highest
Whanganui	13.0	1.1	1937	3rd-highest
Brothers Island	12.6	1.0	1997	3rd-highest
Cheviot	11.1	1.6	1982	3rd-highest
Whangārei	14.3	0.8	1967	4th-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	14.2	1.2	1948	4th-highest
Tauranga	13.7	1.2	1913	4th-highest
Hāwera	11.6	1.0	1977	4th-highest
Kaikōura	11.9	1.4	1963	4th-highest
Oamaru	10.3	1.1	1967	4th-highest
Te Puke	12.9	0.9	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Purerua	18.1	1.3	1983	Highest
Whangārei	18.9	1.2	1967	Highest
Whitianga	18.5	1.0	1962	Highest
Brothers Island	14.9	1.5	1997	Highest
Kaikōura	16.4	2.6	1963	Highest
Cheviot	17.7	2.7	1982	Highest

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.

Rangiora	17.6	2.4	1965	Highest
Windsor	17.0	2.5	2000	Highest
Whangaparāoa	17.4	1.0	1982	2nd-highest
Kawerau	19.6	1.9	1954	2nd-highest
Whakatu	19.6	3.1	1965	2nd-highest
Waipawa	17.4	1.6	1945	2nd-highest
Māhia	16.6	1.7	1990	2nd-highest
Blenheim	18.3	2.0	1932	2nd-highest
Winchmore	16.7	1.9	1949	2nd-highest
Akaroa	17.6	2.4	1978	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	18.5	1.5	1948	3rd-highest
Tākaka	17.4	1.7	1978	3rd-highest
Timaru	17.0	2.5	1885	3rd-highest
Waimate	16.4	2.4	1908	3rd-highest
Oamaru	15.9	2.2	1967	3rd-highest
Tauranga	17.9	1.2	1913	4th-highest
Wellington (Airport)	15.5	1.1	1962	4th-highest
Lincoln	17.2	2.4	1881	4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	15.3	2.0	1947	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Anau	10.5	-2.4	1963	2nd-lowest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	9.1	-1.9	1971	4th-lowest

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Auckland (Whenuapai)	10.2	1.5	1945	Highest
Cape Reinga	11.9	1.0	1951	2nd-highest
Dargaville	10.9	1.1	1943	2nd-highest
Whangārei	10.7	1.1	1967	2nd-highest
Port Taharoa	11.2	1.7	1973	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	11.0	1.2	1948	3rd-highest
Purerua	10.7	0.9	1983	3rd-highest
Lower Retaruke	6.8	1.1	1966	3rd-highest
Ohakune	5.5	1.8	1962	3rd-highest
Whanganui	9.5	1.4	1937	3rd-highest
Medbury	5.0	1.2	1927	3rd-highest
Kerikeri	9.8	1.4	1945	4th-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	10.4	1.2	1948	4th-highest
Pukekohe	9.5	1.1	1969	4th-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	1.7	1.0	2000	4th-highest
Ngawi	10.6	1.1	1972	4th-highest
Whanganui	9.4	1.4	1937	4th-highest
Culverden	5.3	1.3	1928	4th-highest
Whitianga	9.7	1.7	1962	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Windsor	1.4	-1.5	2000	Lowest

Rainfall: A wet and windy month

September 2025 was a wet and windy month for New Zealand, with high mean sea level pressure over the top of the North Island and low mean sea level pressure south and southwest of the South Island. The wettest locations were in the south and west of the South Island, with multiple wind events that impacted the broader South Island, especially about Otago and Canterbury. Seven locations observed record or near-record high September rainfall. Queenstown observed considerably more than double its normal September rainfall, with 200 mm (321% of normal) recorded. In contrast, New Zealand's driest location relative to normal was Middlemarch, where just 12 mm of rain (26 percent of normal) was recorded.

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Tiwai Point	203	238	1970	Highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	852	227	1971	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	225	200	1992	2nd-highest
Mt Cook Village	797	221	1928	3rd-highest
Five Rivers	137	211	1982	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	94	249	1949	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Masterton	19	27	1926	3rd-lowest

September climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were above average in five of the six main centres of the country in September, the exception was Hamilton, with near normal temperatures. Tauranga and Hamilton experienced a wet month, while Wellington and Dunedin received near normal amounts of rain. Rain was below normal for Auckland and Christchurch. Additionally, September was a sunny month, with five of the six main centres experiencing above average sunshine, the exception being Tauranga. Of the six main centres in September 2025, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch was the driest, coolest and sunniest, Hamilton was the wettest and least sunny.

September 2025 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	14.2	+1.2	Above average
Tauranga ^b	13.7	+1.2	Above average
Hamilton ^c	11.9	+0.5	Near average
Wellington ^d	11.5	+0.6	Above average
Christchurch ^e	10.2	+0.9	Above average
Dunedin ^f	10.5	+1.0	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	90	83	Below normal
Tauranga ^b	118	136	Above normal
Hamilton ^c	141	135	Above normal
Wellington ^d	103	95	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	32	76	Below normal
Dunedin ^f	46	98	Near normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	186		
Tauranga ^b	176 ³		
Hamilton ^g	157		
Wellington ^d	197		
Christchurch ^e	247		
Dunedin ^f	194		

^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 26.4°C, observed at Hastings on 28 September. The lowest temperature was -6.5°C, observed at Pukaki on 11 September.

From 28-29 September, a warm northerly airflow delivered record or near-record high daily maximum September temperatures at eight North Island locations.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Purerua	24.1	28th	1983	Highest
Māhia	23.8	28th	1990	Highest
Diamond Harbour	23.9	17th	2004	Highest
Kawerau	25.2	28th	1954	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	20.0	15th	1997	2nd-highest
Whangārei	23.6	29th	1967	3rd-highest
Whakatāne	23.0	16th	1975	3rd-highest
Waipawa	24.5	28th	1945	3rd-highest
Winchmore	25.2	17th	1949	3rd-highest
Hastings	26.4	28th	1965	3rd-highest
Whitianga	22.6	28th	1962	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	20.0	16th	1928	4th-highest
Hāwera	19.4	28th	1977	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Waipawa	-3.2	9th	1945	2nd-lowest
Pukaki Airport	-6.5	11th	1972	3rd-lowest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	-6.1	20th	2000	4th-lowest
High records or near-records				
New Plymouth	14.8	29th	1944	Highest
Masterton	15.0	29th	1943	Highest
Paraparaumu	14.6	29th	1972	Highest
Levin	14.5	29th	1950	Highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	13.4	29th	1931	Highest
Wellington (Airport)	15.0	29th	1972	Highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	14.6	29th	1972	Highest
Stratford	12.6	29th	1972	Highest
Brothers Island	13.7	29th	1997	Highest
Kaikōura	15.1	18th	1972	Highest

Lower Retaruke	13.1	24th	1972	Equal highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	7.8	24th	2000	2nd-highest
Paraparaumu	14.3	29th	1972	2nd-highest
Ngawi	15.8	29th	1972	Equal 2nd-highest
Ohakune	11.8	24th	1972	Equal 2nd-highest
Whanganui	15.6	23rd	1972	Equal 2nd-highest
Whakatāne	15.0	24th	1975	3rd-highest
Waikeria	14.5	24th	1972	3rd-highest
Gisborne	16.1	29th	1940	3rd-highest
Purerua	15.4	23rd	1983	Equal 3rd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	15.6	29th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	14.9	24th	1974	Equal 3rd-highest
Waipawa	12.9	29th	1945	Equal 3rd-highest
Waiau	15.1	17th	1974	Equal 3rd-highest
Matatā	13.8	24th	1999	4th-highest
Gisborne	15.9	29th	1940	4th-highest
Whanganui	15.4	23rd	1972	4th-highest
Blenheim	14.8	17th	1947	4th-highest
Cheviot	13.1	18th	1982	4th-highest
Queenstown	11.0	17th	1871	4th-highest
Whatawhata	14.0	29th	1952	Equal 4th-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	14.4	24th	1940	Equal 4th-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	14.3	24th	1946	Equal 4th-highest
Te Kuiti	14.0	24th	1959	Equal 4th-highest
Tautuku	10.5	17th	1976	Equal 4th-highest

Rain, flooding, and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 195 mm, recorded at Arthur's Pass on 17 September.

On 17 September, SH6 was closed between Haast and Makarora due to surface flooding. In Queenstown, the One Mile Creek roundabout and nearby roads were closed after a blocked culvert caused surface flooding.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Arapito	86	5th	1978	2nd-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	53	22nd	1928	3rd-highest

Wind

The highest wind gust was 232 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 10 September.

On 5 September, strong winds caused the closure of SH2 at Remutaka Hill, while several flights at Wellington Airport were cancelled, delayed, or diverted.

On 14 September, approximately 13,500 customers were without power in Coromandel and the western Bay of Plenty after strong winds brought down trees and power lines.

On 17 September, strong northwesterly winds occurred throughout the South Island and lower North Island. A tree fell on a power line in Mosgiel, causing a power outage for approximately 350 customers. Farther north, high winds rolled a truck near Staveley (Ashburton District, Canterbury).

On 21 September, strong winds brought down trees onto power lines in parts of Canterbury, causing power outages for customers in Arthurs Pass, Bealey, Cass, Craigieburn, Flock Hill, Lake Grasmere, Mt White, Ōrari, Orton, Rangitata Island, Temuka, Winchester, Hunter, Makikihi, Ōtaio, Jacksons Bush, Geraldine Flat and Geraldine. In Wellington, power outages occurred in Newlands and Paparangi. KiwiRail cancelled its TranzAlpine service due to severe weather.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Taupō	89	13th	1982	Highest
Tūrangi	129	24th	1973	Highest
Stratford	91	13th	2002	Highest
Secretary Island	163	21st	1994	Highest
Te Puke	73	14th	1987	2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	102	13th	1973	2nd-highest
Winchmore	111	17th	1970	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	165	21st	1986	3rd-highest
Mt Cook Airport	135	17th	2000	3rd-highest
Rangiora	95	5th	1999	3rd-highest
Bromley	85	10th	1972	3rd-highest
Lake Tekapo	111	20th	2003	3rd-highest
Windsor	98	17th	2001	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	97	17th	2000	4th-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

On 5 September, lightning struck a block of flats in the Mt Victoria suburb of Wellington.

On 17 September, thunderstorms occurred over much of Fiordland, southern Westland, and the headwaters of the Otago and Canterbury lakes and rivers. Six Queenstown properties on Spence Road were without power for several hours after a lightning strike caused an outage.

Snow and ice

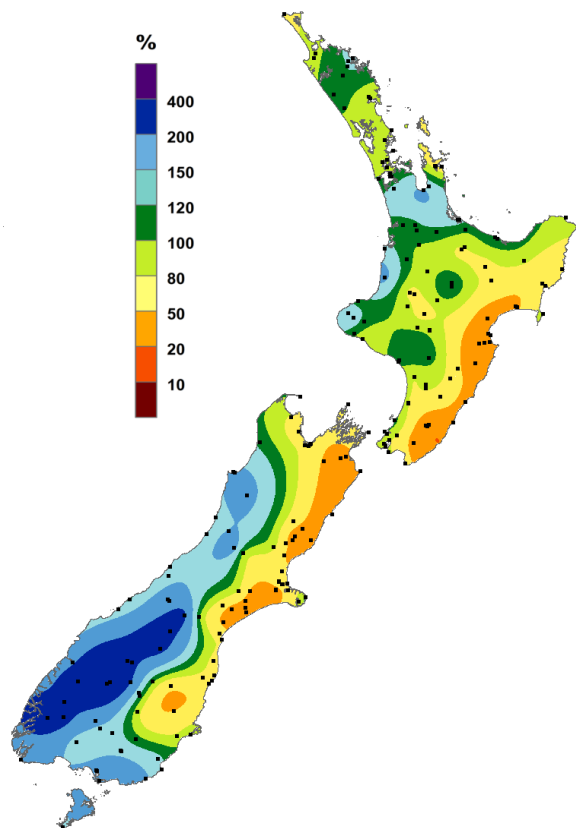
Overnight from 9-10 September, the Milford Rd (SH94) was closed due to snow and avalanche risk. On 10 September, SH73 was closed between Otira and Arthurs Pass due to snow.

For further information, please contact:

Chester Lampkin

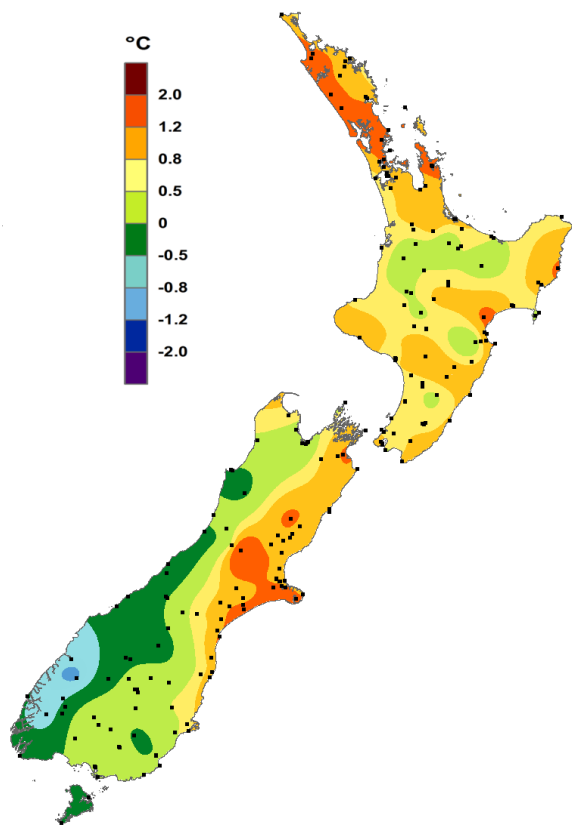
Meteorologist

Tel. 021 241 8534



September rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



September temperature

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

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

© Copyright Earth Sciences New Zealand 2025.

All rights reserved. Information presented in this summary is based on data available at the time of publication, which is subject to ongoing quality assurance procedures.