

October 2025

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October weather dominated by wind

Temperature	Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) in the entire North Island, Marlborough, Tasman, and Canterbury. Fiordland, parts of lower Westland, and interior Otago 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 well above normal (>149% of normal) or above normal (120-149% of normal) for Southland, Otago, the West Coast, South Canterbury, Banks Peninsula, Auckland, the Waikato, about the Tararua Range, the ranges in the Bay of Plenty, most of the Manawatū, and northern Taranaki. Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for Central Hawke's Bay, eastern Northland, coastal Bay of Plenty, Marlborough, and North and Mid-Canterbury. Elsewhere, near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) fell in October.
Soil Moisture	At the end of October, soil moisture levels were lower than normal along the east of the North Island, from Central Hawke's Bay to the Wellington region, and eastern portions of Marlborough and Canterbury. Soil moisture was higher than normal across much of Otago, much of Southland, the lower West Coast, eastern Tasman, western Wellington, coastal Manawatū, about Auckland, western Northland, and northern Waikato. Near normal soil moisture levels were typical for the remainder of the country.

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Overview

A sudden stratospheric warming event that occurred in September had a large impact on October's weather across Aotearoa New Zealand. Displaced air masses from the sudden stratospheric warming event led to mean sea level air pressure that was lower than normal across both the North and South Island of New Zealand, with the strongest negative anomaly across the South Island. In general, high pressure was persistent to the north and northeast of the country. This pressure gradient led to strong westerlies across the whole of New Zealand. The result was a wet and unsettled month, with multiple severe gale wind events in the east and south of the South Island and parts of the lower and eastern North Island. Of particular note was a wind event and storm system on 23 October that caused widespread wind damage to parts of the South Island and that broke several temperature records for October. ENSO-neutral (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) conditions transitioned to La Niña during the month of October. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) around the north and west of the North Island were mostly above average,

with Marine Heatwave (MHW) conditions¹ experienced mainly in the North Island. Meanwhile across the east coast of New Zealand and the lower west coast of the South Island, SSTs cooled further, and were slightly below average for these areas.

The nationwide average temperature in October 2025 was 13.1°C. This is .94°C above the 1991-2020 October average, making it New Zealand's 10th warmest October on record. October was another warm month overall for most of New Zealand. Temperatures were well above average (>1.20°C above average) in Northland, Auckland, most of the Waikato, the Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, most of the Manawatū, and Wellington, and were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) for the remainder of the North Island. For the South Island, Fiordland, parts of lower Westland around Haast, and interior Otago experienced temperatures below average (0.51-1.20°C below average), with a few pockets of Westland and Fiordland experiencing temperatures well below average (>1.20°C below average). Most of Marlborough, western Tasman, and the low country of Canterbury recorded temperatures well above average (>1.20°C above average) in October. The high country of Canterbury, the far northern part of Otago, remaining Tasman and Marlborough experienced temperatures above average (0.51-1.20°C above average). The remaining areas of the South Island had temperatures that were mostly near average (±0.50°C of average).

Spring continued its wet lean, as October was wet across the west and south of the South Island and across interior portions of the North Island. In the South Island, rainfall was well above normal (>149% of normal) for most of Southland, a majority of Otago, lower Westland, and inland portions of South Canterbury, and above normal (120-149% of normal) for eastern Southland, coastal Otago, much of the remaining the West Coast except near Karamea, about Banks Peninsula, and the northwest of the Tasman district. Conversely, October rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) in the low country of North and Mid-Canterbury, and Marlborough from Blenheim southward, with a small portion in Canterbury near Culverden experiencing well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall in October. In the North Island, rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) for most of Auckland, the Waikato except Taupō, the Coromandel Peninsula, about the Tararua Range, the foothills and ranges in the Bay of Plenty, most of the Manawatū, and northern Taranaki. Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) for Central Hawke's Bay around Hastings, eastern Northland north of Whangārei, coastal Bay of Plenty from Whakatāne to Tauranga, and about Cape Palliser. Elsewhere in the North Island, near normal rainfall (80-119% of normal) fell in October.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 32.5°C, observed at Kaikōura (Middle Creek) on 23 October, and was the second highest October temperature ever recorded for New Zealand.
- The lowest temperature was -5.7°C, observed at Middelmarsh on 2 October.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 226 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 20 October.
- The highest wind gust was 252 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 21 October.
- Of the six main centres in October 2025, Tauranga was the warmest, Dunedin was the coolest, Christchurch was the driest and sunniest, Hamilton was the wettest, Wellington was the least sunny.
- The sunniest four regions in 2025 so far are Taranaki (2150 hours), wider Nelson (2126 hours), Marlborough (2105 hours), and Bay of Plenty (2083 hours).

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

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Temperature: October warmth

The active westerly pattern from September continued through all of October, with alternating cold fronts but regular and long warm spells which led to above normal temperatures across most of the country. Like September, warm and humid airmasses generally led to a warmer than average month in the North Island, with much of the warmth in the east of the North and South Island was driven by foehn wind events across Hawke's Bay, Canterbury, North Otago, and Marlborough. Colder than normal weather dominated in the southwest of the South Island. Seventeen locations observed their highest mean air temperature for October, mainly in the North Island, Raoul and Chatham Islands.

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	16.2	2.0	1948	Highest
Kerikeri	16.2	1.8	1945	Highest
Kaikohe	15.2	1.5	1973	Highest
Leigh	16.9	3.3	1966	Highest
Whangaparāoa	16.2	1.6	1982	Highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	15.4	1.5	1945	Highest
Whitianga	16.4	2.1	1962	Highest
Tauranga	16.3	2.0	1913	Highest
Te Puke	15.4	1.8	1973	Highest
Kawerau	16.3	2.0	1954	Highest
Auckland (Airport)	16.3	1.7	1959	Highest
Dannevirke	13.9	2.3	1951	Highest
Gisborne	16.6	1.9	1905	Highest
Whanganui	15.0	1.6	1937	Highest
Brothers Island	13.7	1.1	1997	Highest
Raoul Island	19.4	1.5	1991	Highest
Chatham Island	12.8	1.7	1878	Highest
Purerua	15.9	1.4	1983	2nd-highest
Mokohinau Island	16.1	1.1	1994	2nd-highest
Whitianga	15.9	1.9	1962	2nd-highest
Rotorua	13.5	1.6	1964	2nd-highest
Motu	12.6	2.1	1990	2nd-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	14.9	1.8	1906	2nd-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.

Tūrangi	12.4	1.2	1968	2nd-highest
Masterton	13.9	1.2	1906	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	15.5	1.6	1969	2nd-highest
Blenheim	15.1	2.0	1932	2nd-highest
Kaikōura	14.0	2.1	1963	2nd-highest
Cheviot	13.3	1.8	1982	2nd-highest
Waipara West	13.7	1.8	1973	2nd-highest
Le Bons Bay	11.9	1.4	1984	2nd-highest
Oamaru	12.1	1.4	1967	2nd-highest
Kerikeri	15.7	1.6	1945	3rd-highest
Dargaville	15.9	1.6	1943	3rd-highest
Whangārei	16.3	1.3	1967	3rd-highest
Pukekohe	15.1	1.5	1969	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	15.2	1.2	1973	3rd-highest
Ngawi	14.9	1.1	1972	3rd-highest
Napier	15.9	2.2	1870	3rd-highest
Hastings	15.9	2.2	1965	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	14.0	1.5	1953	3rd-highest
Hāwera	13.4	1.4	1977	3rd-highest
Hanmer Forest	12.4	2.2	1906	3rd-highest
Akaroa	14.1	1.7	1978	3rd-highest
Windsor	11.6	1.3	2000	3rd-highest
Whangārei	16.3	2.0	1967	4th-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	14.4	1.4	1946	4th-highest
Waiau	13.1	1.2	1974	4th-highest
Rangiora	12.9	1.7	1965	4th-highest
Middlemarch	10.9	0.8	2000	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	7.6	-1.3	1971	3rd-lowest

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Raoul Island	22.1	1.3	1991	Highest
Purerua	19.5	1.4	1983	Highest
Whitianga	20.8	1.5	1962	Highest
Te Puke	20.1	1.6	1973	Highest
Rotorua	18.2	1.8	1964	Highest
Tākaka	19.6	1.8	1978	Highest
Whangaparāoa	19.9	1.9	1982	Highest
Whangārei	21.4	2.1	1967	Highest
Tauranga	20.6	2.1	1913	Highest
Chatham Island	16.9	2.4	1878	Highest
Kawerau	23.1	3.1	1954	Highest
Hastings	23.0	3.7	1965	Highest
Brothers Island	15.7	1.0	1997	2nd-highest

Kaikohe	18.8	1.6	1973	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	19.5	1.6	1959	2nd-highest
Kerikeri	21.1	1.8	1945	2nd-highest
Gisborne	21.9	1.8	1905	2nd-highest
Blenheim	20.4	2.0	1932	2nd-highest
Oamaru	17.6	2.2	1967	2nd-highest
Windsor	18.5	2.4	2000	2nd-highest
Kaikōura	18.5	3.0	1963	2nd-highest
Napier	22.2	3.4	1870	2nd-highest
Whakatu	22.9	4.4	1965	2nd-highest
Appleby	18.4	1.1	1932	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	19.1	1.2	1945	3rd-highest
Hāwera	16.9	1.4	1977	3rd-highest
Cheviot	19.3	1.7	1982	3rd-highest
Le Bons Bay	15.7	1.7	1984	3rd-highest
Leigh	21.0	3.3	1966	3rd-highest
Mokohinau Island	17.9	0.8	1994	4th-highest
Hicks Bay	18.4	1.3	1969	4th-highest
Whangārei	20.5	1.5	1967	4th-highest
Akaroa	19.1	2.0	1978	4th-highest
Wairoa	21.5	2.1	1964	4th-highest
Motu	17.5	2.3	1990	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Anau	11.8	-3.0	1963	Lowest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	10.9	-2.3	1971	2nd-lowest
Mt Cook Village	11.2	-2.8	1929	3rd-lowest

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	12.8	2.2	1948	Highest
Kaikohe	11.7	1.6	1973	Highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	10.6	2.5	1906	Highest
Port Taharoa	13.0	2.0	1973	Highest
Gisborne	11.2	1.9	1905	Highest
Levin	11.0	2.1	1895	Highest
Ohakune	7.5	2.2	1962	Highest
Brothers Island	11.6	1.2	1997	Highest
Culverden	8.1	2.6	1928	Highest
Waipara West	8.7	2.2	1973	Highest
Kerikeri	11.3	1.8	1945	2nd-highest
Mokohinau Island	14.3	1.4	1994	2nd-highest
Whitianga	11.9	2.6	1962	2nd-highest
Tauranga	12.0	2.0	1913	2nd-highest

Taupō	8.6	2.2	1949	2nd-highest
New Plymouth	11.1	1.9	1944	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	9.8	2.4	1951	2nd-highest
Ngawi	12.1	1.5	1972	2nd-highest
Paraparaumu	11.3	2.1	1953	2nd-highest
Hāwera	9.9	1.4	1977	2nd-highest
Whanganui	11.3	1.7	1937	2nd-highest
Blenheim	9.7	1.8	1932	2nd-highest
Cheviot	7.3	1.8	1982	2nd-highest
Raoul Island	16.8	1.8	1991	2nd-highest
Dargaville	12.3	1.3	1943	3rd-highest
Purerua	12.2	1.4	1983	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	11.6	1.6	1945	3rd-highest
Te Puke	10.7	2.0	1973	3rd-highest
Motu	7.8	2.0	1990	3rd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	13.1	1.8	1959	3rd-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	10.3	2.2	1946	3rd-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	3.2	1.3	2000	3rd-highest
Hicks Bay	12.6	1.8	1969	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	11.0	1.9	1953	3rd-highest
Kaikōura	9.5	1.3	1963	3rd-highest
Waiau	7.5	2.0	1974	3rd-highest
Akaroa	9.1	1.4	1978	3rd-highest
Middlemarch	5.1	1.5	2000	3rd-highest
Whangārei	12.1	1.2	1967	4th-highest
Whangaparāoa	12.6	1.4	1982	4th-highest
Whitianga	11.7	2.0	1962	4th-highest
Pukekohe	11.5	1.8	1969	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Rainfall: Windy and wet spring weather continues

October 2025 was a continuation of the wet and windy weather of September, with low mean sea level pressure centred south and over the South Island and high mean sea level pressure to the north and northeast of the North Island. This pressure difference brought multiple storms across the country, which produced several heavy rain and wind events. Six locations recorded their wettest ever October. Tara Hills, Otago recorded 142 mm of rain for the month, which is more than three times its normal rain (339% of normal). Milford Sound, known for its wet weather, recorded its second highest October rainfall ever, with 1313 mm of rain. In contrast, New Zealand's driest location relative to normal was Cheviot, which recorded 33 mm of rain for October (47% of normal).

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Port Taharoa	222	261	1973	Highest
Pūkaki	173	312	1972	Highest
Tara Hills	142	339	1949	Highest
Ranfurly	102	275	1897	Highest
Cromwell	91	266	1949	Highest
Campbell Island	211	185	1992	Highest
Haast	594	202	1941	2nd-highest
Milford Sound	1313	213	1929	2nd-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	882	234	1971	2nd-highest
Five Rivers	147	170	1982	2nd-highest
Lauder	99	278	1924	2nd-highest
Clyde	88	254	1978	2nd-highest
Taupō	210	282	1949	3rd-highest
Manapouri	257	228	1961	3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	173	174	1970	3rd-highest
Lake Moeraki	660	164	1985	4th-highest
Mt Cook Village	966	245	1928	4th-highest
Queenstown	180	288	1871	4th-highest
Alexandra	88	278	1922	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

October climate in the six main centres

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

October 2025 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	15.7 ³	+1.2	Above average
Tauranga ^b	16.3	+2.0	Above average
Hamilton ^c	14.4	+1.4	Above average
Wellington ^d	12.9	+0.8	Above average
Christchurch ^e	12.6	+1.3	Above average
Dunedin ^f	10.8	+0.4	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	113	139	Above normal
Tauranga ^b	72	90	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	174	176	Above normal
Wellington ^d	110	93	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	49	99	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	95	160	Above normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	183		
Tauranga ^b	199 ⁴		
Hamilton ^g	163		
Wellington ^d	160		
Christchurch ^e	243		
Dunedin ^f	214		

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

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 32.5°C, observed at Kaikōura on 23 October, the second highest October temperature on record for New Zealand. The lowest temperature was -5.7°C, observed at Middlesmarch on 2 October.

October started off with a cold airmass behind a strong cold front, which led to nine locations recording record or near-record low daily minimums from 1 to 2 October. On 23 October, a warm north-westerly airflow and foehn winds delivered record or near-record high daily maximum October temperatures at ten North Island locations. Four of those locations, Kaikōura (Middle Creek), Hastings, Kaikōura (Peninsula), and Whakatu all rank in the New Zealand top ten hottest recorded temperatures for October.

³ Missing one day of data.

⁴ Missing one day of data.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikōura	31.8	23rd	1963	Highest
Whakatu	31.6	23rd	1965	Highest
Hastings	32.1	23rd	1965	Highest
Whangārei	26.9	23rd	1967	Highest
Leigh 2	25.4	23rd	1966	Highest
Kaitaia	24.5	23rd	1948	Highest
Whangaparāoa	24.0	20th	1982	Highest
Whangārei	26.3	23rd	1967	2nd-highest
Cape Reinga	21.6	20th	1951	Equal 2nd-highest
Kaikohe	22.9	23rd	1973	Equal 2nd-highest
Cheviot	28.5	23rd	1982	3rd-highest
Diamond Harbour	26.6	11th	2004	3rd-highest
Chatham Island	20.7	11th	1878	3rd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	23.3	23rd	1959	Equal 3rd-highest
Māhia	24.9	11th	1990	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Middlemarch	6.5	27th	2000	Lowest
Haast	8.4	2nd	1949	2nd-lowest
Waipounamu	6.6	27th	1980	2nd-lowest
Reefton	8.5	2nd	1972	3rd-lowest
Te Anau	5.3	2nd	1973	3rd-lowest
Five Rivers	6.0	27th	1982	3rd-lowest
Clyde	6.5	27th	1978	3rd-lowest
Puysegur Point	8.2	27th	1978	4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Middlemarch	-5.7	2nd	2000	Lowest
Waipounamu	-2.3	2nd	1980	Lowest
Le Bons Bay	0.7	2nd	1984	2nd-lowest
Windsor	-3.2	2nd	2000	2nd-lowest
Oamaru	-1.7	2nd	1967	2nd-lowest
Māhia	4.4	2nd	1990	Equal 3rd-lowest
Diamond Harbour	1.8	29th	2004	Equal 3rd-lowest
Puysegur Point	2.5	2nd	1978	4th-lowest
Alexandra	-3.6	2nd	1929	4th-lowest
South West Cape	1.2	1st	1991	4th-lowest
High records or near-records				
Takapau Plains	15.8	12th	1972	Highest
Waipawa	16.3	12th	1945	Highest

Brothers Island	14.3	12th	1997	Highest
Kaikōura	16.7	12th	1972	Highest
Cheviot	17.7	12th	1982	Highest
Raoul Island	20.9	28th	1992	Highest
Whangaparāoa	16.9	22nd	1982	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	16.4	14th	1951	2nd-highest
Matamata	15.4	13th	1999	2nd-highest
Te Puke	16.1	14th	1973	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	16.5	23rd	1972	2nd-highest
Waiau	17.2	12th	1974	2nd-highest
Diamond Harbour	16.2	10th	2004	2nd-highest
Cape Reinga	16.0	23rd	1971	Equal 2nd-highest
Akaroa	16.6	12th	1978	Equal 2nd-highest
Leigh	16.7	22nd	1966	3rd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	17.1	14th	1971	3rd-highest
Motu	13.4	14th	1990	3rd-highest
Lower Retaruke	14.8	12th	1972	3rd-highest
Culverden	17.7	12th	1930	3rd-highest
Waipara West	17.3	12th	1973	3rd-highest
Windsor	13.5	9th	2000	3rd-highest
Māhia	15.5	11th	1990	Equal 3rd-highest
Mt Ruapehu, Chateau	9.2	14th	2000	4th-highest
Gisborne	18.2	14th	1940	4th-highest
Napier	19.0	12th	1940	4th-highest
Whakatu	17.7	12th	1972	4th-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	15.6	11th	1972	4th-highest
Kaitaia	17.2	23rd	1948	Equal 4th-highest
Dargaville	16.7	22nd	1951	Equal 4th-highest
Whangārei	17.2	14th	1967	Equal 4th-highest
Whitianga	17.0	14th	1971	Equal 4th-highest
Blenheim	16.3	12th	1947	Equal 4th-highest

Rain, flooding, and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 226 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 20 October.

On 5 October, SH90 from Tapanui to Waikoikoi was closed due to flooding at the Pomahaka River Bridge.

On 10 October, emergency operations centre was activated on West Coast amid slips, flooding. New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) said heavy rain had caused slips and flooding had closed sections of state highways on the West Coast. SH 67 was closed between Mōkihinui to Karamea Bluff due to a slip.

Also on 10 October, Grey Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre was activated at 11 am Friday, and SH7 between Stillwater and Ngahere was closed due to flooding.

On 13-14 October, flooding occurred in the Central North Island. Heavy impacts were felt in the

Waikato/Waitomo. A mum and kids rescued after waking to find home surrounded by flood in central North Island. And in the Central North Island townships of Matiere and Tokorima were cut off because of flooding and slips.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Akaroa	75	5th	1977	Highest
Taupō	66	13th	1949	2nd-highest
Port Taharoa	62	13th	1973	2nd-highest
Taupō Airport	60	13th	1949	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	37	20th	1949	3rd-highest
Campbell Island	26	6th	1991	Equal 3rd-highest
Mt Ruapehu, Chateau	74	27th	2000	4th-highest
Ranfurly	34	4th	1897	4th-highest

Drought, dryness, and fire

Strong winds impacted much of the country 21-22 October, which led to several fires in Hawke's Bay. In Kaikōura, multiple fires fanned by fierce winds destroyed 14 buildings, including five houses, but firefighters were able to save another five homes.

Another significant storm hit on 23 October. Fire destroyed a Kaikōura spiritual retreat. There were multiple large fires in Kaikōura, as schools and homes were evacuated. Homes, and a hotel was evacuated as fire crews struggled to reach Hanmer Springs blaze.

Wind

The highest wind gust was 252 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 21 October.

Strong winds impacted much of the country 21-22 October. A man was killed by branch in Wellington wind. 10,000 lost power, schools and businesses closed as wind slammed the Wairarapa.

Rocky landings, anxiety and queues as Wellington winds cancelled numerous flights. Air New Zealand had a pause on all flights in and out of the capital from early morning through 1 pm on 21 October.

Another significant storm hit on 23 October. Roofs were damaged and over 1600 were without power in severe Hanmer Springs wind.

In Southland and Clutha, a state of emergency was declared, which lasted for two weeks, as water sources were hit as wind and rain cut power. Invercargill's Queens Park suffered major damage as violent winds uprooted massive trees, in a storm that swept the South Island. The storm knocked out supplies to more than 25,000 properties. Emergency Management Southland said many parks, reserves, cemeteries and playgrounds in Invercargill, Bluff, and the Southland District remained closed as of 5 November 2025. Southland District Council had an estimated 15,000 trees to assess with more than 1000 deemed safe and another 60 needing some work.

Invercargill City Council estimated more than 1000 trees were potentially damaged and many parks and reserves needed a clean-up.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Te Puke	68	28th	1987	Highest
Franz Josef	91	23rd	2003	Highest
Cape Campbell	133	21st	1963	Highest
Hanmer Forest	126	23rd	1995	Highest
Bromley	101	23rd	1972	Highest
Lincoln	97	27th	1999	Highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	119	23rd	1981	Highest
Manapouri	102	23rd	1991	Highest
Gore	124	23rd	1987	Highest
South West Cape	194	23rd	1991	Highest
Martinborough	113	23rd	2001	2nd-highest
Milford Sound	125	23rd	1974	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	152	23rd	1997	2nd-highest
Mt Cook Airport	156	23rd	2000	2nd-highest
Invercargill	137	23rd	1972	2nd-highest
Motu	101	27th	1991	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	124	23rd	1972	3rd-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	93	21st	1999	3rd-highest
Reefton	55	23rd	1999	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	161	23rd	1986	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	100	23rd	1985	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	92	23rd	2000	3rd-highest
Middlemarch	114	20th	2000	3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	147	23rd	1971	3rd-highest
Castlepoint	167	21st	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Dannevirke	98	21st	1961	4th-highest
Milford Sound	111	23rd	1974	4th-highest
Mt Cook	140	23rd	2000	4th-highest
Winchmore	104	23rd	1970	4th-highest
Rangiora	87	23rd	1999	4th-highest
Wānaka	83	23rd	1992	4th-highest
Windsor	98	20th	2001	4th-highest
Oamaru	95	23rd	1984	4th-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

On 5 October, a tornado struck near SH30 in Awakeri (near Whakatāne). Several properties were damaged including losing parts of their roofs.

On 6 October, an Air NZ flight was hit by lightning while flying from Auckland to Dunedin.

On 28 October, lightning and hail were reported for many suburbs in Wellington during the northward passage of a cold front.

Snow and ice

On 1 October, snow fell to low elevations over southern parts of the South Island. Several roads were closed due to snow including SH85 from Morrisons to Kyeburn, SH87 from Middlemarch to Outram, and the Milford Road (SH94). Caution was advised to motorists travelling on Dunedin's Northern Motorway (SH1) and the Crown Range Road between Queenstown and Wānaka due to snow. The Remarkables ski area near Queenstown reported 20 cm of new snow.

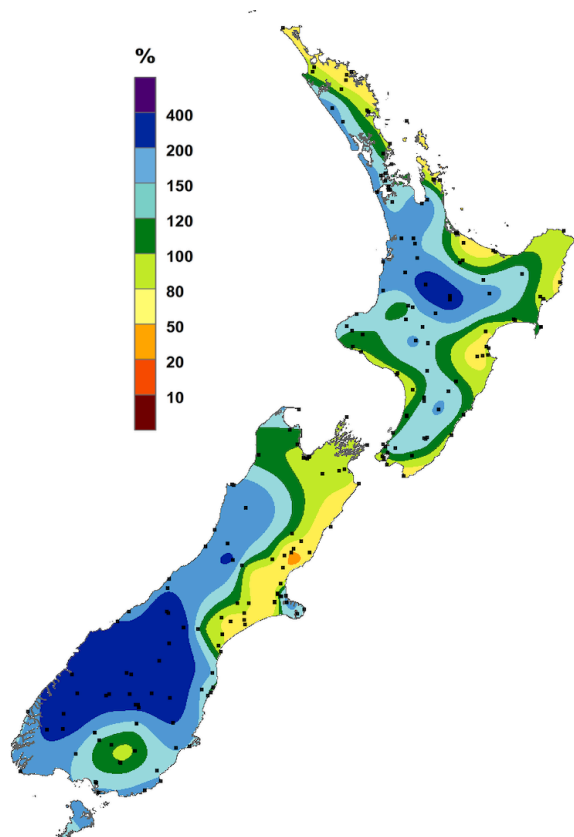
From 27-28 October, heavy snow fell over inland parts of the South Island, with snow and sleet showers reported to near sea level along eastern parts of Otago and Canterbury on the morning of 28 October. Heaviest snowfalls occurred in parts of the Mackenzie Country and the Maniototo. Approximately 30 cm of snow was recorded at Mount Cook Village, with around 5 cm of snow at Lake Hayes Estate (Queenstown), while 45 cm of snow was reported on the road to the Remarkables ski area near Queenstown. Numerous roads were closed due to snow, including SH80 from Aoraki-Mount Cook to Lake Pūkaki, SH79 from Geraldine to Fairlie, SH8 from Fairlie to Twizel, SH8 from Tarras to Ōmārama, SH82 from Waimate to Kurow, SH83 from Ōmārama to Kurow, SH87 from Kyeburn to Mosgiel, SH1 from Dunedin to Palmerston, the Milford Road (SH94), SH6 from Haast to Makarora, and the Crown Range Road between Cardrona Village and Crown Terrace.

For further information, please contact:

Chester Lampkin

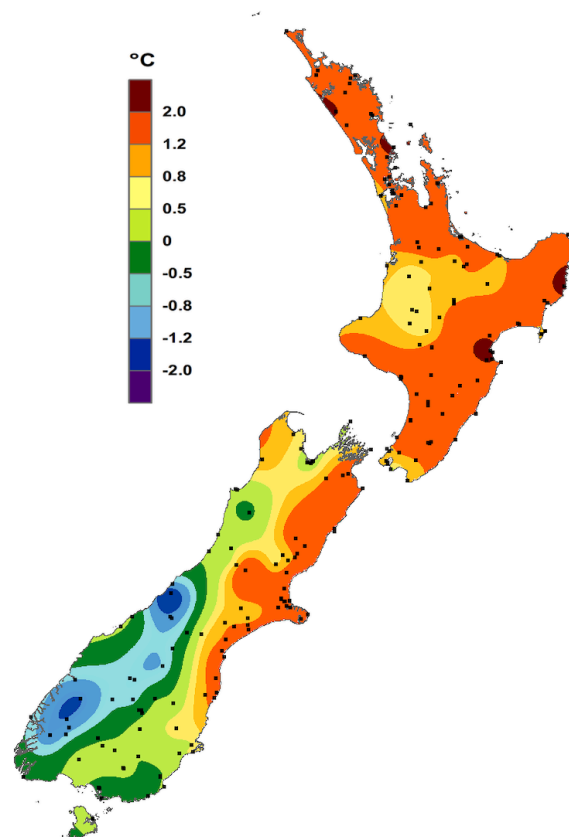
Meteorologist

Tel. 093752087



October rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



October temperature

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

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