

A warm month, wet for western and central parts

Temperature	Temperatures were near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) or above average ($0.51\text{--}1.20^\circ\text{C}$ above average) for most of the country, with isolated pockets of well above average ($>1.20^\circ\text{C}$ above average) temperatures observed in parts of Northland, Hawke's Bay, southern Taranaki, and Fiordland.
Rainfall	Rainfall was above normal rainfall (120-149% of normal) or well above normal ($>149\%$ of normal) for western, inland, and northern parts of the South Island, as well as lower parts of the North Island, and much of Taranaki. Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) for eastern and southern parts of Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, the Central Plateau, coastal Canterbury about and south of Banks Peninsula, and coastal North Otago.
Soil Moisture	At the end of the month, soil moisture levels were near normal for most of the country. Soil moisture levels were above normal for isolated parts of Central Otago.

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Overview

August 2024 mean sea level air pressure was higher than normal over Aotearoa New Zealand, and lower than normal to the south of the country. This was associated with more westerly winds than normal over the South Island, and more northwesterly winds than normal over the lower half of the North Island. This airflow pattern delivered occasional spells of above average temperatures for eastern parts of the country. Most notably, on 29 August Hastings reached New Zealand's equal-fourth highest August temperature (24.9°C), while Whakatu reached 24.7°C (New Zealand's equal-fifth highest August temperature). Whakatu also recorded 24.6°C on 18 August, which is New Zealand's sixth-highest August temperature on record.

August temperatures were above average ($0.51\text{--}1.20^\circ\text{C}$ above average) for much of Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū, Wairarapa, Wellington, West Coast, southern Marlborough, Banks Peninsula, mid Canterbury, eastern Otago, and Fiordland. Well above average ($>1.20^\circ\text{C}$) temperatures were observed in isolated parts of Northland, Hawke's Bay, southern Taranaki, and Fiordland. Remaining areas of the country experienced near average temperatures ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average). The nationwide average temperature in August 2024 was 9.8°C .

This was 0.8°C above the 1991-2020 August average, making it New Zealand’s 9th-warmest August since NIWA’s seven station temperature series began in 1909.

The prevalence of westerly winds contributed to a relatively wet month for western and inland parts of the South Island, where rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal). Rainfall was also above or well above normal for Nelson, northern Marlborough, Wellington, Wairarapa, Kāpiti Coast, Manawatū, and much of Taranaki. In contrast, rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) for eastern and southern parts of Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke’s Bay, the Central Plateau, coastal Canterbury about and south of Banks Peninsula, and coastal North Otago. It was especially dry for southern parts of Hawke’s Bay and Māhia Peninsula, where rainfall was well below normal (<50% of normal). Rainfall was generally near normal (80-119% of normal) for remaining parts of the country.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 24.9°C, observed at Hastings on 29 August.
- The lowest temperature was -11.8°C, observed at Lake Tekapo on 3 August.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 127 mm, recorded at Arthur’s Pass on 31 August.
- The highest wind gust was 181 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 12 August.
- Of the six main centres in August 2024, Christchurch was the coldest, Auckland was the warmest, Dunedin was the driest, Wellington was the wettest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and Hamilton was the least sunny.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations in 2024 so far are wider Nelson (1766 hours), Marlborough (1758 hours), Bay of Plenty (1737 hours) and Tasman (1717 hours).

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Temperature: Near or above average temperatures throughout the country

It was a relatively mild month throughout New Zealand overall. Eight locations observed near-record high mean temperatures for August. Whakatu’s mean maximum temperature of 17.4°C was an August record for this location, and 2.7°C higher than average for the time of year.

Record¹ 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				
Taupō	9.0	1.5	1949	2nd-highest
Napier	11.6	1.5	1870	2nd-highest

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.

Paraparaumu	11.1	1.5	1953	2nd-highest
Hāwera	10.6	1.3	1977	3rd-highest
Whangaparāoa	13.2	1.1	1982	4th-highest
Māhia	11.5	1.0	1990	4th-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	10.0	1.7	1939	4th-highest
Whanganui	11.6	1.2	1937	4th-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				
Whangaparāoa	16.4	1.4	1982	Highest
Kawerau	17.5	1.6	1954	Highest
Whakatu	17.4	2.7	1965	Highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	13.1	1.7	1947	Equal highest
Taupō	14.3	2.3	1949	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	14.5	2.2	1951	2nd-highest
Napier	16.6	1.6	1870	2nd-highest
Tākaka	15.5	1.5	1978	2nd-highest
Appleby	15.0	1.1	1932	2nd-highest
Cheviot	15.0	1.8	1982	2nd-highest
Waipounamu	12.2	1.6	1980	2nd-highest
Purerua	16.6	1.0	1983	3rd-highest
Whangārei	17.5	1.1	1967	3rd-highest
Waipawa	15.2	1.5	1945	3rd-highest
Windsor	13.8	1.6	2000	3rd-highest
Campbell Island	8.2	0.8	1991	3rd-highest
Leigh	17.4	2.4	1966	4th-highest
Gisborne	16.7	1.0	1905	4th-highest
Māhia	14.3	1.1	1990	4th-highest
Clyde	13.4	1.1	1978	4th-highest
Chatham Island	13.2	1.2	1878	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				
Paraparaumu	7.7	1.9	1953	2nd-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	6.1	2.5	1939	2nd-highest
Hāwera	7.2	1.6	1977	2nd-highest
Ohakune	3.6	1.5	1962	2nd-highest
Whanganui	8.0	1.3	1937	3rd-highest

Low records or near-records				
Waipounamu	0.4	-0.3	1980	4th-lowest

Rainfall: A wet month for western and central parts of the country

August rainfall was abundant for western, inland, and northern parts of the South Island, and southern and western parts of the North Island. Nine locations observed record or near-record high rainfall totals for the month. Most notable was Palmerston North which recorded 210 mm of total rain (252% of normal), making it the city's wettest August since records began in 1928. Wetter conditions about the hydro lake areas of the South Island, such as the third wettest August on record at Lake Manapouri (West Arm Jetty), contributed to increasing lake inflows toward the end of the month. In contrast, it was a dry month for some eastern parts of the country. New Zealand's driest location relative to normal was Whakatu, which received 15 mm of total rain (26% of normal).

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				
Palmerston North	210	252	1928	Highest
Paraparaumu	228	263	1945	2nd-highest
Arapito	322	173	1978	2nd-highest
Ōkārīto	461	186	1981	2nd-highest
Greymouth	355	174	1947	3rd-highest
Pukaki (Airport)	92	179	1972	3rd-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	506	199	1971	3rd-highest
Stratford	317	158	1960	4th-highest
Lake Moeraki	495	149	1985	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Whakatu	15	26	1965	3rd-lowest

August climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were above average in Wellington and Dunedin, and near average for the remaining main centres. It was a dry month for Dunedin where rainfall was below normal, while Wellington had above normal rainfall. Rainfall was near average for the remaining four main centres. Dunedin observed its sunniest August on record, while it was Auckland's fourth-sunniest August on record. Of the six main centres in August 2024, Christchurch was the coldest, Auckland was the warmest, Dunedin was the driest, Wellington was the wettest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and Hamilton was the least sunny.

August 2024 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	12.3	+0.5	Near average
Tauranga ^b	11.4	+0.4	Near average
Hamilton ^c	9.6	-0.1	Near average
Wellington ^d	10.5	+0.8	Above average
Christchurch ^e	7.8	+0.5	Near average
Dunedin ^f	8.8	+1.0	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	97	83	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	99	89	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	122	103	Near normal
Wellington ^d	184	132	Above normal
Christchurch ^e	59	102	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	39	72	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	181		
Tauranga ^b	187		
Hamilton ^g	139		
Wellington ^d	147		
Christchurch ^e	178		
Dunedin ^f	171		

^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 24.9°C, observed at Hastings on 29 August. The lowest temperature was -11.8°C, observed at Lake Tekapo on 3 August.

From 3-4 August, clear skies following a cool southerly airflow resulted in heavy frosts for many parts of the country. The temperature dropped to -11.8°C at Lake Tekapo, which was the village's fourth-lowest August minimum temperature since its records began in 1925. Christchurch Airport registered a minimum temperature of -6.1°C – this was the city's second-lowest August minimum temperature since its records began in 1863. Farther north, Tūrangi dipped to -7.2°C, its lowest August temperature since records began in 1968.

On 18 August, a warm northwesterly airflow resulted in relatively high temperatures for eastern parts for the North Island. The temperature reached 24.6°C in Whakatu, which was New Zealand's sixth-highest August temperature on record.

On 29 August, eastern areas of the country recorded relatively high temperatures for the time of year, with northwesterly winds prevailing across the country. Hastings reached 24.9°C, which is New Zealand's equal-fourth highest August temperature (24.9°C). Whakatu recorded 24.7°C, which is New Zealand's equal-fifth highest August temperature.

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				
Purerua	20.5	27th	1983	Highest
Warkworth	21.8	31st	1966	Highest
Whangaparāoa	20.4	31st	1982	Highest
Hastings	24.9	29th	1965	Highest
Hāwera	19.3	29th	1977	Highest
Dannevirke	20.7	29th	1951	Equal highest
Waiouru	16.5	31st	1962	Equal highest
Kaitaia	21.2	31st	1948	2nd-highest
Dargaville	21.7	31st	1943	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	20.7	31st	1945	2nd-highest
Napier	23.0	18th	1868	2nd-highest
Whakatu	24.7	29th	1965	2nd-highest
Waipawa	23.0	29th	1945	2nd-highest
Māhia	21.1	18th	1990	2nd-highest
Palmerston North	21.0	31st	1918	2nd-highest
Whanganui	21.3	31st	1937	2nd-highest
Tākaka	20.0	28th	1978	Equal 2nd-highest
Tapanui	20.6	31st	1900	Equal 2nd-highest
Campbell Island	11.6	28th	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Whangārei	22.0	31st	1967	3rd-highest

Auckland (Māngere)	20.9	31st	1959	3rd-highest
Masterton	21.0	29th	1906	3rd-highest
Takapau Plains	20.1	29th	1962	3rd-highest
Napier	22.6	29th	1868	3rd-highest
Whakatu	24.6	18th	1965	3rd-highest
Levin	19.4	31st	1895	3rd-highest
Whanganui	20.7	29th	1937	3rd-highest
Appleby	19.2	28th	1932	3rd-highest
Kaitaia	20.6	18th	1948	4th-highest
Whitianga	20.4	29th	1962	4th-highest
Wānaka	17.7	31st	1955	4th-highest
South West Cape	15.8	27th	1991	4th-highest
Kerikeri	21.0	27th	1945	Equal 4th-highest
Mokohinau Island	17.6	18th	1994	Equal 4th-highest
Kawerau	20.6	26th	1954	Equal 4th-highest
Gisborne	21.8	18th	1905	Equal 4th-highest
Waipounamu	17.7	31st	1980	Equal 4th-highest
Tiwai Point	17.6	31st	1970	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Tautuku	4.4	19th	1976	4th-lowest

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
High records or near-records				
Cheviot	12.7	25th	1982	Highest
Kaitaia	17.0	18th	1948	2nd-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	6.7	18th	2000	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	12.3	23rd	1978	2nd-highest
Purerua	15.3	18th	1983	3rd-highest
Ohakune	10.5	18th	1972	3rd-highest
Le Bons Bay	12.0	25th	1984	3rd-highest
South West Cape	10.7	23rd	1991	3rd-highest
Mokohinau Island	15.0	18th	1994	4th-highest
Whangaparāoa	13.4	18th	1982	4th-highest
Balclutha	8.7	29th	1972	4th-highest
Lower Retaruke	11.3	18th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Tūrangi	-7.2	4th	1968	Lowest
Winchmore	-6.2	4th	1949	2nd-lowest
Christchurch (Airport)	-6.1	4th	1863	2nd-lowest
Campbell Island	-4.6	20th	1991	2nd-lowest
Mt Cook (Airport)	-11.1	3rd	1929	3rd-lowest
Appleby	-5.7	4th	1932	Equal 3rd-lowest
Lake Tekapo	-11.8	3rd	1925	4th-lowest
Middlemarch	-7.5	3rd	2000	4th-lowest
Waipounamu	-5.3	3rd	1980	Equal 4th-lowest

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 127 mm, recorded at Arthur's Pass on 31 August.

On 18 August, heavy rain caused surface flooding in Pahiatua, with multiple local roads closed. Three homes were evacuated due to flooding. The Pahiatua Track between Palmerston North and Tararua was closed for a time due to slips and downed trees.

On 26 August, heavy rain caused flooding and slips for western and northern parts of the South Island, and southern parts of the North Island. A slip closed SH6 between Hira and Rai Valley (the main route between Nelson and Blenheim), and Arnott Heights in Greymouth. Farther north, Wellington, Hutt Valley, Porirua and the Kāpiti Coast were impacted by areas of surface flooding and wastewater overflows, with people urged to work from home if possible. Surface flooding and slips caused road closures for SH2 at Petone, SH58 from Pauatahanui to Judgeford. A train travelling from Waikanae to Wellington was hit by rockfall. The Waikanae River burst its banks, flooding nearby areas.

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
Palmerston North	64	17th	1928	Highest
Ōkārīto	102	22nd	1981	2nd-highest
Oban (Stewart Island)	41	17th	1975	2nd-highest
Arapito	61	18th	1978	3rd-highest
Lumsden	27	25th	1982	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	60	31st	1951	4th-highest
Brothers Island	33	25th	1983	4th-highest

Wind

The highest wind gust was 181 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 12 August.

From 18-19 August, speed restrictions were placed on vehicles travelling across Auckland's Harbour Bridge due to strong winds. Farther south, strong winds downed trees and power lines near Tūrangi, with downed power lines reported on the East Coast near Tokamaru Bay and Ruatoria.

On 29 August, strong northerly winds caused the cancellation of at least 11 flights from Wellington airport. Additional flights attempting to land in Wellington were forced to divert to other locations. Farther south, strong northwesterly winds fanned an 80 hectare fire near Waipara.

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
Whitianga	97	19th	1991	Highest
Te Puke	71	19th	1987	Highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	71	12th	2002	2nd-highest
Lincoln	86	12th	1999	2nd-highest
Oamaru	87	12th	1984	3rd-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	74	19th	1996	4th-highest
Te Kuiti	55	18th	2003	4th-highest

Māhia	106	12th	1991	4th-highest
Stratford	89	31st	2002	4th-highest
Kaikōura	135	12th	1972	4th-highest
Rangiora	83	12th	1999	4th-highest
Christchurch (Airport)	98	12th	1972	4th-highest

Snow and ice

From 18-19 August, a cold southerly outbreak delivered snowfall to low elevations across the South Island. On 18 August, the more notable snowfalls occurred in Canterbury, where the southerly airflow undercut a relatively warm and moist airmass that had arrived from the north. Snow fell to approximately 200 m above sea level in parts of Canterbury, with sea level snowfall reported at Woodend Beach. Snow also settled in Rangiora, Springfield, and Hanmer Springs, with welcome snowfalls reported at many Canterbury ski areas including Hanmer Springs (62 cm), Temple Basin (27 cm), Craigieburn (46 cm), Broken River (41 cm), Porters (35 cm), Mt Olympus (at least 60 cm), and Mt Hutt (35 cm). Snow closed SH73 from Springfield to Otira, with approximately 50 people stuck in Arthur’s Pass Village for a night. SH7 was closed between Hanmer Springs and Springs Junction due to snow.

On 19 August, snowfall occurred to sea level in southern parts of the South Island, including Dunedin and Invercargill. Several roads were closed including the Crown Range Road, SH93 between Clinton and Matura, and SH94 at Gorge Hill. Farther north, the Desert Road (SH1) was closed from late-evening due to snow.

Cloud and fog

On 7 August, fog at Auckland airport resulted in at least 27 flight disruptions.

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

On 19 August, a lightning strike caused a power outage for 3,700 customers in the Raglan and Te Uku areas.

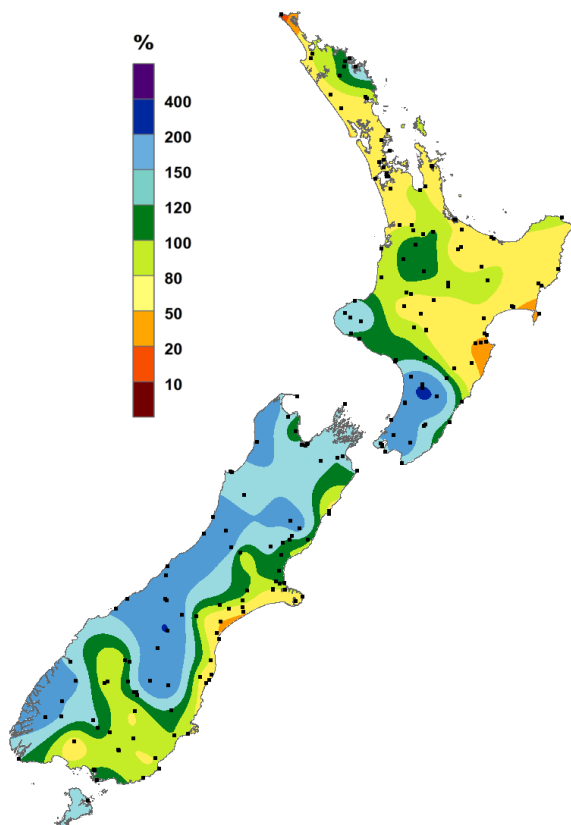
From 29-31 August, thunderstorms were a common feature of New Zealand’s weather. Approximately 300,000 lightning strikes were recorded over the country and the Tasman Sea during this period.

For further information, please contact:

Gregor Macara

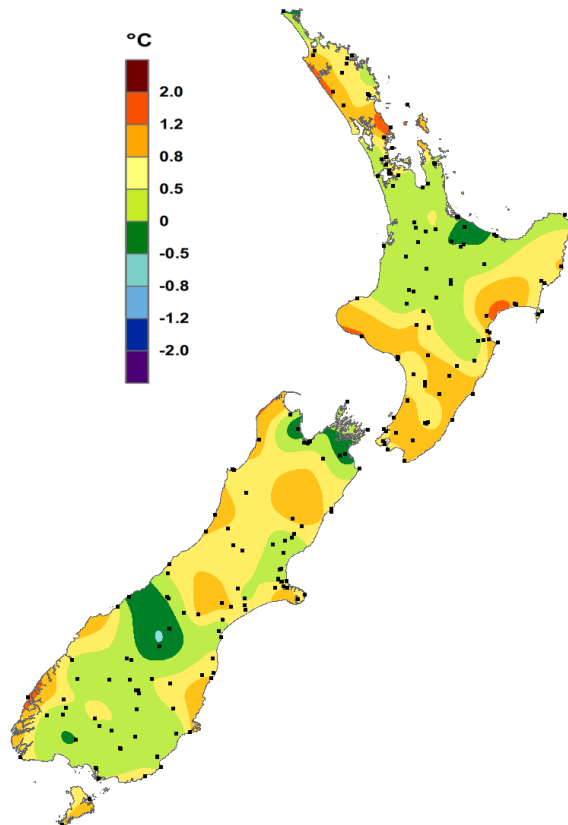
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August rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



August temperature

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

<https://niwa.co.nz/climate-and-weather>

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