

A warm and dry month for most regions

Temperature	Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) for most regions of the country. Temperatures were near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) in eastern parts of Canterbury from Methven to Kaikōura, eastern parts of the North Island from northeastern Wairarapa to East Cape, and northeastern parts of Northland. Below average temperatures (0.51-1.20°C below average) were observed in Gisborne.
Rainfall	Below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall occurred in almost all regions of the country. Rainfall was near normal (80-119% of normal) in eastern Central Otago, Westport, and Tauranga. Isolated areas of above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) rainfall occurred in Nelson, southern Hawke's Bay, and Tarapounamu (Te Urewera National Park).
Soil Moisture	At the end of February, soil moisture levels were lower than normal for most of the North Island, parts of the West Coast, inland northern Canterbury, coastal parts of the South Island from Dunedin to Invercargill, and Stewart Island. Soil moisture levels were typically near normal elsewhere. According to the New Zealand Drought Index, very dry or extremely dry conditions were present in western parts of Northland, Auckland, much of Waikato, Taranaki, northern and western Manawatū-Whanganui, southern Westland, Queenstown-Lakes, northern Fiordland, and Stewart Island.

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Overview

February 2025 was characterised by above normal mean sea level pressure (MSLP) over and to the south of Aotearoa New Zealand. This led to extended periods of settled weather throughout the country. For most regions of the country, temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average), and rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal). The nationwide average temperature in February 2025 was 18.2°C. This was 0.8°C above the 1991-2020 February average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909, making it the 13th-warmest February on record.

Sunshine was abundant for wide swathes of the country. Queenstown and Hokitika observed their sunniest February on record, with 275 hours and 278 hours of sunshine, respectively. A further 12 locations observed near-record high sunshine hour totals (2nd-, 3rd- or 4th-highest on record) from as far north as Kaitiāia to as far south as Dunedin.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 33.0°C, observed at Kawerau on 4 February and Clyde on 15 February.
- The lowest temperature was 2.1°C, observed at Manapouri on 3 February.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 120 mm, recorded at Secretary Island on 24 February.
- The highest wind gust was 124 km/h, observed at South West Cape on 25 February.
- Of the six main centres in February 2025, Auckland was the warmest, driest and sunniest, Dunedin was the coolest, Tauranga was the wettest, and Christchurch was the least sunny.
- The sunniest four locations so far in 2025 are Taranaki (621 hours), West Coast (606 hours), Mackenzie Basin (584 hours), and Central Otago (582 hours).

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Temperature: Warm for most parts of New Zealand

Thirteen locations observed record or near-record high temperatures for February. New Zealand's warmest location compared to average was Leigh, where the mean temperature of 22.2°C was 3.1°C higher than average. The country's coolest location compared to average was Gisborne, where the mean temperature of 18.6°C was 0.7°C lower than average.

Daily maximum temperatures were higher than average for many parts of New Zealand. Numerous locations observed more days with the maximum temperature exceeding 25°C than average, including Hamilton with 27 days (12 days more than average), Auckland (Māngere) with 21 days (+11 days), Cromwell with 21 days (+8 days), and Clyde with 20 days (+8 days).

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kawerau	22.2	2.3	1954	Highest
Campbell Island	11.3	1.8	1991	Highest
Brothers Island	18.0	1.3	1997	2nd-highest
Windsor	16.7	1.7	2000	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	17.0	1.9	1985	3rd-highest
Middlemarch	16.7	1.5	2000	3rd-highest
Waipounamu	16.0	1.4	1980	3rd-highest
Leigh	22.2	3.1	1966	4th-highest
Taupō	19.6	2.2	1949	4th-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.

Puysegur Point	15.4	1.3	1978	4th-highest
Arthurs Pass	15.9	2.3	1973	4th-highest
Queenstown	18.8	2.6	1871	4th-highest
Oban (Stewart Island)	14.8	1.3	1975	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Whangaparāoa	26.0	1.9	1982	2nd-highest
Waikeria	27.2	1.7	1957	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	27.6	2.7	1959	2nd-highest
Paraparaumu	23.5	1.9	1953	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	20.3	1.5	1997	2nd-highest
Manapouri (Airport)	22.8	2.3	1963	2nd-highest
Queenstown	25.7	3.2	1871	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	13.7	1.9	1991	2nd-highest
Cape Reinga	24.2	1.3	1951	3rd-highest
Leigh	26.9	3.2	1966	3rd-highest
Matamata	27.0	2.0	1999	3rd-highest
Kawerau	28.6	3.0	1954	3rd-highest
Whatawhata	26.8	2.3	1952	3rd-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	27.5	2.5	1946	3rd-highest
Palmerston North	25.6	1.9	1928	3rd-highest
Levin	24.5	1.9	1895	3rd-highest
Whanganui	24.8	1.8	1937	3rd-highest
Arthurs Pass	21.7	3.0	1973	3rd-highest
Wānaka	26.4	2.6	1955	3rd-highest
Waipounamu	22.6	2.1	1980	3rd-highest
Clyde	27.2	2.6	1978	3rd-highest
Taupō	25.8	2.8	1949	4th-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	19.8	1.6	2000	4th-highest
Secretary Island	21.0	2.7	1985	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	17.9	1.3	1978	4th-highest
Windsor	22.0	1.4	2000	4th-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	21.8	2.7	1971	4th-highest
Cromwell	27.3	2.6	1949	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Waimate	12.8	2.0	1908	2nd-highest

Oamaru	12.4	1.9	1967	2nd-highest
Windsor	11.4	1.9	2000	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	8.9	1.7	1991	2nd-highest
Middlemarch	9.4	1.3	2000	3rd-highest
Oamaru	12.2	2.2	1967	3rd-highest
Waipounamu	9.5	0.9	1980	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	12.8	1.2	1978	4th-highest
Brothers Island	15.8	1.2	1997	4th-highest
Ranfurly	8.9	1.5	1897	4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	13.1	1.6	1947	4th-highest
Tautuku	10.9	1.4	1976	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Rainfall: Drier than normal for most regions

Twelve locations observed record or near-record low February rainfall totals. It was particularly dry in Dargaville and Whanganui, with each location observing just 2 mm of rain (3% of normal). Several other locations received less than 10 mm of rain for the month including Trounson (Northland), Auckland (Māngere, Western Springs, and Albany), Hāwera, Paraparaumu, and Martinborough.

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
None observed				
Low records or near-records				
Tautuku	24	26	1976	Lowest
Dargaville	2	3	1943	2nd-lowest
Auckland (Western Springs)	6	8	1948	2nd-lowest
Whanganui	2	3	1890	2nd-lowest
Oban (Stewart Island)	34	32	1975	2nd-lowest
Auckland (Māngere)	7	13	1959	3rd-lowest
Paraparaumu	7	12	1945	3rd-lowest
Hāwera	8	13	1977	3rd-lowest
Tiwai Point	23	28	1970	3rd-lowest
Hanmer Forest	10	16	1905	4th-lowest
Mt Cook (Airport)	45	17	1928	4th-lowest
Dunedin (Airport)	17	26	1962	4th-lowest

February climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were above average in all main centres except Christchurch, where temperatures were near average. It was a dry month for most main centres, except Tauranga where rainfall was near normal. Auckland (Māngere) observed its third-driest February since records began in 1959. It was an especially sunny month in Auckland and Dunedin, where February sunshine totals were the second-highest and fourth-highest on record, respectively. Of the six main centres in February 2025, Auckland was the warmest, driest and sunniest, Dunedin was the coolest, Tauranga was the wettest, and Christchurch was the least sunny.

February 2025 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	21.2	+1.0	Above average
Tauranga ^b	20.9	+0.8	Above average
Hamilton ^c	20.0	+0.9	Above average
Wellington ^d	18.0	+0.7	Above average
Christchurch ^e	16.8	-0.1	Near average
Dunedin ^f	16.3	+1.2	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	7	13	Well below normal (3rd-lowest on record)
Tauranga ^b	74	89	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	12	16	Well below normal
Wellington ^d	34	62	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	18	45	Well below normal
Dunedin ^f	27	38	Well below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	265		
Tauranga ^b	254		
Hamilton ^e	235		
Wellington ^d	240		
Christchurch ^e	218		
Dunedin ^f	226		

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

Highlights and extreme events

Rain, flooding, and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 120 mm, recorded at Secretary Island on 24 February.

On 5 February, localised heavy rain resulted in flooding which closed SH2 between Matatā and Paengaroa.

On 7 February, severe thunderstorms in Taupō caused areas of surface flooding, particularly about the CBD and Lake Terrace. Power outages affected approximately 2000 customers.

On 18 February, downpours associated with thunderstorms occurred in parts of South and Central Otago. Extensive surface flooding was reported on SH8 between Millers Flat and Raes Junction, with the road closed between Raes Junction and Lawrence. Flash flooding was reported near Beaumont, with Rongahere Road closed between Beaumont and John O’Groats Road due to flooding and fallen trees. General flood warnings were in place for the Ranfurly and Patearoa communities due to torrential rain, which resulted in lifted manhole covers on some streets. Ranfurly recorded 28 mm of rainfall in the hour to 6:00 p.m. – more than half of its eventual total rainfall for the month (52 mm). This is Ranfurly’s highest hourly rainfall total since hourly records began there in November 2000.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
None observed				

Drought, dryness, and fire

On 10 February, a 12-hectare fire was reported on a hillside near Cloudy Bay Drive in Riverlands, South Marlborough. Four helicopters attended the scene along with ground crews.

On 15 February, a fire of approximately 40 hectares burned at Island Hills in Hurunui, North Canterbury. Nine helicopters, 40 firefighters and 20 vehicles were deployed at the height of the blaze. Lewis Pass (SH7) was closed by the fire, with flames reportedly observed on both sides of the highway. Three properties were evacuated as a precaution.

In the early afternoon of 17 February, 14 homes in Port Waikato were evacuated due to a nearby scrub fire. Three helicopters were among the firefighting resources dispatched to the scene. The fire was brought under control later in the evening.

On 23 February, a scrub fire occurred between the Queenstown suburbs of Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country. Six firefighting trucks attended the scene, with the fire brought under control within approximately three hours.

On 25 February, a vegetation fire measuring approximately 400 m² occurred near Bell Block, Taranaki. A helicopter and three ground crews were dispatched to fight the fire. Farther north, a four-hectare scrub fire in Ngunguru saw 40 firefighters and four helicopters attend to battle the blaze.

On 26 February, dozens of people from 20 homes were forced to evacuate due to a fire in Waipoua. The fire was around 70 hectares in size with a 4.5 km perimeter. Eight helicopters, five heavy machinery units and 50 firefighters were deployed to the incident.

On 27 February, the Agriculture Minister classified the drought conditions in Taranaki as a medium-scale adverse event.

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 33.0°C, observed at Kawerau on 4 February and Clyde on 15 February.

The lowest temperature was 2.1°C, observed at Manapouri on 3 February.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	20.6	16th	1991	2nd-highest
Waipounamu	31.6	16th	1980	3rd-highest
Whangaparāoa	29.0	2nd	1982	4th-highest
Franz Josef	28.4	17th	1953	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Puke	18.2	28th	1973	Equal 4th-lowest
Whakatāne	19.0	28th	1975	Equal 4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	13.8	18th	1991	Highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Wind

The highest wind gust was 124 km/h, observed at South West Cape on 25 February.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Clyde	66	15th	1983	3rd-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

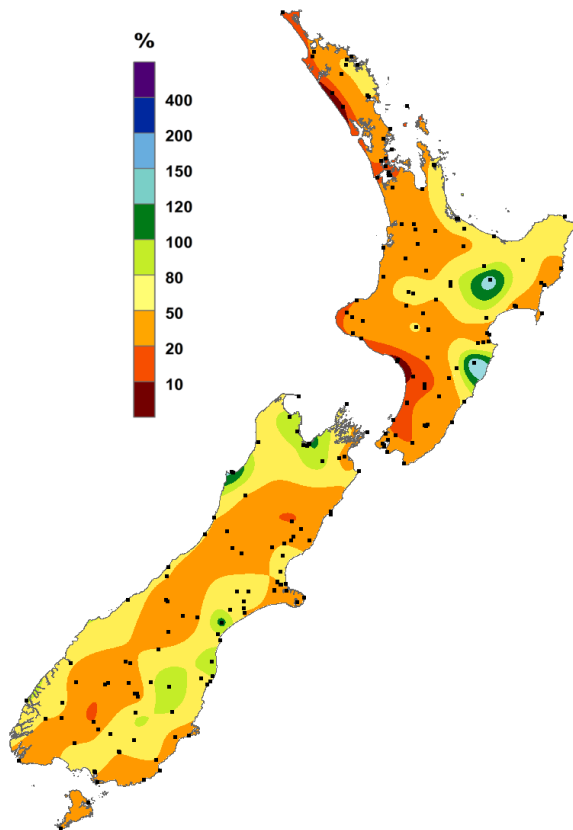
On 18 February, large hail occurred between Beaumont and Lawrence, with reports of dented cars and broken windscreens on Hunt Road. Nearly 4,000 lightning strikes were recorded across parts of Otago and Canterbury. The stormy weather was associated with thunderstorms that formed during the afternoon and evening hours.

Cloud and fog

On 25 February, fog at Christchurch forced the cancellation of nine flights, with eight additional flights delayed.

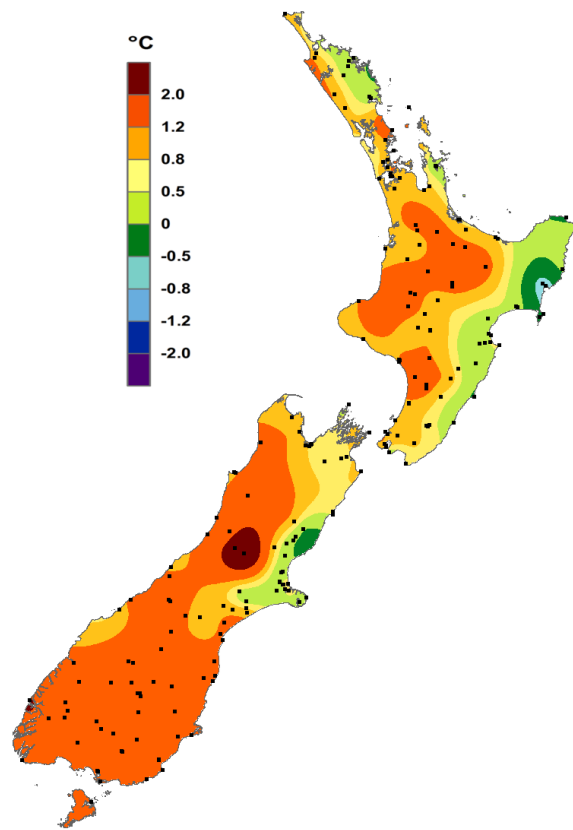
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February rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



February temperature

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

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