

A mild summer overall, dry for many parts of the country

Temperature	Summer temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) for northern, western and southern parts of the South Island, and many central, western, and northern parts of the North Island. Temperatures were near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) for eastern and southern parts of the North Island, and much of Canterbury.
Rainfall	Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for northern, central, and western parts of the North Island, as well as for western, inland, and southern parts of the South Island. Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) for some eastern parts of Canterbury, northern Hawke's Bay, and Gisborne.
Soil moisture	At the end of summer, 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.

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Overview

Summer 2024-25 was characterised by higher-than-normal air pressure over and surrounding Aotearoa New Zealand. This contributed to a rather mild and dry season for many areas overall, although cooler and wetter conditions were experienced in some eastern parts of both the North Island and South Island. The generally settled weather throughout the season contributed to marine heatwave conditions developing throughout New Zealand's coastal waters towards the end of February.

Summer temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) for much of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Tasman, Nelson, Otago and Southland. Temperatures were well above average (>1.20°C above average) for most of the West Coast, Wānaka, Kawerau, and Kaitaia. Near average temperatures ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) were observed in much of Canterbury, Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatū, Hawke's Bay, and Gisborne. Summer 2024-25 was the 21st-warmest summer on record. The nationwide average temperature was 17.3°C. This was 0.5°C above the 1991-2020 summer average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909.

Summer rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for western and southern parts of Northland, Auckland, central and western Waikato, Taranaki, coastal

Manawatū-Whanganui, Tasman, West Coast, much of Otago, and southern and western Southland. In contrast, rainfall was above normal (120-149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) for northeastern Northland, Gisborne, northern Hawke’s Bay, Nelson, and some eastern parts of Canterbury about Kaikōura, Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

Further highlights for summer 2024-25:

- The highest temperature was 34.8°C, observed at Kawerau on 29 December.
- The lowest temperature was -0.4°C, observed at Waipara River North Branch on 25 January.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 154 mm, recorded at Kokiri (15 km inland from Greymouth, West Coast) on 15 December.
- The highest wind gust was 196 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 5 December.
- 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).
- Of the six main centres in summer 2024-25, Auckland was the warmest, Hamilton was the driest, Tauranga was the sunniest and wettest, Dunedin was the coolest, and Christchurch was the least sunny.

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Temperature: Mild for most of the country

It was a mild summer for most parts of New Zealand, and nine locations observed near-record high mean temperatures. The country’s warmest locations compared to average were Kawerau, Arthur’s Pass, and Secretary Island, where the mean temperatures were 1.9°C above average. The country’s coldest location compared to average was Waiiau, where the mean temperature was 0.8°C below average. The mean daily maximum temperature in Kawerau was 28.1°C (3.0°C above average), which was the highest for the town since records began in 1954.

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	10.5	1.1	1991	2nd-highest
Kawerau	21.3	1.9	1954	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	16.4	1.9	1985	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	14.9	1.3	1978	3rd-highest
Windsor	15.7	0.9	2000	3rd-highest
Kaitaia	20.7	1.7	1948	4th-highest
Reefton	18.2	1.3	1960	4th-highest
Waipounamu	15.2	0.7	1980	4th-highest
Tautuku	14.5	0.7	1976	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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.

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kawerau	28.1	3.0	1954	Highest
Franz Josef	21.8	2.3	1953	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	20.4	2.7	1985	2nd-highest
Clyde	26.1	1.8	1978	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	12.9	1.1	1991	2nd-highest
Greymouth	21.4	2.4	1947	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	17.6	1.4	1978	3rd-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	21.1	2.3	1971	3rd-highest
Whangaparāoa	24.6	1.5	1982	4th-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	25.4	1.5	1946	4th-highest
Te Kuiti	25.8	1.9	1959	4th-highest
Mt Ruapehu Chateau	18.7	1.2	2000	4th-highest
Reefton	24.5	1.7	1960	4th-highest
Arthurs Pass	20.3	2.5	1973	4th-highest
Waipounamu	21.3	1.1	1980	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	8.1	1.1	1991	Highest
Puysegur Point	12.2	1.2	1978	3rd-highest
Motueka	12.8	1.1	1956	3rd-highest
Oban (Stewart Island)	10.4	1.2	1975	3rd-highest
Tautuku	10.2	1.1	1976	3rd-highest
Oamaru	11.4	1.1	1967	4th-highest
Windsor	10.4	1.0	2000	4th-highest
Middlemarch	9.0	0.9	2000	4th-highest
Waipounamu	9.1	0.4	1980	4th-highest
Chatham Island	13.3	1.4	1878	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Rainfall: Dry for many regions

It was a dry summer for many regions of New Zealand, and 18 locations observed record or near-record low summer rainfall totals. Hamilton and Mount Cook Airport were New Zealand's driest locations compared to normal, with just 29% of their normal summer rainfall. Summer rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) for approximately 56% of New Zealand's regularly reporting climate stations.

In contrast, rainfall was abundant in some eastern parts of the country. Māhia observed its wettest summer on record, with 231% of normal summer rainfall, and it was the third-wettest summer on record in Gisborne. Christchurch, Lincoln and Akaroa each observed approximately 150% of their normal summer rainfall.

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Māhia	437	231	1990	Highest
Gisborne	348	176	1905	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Hamilton (Ruakura)	69	29	1905	Lowest
New Plymouth	122	43	1944	Lowest
Ōkārito	534	64	1981	Lowest
Whatawhata	135	47	1952	2nd-lowest
Port Taharoa	119	48	1973	2nd-lowest
Mt Cook (Airport)	324	29	1928	2nd-lowest
Clyde	60	45	1978	2nd-lowest
Oban (Stewart Island)	168	46	1975	2nd-lowest
Dargaville	75	38	1943	3rd-lowest
Te Kuiti	114	39	1950	3rd-lowest
Hāwera	122	53	1977	3rd-lowest
Lake Moeraki	697	60	1985	3rd-lowest
Auckland (Western Springs)	114	51	1948	4th-lowest
Hamilton (Airport)	110	44	1935	4th-lowest
Waikeria	103	44	1921	4th-lowest
Arapito	296	57	1978	4th-lowest
Alexandra	51	40	1922	4th-lowest
Tūrangi	174	54	1968	Equal 4th-lowest

Summer in the six main centres

Temperatures were near average in Wellington and Christchurch, and above average for the remaining main centres. It was a very dry summer in Hamilton, which observed its fourth-driest summer on record. In contrast, rainfall was well above normal in Christchurch. It was the sunniest summer on record for Auckland. Sunshine was also plentiful for Hamilton, Tauranga, and Dunedin, with these cities observing their second-highest, third-highest, and third-highest summer sunshine totals on record, respectively. Of the six main centres in summer 2024-25, Auckland was the warmest, Hamilton was the driest², Tauranga was the sunniest and wettest, Dunedin was the coolest, and Christchurch was the least sunny.

Summer 2024-25 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	20.2	+0.7	Above average
Tauranga ^b	20.1	+0.7	Above average
Hamilton ^c	18.9	+0.6	Above average
Wellington ^d	16.8	+0.1	Near average
Christchurch ^e	16.4	-0.2	Near average
Dunedin ^f	15.5	+0.7	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	110	60	Below normal
Tauranga ^b	259	99	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	110	44	Well below normal (4th-lowest on record)
Wellington ^d	212	94	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	203	156	Well above normal
Dunedin ^f	156	74	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	837		
Tauranga ^b	840		
Hamilton ^g	764		
Wellington ^d	668		
Christchurch ^e	651 ³		
Dunedin ^f	675		

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

² Hamilton recorded 109.6 mm, whereas Auckland recorded 110.4 mm. In the table above, these numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

³ Missing one day of data.

Highlights and extreme events

This section contains information on some of the more significant highlights and extreme events that occurred during summer 2024-25. Note that a more detailed list of significant weather events for summer 2024-25 can be found in the *Highlights and extreme events* section of NIWA's monthly Climate Summaries. These monthly summaries are available online, and may be viewed [here](#).

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 34.8°C, observed at Kawerau on 29 December. The last time New Zealand's highest summer temperature occurred in December was summer 2015-16.

The lowest temperature was -0.4°C, observed at Waipara River North Branch on 25 January.

From 28-29 December, warm northwesterly winds delivered a spell of exceptional warmth across many parts of New Zealand. On 29 December, Kawerau reached 34.8°C, which is the town's fourth-highest summer temperature since records began in 1954.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	20.6	Feb-16th	1991	3rd-highest
Kawerau	34.8	Dec-29th	1954	4th-highest
Haast	27.3	Dec-26th	1949	4th-highest
Secretary Island	26.1	Feb-17th	1985	4th-highest
Hāwera	28.3	Jan-25th	1977	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Campbell Island	13.8	Feb-18th	1991	Highest
Waiau	22.9	Dec-5th	1974	2nd-highest
Culverden	22.5	Dec-5th	1930	4th-highest
Brothers Island	17.6	Feb-20th	1997	Equal 4th-highest
Hanmer Forest	21.5	Dec-5th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Waipounamu	-0.2	Dec-17th	1980	Lowest
Balclutha	0.5	Dec-17th	1964	2nd-lowest
Waiau	0.0	Dec-20th	1974	Equal 2nd-lowest
Waiheke Island, Awaroa Valley	6.1	Jan-13th	1985	3rd-lowest

Rain, flooding, and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 154 mm, recorded at Kokiri (15 km inland from Greymouth, West Coast) on 15 December.

On 16 December, a period of heavy rain caused surface flooding north of Greymouth, with SH6 closed from Barrytown to Punakaiki.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Pirinoa	126	Dec-31st	1967	Highest
Kokiri, Maori Gully Road	154	Dec-15th	1980	Highest
Māhia	86	Dec-26th	1990	2nd-highest
Governors Bay	59	Dec-30th	1989	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	44	Dec-4th	1991	3rd-highest
Living Springs	65	Dec-30th	1978	4th-highest

Drought, dryness, and fires

On 5 December, strong northwest winds fanned a large fire near the Craigieburn Range in Canterbury. The fire began near SH73 at Bridge Hill, and burned approximately 980 hectares. Three school groups were evacuated from camps in the area. Ten helicopters, three fixed-wing aircraft, and up to 97 personnel were deployed to battle the blaze. SH73 was closed between Castle Hill and Arthurs Pass.

On 8 December, strong northwest winds were recorded over eastern and inland parts of Canterbury. A fire in West Melton covered approximately 134 hectares, with scrub, pine, pasture and a farm shed burned in the blaze. Old West Coast Road was closed temporarily, while 50 homes in West Melton were evacuated.

From 29-31 January, a large fire was fanned by strong winds at Tiwai Point (near Bluff). The fire burnt through at least 1,200 hectares, and its perimeter measured approximately 18 kilometres. Ten helicopters, nine fire appliances and 40 firefighters were deployed to the scene.

By 31 January, NIWA's New Zealand Drought Index indicated meteorological drought conditions were present in northern parts of the Ruapehu District, with extremely dry conditions indicated for Taranaki and the southwestern half of Waikato.

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.

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.

Wind

The highest wind gust was 196 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 5 December.

On 8 December, Wellington was buffeted by strong winds that brought down several trees, with 27 domestic flight cancellations reported. A boat broke free from its moorings in Wellington Harbour, with debris scattered after crashing into rocks at the southern end of Evans Bay.

On 30 December, a burst of strong wind at Omarama's Top 10 Holiday Park lifted a tent with four occupants approximately two metres into the air. The occupants fell out and were later treated for minor injuries. Meanwhile, the tent reportedly reached approximately 100-150 metres high, and ended up deposited in a neighbouring paddock.

Record or near record summer extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Māhia	107	Dec-27th	1991	Highest
Rangiora	95	Dec-8th	1999	Highest
Waiouru	115	Dec-8th	1970	3rd-highest
Middlemarch	111	Dec-8th	2000	3rd-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

On 30 December, severe thunderstorms occurred over northern parts of the South Island. Lightning and hail reports were widespread, with particularly heavy hail observed near Rainbow Ski Area, and in Mārahau. A lightning strike set trees on fire on Kaiuma Bay Rd (Marlborough, near Havelock).

On 26 January, a tornado struck Mangawhai at around 3:00 a.m., causing significant damage to homes, with power poles torn down and trees uprooted. Approximately 5,000 people were initially without power in Mangawhai, Mangawhai Heads and Langs Beach. Two people suffered serious injuries and were hospitalised, including one woman who was reportedly sucked out of her bedroom window. Initial estimates were that 50 homes were damaged, with at least nine homes yellow stickered.

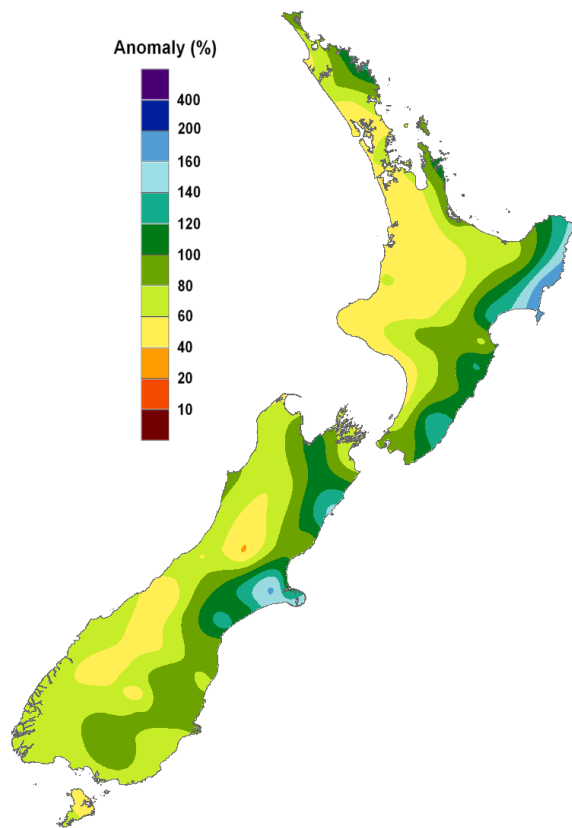
On 18 February, large hail occurred between Beaumont and Lawrence, with reports of dented cars and broken windscreens on Hunt Road. Nearly 4,000 lightning strikes were recorded across parts of Otago and Canterbury. The stormy weather was associated with thunderstorms that formed during the afternoon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

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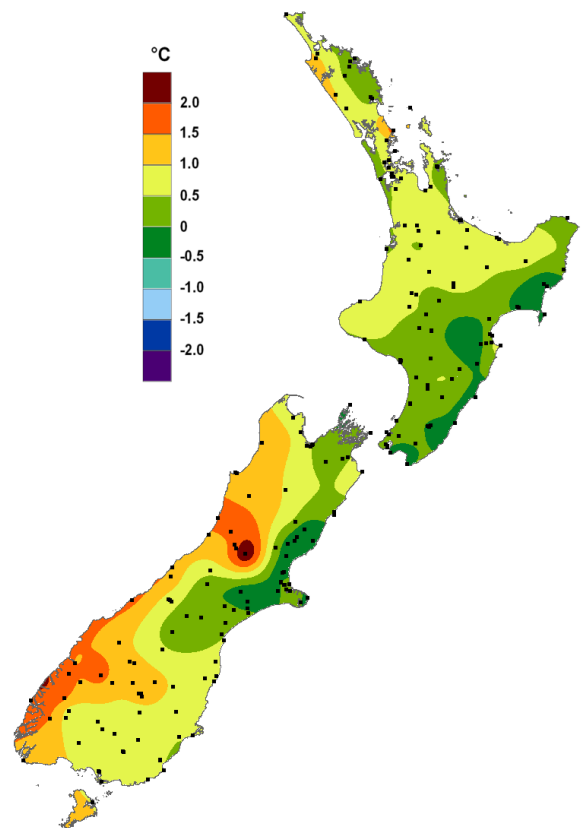
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Summer rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1991-2020 normal.



Summer temperature

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

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

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