

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for March 1957—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit)							Rainfall in Inches				Bright Sunshine		
		Means of		Mean of A and B	Difference From Normal	Absolute Maximum and Minimum				Total Fall	No. of Rain Days	Difference From Normal		Maximum Fall	
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum	Date	Minimum	Date					Amount	Date
	Ft.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	In.		In.		Hrs.			
Eyrewell .. .. .	520														
Ashley Forest .. .. .	460	66.6	53.3	60.0	+2.6*	78.0	15	43.4	22	7.48	14	+5.34*	1.80	10	..
Darfield .. .. .	640	69.3	51.8	60.6	+3.5	85.5	4	38.4	31	4.95	15	+2.91	1.12	10	..
Harewood .. .. .	94	67.2	53.7	60.4	..	74.0	12	38.6	31	5.26	14	..	1.85	10	161
Christchurch .. .. .	22	68.6	54.5	61.6	+3.5	74.9	5	40.2	31	5.20	13	+3.66	2.20	10	..
Wigram .. .. .	74	67.9	53.9	60.9	+2.8*	74.2	4	38.1	31	5.43	14	+3.61*	2.02	10	..
Akaroa .. .. .	150	70.8	55.4	62.8	+3.2	85.0	4	42.5	31	9.03	14	+6.38*	2.96	7	171
Lincoln .. .. .	36	68.3	52.6	60.4	+3.4	78.0	4	34.8	31	4.71	17	+2.63	1.31	10	187
Highbank .. .. .	1,102	65.3	50.9	58.1	..	85.4	4	39.0	10	7.06	19	..	1.76	7	161
The Hermitage .. .. .	2,510														
Winchmore .. .. .	525	66.9	51.2	59.0	+2.6*	84.7	4	37.0	31	5.61	19	+3.39*	1.26	6	..
Haast .. .. .	15	67.3	52.8	60.0	+3.1*	82.3	11	42.9	21	11.26	18	-0.20*	3.91	28	131
Ashburton .. .. .	323	70.2	53.0	61.6	+3.8	90.5	4	40.0	31	6.57	16	+4.37	1.32	6	156
Fairlie .. .. .	1,004	66.9	48.0	57.4	+2.1	83.0	4	32.0	21	4.65	16	+2.26	1.17	7	..
Timaru .. .. .	56	66.5	53.5	60.0	+2.6	76.4	4, 15	40.8	21	5.97	18	+3.84	1.47	19	127
Adair .. .. .	200	64.2	53.0	58.6	+2.3*	76.7	4	38.4	23	5.83	17	+3.59*	1.05	7	..
Tara Hills, Omarama .. .. .	1,600														
Milford Sound .. .. .	20	65.5	52.2	58.8	+3.6	77.0	11	41.8	22	14.45	16	-7.63	3.05	28	..
Waimate .. .. .	200	67.2	53.1	60.2	+2.7	80.0	4	39.6	21	5.12	18	+2.88	1.20	6	112
Naseby .. .. .	2,300	67.5	43.4	55.4	..	85.6	4	27.9	31	3.34	12	..	1.12	19	..
Queenstown .. .. .	1,100	67.3	50.0	58.6	+2.3	83.9	2	35.8	30	2.16	12	-0.69	0.47	6	139
Cromwell .. .. .	720	69.5	50.0	59.8	+2.2*	86.9	3	32.5	31	2.59	14	+1.16*	0.58	5	..
Ophir .. .. .	1,000	67.9	47.8	57.8	+2.1	86.4	4	27.2	31	3.15	11	+1.69	0.67	6	..
Earnsclough .. .. .	500	70.0	48.0	59.0	+2.1*	88.0	2	30.0	31	2.85	15	+1.64*	0.65	6	..
Waipiata .. .. .	1,550	64.9	47.0	56.0	+1.4	83.5	4	31.8	31	3.40	11	+1.83	0.90	6	156
Alexandra .. .. .	520	70.1	50.5	60.3	+2.7	87.5	3	33.5	30	3.45	14	+2.30	0.68	18	146
Manorburn Dam† .. .. .	2,448	62.2	44.4	53.3	+2.9	77.2	3	29.0	21	3.84	10	+2.15	1.01	19	..
Garston .. .. .	1,009	68.5	46.3	57.4	..	83.0	3	30.0	21, 31	2.27	14	..	0.33	23	..
Roxburgh Hydro .. .. .	350	69.5	51.6	60.6	..	87.9	3	36.0	21, 31	3.79	16	+2.27*	1.09	6	..
Mid Dome .. .. .	1,252	66.7	47.3	57.0	..	79.2	4	32.5	31	3.33	12	..	0.76	18	..
Moa Flat, West Otago .. .. .	1,345	63.7	47.2	55.4	..	80.1	3	33.4	21	3.46	15	+1.00*	0.97	19	..
Mosburn .. .. .	961														
Taiari .. .. .	80	65.7	50.1	57.9	+2.7*	81.7	3	31.8	21	5.01	15	+2.94*	1.32	19	138
Musselburgh, Dunedin .. .. .	5	64.4	53.1	58.8	+2.4*	75.0	3	39.0	21	5.90	21	+3.34	1.80	19	120
Tapanui .. .. .	550	67.1	49.1	58.1	..	85.1	3	74.3	20	4.30	15	..	0.47	23	..
East Gore .. .. .	245	67.9	50.2	59.0	+3.9	83.0	3, 4	31.0	21	2.87	13	-0.24	0.63	6	..
Gore .. .. .	240	68.2	49.5	58.8	+3.4	85.0	3	34.0	20	2.89	13	-0.22	0.55	23	122
Otautau .. .. .	180	65.2	48.8	57.0	+2.3*	77.6	2	32.0	31	4.43	13	+0.91*	1.21	6	107
Pebble Hills .. .. .	150	66.3	48.5	57.4	..	79.0	14	31.0	31	3.46	14	-0.16*	0.83	18	..
Invercargill .. .. .	8	65.5	50.9	58.2	+3.2	79.0	11, 14	35.7	22	2.69	15	-1.43	0.83	18	..
Invercargill Airfield .. .. .	0	64.2	48.8	56.5	+2.7	76.9	11, 14	32.8	31	2.58	13	-1.45	0.80	18	110

†Observations for 25 days.

LATE RETURNS

Paerata, February 1957 ..	166	80.8	55.7	68.2	+3.3*	82.3	7	50.4	17	1.16	3	-2.35	0.54	5	..
New Plymouth, February 1957 ..	160	74.9	59.5	67.2	+4.7	82.5	5	49.8	27	2.52	7	-1.46	0.98	26	210
East Gore, February 1957 ..	245	71.5	48.5	60.0	+2.1	86.0	11	36.0	9	1.87	10	-0.94	0.85	21	..

NOTE—At stations where departures from normal have an asterisk, the temperature record has been maintained for less than ten years, the rainfall record for less than twenty years. Rainfall normals have been revised and now refer to the standard period 1921–50. Where observations are not available for the whole period, or where the site of the rain gauge has been changed, the normals are partly interpolated.

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR MARCH 1957

General: March was warm and humid, and also rather wet. The rain was welcomed after the dry weather of the two previous months, and growth was considered to be good. Stock also benefited, but in parts of the Auckland and Hawke's Bay Provinces it was found necessary to take precautions against facial eczema in sheep.

In the early morning of the 20th a small tornado caused considerable damage in New Plymouth. No less than five small tornadoes were reported during the month, of which three occurred on the 20th. A north-easterly gale caused some damage on the 19th.

Rainfall: Rainfall was appreciably above normal over the greater part of the country. It was double the usual value in eastern and inland districts from Dunedin to Cape Campbell, and also in parts of the Auckland Province.

Central Hawke's Bay, Westland, and the Southland coast received appreciably less rain than usual.

Severe thunderstorms affected Canterbury and Wairarapa on the 7th. On the 18th, thunderstorms were widespread from Auckland to Westland and Canterbury.

Flooding was reported in the Whangarei - Bay of Islands area on the 8th, and in parts of Canterbury and Otago on the 20th.

Temperatures: As in the previous month, temperatures were above normal over the whole country, mainly by about three degrees. Departures were greatest in central districts.

Sunshine: Sunshine was below normal over the South Island and also over eastern districts of the North Island, mainly by about thirty hours. Western districts of the North Island were favoured with somewhat more sunshine than usual.

Weather Sequence: For the first three days of the month the weather was fine, under the influence of an anticyclone. From the 4th to the 7th pressures remained high to the south and east, but a shallow depression affected the South Island. Severe thunderstorms were reported in Canterbury and Wairarapa on the 7th.

For the next week pressures still remained high to the south and east, while a complex disturbance from the north-west caused unsettled weather over the greater part of the country. Warm humid north-easterlies prevailed throughout the period. The first depression moved southward over northern Northland on the 8th and 9th with thunderstorms and heavy rain over the Auckland Province; flooding occurred in Whangarei. For the next two days the depression moved south-westward, and most districts received some rain. There were some heavy falls in North Canterbury, with flooding in the Cheviot area. From the 12th to the 14th another depression affected mainly eastern districts of the Auckland Province.

The pattern changed on the 15th as a very deep depression passed far to the south-west and the associated trough of low pressure moved onto the South Island. Another depression soon developed over the North Tasman Sea, and as it deepened on the 16th and 17th rain commenced once again in districts exposed to north-easterly winds. The passage of this depression across the South Island from the 18th to the 20th caused considerable rain, with widespread thunderstorms. Flooding was reported in parts of Canterbury and Otago. For the next two days the weather was showery in places and generally much cooler.

By the 23rd, pressures were again high to the south and east, but another depression was centred over the eastern Tasman Sea. A shallow trough became stationary over the South Island, with rain as far north as Christchurch. North-easterlies again developed, with showers in some districts on the 24th and 25th. For the next four days a depression passing to the north affected the weather in parts of the Auckland Province; while on the 28th and 29th the passage of a depression to the south brought some rain to Otago and Southland. However, there was a general clearance on the last two days of the month as a large anticyclone moved on to the country. Temperatures became somewhat cooler.

M. A. F. BARNETT, Director.