

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for December 1956—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.		In.		In.		Hrs.	
Franz Josef	450	64.6	48.7	56.6	..	73.2	18	43.3	24	16.55	23	..	3.38	29	..
Eyrewell	520	68.7	50.6	59.6	..	81.5	20,26	40.0	3,4	4.07	10	+0.47*	1.31	12	..
Ashley Forest	460	67.2	51.1	59.2	+0.1*	82.0	26	43.6	4	6.48	12	+3.20*	1.90	12	..
Darfield	640	69.1	49.8	59.4	+0.5	82.1	26	39.1	24	3.71	10	+0.86	1.22	12	..
Harewood	94	68.2	52.0	60.1	..	83.8	26	42.2	24	2.78	12	..	0.67	27	201
Christchurch	22	69.0	52.3	60.6	+0.8	84.2	26	42.2	24	2.81	11	+0.27	0.70	1	..
Wigram	74	68.8	51.9	60.4	+0.4*	82.8	10	40.7	24	2.78	10	+0.39*	0.61	27	..
Akaroa	150	69.2	53.0	61.1	-0.2	85.0	26	43.0	3	3.76	14	+1.06*	1.00	23	176
Lincoln	36	69.3	49.0	59.2	+0.5	82.9	26	36.0	24	2.60	11	+0.38	0.65	12	215
Highbank	1,102	66.1	50.3	58.2	..	77.9	9	42.8	24	5.26	14	..	1.76	23	217
The Hermitage	2,510	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winchmore	525	67.5	48.2	57.8	+0.1*	82.0	26	39.1	24	2.53	11	-0.17*	1.21	12	..
Haast	15	64.8	49.6	57.2	+0.5*	72.0	14	41.9	29	17.19	20	+4.61*	4.27	5	142
Ashburton	323	71.0	49.7	60.4	+1.3	85.2	10	39.2	29	2.33	9	-0.68	0.97	12	178
Fairlie	1,004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timaru	56	69.1	50.2	59.6	+0.9	85.8	25	39.7	29	2.04	10	-0.62	0.49	12	167
Adair	200	66.4	49.9	58.2	+1.0*	81.9	25	43.3	24	3.02	14	+0.19*	0.70	12	..
Tara Hills, Omarama	1,600	68.4	45.3	56.8	-1.1*	83.7	9	34.0	2	2.25	13	+0.25*	0.70	25	191
Milford Sound	20	61.6	50.2	55.9	+0.5	68.4	13	41.1	2	27.51	22	+4.15	5.70	29	..
Waimate	200	67.8	51.0	59.4	+1.6	83.1	25	40.5	24	2.30	11	-0.63	0.73	12	151
Naseby	2,300	64.9	41.5	53.2	..	81.0	9	30.5	2	3.04	13	..	1.18	27	..
Queenstown	1,100	67.4	47.8	57.6	-0.3	76.6	14	33.4	1	3.77	17	+1.27	1.14	29	196
Cromwell	720	71.3	49.3	60.3	+0.1*	86.4	9	35.5	1	1.93	11	+0.65*	0.87	25	..
Ophir	1,000	69.1	45.4	57.2	-1.1	81.2	9	32.0	1	2.33	9	+0.51	0.65	25	..
Earnsclough	500	71.0	46.7	58.8	-0.8*	83.3	8	36.0	1	1.98	12	+0.72*	0.97	25	..
Waipiata	1,550	64.5	44.0	54.2	-1.8	79.5	9	35.0	2	1.92	12	-0.27	0.50	27	187
Alexandra	520	71.9	49.4	60.6	+0.4	84.2	9	37.3	2	2.22	12	+0.92	0.71	25	183
Manorburn Dam†	2,448	63.1	41.3	52.2	+0.7	75.0	9	32.0	1,24	2.35	11	+0.39	0.50	12	..
Garston	1,009	67.5	45.6	56.6	..	79.1	8	32.3	1	4.04	16	..	1.40	25	..
Roxburgh Hydro	350	71.2	47.6	59.4	..	87.0	9	36.0	1	2.48	14	+0.67	0.70	25	..
Mid Dome	1,252	66.9	46.1	56.5	..	77.8	9	32.2	1	5.05	17	..	1.48	25	..
Moa Flat, West Otago	1,345	64.2	44.5	54.4	..	77.2	9	32.0	1	2.97	14	+0.01*	0.54	12	..
Mossburn	961	68.2	45.2	56.7	..	76.7	8	35.7	2	6.00	14	..	2.04	25	..
Taieri	80	66.6	48.5	57.6	+1.6*	79.2	20	39.0	2	3.80	15	+1.24*	0.69	27	151
Musselburgh, Dunedin	5	65.4	51.2	58.3	+1.5*	79.5	25	42.5	24	3.53	17	+0.65	0.46	27	162
Tapanui	550	67.9	46.6	57.2	..	79.1	9	33.8	1	2.32	15	..	0.53	1	..
East Gore	245	69.4	47.8	58.6	+2.3	83.0	9	39.0	1	3.51	13	+0.43	0.75	16	..
Gore	240	69.7	47.8	58.8	+2.1*	82.0	16	39.0	1	3.30	14	-0.22*	0.81	16	165
Otautau	180	66.7	46.7	56.7	+2.3*	81.0	10	38.5	14	2.82	14	-0.20*	1.12	25	150
Pebble Hills	150	67.7	47.0	57.4	..	77.7	9	40.5	24	4.73	20	+1.21*	1.09	25	..
Invercargill South	8	67.7	49.7	58.7	+2.9	79.8	15	42.6	4	4.30	17	+0.62*	0.98	25	..
Invercargill Airfield	0	65.7	47.9	56.8	+1.8*	76.8	18	39.2	14	4.35	16	+0.75*	1.01	25	160

†Observations for 24 days.

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 DECEMBER 1956

General: December was a month of unsettled weather. Shearing and haymaking, which were held up in November, were even further delayed. Growth was generally good, but in some western districts of the North Island it has not been a favourable season for sheep, partly owing to blowy attacks. In the Auckland Province the fruit crop has been adversely affected by excessive rain in previous seasons, especially the winter.

A small local tornado caused some damage in western suburbs of Auckland in the early morning of the 12th.

Rainfall: In the North Island rainfall was above normal except in the southern part of the Wellington Province and about Whangarei. Totals were doubled in eastern districts from Castlepoint to Tokomaru Bay and also in the Wanganui-Rangitikei-Manawatu area.

In the South Island it was wetter than usual in most eastern districts north of Dunedin and also in Central Otago.

Thunderstorms with hail were widespread in eastern districts on the 1st and 2nd and again on the 23rd. On both occasions the hail was heavy enough to cause damage to crops in some areas, especially in North Canterbury on the 23rd, when a few of the hailstones were reported to have been 2 in. across.

Temperatures: Temperatures were more than a degree above normal in coastal districts of Southland, Otago, and Westland, also about Cook Strait and in the Napier-Whakatane-Gisborne area.

A fall of snow occurred on the high country of Southland and Central Otago on the 1st.

Sunshine: Except in western and northern districts of the North Island, sunshine was below normal. As in the previous month, the deficiency was greatest in Central Otago, amounting to over 40 hours.

Weather Sequence: A vigorous cold front crossed the country on the 1st, accompanied by a period of precipitation. Parts of Southland and Otago received some snow, while in Canterbury and in Nelson Province there were thunderstorms with hail. Showery conditions persisted on the following day, with thunder and hail in parts of the North Island.

From the 3rd to the 9th was a period of settled weather, with an anticyclone at first over the North Island and later over the whole country. However, South Westland and Fiordland received considerable rain on the 5th owing to the passage of a depression far to the south.

The weather deteriorated in western and far southern districts on the 10th as a trough moved on to Southland, and on the following day rain became general. A depression soon formed over the North Island and as it moved slowly eastward on the 12th and 13th heavy rain fell in Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, and Wanganui. On the 14th there was a temporary improvement under the influence of a weak ridge of high pressure. However, during the next two days rain spread over the country, especially the North Island, from the west with the advance of a depression over the Central Tasman Sea. There were some heavy falls in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay during the passage of this depression across the North Island on the 17th and 18th, but the weather cleared in the west and south. A few showers still persisted in eastern areas of the North Island as the depression moved away on the 19th.

From the 20th to the 25th pressures were high to the north and low to the south and south-west. Rain affected western and at times far southern districts of the South Island. Elsewhere the weather was fair except on the 23rd, when a vigorous trough crossed the country accompanied by rain, with thunderstorms and hail in eastern districts from Otago to Wairarapa.

On the 26th and 27th there was general rain with the passage of a complex trough, and showers persisted in some districts on the following day. For the last three days of the year pressures were again high to the north and very low to the south, and another trough crossed the country. North-westerly winds exceeded gale force at times, especially about Cook Strait on the 30th, and the weather was generally unsettled, with thunderstorms from Manawatu to Auckland early on the 31st.

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