

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for February 1959—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit)								Rainfall in Inches					Bright Sunshine Hrs.
		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.						
Balmoral	650	73.9	48.3	61.1	-0.4*	88.0	7	36.0	24	1.21	3	-0.94	0.93	21	..
Lake Coleridge	1,195	71.1	48.9	60.0	+0.6	87.1	7	36.0	24	1.99	4	-0.24	0.94	9	..
Eyrewell	520	73.2	48.7	61.0	..	90.8	8	36.0	22	2.39	4	-0.73*	1.49	21	..
Franz Josef	450	68.0	49.5	58.8	..	76.3	8	39.8	23	11.29	11	..	3.87	9	..
Ashley Forest	350	70.8	52.5	61.6	+1.6*	87.0	8	41.0	22	1.72	4	-0.91*	1.26	21	..
Darfield	640	74.6	49.6	62.1	+2.1	90.0	8	40.1	22	2.55	3	+0.02	1.68	21	..
Christchurch Airport	94	71.5	52.4	62.0	..	87.7	5	43.1	26	1.33	5	..	0.83	21	204
Christchurch	22	72.1	53.3	62.7	+1.9	89.2	8	43.2	23	1.71	4	-0.09	1.34	21	..
Wigram	74	72.8	53.7	63.2	+2.5*	89.2	8	43.2	26	1.23	2	-0.44*	1.10	21	..
Akaroa	150	72.7	54.2	63.4	+1.5	87.0	8	45.0	19	1.98	5	-0.49*	1.29	21	198
Lincoln	36	73.0	52.4	62.7	+3.0	91.4	8	41.1	26	2.36	4	+0.61	1.87	21	216
Highbank	1,102	69.3	50.4	59.8	..	82.7	8	38.5	22	3.91	10	..	2.05	21	191
The Hermitage	2,510	66.9	47.1	57.0	+0.9	79.0	5	30.0	22	9.25	8	-5.93	5.75	10	160
Winchmore	626	71.2	49.4	60.3	+0.7*	88.4	8	40.0	24	2.98	5	+0.70*	1.95	21	..
Haast	15	65.2	49.8	57.5	-0.9	71.7	23	42.9	24	5.40	13	-8.20*	1.48	9	183
Ashburton	323	75.6	51.3	63.4	+2.4	93.2	2	41.2	22	2.59	6	-0.10	1.85	21	185
Fairlie	1,004	72.4	45.0	58.7	+0.1	90.0	8	29.0	23	1.71	6	-1.21	1.27	21	..
Timaru	56	72.2	51.2	61.7	+1.5	89.1	5	39.7	23	1.70	8	-0.52	0.88	21	182
Adair	200	69.1	50.1	59.6	+1.6*	86.2	9	38.8	23	1.42	8	-0.90*	0.89	21	..
Tara Hills, Otago	1,600	73.3	44.6	59.0	-0.7*	83.2	4	30.1	23	1.01	6	-0.68*	0.38	13	194
Benmore, Otago	920	73.8	49.5	61.6	..	86.0	7	32.8	22	0.74	5	..	0.54	21	..
Milford Sound	20	65.2	50.7	58.0	+1.0	78.0	23	42.3	4	19.48	15	-4.10	5.73	9	..
Waimate	200	70.7	49.7	60.2	+0.1	88.0	9	37.6	23	2.66	10	+0.34	0.79	21	163
Naseby	2,300	70.7	41.6	56.2	..	84.9	7	25.1	28	1.46	6	..	0.41	21	..
Queenstown	1,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cromwell	720	76.5	51.3	63.9	+2.3*	86.0	7	33.4	23	0.70	7	-0.98*	0.28	14	..
Ophir	1,000	73.8	46.2	60.0	+0.2	84.0	7	28.9	23	1.15	8	-0.78	0.38	21	..
Moa Creek	1,400	71.1	43.4	57.2	..	82.0	7	26.4	23	1.01	7	..	0.32	9	..
Earnsclough	500	75.5	46.8	61.2	+0.5*	88.0	7	28.6	23	0.54	5	-0.71*	0.31	9	..
Waipiata	1,550	70.3	45.2	57.8	+0.0	83.7	7	29.0	23	1.19	7	-0.81	0.42	21	194
Alexandra	520	74.9	50.0	62.4	+1.0	86.2	7	33.2	23	0.45	6	-1.02	0.25	9	200
Garston	1,009	70.8	46.3	58.6	..	80.5	7	29.0	23	2.56	11	..	0.70	9	..
Roxburgh Hydro	350	74.4	47.7	61.0	..	87.0	7	32.0	1	1.03	12	-0.70*	0.40	17	..
Mid Dome	1,252	70.3	46.3	58.3	..	83.0	8	29.3	23	2.68	8	..	1.05	9	..
Moa Flat, West Otago	1,345	66.1	45.5	55.8	..	80.5	7	33.9	23	2.58	12	-0.37*	0.65	17	..
Taieri	80	69.2	48.0	58.6	+0.9*	87.6	8	30.4	23	2.21	10	-0.10*	0.65	17	170
Musselburgh, Dunedin	5	67.3	51.6	59.4	+0.9*	86.0	8	37.6	23	2.70	11	-0.25	0.79	17	180
Tapanui	550	68.4	47.7	58.0	..	82.0	7	33.5	23	4.01	14	..	1.30	3	..
East Gore	245	70.2	48.0	59.1	+1.2	86.0	7	32.0	23	3.73	15	+0.92	1.07	9	..
Gore	240	70.9	47.6	59.2	+0.9*	85.0	7	32.0	23	3.94	13	+1.13	1.15	9	166
Otautau	180	67.9	47.4	57.6	+1.2*	80.2	7, 16	30.5	23	4.49	11	+1.48*	0.90	9	169
Pebble Hills	150	69.8	46.7	58.2	..	83.0	7	29.0	23	5.08	15	+1.60*	0.93	17	..
Invercargill	8	67.7	50.4	59.0	+1.8	84.8	7	33.6	23	4.49	16	+1.06*	1.14	2	..
Invercargill Airfield	0	66.2	48.0	57.1	+0.9*	81.3	7	27.7	23	4.55	16	+1.20*	1.10	2	171

LATE RETURNS

Chateau Tongariro, Jan 1959	3,670	67.1	47.9	57.5	+5.2	79.0	19	39.0	16, 17	10.18	11	+1.61*	3.27	12	..
Dannevirke, Jan 1959	685	72.9	53.9	63.4	..	81.9	19	44.5	17	3.20	9	+0.01*	1.36	12	..
The Hermitage, Jan 1959	2,510	74.1	49.8	62.0	+6.2	88.0	19	34.0	3	3.80	4	-14.99	2.20	27	224

NOTE—At stations where departures from normal have an asterisk, the temperature record has been maintained for less than 10 years, the rainfall record for less than 20 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 FEBRUARY 1959

General: Over most of the country February was drier than usual. In parts of Marlborough and Nelson, after two months of low rainfall, the feed position was reported to be serious. Elsewhere conditions were mainly favourable for farmers, but in the North Island lambs were still not in good condition, as they were showing the effects of abundant growth, with too soft a feed.

A southerly storm from the 21st to the 23rd was associated with unusually cold temperatures for the time of the year and considerable snow on the ranges of both islands; a foot was recorded at the Ruapehu ski lift and 2 ins. at Lake Tekapo. Gale force winds caused some damage in the Wellington and Taranaki Provinces.

Rainfall: Rainfall was somewhat below average in the South Island (except Southland, South Otago, and mid-Canterbury), also in the Gisborne district, the King Country, and about Auckland City. In Marlborough and Nelson totals were less than a quarter of the normal value; Nelson City had its lowest February rainfall since 1939.

The only considerable area with totals well above average consisted of northern Wairarapa, southern Hawke's Bay, and the Rangitikei-Wanganui district. In parts of this area rainfall was double the normal value. More than three-quarters of this rain fell between the 20th and the 23rd; in Hawke's Bay very little fell outside the 22nd and the 23rd, during the southerly storm.

Temperatures: Mean temperatures were above average, mainly by about a degree.

Frosts were recorded in many inland districts of the South Island on the 23rd. At Naseby, in Central Otago, the air temperature dropped to 25°F, the lowest ever recorded in New Zealand in February.

Sunshine: Sunshine was above average over most of the South Island and in western districts of the North Island. The surplus amounted to 30 hours on the West Coast, and Westport's total of 232 hours was one of the highest in the country.

It was somewhat cloudier than usual in eastern districts of the North Island and in Marlborough.

Weather Sequence: From the 1st to the 8th the weather was fair and very warm over the greater part of the country as anticyclones moved from the Tasman Sea across New Zealand to the Chatham Islands. However, on the 1st a weak trough to the north-east caused showers in Gisborne and Coromandel. On the 2nd and 3rd the passage of a deep depression close to Campbell Island was associated with gales in Stewart Island and about Foveaux Strait; rain fell in western and southern districts of the South Island. These same districts received rain again on the 5th with the passage of a weak trough.

A more vigorous trough crossed the country on the 9th and 10th, with general rain. There were considerable falls in Westland, and some flooding was reported.

The 11th to the 18th was another period of fair weather for the greater part of the country, under the influence of a large slow-moving anticyclone. However, in Northland showers were reported on several days, partly owing to the passage of a tropical cyclone far to the north. A weak trough brought some rain to western and southern districts of the South Island on the 17th.

The 19th to the 23rd was a period of unsettled, stormy, and at times unusually cold weather. An old tropical cyclone which had first appeared off the Queensland coast on the 15th moved across the North Tasman Sea, becoming weaker. A vigorous cold front