

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for March 1959—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.					
Hokitika South ..	15	66.7	51.2	59.0	+2.7*	75.2	14	41.0	26, 31	9.32	16	+0.38*	2.13	17	204
Balmoral ..	650	68.6	46.7	57.6	-0.4*	83.0	9	31.0	31	2.31	11	+0.59	0.87	17	..
Lake Coleridge ..	1,195	66.7	47.4	57.0	+0.6	79.0	9	35.0	31	2.52	7	+0.59	0.97	12	..
Eyrewell ..	520	66.5	46.7	56.6	..	84.4	9	32.0	31	5.68	13	+2.92*	3.15	12	..
Franz Josef ..	450	67.5	50.0	58.8	..	81.0	14	42.2	19	11.28	14	..	4.11	9	..
Ashley Forest ..	350	65.7	50.5	58.1	+0.7*	84.6	9	41.0	27	4.38	9	+2.24*	2.26	12	..
Darfield ..	640	67.0	47.8	57.4	+0.3	85.2	9	32.8	19	7.51	13	+5.47	4.59	12	..
Christchurch Airport ..	94	66.5	50.4	58.4	..	88.3	9	36.8	28	3.24	12	..	1.76	12	154
Christchurch ..	22	67.3	51.1	59.2	+1.1	90.4	9	39.3	2	2.35	8	+0.41	0.97	12	..
Wigram ..	74	67.0	51.6	59.3	+1.2*	88.0	9	36.6	27	2.65	10	+0.83*	1.06	12	..
Akaroa ..	150	68.7	52.8	60.8	+1.2	88.0	9	41.8	31	2.60	12	-0.05*	1.07	17	167
Lincoln ..	36	67.0	50.0	58.5	+1.5	87.9	10	35.6	27	5.51	10	+3.43	3.61	12	165
Highbank ..	1,102	64.7	49.2	57.0	..	80.0	10	39.6	27	6.05	14	..	2.32	12	160
The Hermitage ..	2,510	63.6	44.7	54.2	+0.1	73.0	22	34.0	19, 31	10.81	11	-4.88	5.76	9	136
Winchmore ..	626	64.6	47.9	56.2	-0.2*	81.8	9	35.7	27	6.22	12	-4.00	3.32	12	..
Haast ..	15	65.8	51.9	58.8	+1.9*	78.0	14	41.2	19	8.62	13	-7.37	3.24	9	183
Ashburton ..	323	68.4	48.3	58.4	+0.6	87.8	9	32.0	27	6.11	13	+3.91	3.12	12	146
Fairlie ..	1,004	65.4	45.0	55.2	-0.1	87.0	9	32.0	28	3.15	12	+0.76	1.10	17	..
Timaru ..	56	67.0	48.8	57.9	+0.5	91.6	9	37.2	31	2.98	15	+0.85	0.87	17	153
Adair ..	200	64.2	49.2	56.7	+0.4*	87.9	9	40.2	6	2.82	11	+0.58*	0.80	17	..
Tara Hills, Otago ..	1,600	68.0	43.1	55.6	-0.6*	81.1	9	29.5	31	0.72	6	-1.10*	0.33	12	190
Benmore, Otago ..	920	68.7	46.6	57.6	..	84.5	9	35.5	19, 30	0.74	7	..	0.32	12	..
Milford Sound ..	20	65.3	49.6	57.4	+2.4	74.0	14, 15	42.4	31	15.87	12	-6.21	8.16	9	..
Waimate ..	200	66.7	48.4	57.6	+0.1	88.8	9	39.0	31	2.65	10	+0.41	0.92	12	136
Naseby ..	2,300	65.7	40.5	53.1	..	80.7	9	25.1	2	1.99	11	..	0.92	12	..
Queenstown ..	1,100	68.1	47.1	57.6	+1.3	77.5	24	36.0	26	0.73	5	-2.12	0.31	9	190
Cromwell ..	720	71.3	47.2	59.2	+1.6	81.9	9	29.5	26	0.50	8	-0.93*	0.20	11	..
Ophir ..	1,000	69.5	41.3	55.4	-0.3	79.0	15, 22	28.0	2, 31	0.62	9	-0.84	0.25	11	..
Moa Creek ..	1,400	67.3	39.0	53.2	..	77.1	14	22.1	31	0.30	7	..	0.14	11	..
Earnsclough ..	500	70.7	43.2	57.0	+0.1*	84.4	9	27.8	2	0.28	4	-0.93	0.13	9	..
Waipiata ..	1,550	65.9	43.6	54.8	+0.2	81.4	9	30.6	26	1.13	8	-0.44*	0.38	17	186
Alexandra ..	520	70.4	46.5	58.4	+0.8	83.7	9	32.6	2	0.46	4	-0.89	0.10	9	197
Garston ..	1,009	67.1	41.4	54.2	..	78.0	9, 14	27.9	2	1.51	11	..	0.39	9	..
Roxburgh Hydro ..	350	70.4	44.7	57.6	..	82.8	9	32.1	2	0.74	10	-0.78*	0.16	28	..
Mid Dome ..	1,252	66.0	42.1	54.0	..	80.4	9, 11	30.0	2	2.19	13	..	0.47	9	..
Moa Flat, West Otago ..	1,345	63.1	44.1	53.6	..	76.0	24	31.8	2	1.64	11	-0.82*	0.46	24	..
Taieri ..	80	67.0	44.5	55.8	+0.6*	89.1	9	31.8	31	1.34	12	-0.73*	0.26	11	177
Musselburgh, Dunedin ..	5	64.6	49.6	57.1	+0.7*	84.2	24	37.9	26	1.54	12	-1.02	0.39	24	177
Tapanui ..	550	65.5	45.2	55.4	..	80.6	9	34.0	2	1.71	12	..	0.51	24	..
East Gore ..	245	66.5	44.7	55.6	+0.5	80.0	7, 9	32.0	2, 26	2.11	12	-1.00	0.79	24	..
Gore ..	240	67.1	44.4	55.8	+0.4*	81.0	7, 9	32.0	2, 3	2.07	10	-1.04*	0.81	24	175
Otautau ..	180	64.7	46.7	55.7	+1.0	78.8	9	34.0	13	1.64	14	-1.88	0.42	28	178
Pebble Hills ..	150	66.1	44.6	55.4	..	80.0	7	30.0	2	1.71	12	-1.91*	0.47	24	..
Invercargill ..	8	64.5	46.9	55.7	+0.7	81.8	7	33.4	2	1.36	17	-2.76*	0.28	9	..
Invercargill Airfield ..	0	63.4	43.9	53.6	-0.2*	77.9	9	27.6	2	1.44	16	-2.59*	0.30	9	169

LATE RETURNS

Kaingaroa, Feb, 1958 ..	1,800	72.0	48.8	60.4	+1.2	79.8	6	38.0	24	4.71	11	-0.76	1.52	10	..
Queenstown, Feb, 1958 ..	1,100	72.8	49.7	61.2	+1.6	79.6	8	36.0	23	1.10	8	-1.31	0.31	3	212

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 MARCH 1959

General: March was a warm month. Good rains in the middle of the month provided some relief for the dried-up pastures of Marlborough and Nelson, but more rain would still be very welcome in these areas. Elsewhere, stock were mainly in good condition, except for lambs which were still being adversely affected by the moist conditions in the North Island.

A tropical cyclone which passed close to North Cape on the evening of the 14th caused widespread damage over the northern half of Northland. At Cape Reinga lighthouse the barometer fell to 963 millibars—the lowest ever recorded in the North Island. Winds from the north-east reached hurricane force, and a gust of 110 m.p.h. was recorded at Kaitiaki Aerodrome. Many buildings, including five churches and three halls, were destroyed by the wind, and power and telephone services were completely disrupted over a wide area. In the Kerikeri district much of the tree-tomato and citrus crop was destroyed.

Rainfall: Rainfall was close to average over the greater part of the country. However, over most of Northland and Coromandel and in the Christchurch-Ashburton area it was double the usual value. On the other hand, Otago and Southland received only half the normal rainfall.

From Whangarei northward three-quarters of the total rain fell from the 12th to the 17th.

Temperatures: In the North Island and in northern and western districts of the South Island temperatures were warmer than usual by 1–3 degrees. Over the remainder of the South Island temperatures were close to normal.

Sunshine: Over the greater part of the country sunshine was below average by about 30 hours. However, western and southern districts of the South Island were favoured with more sun than usual by a similar amount; and in western districts of the Wellington Province sunshine was close to normal.

Weather Sequence: On the 1st there was scattered light rain, mainly in eastern districts from Kaikoura to Coromandel, associated with the passage of a weak trough. On the following day an anticyclone brought fine weather. Conditions deteriorated again in eastern districts with some light rain as another trough moved northwards over the country on the 3rd and 4th. This trough became slow-moving over the Auckland Province for the next three days, with considerable rain.

From the 8th to the 12th a deep depression moved past western Southland to the vicinity of Macquarie Island and later travelled south-eastward. This was a period of unsettled weather for the West Coast with frequent rain. On the 8th and 9th the Bay of Plenty and Nelson also received some rain in the northerly airstream, and on the 11th and 12th the unsettled weather became general with the passage of a trough over the country.

From the 13th to the 18th the weather north of Christchurch was dominated by an intense tropical cyclone. This cyclone was centred near New Caledonia on the 13th, and it moved rapidly south-eastward to a position north of Cape Reinga. It recurved towards the south-west on the afternoon of the 14th and passed close to northern Northland, which was devastated by north-easterly winds of hurricane force. The cyclone soon became merged in another deep depression over the North Tasman Sea, and north-easterly winds continued for several days, with rain especially in the Auckland Province, north Taranaki, and northern and western districts of the South Island. On the 17th and 18th the depression crossed the North Island, and in the resulting south-westerly change Canterbury and Otago also received some rain.

From the 19th to the 22nd the weather was mainly fair or fine, under the influence of an anticyclone at first over the Tasman Sea and later over New Zealand. A few showers were reported in the west and south of the South Island on the 19th and in Northland on the 22nd.