

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for December 1958—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.
Eyrewell ..	520	72.2	49.5	60.8	..	88.8	19	35.0	6	3.05	13	−0.55*	0.55	7	..
Franz Josef ..	450	68.7	49.0	58.8	..	74.5	15, 21	42.0	20	27.23	20	..	7.48	7	..
Ashley Forest ..	350	69.5	51.0	60.2	+1.1*	80.4	29	40.4	6	4.15	14	+0.87*	0.81	14, 15	..
Darfield ..	640	72.6	49.1	60.8	+1.9	87.4	22	36.1	6	2.78	13	−0.07	0.69	14	..
Christchurch Airport ..	94	70.5	52.4	61.4	+2.6	88.0	29	42.9	6	1.50	11	−0.90	0.46	14	212
Christchurch ..	22	71.5	53.0	62.2	+2.4	86.7	29	45.5	6	1.47	10	−1.07	0.52	14	..
Wigram ..	74	71.3	52.7	62.0	+2.0*	86.2	29	44.6	22	1.31	8	−1.08*	0.45	14	..
Akaroa ..	150	72.8	54.1	63.4	+3.1	90.0	29	45.0	6	1.22	10	−1.48*	0.28	4	213
Lincoln ..	36	71.4	50.4	60.9	+2.2	87.1	29	39.1	22	1.61	11	−0.61	0.37	14	222
Highbank ..	1,102	67.3	50.4	58.8	..	80.1	22	41.6	6	3.77	12	..	1.02	14	205
The Hermitage ..	2,510	62.8	46.9	54.8	+0.2	75.0	10, 28	38.0	6	31.80	16	+18.88	8.75	13	150
Winchmore ..	626	68.6	48.6	58.6	+0.9	83.1	22	40.0	6	2.31	10	−0.49	0.66	14	..
Haast ..	15	64.8	51.9	58.4	+1.7*	75.2	24	41.8	5	14.37	20	+1.79*	2.68	7	164
Ashburton ..	323	71.8	48.4	60.1	+3.0	86.2	29	37.0	6, 7	2.34	8	−0.67	0.76	14	182
Fairlie ..	1,004	67.4	45.9	56.6	−0.5	82.0	22	31.0	6	3.07	15	+0.18	1.05	16	..
Timaru ..	56	69.7	50.4	60.0	+1.3	88.9	29	40.0	6	4.19	11	+1.53	1.14	16	194
Adair ..	200	66.1	49.7	57.9	+0.7*	84.2	29	41.1	6	4.61	12	+1.78*	1.31	16	..
Tara Hills, Omarama ..	1,600	69.0	45.9	57.4	−0.5*	77.9	6, 22	32.6	6	5.82	15	+3.82*	2.28	7	197
Benmore, Otematata ..	920	70.1	48.8	59.4	..	82.0	22	36.0	6	4.24	12	..	2.07	7	..
Milford Sound ..	20	64.4	51.3	57.8	+2.4	78.0	24	43.0	5	18.93	17	−4.43	5.34	12	..
Waimate ..	200	68.5	49.4	59.0	+1.2	86.3	29	41.1	6	4.47	18	+1.54	1.11	7	153
Naseby ..	2,300	67.3	42.0	54.6	..	76.7	22	30.2	9	3.56	14	..	1.48	7	..
Queenstown ..	1,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cromwell ..	720	73.5	50.1	61.8	+1.6*	83.2	28	37.8	6	2.35	13	+1.07*	0.42	7	..
Ophir ..	1,000	71.3	47.0	59.2	+0.9*	83.4	22	33.0	6	1.85	11	+0.03*	0.68	16	..
Moa Creek ..	1,400	68.9	44.1	56.5	..	79.3	10	31.9	6, 9	2.05	12	..	0.63	16	..
Earnsclough ..	500	72.2	49.8	60.0	+0.4*	81.2	27	38.0	6, 7	2.09	9	+0.83*	0.50	16	..
Waipiata ..	1,550	..	44.3	..	..	..	..	31.0	6	2.88	10	+0.69	0.69	8	183
Alexandra ..	520	72.6	50.6	61.6	+1.4	81.9	10	41.2	9	2.21	10	+0.91	0.53	16	208
Garston ..	1,009	69.7	47.1	58.4	..	78.9	10	33.2	20	2.99	14	..	0.87	7, 22	..
Roxburgh Hydro ..	350	70.7	46.9	58.8	..	79.0	6	33.0	6	2.78	10	+0.97	0.70	22	..
Mid Dome ..	1,252	67.6	46.9	57.2	..	75.0	25	36.7	6	3.76	14	..	1.04	7	..
Moa Flat, West Otago ..	1,345	63.6	44.3	54.0	..	71.9	10	37.2	9	3.44	15	+0.48*	0.81	7	..
Taieri ..	80	66.7	46.6	56.6	+0.6	79.8	29	35.2	9	2.19	12	−0.37	0.46	16	187
Musselburgh, Dunedin ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tapanui ..	550	66.6	46.2	56.4	..	75.8	18	37.6	9	3.16	11	..	0.76	7	..
East Gore ..	245	67.5	48.2	57.8	+1.5	77.0	18, 20	38.0	6, 9	3.21	9	+0.13	1.08	22	..
Gore ..	240	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otautau ..	180	64.3	47.3	55.8	+0.4*	72.0	26	35.0	6	2.52	13	+0.50*	0.80	7	173
Pebble Hills ..	150	67.0	47.7	57.4	..	75.0	20	36.0	9	3.37	16	−0.15*	0.96	7	..
Invercargill ..	8	64.2	49.8	57.0	+1.2	74.1	18	30.0	6	3.33	14	−0.35*	0.79	7	..
Invercargill Airfield ..	0	62.7	47.6	55.2	+0.2*	71.2	11	35.0	9	3.30	15	−0.30*	0.77	7	187

LATE RETURNS

Te Aroha, Nov., 1958 ..	46	73.6	51.2	62.4	+1.2	78.0	14	42.0	19	1.58	12	−2.44	0.37	16	..
Waerengaokuri, Nov., 1958 ..	1,130	65.9	49.8	57.8	+1.6*	73.6	26	35.4	22	2.44	11	−0.59*	0.88	9	..
Akaroa, Nov., 1958 ..	150	72.0	49.6	60.8	+3.7	85.0	22	38.5	18	1.10	10	−1.18*	0.26	17	238
East Gore, Jul., 1958 ..	245	44.4	34.0	37.0	−2.4	54.0	18	15.0	6	1.57	13	−0.44	0.35	19	..
East Gore, Aug., 1958 ..	245	52.2	35.2	43.7	+1.0	67.0	9	29.0	8, 31	1.55	15	−0.52	0.59	31	..
East Gore, Nov., 1958 ..	245	68.6	43.4	56.0	+2.9	85.0	13	35.0	3, 24	1.53	11	−1.68	0.35	16	..
Otautau, Nov., 1958 ..	180	65.3	45.0	55.4	+3.3*	79.5	13	33.2	24	2.37	10	−1.14*	0.58	16	153

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 1958

General: Warm, unsettled weather predominated throughout December. Over most of the North Island it was very dull and wet, but it was much sunnier in eastern and southern districts of the South Island. In Canterbury more rain would have been welcomed in order to offset the effects of the very dry spring. It was a good month for dairy production, and cattle were reported to be in good condition. In some parts of the North Island conditions were too wet for sheep, and lambs have not fattened well; blowfly strike was also causing some trouble. Heavy rains in the Taupo catchment area brought to an end a long period of electric-power restrictions.

A north-westerly gale caused some damage in Christchurch and other parts of Canterbury on the 12th.

Rainfall: It was a very wet month over the North Island (except the Gisborne district) and in Nelson, few places having less than double the normal rainfall. From Taranaki across to Rotorua and Taupo, with rainfall three or four times the average, it was the wettest December on record. The only serious flooding occurred on Christmas Eve, when slips and washouts disrupted road and rail traffic in the centre of the Island.

Over most of the South Island and in the Gisborne district rainfall was a little above average, but in mid-Canterbury and near the south-east coast it did not quite reach the average.

In a thunderstorm on the 16th in the Levin-Otaki area hailstones as large as half an inch in diameter caused serious damage to fruit crops.

Temperatures: Temperatures were about 3° above normal in the North Island and in the northern part of the South Island. From there the departure from average gradually decreased southwards and was only about ½° F. on the Southland coast.

Sunshine: Sunshine totals were very low except in eastern and southern districts of the South Island, where they were close to average. In central and northern districts of the North Island the deficiency amounted to about 2½ hours a day, making it one of the cloudiest Decembers on record in that area. New Plymouth, Rotorua, and Tauranga have not previously recorded such low December totals.

Weather Sequence: For the first few days an active trough of low pressure moved slowly over the South Island causing widespread rain. It became quite weak by the time it reached the North Island on the 4th. Next day there was some further brief rain in the South Island during the passage of a cold front.

After an anticyclone had brought temporary improvement on the 6th, another very active trough accompanied by a broad belt of rain began to pass slowly across the country. A low pressure centre formed within the trough to the west of the North Island on the 8th and, though it did not deepen to any great extent, it caused widespread prolonged rainfall over most of the North Island for several days.

With the approach of a deep and extensive disturbance across the Tasman Sea rain again developed on the West Coast on the 10th and later spread for a time to other districts of the South Island. The main centre of this disturbance passed to the south on the 13th but another soon developed over the Cook Strait area and moved slowly southwards to pass off the South Island on the 19th. During this very unsettled period from the 11th to the 19th heavy and persistent rains affected the greater part of the North Island, especially the central plateau. East of the South Island ranges falls were relatively light.