

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for December 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.		°F.		In.		In.		Hrs.
Hanmer	1,270	69.0	48.1	58.6	+0.8	83.1	1	40.4	17	1.45	8	-2.26	0.51	9	101
Hokitika South	15	67.2	53.1	60.2	+4.1	75.8	30	43.6	16	8.08	12	-1.88	4.50	9	202
Balmoral	650	70.0	49.1	59.6	+2.3*	82.0	22	40.0	21	0.79	9	-1.51	0.23	4	..
Lake Coleridge	1,195	67.1	49.6	58.4	+0.8	83.0	1	40.0	11	2.97	9	+0.39	1.76	9	..
Eyrewell	520	68.6	50.3	59.4	..	91.7	1	41.9	11	2.73	12	-0.87*	1.18	14	..
Franz Josef	450	69.9	51.4	60.6	..	80.0	27	42.0	23	15.56	17	..	4.02	9	..
Ashley Forest	350	65.1	51.4	58.2	-0.9*	82.6	1	43.8	11	1.38	11	-1.90*	0.54	14	..
Darfield	640	68.9	51.0	60.0	+1.1	91.4	1	42.0	11, 20	2.42	12	-0.43	0.75	14	..
Christchurch Airport	94	65.9	53.1	59.5	..	80.1	8	45.1	11	1.44	11	..	0.67	14	124
Christchurch	22	66.5	53.9	60.2	+0.4	82.1	8	45.1	11	1.20	8	-1.34	0.54	14	..
Wigram	74	66.4	52.3	59.4	-0.6*	82.1	8	44.1	11	1.37	10	-1.02*	0.54	14	..
Akaroa	150	66.8	52.6	59.7	-0.6	84.0	1	43.8	17	1.66	14	-1.04*	0.41	14	124
Lincoln	36	66.8	51.4	59.1	+0.4	84.1	1	40.6	28	1.75	11	-0.47	0.39	9	148
Highbank	1,102	65.8	49.6	57.7	..	82.0	1	41.5	11	3.79	12	..	1.79	9	122
The Hermitage	2,510	66.3	47.4	56.8	+2.2	77.0	30	37.0	10	9.72	12	-3.20	3.18	9	120
Winchmore	626	66.1	49.9	58.0	+0.3*	88.0	1	40.5	31	2.90	11	+0.10*	1.24	9	..
Haast	15	66.4	53.5	60.0	+3.3*	78.9	30	43.8	17	9.61	14	-2.97*	1.89	9	142
Ashburton	323	68.9	51.1	60.0	+0.9	90.2	1	42.6	19	3.12	13	+0.11	1.15	9, 14	106
Fairlie	1,004	64.6	48.9	56.8	-0.3	83.0	1	42.0	11	4.13	15	+1.24	1.67	14	..
Timaru	56	65.7	52.3	59.0	+0.3	75.9	8	41.3	16	2.66	14	+0.00	1.30	9	90
Adair	200	62.5	51.3	56.9	-0.3*	78.8	7	40.6	16	3.05	12	+0.22*	1.73	9	..
Tara Hills, Omarama	1,600	69.1	48.1	58.6	+0.7*	79.0	6	33.7	16	3.04	13	+1.04*	0.95	9	125
Benmore, Otematata	920	68.9	51.2	60.0	..	80.8	1	36.9	16	1.82	10	..	0.81	9	..
Milford Sound	20	66.2	52.6	59.4	+4.0	78.0	26	43.8	1	11.41	18	-11.95	1.70	7	..
Waimate	200	65.1	50.1	57.6	-0.2*	79.0	8	36.0	1	3.49	17	+0.56	2.01	9	60
Naseby Forest	2,300	67.0	44.6	55.8	..	77.8	7	28.8	31	2.24	11	..	0.45	14	..
Queenstown	1,100	69.5	50.2	59.8	+1.9	79.0	28	38.4	31	2.21	16	-0.29	0.61	13	190
Cromwell	720	73.5	53.8	63.6	+3.4*	82.1	7	41.3	31	2.86	12	+1.58*	0.85	13	..
Ophir	1,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Moa Creek	1,400	69.2	47.4	58.3	..	77.2	7	30.1	31	2.09	12	..	0.57	13	..
Earnsclough	500	72.3	50.7	61.5	+1.9*	82.0	7	35.3	31	2.93	11	+1.67*	0.74	23	..
Waipiata	1,550	65.7	46.2	56.0	+0.0	76.9	7	33.4	31	2.09	9	-0.10	0.51	13	172
Alexandra	520	73.0	53.1	63.0	+2.8	82.0	7	39.5	31	2.18	12	+0.88	0.47	13	181
Garston	1,009	69.9	48.5	59.2	..	78.3	19, 28	30.6	31	1.57	14	..	0.25	12, 18	..
Roxburgh Hydro	350	71.4	51.2	61.3	..	84.0	1	37.0	31	2.39	16	+0.58*	0.41	4	..
Mid Dome	1,252	67.2	48.0	57.6	..	76.0	7	33.0	31	3.62	14	..	0.90	22	..
Moa Flat, West Otago	1,345	63.9	47.3	55.6	..	74.2	7	34.8	31	2.55	13	-0.41	1.04	22	..
Taieri	80	63.4	50.4	56.9	+0.9*	82.4	7	43.8	10	4.30	14	+1.74*	1.52	14	109
Musselburgh, Dunedin	5	61.1	51.4	56.2	-0.6*	73.8	7	47.5	10, 11	6.33	21	+3.45*	1.94	9	100
Tapanui	550	67.5	48.5	58.0	..	78.0	19	33.8	16	3.45	13	..	0.81	14	..
East Gore	245	66.9	49.6	58.2	+1.9	79.5	21	35.0	31	2.46	12	-0.62	0.54	22	..
Gore	240	66.8	50.9	58.8	+2.1*	81.0	21	35.0	31	2.39	12	-0.69*	0.48	22	165
Otautau	180	65.0	..	..	..	77.0	20	..	..	3.12	13	+0.10*	0.77	9	128
Pebble Hills	150	66.2	48.5	57.4	..	76.0	7	34.0	31	4.07	13	+0.55*	1.15	14	..
Invercargill	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Invercargill Airfield	0	63.8	49.6	56.7	+1.7*	75.6	20	38.9	31	3.06	13	-0.54*	0.59	14	140

LATE RETURNS

Thames, Nov 1959	10	69.0	54.5	61.8	..	73.0	30	41.2	12	2.62	9	..	0.81	18	178
Karipapanga, Nov 1959	1,600	65.0	42.4	53.7	..	71.2	2	26.4	12	1.56	8	..	0.65	10	..
Wallaceville, Nov 1959	195	63.6	48.0	55.8	+1.2*	70.3	4	32.0	12	2.69	9	-0.82*	0.95	18	164
Cromwell, Nov 1959	720	70.6	45.8	58.2	+2.8*	78.2	29	34.8	20	1.60	7	-0.38*	0.95	8	..
Tapanui, Nov 1959	550	63.2	42.9	53.0	..	78.0	5	32.3	25	4.47	19	..	1.44	8	..

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 DECEMBER 1959

General: December was cloudy and warm, with an unusually high frequency of northerly to easterly winds. It was a good month for stock. However, in southern and western districts of the North Island and in the Nelson Province it was considered to be somewhat too dry, especially in the second half, and crops were affected.

A small local whirlwind caused some damage at Howick (Auckland) on the 15th.

Rainfall: Rainfall was appreciably below average in the North Island south of Hamilton (except in the Gisborne district) and in Marlborough and North Canterbury. In eastern districts from Christchurch to Napier and in Manawatu it was less than half the normal value. Parts of southern Wairarapa received only half an inch.

There was much more rain than usual near Whangarei and about the Hauraki Plains - Coromandel area, also over most of Otago and the Gisborne district. Coromandel received more than twice its normal rainfall, with totals up to 12 in.

There was considerable thunderstorm activity on the 14th, 15th, 29th, and 30th, especially in western districts.

Temperatures: Temperatures were above average. Highest departures of 3–4 degrees were recorded on the West Coast, in Taranaki, and in the National Park - Taihape area. In Northland departures were 2–3 degrees. Elsewhere it was only about a degree warmer than usual.

Sunshine: Sunshine was below average, except in Westland. Greatest deficiencies of 50–110 hours were recorded in eastern

districts. Hanmer, Ashburton, Timaru, Waimate, and Dunedin all experienced their cloudiest December in over 30 years of observation. The total of 60 hours at Waimate was one of the very lowest ever recorded in New Zealand in any summer month.

Weather Sequence: On the 1st pressure was high to the north and a deep depression was passing to the south, with the associated trough of low pressure crossing the South Island. Rain was reported in Fiordland and most of Westland. During the next two days an anticyclone was centred to the south-east of the South Island and a depression moved southward over the Tasman Sea, passing just to the west of Southland. The rain spread over most of the South Island but it was light in eastern districts. From the 4th to the 7th an anticyclone centred to the east extended over most of the North Island. However, a trough of low pressure moved slowly northward from Southland to Manawatu, accompanied by rain over most of the South Island and in western districts of the North Island from Wellington to Hamilton.

The period from the 8th to the 16th was one of predominantly unsettled weather. A depression which had been developing over the Tasman Sea deepened and crossed the South Island, with general rain on the 8th and 9th. There were some heavy falls in and west of the Southern Alps and in South Canterbury. On the following day there was a clearance in the north as the main centre of the depression moved eastward off the South Island. An anticyclone over Northland brought mainly fair weather on the 11th and 12th, but with pressures falling again over the western Tasman Sea rain persisted in western and southern districts of the South Island. During the next two days rain became more or less general again with the passage of another depression from the Tasman Sea