

Yet another warm, dry month

Rainfall	Below normal rainfall (50-79% of normal) or well below normal rainfall (<50% of normal) was widespread in the North Island and northern and eastern South Island, except for east-coastal Northland, northern Auckland, coastal Gisborne, and south-coastal Taranaki where rainfall was near normal (80-120% of normal). A pocket of above normal rainfall (120-149% of normal) or well above normal rainfall (>149% of normal) occurred near Whangārei in Northland. Elsewhere in the lower and western South Island, rainfall was near normal or above normal, except in southern Fiordland where it was below normal or well below normal.
Temperature	Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) or well above average (>1.20°C above average) across most of Aotearoa New Zealand, except for small areas of near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$ of average) temperatures in Central Otago and North Canterbury.
Soil Moisture	At the end of April, soil moisture levels were below normal across western Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Manawatū-Whanganui, west-coastal Taranaki, Wellington, much of the northern South Island, mid and southern Canterbury, the lower West Coast, and much of Otago and Southland. Meanwhile, normal or above normal soil moisture levels were present in eastern Northland, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, North Canterbury, and the mid and northern West Coast.

Click on the link to jump to the information you require:

[Overview](#)

[Rainfall](#)

[Temperature](#)

[April 2022 climate in the six main centres](#)

[Highlights and extreme events](#)

Overview

April 2022 was yet another warm, dry month for large parts of New Zealand with plenty of sunshine. This owed to higher than normal mean sea level pressure (MSLP) over the country, as visualised in **Figure 1**. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), which measures the difference in air pressure between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia, had its 3rd-highest April value on record during April 2022, a sign that the atmospheric imprint of La Niña was strong. Only 2011 and 1904 had higher April SOI values since 1876. Furthermore, the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) was predominantly in its positive phase (63% of the time). The positive phase of SAM is typically associated with high pressure around New Zealand.

In association with La Niña, easterly air flows occurred more frequently than normal in the North Island. Former Tropical Cyclone Fili passed offshore of East Cape on 13 April, causing a spate of rain and wind related impacts (see Highlights and extreme events for more details). For much of the rest of

the North Island, dryness was a theme, with record or near-record low rainfall for several locations in the south and west. This included Hamilton (Ruakura) whose April rainfall was just 13 mm, the lowest April rainfall on record since records started there in 1905. As a result, soil moisture deficiencies intensified through the month and the New Zealand Drought Index (NZDI) reported abnormally dry conditions in Waikato.

On the other hand, the South Island experienced more southwesterly winds than normal, which led to beneficial rainfall and the partial alleviation of soil moisture deficits in Southland and parts of Otago, but relatively dry conditions in the east and north. While meteorological and severe meteorological drought was present in parts of Southland and Rakiura/Stewart Island earlier in the month, conditions eased to “dry” or “very dry” by the end of the month.

The dryness was exacerbated by well above average temperatures, giving April a late summer feel at times. Over 50 locations observed record or near-record high mean maximum temperatures. The nationwide average temperature in April 2022 was 14.5°C. This was 1.3°C above the 1981-2010 April average from NIWA’s seven station temperature series which begins in 1909, and New Zealand’s 9th-warmest April on record. It was New Zealand’s warmest April since 2006.

For the month as a whole, New Zealand’s coastal water temperatures ranged from 0.3°C to 2.6°C above average, in association with the continuation of marine heatwave conditions for all regions except the eastern North Island.

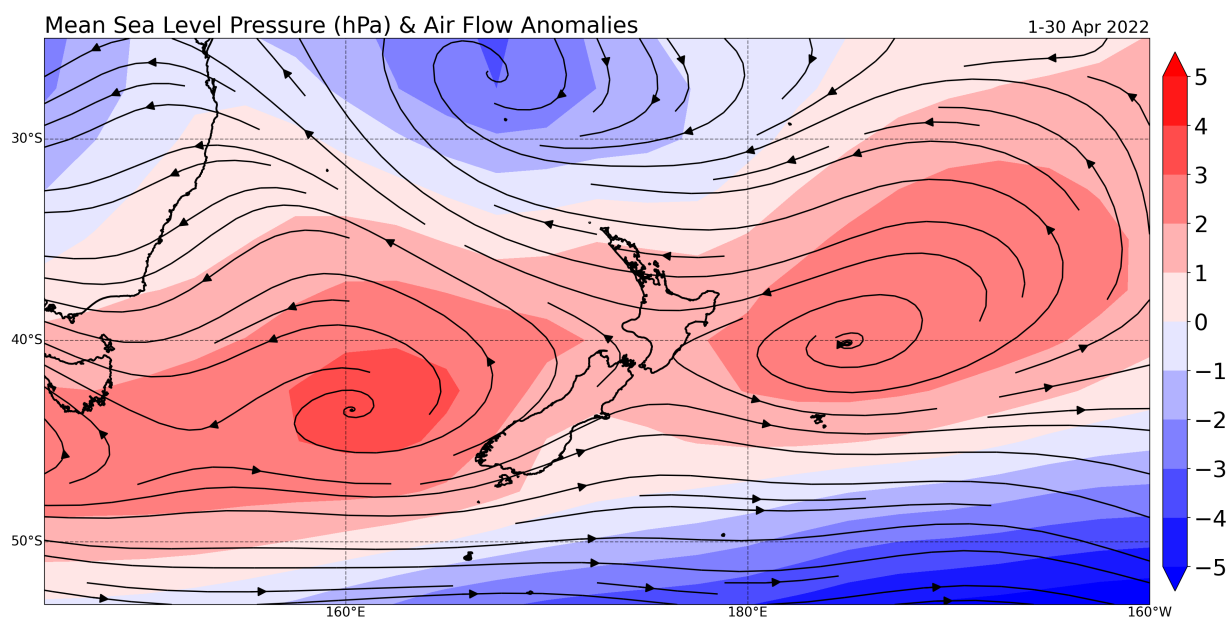


Figure 1: MSLP and air flow anomalies across New Zealand during April (data: NCEP reanalysis).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 29.1°C, observed at Kawerau on 1 April.
- The lowest temperature was -3.5°C, observed at Ranfurly on 17 April.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 226 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 20 April.
- The highest wind gust was 150 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 16 April.

- Of the six main centres in April 2022, Auckland was the warmest and equal-least sunny, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Tauranga was the wettest and sunniest, and Wellington was the equal-least sunny.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations so far in 2022 are Taranaki (1105 hours), Manawatū-Whanganui (1029 hours), West Coast (1019 hours), and Kāpiti Coast (1018 hours).

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Rainfall: Very dry for most, wetter around the edges

April was quite a dry month for large parts of the country with numerous locations observing record or near-record low rainfall and no locations observing record high rainfall.

Hamilton (Ruakura) observed just 13 mm of rain during April, its driest April on record since records began there in 1905. Several other Waikato locations experienced unusually dry conditions: Whatawhata (driest April on record), Te Kuiti (driest April on record), and Waikeria (2nd-driest April on record). The increased frequency of easterly winds contributed to the dryness, causing air parcels to warm and dry as they descended the Kaimai Ranges into Waikato.

Dozens of locations reported more than 25 dry days (<1 mm of daily rainfall) during the month, including, but not limited to: Blenheim (29 days), Bromley (29 days), Martinborough (28 days), Middlemarch (28 days), Waipawa (28 days), Napier (27 days), Christchurch (27 days), Wānaka (27 days), Wellington Airport (27 days), Hamilton (27 days), Palmerston North (27 days), Whanganui (27 days), Taupō (27 days), Hanmer Forest (27 days), Lincoln (27 days), New Plymouth (27 days), Nelson (26 days), Lake Tekapo (26 days), Firth of Thames (26 days), Queenstown (24 days), Dunedin (24 days), Ashburton (24 days), Whakatāne (24 days), and Auckland, Māngere (23 days).

Gisborne reported 27 dry days, receiving very little rainfall outside of when Cyclone Fili passed offshore on 12-13 April.

To the contrary, Invercargill recorded 107 mm of rain during April, qualifying as “near normal” and the town’s wettest month overall since September 2021. Furthermore, the total rainfall observed during April was more than what fell during the entirety of January-March 2022 (98 mm).

Whangārei was another wetter exception to the dry rule: the town recorded 260 mm of rain during April, qualifying as 253% of normal. Over half the total rainfall fell on 17-18 April when a plume of tropical moisture extended into Northland.

Record^{1,2} or near-record April rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
None observed				
Low records or near-records				
Whatawhata	24	22	1952	Lowest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	13	16	1905	Lowest
Te Kuiti	17	17	1950	Lowest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	73	40	2000	Lowest
Dannevirke	12	16	1951	Lowest
Waikeria	15	19	1921	2nd-lowest
Tūrangi	30	27	1968	2nd-lowest
Lower Retaruke	37	35	1966	2nd-lowest
Masterton	12	22	1926	2nd-lowest
Martinborough	6	13	1924	2nd-lowest
Palmerston North	14	24	1928	2nd-lowest
Hanmer Forest	9	13	1905	2nd-lowest
Taupō	18	26	1949	Equal 2nd-lowest
Hamilton (Airport)	23	27	1935	3rd-lowest
Akaroa	14	21	1977	3rd-lowest
Windsor	15	44	2000	3rd-lowest
Auckland (Western Springs)	33	35	1948	4th-lowest
Takapau Plains	20	28	1962	4th-lowest
Stratford	55	38	1960	4th-lowest
Waiouru	29	38	1950	4th-lowest

Temperature: The trend of warmth continues

The combination of more easterly winds (particularly in the North Island), marine heatwave conditions, abundant sunshine, and higher than normal air pressure amid the background influence of climate change contributed to New Zealand’s 9th-warmest April on record. The nationwide average temperature in April 2022 was 14.5°C, 1.3°C above the 1981-2010 April average from NIWA’s seven station temperature series which begins in 1909.

As has been the theme for quite some time, no locations observed near record or record low temperatures. Meanwhile, over 50 locations observed near record or record high mean maximum temperatures and over 20 observed near record or record high mean temperatures.

¹ The rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd.etc) in all Tables in this summary are relative to climate data from a *group* of nearby stations, some of which may no longer be operating. The current climate value is compared against all values from any member of the group, without any regard for homogeneity between one station’s record, and another. This approach is used due to the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

² All normal values in this climate summary are compared to the 1981-2010 normals.

An unusual amount of sunshine factored in to the warmth: it was the sunniest April on record at Taumarunui (200 hours), New Plymouth (238 hours), Queenstown (206 hours), and Blenheim (240 hours), since records began in 1947, 1972, 1930, and 1930 respectively.³

Record or near-record mean air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	18.9	1.7	1951	Highest
Mokohinau	19.0	1.3	1994	Highest
Whangaparāoa	18.6	1.6	1982	Highest
Castlepoint	17.3	2.7	1972	Highest
Okarito	14.2	1.6	1982	Highest
Brothers Island	15.7	1.2	1997	Highest
Whangārei	18.3	1.7	1967	2nd-highest
Leigh	19.5	2.1	1966	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	17.9	1.6	1959	3rd-highest
Porirua	14.8	0.9	1968	3rd-highest
Arapito	15.0	1.6	1978	3rd-highest
Greymouth	15.1	2.2	1947	3rd-highest
Middlemarch	11.3	1.1	2000	3rd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	17.8	1.7	1948	4th-highest
Pukekohe	17.0	1.5	1969	4th-highest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	9.4	1.1	2000	4th-highest
Westport	15.2	2.0	1937	4th-highest
Reefton	13.5	1.7	1960	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	13.0	1.2	1978	4th-highest
Windsor	11.7	0.9	2000	4th-highest
Tiwai Point	12.7	1.5	1970	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Record or near-record mean maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	21.6	1.6	1951	Highest
Whangaparāoa	21.5	1.7	1982	Highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	21.8	1.7	1945	Highest
Matamata	22.0	2.0	1999	Highest
Rotorua	20.1	2.4	1964	Highest
Taupō	20.2	3.0	1949	Highest

³ Contemporary observations made with Kipp & Zonen instruments are more sensitive (and therefore can record higher sunshine hour totals) compared to Campbell-Stokes instruments (these were used for historic sunshine measurements).

Whatawhata	21.9	2.3	1952	Highest
Te Kuiti	22.2	2.5	1959	Highest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	15.1	2.2	2000	Highest
Porirua	19.0	1.3	1968	Highest
Stratford	19.2	2.3	1960	Highest
Tākaka	20.6	1.9	1978	Highest
Arapito	20.1	1.9	1978	Highest
Greymouth	19.6	2.9	1947	Highest
Okarito	18.8	1.9	1982	Highest
Franz Josef	18.9	2.7	1953	Highest
Brothers Island	18.0	1.6	1997	Highest
Whitianga	22.4	2.2	1962	2nd-highest
Paeroa	22.1	1.7	1947	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	21.9	1.9	1959	2nd-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	21.6	1.7	1946	2nd-highest
Tūrangi	19.6	2.0	1968	2nd-highest
New Plymouth	20.5	2.0	1944	2nd-highest
Castlepoint	20.5	2.9	1972	2nd-highest
Westport	19.2	2.2	1937	2nd-highest
Reefton	19.4	2.2	1960	2nd-highest
Wānaka	18.6	2.3	1955	2nd-highest
Manapouri (Airport)	16.9	2.0	1963	2nd-highest
Te Puke	21.4	1.5	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatāne	21.9	1.5	1974	3rd-highest
Auckland (Māngere)	21.9	2.0	1959	3rd-highest
Waikeria	22.0	1.8	1957	3rd-highest
Taumarunui	21.4	2.6	1947	3rd-highest
Ngawi	19.6	1.6	1972	3rd-highest
Wellington (Airport)	18.8	1.4	1962	3rd-highest
Waiouru	16.3	2.0	1962	3rd-highest
Haast	17.9	2.1	1949	3rd-highest
Hanmer Forest	20.7	3.0	1906	3rd-highest
Lake Tekapo	17.7	2.3	1927	3rd-highest
Leigh	23.0	2.9	1966	4th-highest
Lower Retaruke	20.3	1.7	1966	4th-highest
Dannevirke	19.2	1.6	1951	4th-highest
Waipawa	20.8	2.2	1945	4th-highest
Paraparaumu	19.4	1.7	1953	4th-highest
Hāwera	18.9	1.5	1977	4th-highest
Westport	19.0	2.0	1937	4th-highest
Hokitika	18.9	2.4	1866	4th-highest
Milford Sound	17.3	1.7	1934	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	15.3	1.1	1978	4th-highest
Blenheim	20.8	1.9	1932	4th-highest
Ranfurlly	17.6	1.8	1897	4th-highest
Middlemarch	18.9	1.9	2000	4th-highest
Cromwell	19.4	2.1	1949	4th-highest

Low records or near-records

None observed				
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Record or near-record mean minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Mokohinau	17.4	1.6	1994	Highest
Cape Reinga	16.3	1.9	1951	2nd-highest
Whangārei	14.7	2.0	1967	2nd-highest
Leigh	16.1	1.5	1966	2nd-highest
Castlepoint	14.1	2.4	1972	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	13.4	0.9	1997	2nd-highest
Tiwai Point	9.6	1.8	1970	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	15.1	2.2	1948	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	10.7	1.4	1978	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Clyde	1.8	-2.2	1978	3rd-lowest

April climate in the six main centres

April temperatures were well above average in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, and Dunedin, above average in Hamilton, and near average in Christchurch. April rainfall was well below normal at Hamilton Airport, where it was the 3rd-driest April on record, as well as Auckland and Christchurch. Rainfall was below normal in Wellington and Dunedin and near normal in Tauranga. Of the six main centres in April 2022, Auckland was the warmest and equal-least sunny, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Tauranga was the wettest and sunniest, and Wellington was the equal-least sunny.

April 2022 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	17.7	+1.5	Well above average
Tauranga ^b	17.2	+1.6	Well above average
Hamilton ^c	15.3	+1.1	Above average
Wellington ^d	14.9	+1.2	Well above average
Christchurch ^e	12.4	+0.5	Near average
Dunedin ^f	13.1	+1.4	Well above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	23	27	Well below normal
Tauranga ^b	97	80	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	23	27	Well below normal (3rd-lowest on record)
Wellington ^d	59	69	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	19	42	Well below normal
Dunedin ^f	30	59	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	193		
Tauranga ^b	220		
Hamilton ^g	212		
Wellington ^d	193		
Christchurch ^e	199		
Dunedin ^f	195		

^a Māngere ^b Tauranga Airport ^c Hamilton Airport ^d Kelburn ^e Christchurch Airport ^f Musselburgh ^g Ruakura

Highlights and extreme events

Rain and flooding

The highest 1-day rainfall was 226 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 20 April.

On 21 April, heavy rain in the western South Island led to surface flooding and slips. Milford Road (SH94) was closed during the morning due to a slip between Cascade Creek Bridge and The Divide shelter. Milford Sound recorded 211.5 mm of rain to 9am on 21 April, its wettest April day in seven years, or since April 2015. Flooding was also reported on SH67 north of Westport, SH6 south and east of Westport, near Coal Creek north of Greymouth and along SH7 near Dobson. Residents in Stillwater and Wallsend were without water due to a slip.

On the evening of 22 April, a flash flood damaged at least three houses in the settlement of Rakaia Huts. It was reported by the Selwyn District civil defence that 30 cm of water swept through some homes and baches, citing the low water level of the Rakaia River and built up shingle at its mouth as a contributing factor.

Cyclone Fili

While the weather in New Zealand was generally tranquil to start the month, Tropical Cyclone Fili formed northwest of New Caledonia on 5 April. Although it weakened to a remnant low south of New Caledonia on 8 April, the combination of a jet streak⁴ and upper-atmosphere low pressure system caused the system to re-strengthen between 10-12 April. On 12 April, MetService issued a Red Warning for heavy rain and the potential for significant flooding in Gisborne and northern Hawke's Bay during the following day.

On 13 April, Fili, a deep low pressure system, passed just offshore of East Cape during the mid-afternoon hours. Several hundred power cuts were reported, along with surface flooding on State Highway (SH) 35, causing closures between Hicks Bay and Te Araroa and between Tokomaru Bay and Te Puia. A long-time Ruatoria resident commented, "Pines are snapping like twigs. Some probably 100-200 year old trees." By late afternoon, Gisborne's wastewater system was struggling to cope with the amount of water draining from residential properties, prompting the council to open an emergency sewer valve at Gladstone Bridge. In coastal Hawke's Bay, south of Hastings, localised flooding damaged bridges and fences that were repaired after the March deluge. According to a weather station operated by Gisborne District Council at the East Cape Lighthouse, storm total rainfall from 13-14 April reached 200 mm.

On 21 April, heavy rain in the western South Island led to surface flooding and slips. Milford Road (SH94) was closed during the morning due to a slip between Cascade Creek Bridge and The Divide shelter. Milford Sound recorded 211.5 mm of rain to 9am on 21 April, its wettest April day in seven years, or since April 2015. Flooding was also reported on SH67 north of Westport, SH6 south and east of Westport, near Coal Creek north of Greymouth and along SH7 near Dobson. Residents in Stillwater and Wallsend were without water due to a slip.

⁴ A jet streak refers to a portion of the jet stream where winds along the jet core flow are stronger than in other areas along the jet stream.

On the evening of 22 April, a flash flood damaged at least three houses in the settlement of Rakaia Huts. It was reported by the Selwyn District civil defence that 30 cm of water swept through some homes and baches, citing the low water level of the Rakaia River and built up shingle at its mouth as a contributing factor.

Record or near-record April extreme 1-day rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Māhia	62	13th	1990	3rd-highest
Hāwera	57	21st	1977	3rd-highest
South West Cape	33	21st	1991	4th-highest

Drought and dry spells

Twenty locations around New Zealand experienced a record or near-record dry April. The persistence of low rainfall allowed soil moisture deficits to intensify across several regions, Waikato in particular. At the end of the month, the Waikato Primary Industries Adverse Event Cluster met and urged farmers to have a plan in place should the abnormally dry weather continue. It was noted that the dry weather wasn't yet causing widespread welfare issues for farmers.

Dozens of locations experienced 25 dry days (<1 mm of daily rainfall) or more during the month of April. The following locations had the most dry days during the month (all recording 29 dry days): Blenheim, Appleby, Le Bons Bay, Bromley, and Pukeiti.

Inflows to New Zealand's main hydro catchments continued to run low during April, reported as 67% at Lake Taupō and Clutha lakes, 78% at Lake Te Anau, and 87% at Waitaki lakes.

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 29.1°C, observed at Kawerau on 1 April.

The lowest temperature was -3.5°C, observed at Ranfurly on 17 April.

At the beginning of April, a warm sub-tropical air mass was relatively stagnant over New Zealand. This was associated with dozens of record and near-record maximum temperature extremes during the first week of the month.

Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Paeroa	27.1	2nd	1947	Highest
Rotorua	25.9	1st	1964	Highest
Castlepoint	27.3	21st	1972	Highest
Whangārei	27.1	6th	1967	2nd-highest
Hāwera	23.6	20th	1977	2nd-highest
Hanmer Forest	27.6	3rd	1906	2nd-highest
Timaru	30.7	26th	1885	2nd-highest
Mokohinau	24.0	3rd	1994	Equal 2nd-highest

Tūrangi	24.5	2nd	1968	Equal 2nd-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	20.5	4th	1971	Equal 2nd-highest
Cape Reinga	24.4	2nd	1951	3rd-highest
Leigh	27.1	3rd	1966	3rd-highest
Whitianga	27.6	3rd	1962	3rd-highest
Te Puke	26.2	1st	1973	3rd-highest
Taupō	24.5	1st	1949	3rd-highest
Motu	24.4	4th	1990	3rd-highest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	20.5	1st	2000	3rd-highest
Mahia	25.9	6th	1990	3rd-highest
Okarito	22.7	2nd	1982	3rd-highest
Whangaparāoa	25.0	3rd	1982	Equal 3rd-highest
Taumarunui	26.7	1st	1947	Equal 3rd-highest
Secretary Island	21.7	1st	1985	Equal 3rd-highest
Rotorua	24.5	1st	1964	4th-highest
Ngawi	24.6	20th	1972	4th-highest
Hokitika	24.6	1st	1866	4th-highest
Reefton	24.6	4th	1960	4th-highest
Matamata	26.0	2nd	1999	Equal 4th-highest
Auckland (Airport)	25.9	2nd	1959	Equal 4th-highest
Te Kuiti	26.2	2nd	1959	Equal 4th-highest
Hokitika	24.5	1st	1866	Equal 4th-highest
Wānaka	24.3	3rd	1955	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Castlepoint	19.4	6th	1972	Highest
Westport	19.6	21st	1966	Highest
Ngawi	20.2	21st	1972	Equal highest
Porirua	17.0	5th	1972	Equal highest
Wellington (Airport)	18.0	21st	1972	Equal highest
Cape Reinga	19.5	19th	1971	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	17.6	6th	1951	2nd-highest
Paraparaumu	18.7	6th	1972	2nd-highest
Arapito	17.3	21st	1978	2nd-highest
Okarito	17.0	21st	1983	2nd-highest
Franz Josef	16.1	21st	1953	2nd-highest
Arthur's Pass	14.2	21st	1973	2nd-highest
Windsor	12.8	4th	2000	2nd-highest
Tiwai Point	14.1	4th	1972	2nd-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	17.5	22nd	1972	3rd-highest
Reefton	15.3	21st	1972	3rd-highest
Brothers Island	16.6	21st	1997	3rd-highest

Kaitaia	19.9	19th	1948	Equal 3rd-highest
Hicks Bay	19.0	5th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Hāwera	17.1	21st	1977	Equal 3rd-highest
Blenheim	17.7	21st	1947	Equal 3rd-highest
Whitianga	19.4	20th	1971	4th-highest
Kaikohe	18.5	20th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Whakatāne	19.0	6th	1975	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Wind

The highest wind gust was 150 km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 16 April.

On 13 April, Cyclone Fili passed just offshore East Cape during the mid-afternoon hours. Several hundred power cuts were reported and a long-time Ruatoria resident commented, “Pines are snapping like twigs. Some probably 100-200 year old trees.”

Record or near-record April extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

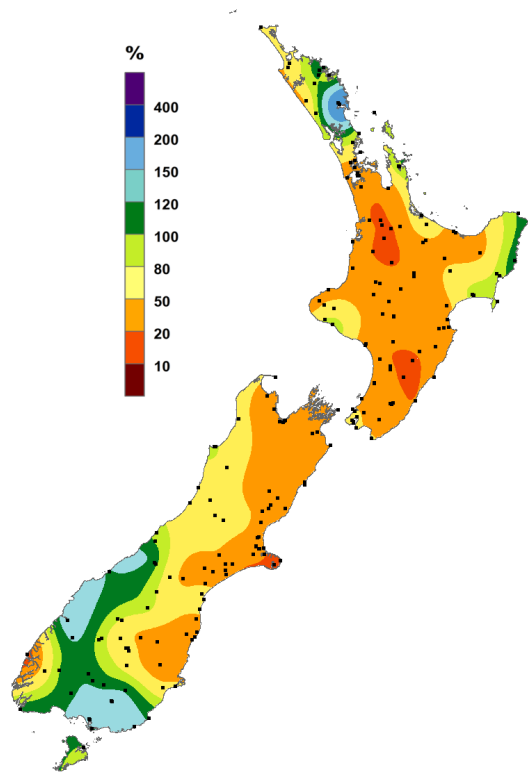
Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Māhia	102	13th	1991	Highest
Mokohinau	113	18th	1994	2nd-highest
Motu	82	13th	1991	3rd-highest
Te Puke	52	13th	1987	Equal 3rd-highest
Gisborne	96	13th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Gore	104	16th	1987	Equal 3rd-highest
Mt Ruapehu (Chateau)	95	13th	2000	4th-highest
Mt Cook (Airport)	117	12th	2000	Equal 4th-highest

Lightning, hail, and tornadoes

In the early morning hours of 21 April, a thunderstorm developed near Lake Wakatipu in Central Otago, leading to the closure of the Glenorchy-Queenstown road due to a slip and leaving hundreds without power in Queenstown, Glenorchy, Frankton, and parts of Arrowtown. Queenstown locals commented on the thunder being particularly loud, whose acoustics may have been enhanced by the presence of a shallow inversion layer, or when temperature increases with height, in the lower atmosphere.

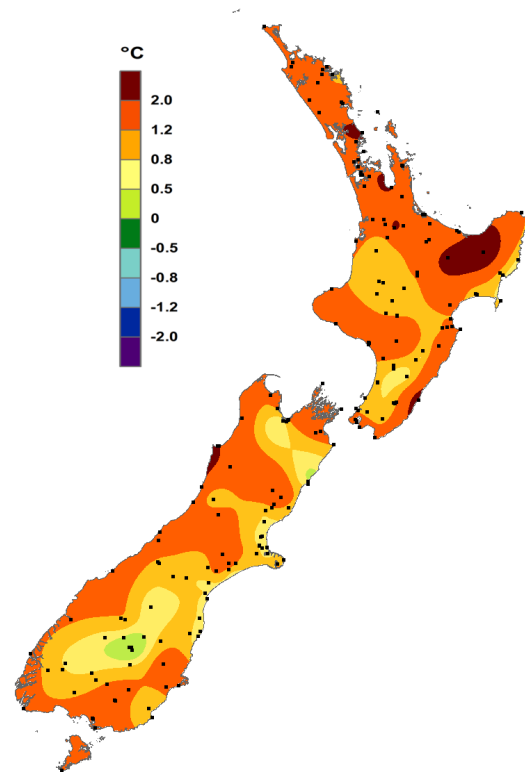
For further information, please contact:

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April rainfall

Expressed as a percentage of the 1981-2010 normal.



April temperature

Expressed as a departure from the 1981-2010 average in degrees Celsius.

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate>

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