

A dry spring for many parts of the country.

Rainfall	Rainfall was well below normal (< 50%) in Nelson and Marlborough, and below normal (50-79%) in eastern and inland parts of the South Island. In addition, southern, western, central and northern parts of the North Island received below normal rainfall. In contrast, rainfall was above normal (120-149%) or well above normal (> 149%) in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay.
Temperature	Spring temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to + 0.50°C) for most of the country. The exception was parts of western Waikato, southern Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, the inland Canterbury Plains and Stewart Island where temperatures were below average (-1.20°C to -0.51°C).
Soil moisture	As of 1 December 2015, soil moisture levels were below normal for the time of year for extensive areas of New Zealand. In particular, soil moisture levels were much lower than normal in eastern and northern parts of the South Island, and southern, central, western and northern parts of the North Island. Soil moisture levels were above normal in Gisborne, southern Fiordland and Stewart Island.
Sunshine	Spring sunshine was abundant for southern, eastern, central and northern areas of the South Island, and parts of the central North Island, Bay of Plenty and Northland where sunshine totals were typically above normal (110-125%).

Overview

Spring 2015 saw strong El Niño conditions persist in the Tropical Pacific.

Overall, the season was characterised by mean sea level pressures that were higher than normal over Australia and the Tasman Sea, while lower pressures than normal occurred to the south-east of New Zealand. This pressure pattern resulted in a south-westerly airflow anomaly over much of the country, which is a characteristic of El Niño during spring. Rainfall was well below normal (< 50% of the spring normal) in Nelson and Marlborough, and below normal (50-79% of the spring normal) in most remaining areas of the South Island. The exceptions were coastal areas of Southland and Otago (south of Oamaru), where rainfall was near normal (within 20% of the spring normal). In the North Island, rainfall was typically below normal in Wellington, Wairarapa, Manawatu-Wanganui, Taranaki, southern and central Waikato and northern Northland. In contrast, rainfall was above normal (120-149% of the spring normal) or well above normal (> 149% of the spring normal) in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay. This was likely to be as a result of two heavy rain events which occurred in these regions around mid-September and early-November. Remaining areas of the North Island typically received near average rainfall for the season. Soil moisture levels were near normal for many parts of the country in early spring. The notable exceptions were parts of coastal Hurunui, South Canterbury and North Otago where soil moisture levels were below normal for the time of year. Due to the prevalence of south-westerlies during spring, which are typical of El Niño, soils in many eastern areas became increasingly dry as the season progressed. As of 1 December 2015, soil moisture levels were below normal for the time of year for extensive areas of New Zealand, but

especially for Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough, Wellington, Wairarapa, Taranaki, southern Waikato and Northland. Soil moisture levels were above normal in Gisborne,.

For the season as a whole, temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to + 0.50°C of the spring average) across most of the country. The exception was parts of western Waikato, southern Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa and the inland Canterbury Plains where temperatures were below average (0.51°C to 1.20°C below the spring average). Despite mostly near average temperatures for spring overall, there was noticeable variability from month-to-month. Specifically, many parts of the country observed below average temperatures in September, and above average temperatures (0.51°C to 1.20°C above the spring average) in October. The nation-wide average temperature in spring 2015 was 12.0°C (0.1°C below the 1981-2010 spring average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909)¹.

It was a sunny spring for the Far North, inland Bay of Plenty, southern Waikato, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland where sunshine totals were generally above normal (110-125% of the spring normal). Remaining areas of New Zealand observed near normal spring sunshine totals (within 10% of the spring normal).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 31.7°C, observed at Hastings on 26 November.
- The lowest temperature was -8.2°C, observed at Naseby Forest on 31 October.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 291 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 16 October.
- The highest wind gust was 172 km/hr, observed at Cape Turnagain on 5 October and South West Cape on 7 October.
- Of the six main centres in spring 2015, Auckland was the warmest, Dunedin was the coolest, Christchurch was the driest and sunniest, Hamilton was the wettest and Auckland was the cloudiest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations so far in 2015 (1 January to 30 November) are: Blenheim (2519 hours), Whakatane (2476 hours), Appleby (2456 hours) and Lake Tekapo (2423 hours).

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Rainfall: A dry spring for many areas.

Spring was a dry season overall for many parts of the country, with record or near-record low spring rainfall observed at 14 locations. Blenheim and Orari Estate (Canterbury, 6 km south-east of Geraldine) each received just 37% of normal spring rainfall. In contrast, it was a wet spring in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay, which was largely as a result of infrequent heavy rainfalls. For example, Wairoa observed 37% (157 mm) of its spring rainfall on just two days.

¹ Interim value

Record² or near-record spring rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Wairoa	420	166	1964	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Turangi	259	63	1968	Lowest
Martinborough	84	45	1924	Lowest
Wellington (Airport)	113	46	1958	Lowest
Stratford	313	57	1960	Lowest
Blenheim	63	37	1941	Lowest
Orari Estate	58	37	1897	Lowest
Reefton	258	48	1960	2nd-lowest
Waipara West	75	46	1973	2nd-lowest
Campbell Island	268	79	1992	2nd-lowest
Taupo	139	59	1949	3rd-lowest
New Plymouth	192	55	1944	3rd-lowest
Takaka	272	49	1976	3rd-lowest
Westport	368	66	1944	3rd-lowest
Kerikeri	224	56	1981	4th-lowest

Temperature: Near average temperatures for most of the country.

Spring saw near average temperatures observed across many parts of the country, with relatively few locations observing record or near-record mean temperatures. The nation-wide average temperature in spring 2015 was 12.0°C (0.1°C below the 1981-2010 spring average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909). A relatively warm spell occurred over most parts of the country in the last week of November. During this time a number of locations observed record or near-record daily maximum and daily minimum spring air temperatures (further details of this event are presented in the *Highlights and extreme events* section).

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	14.6	1.0	1973	3rd-highest

² 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.

Cheviot	11.7	0.5	1982	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Martinborough	11.3	-1.0	1986	Lowest
Te Kuiti	11.8	-1.3	1959	2nd-lowest
Port Taharoa	13.3	-0.8	1973	4th-lowest

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	18.4	1.3	1973	Highest
Cheviot	17.8	0.8	1982	2nd-highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	19.1	1.9	1863	2nd-highest
Leigh	20.2	2.5	1966	3rd-highest
Motu	15.8	1.1	1990	3rd-highest
Whatawhata	18.2	0.9	1952	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Martinborough	16.3	-0.9	1986	2nd-lowest
South West Cape	11.3	-1.1	1991	2nd-lowest
Campbell Island	8.0	-0.9	1991	2nd-lowest
Port Taharoa	15.8	-1.6	1973	3rd-lowest

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
None observed				
Low records or near-records				
Turangi	4.7	-1.6	1968	Lowest
Te Kuiti	6.5	-1.5	1959	2nd-lowest
Appleby	5.0	-2.3	1932	2nd-lowest
Martinborough	6.2	-1.1	1986	3rd-lowest
Winchmore	4.0	-1.5	1928	3rd-lowest
Le Bons Bay	6.6	-0.5	1984	3rd-lowest

Sunshine: Abundant sunshine in parts of both islands.

It was a sunny spring for many parts of the country. Record or near-record high sunshine hours for the season were observed in 13 locations, including Greymouth and Hokitika which received 127%

and 132% of normal spring sunshine, respectively. Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations so far in 2015 (1 January to 30 November) are: Blenheim (2519 hours), Whakatane (2476 hours), Appleby (2456 hours) and Lake Tekapo (2423 hours).

Record or near-record spring sunshine hours were recorded at:

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	639	112	1985	Highest
Turangi	617	123	1976	Highest
Hokitika	652	132	1912	Highest
Blenheim	777	120	1947	Highest
Lake Tekapo	789	113	1928	Highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	600	128	1980	Highest
Cromwell	752	119	1979	Highest
Balclutha	660	139	1964	2nd-highest
New Plymouth	669	120	1972	3rd-highest
Takaka	694	102	1985	3rd-highest
Cheviot	669	129	1983	3rd-highest
Te Kuiti	528	121	1962	4th-highest
Greymouth	578	127	1947	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Spring climate in the six main centres

Spring temperatures were near average in all main centres. It was a particularly dry spring for Wellington and Christchurch, with these cities each receiving less than two-thirds of normal rainfall for the season. Dunedin enjoyed a very sunny spring, observing 130 more sunshine hours than the spring normal. Sunshine hours were near normal for the remaining main centres. Of the six main centres in spring 2015, Auckland was the warmest, Dunedin was the coolest, Christchurch was the driest and sunniest, Hamilton was the wettest and Auckland was the cloudiest.

Spring 2015 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	14.9	+0.4	Near average
Tauranga ^b	14.3	0.2	Near average
Hamilton ^c	12.8	-0.2	Near average
Wellington ^d	11.8	-0.3	Near average
Christchurch ^e	11.2	-0.3	Near average
Dunedin ^f	10.7	-0.2	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	196	75%	Below normal
Tauranga ^b	208	84%	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	317	110%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	190	61%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	83	61%	Below normal
Dunedin ^f	156	94%	Near normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	513	99%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	600	98%	Near normal
Hamilton ^e	521	102%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	584	103%	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	622	104%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	600	128%	Well above normal

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

Highlights and extreme events

This section contains information pertaining to some of the more significant highlights and extreme events that occurred in spring 2015. Note that a more detailed list of significant weather events for spring 2015 can be found in the *Highlights and extreme events* section of NIWA's monthly Climate Summaries. These monthly summaries are available online, and may be viewed at the following website: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/summaries/monthly>

Rain and slips

On the night of 20 September, a stalling low to the east of the North Island began to direct heavy rainfall to the Gisborne region with many residents waking up to surface flooding. Fallen trees and many slips were reported throughout the region. The town of Te Karaka was cut off on both sides with the closure of State Highway 2 between Napier and Wairoa as well as between Ormond and Opotiki. Diluted wastewater was released into the Taruheru, Waimata and Turanganui rivers from Gisborne's sewer network in order to avoid sewers flowing back on to private property.

The highest 1-day rainfall for spring 2015 was 291 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 16 October.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Maungatautari	73	Sep-20th	1975	Highest
Waikeria	83	Sep-20th	1977	Highest
Brentwood	135	Sep-23rd	1966	Highest
Orepuki	54	Oct-16th	1967	Highest
Cambridge	71	Sep-20th	1966	2nd-highest
Mokairau	145	Sep-20th	1947	2nd-highest
Mahia	82	Nov-4th	1990	2nd-highest
Glenledi	48	Oct-16th	1984	2nd-highest
Nithdale	44	Oct-16th	1946	2nd-highest
Balclutha	43	Oct-16th	1964	2nd-highest
Morrinsville	43	Sep-1st	1978	3rd-highest
Kopua	77	Sep-23rd	1962	3rd-highest
Castlepoint Station	62	Sep-13th	1994	3rd-highest
Ahititi Station	167	Sep-20th	1973	3rd-highest
Te Pohue	180	Sep-20th	1983	3rd-highest
Ripia	109	Sep-21st	1967	3rd-highest
Te Kura	62	Sep-23rd	1993	3rd-highest
Wairoa	186	Sep-21st	1911	3rd-highest
Mandeville	49	Oct-16th	1967	3rd-highest
Hillend	48	Oct-16th	1967	3rd-highest
Quarry Hills	60	Oct-16th	1939	3rd-highest
Kawhia	68	Sep-20th	1905	4th-highest
Otoko	101	Sep-20th	1913	4th-highest

Gisborne	104	Sep-20th	1937	4th-highest
Waihau	98	Sep-20th	1985	4th-highest
Hastings	91	Sep-23rd	1983	4th-highest
Ongaonga	67	Sep-23rd	1969	4th-highest
Tiwai Point	45	Oct-16th	1970	4th-highest
Campbell Island	34	Nov-26th	1991	4th-highest

Temperatures

Much of the first week of October was dominated by a north-westerly airflow. This contributed to temperatures which were considerably warmer than normal for the time of year, especially in eastern parts of the country. Temperatures on 6 and 7 October were particularly warm, with numerous locations seeing daily maximum temperatures reach the late-20s. Most notable was Kaikoura, which reached 31.8°C on 7 October.

The final week of November also saw persistent north-westerly airflows that resulted in relatively high temperatures throughout the country. During this time, a number of locations observed record or near-record high daily maximum and daily minimum air temperatures (see tables below).

In spring 2015, the highest temperature recorded was 31.7°C, observed at Hastings on 26 November. Naseby Forest observed the lowest temperature in spring 2015, with -8.2°C recorded on 31 October.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	25.8	Nov-26th	1973	Highest
Leigh	27.1	Nov-26th	1966	Highest
Whatawhata	27.1	Nov-25th	1952	Highest
Hastings	31.7	Nov-26th	1965	Highest
Cheviot	31.3	Nov-26th	1982	Highest
Te Puke	27.4	Nov-9th	1973	Equal highest
Auckland (Mangere)	26.8	Nov-26th	1959	Equal highest
Whangarei	27.4	Nov-27th	1967	2nd-highest
Mokohinau	22.8	Nov-26th	1994	2nd-highest
Waipawa	29.1	Nov-27th	1945	2nd-highest
Wairoa	30.6	Oct-7th	1964	2nd-highest
Kaikoura	30.6	Oct-7th	1963	2nd-highest
South West Cape	21.3	Nov-26th	1991	2nd-highest
Whangaparaoa	24.4	Nov-28th	1982	Equal 2nd-highest
Waiau	30.6	Nov-26th	1974	Equal 3rd-highest
Warkworth	25.6	Nov-27th	1966	4th-highest
Hawera	23.4	Nov-27th	1977	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	21.3	Nov-26th	1978	4th-highest
Auckland (Airport)	25.5	Nov-27th	1959	Equal 4th-highest

Low records or near-records				
Le Bons Bay	5.0	Sep-20th	1984	Lowest
Campbell Island	0.4	Sep-6th	1991	Lowest
Castlepoint Station	9.5	Sep-7th	1994	Equal lowest
Puysegur Point	7.0	Sep-5th	1978	Equal lowest
Stewart Island	6.0	Sep-6th	1975	Equal lowest
Wairoa	9.2	Sep-21st	1972	2nd-lowest
Motueka	8.4	Sep-1st	1972	2nd-lowest
Nugget Point	4.3	Sep-6th	1972	2nd-lowest
Tautuku	4.5	Sep-6th	1976	2nd-lowest
South West Cape	5.5	Sep-6th	1991	2nd-lowest
Port Taharoa	10.6	Sep-20th	1974	3rd-lowest
Ngawi	9.2	Sep-21st	1972	3rd-lowest
Cheviot	6.6	Sep-20th	1982	3rd-lowest
Lumsden	5.3	Sep-6th	1982	3rd-lowest
Balclutha	6.0	Sep-6th	1972	3rd-lowest
Hanmer Forest	2.7	Sep-20th	1972	Equal 3rd-lowest
Orari Estate	5.5	Sep-1st	1972	Equal 3rd-lowest
Martinborough	8.8	Sep-19th	1986	4th-lowest
Farewell Spit	10.6	Sep-19th	1972	4th-lowest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	6.1	Sep-6th	1947	Equal 4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	18.5	Nov-28th	1973	Highest
Whangarei	19.0	Nov-28th	1967	Highest
Whangaparaoa	17.3	Nov-28th	1982	Highest
Whitianga	18.8	Nov-28th	1971	Highest
Whakatane	17.9	Nov-28th	1975	Highest
Rotorua	17.0	Nov-28th	1972	Highest
Motu	14.9	Nov-28th	1990	Highest
Hastings	20.2	Nov-28th	1972	Highest
Mahia	17.1	Nov-28th	1990	Highest
Hanmer Forest	19.1	Nov-27th	1972	Highest
Waiau	21.6	Nov-27th	1974	Highest
Cheviot	20.9	Nov-27th	1982	Highest
Waipara West	20.3	Nov-27th	1973	Highest
Lincoln	20.7	Nov-27th	1881	Highest
Le Bons Bay	18.4	Nov-26th	1984	Highest
Orari Estate	18.8	Nov-27th	1972	Highest
Kerikeri	18.7	Nov-28th	1981	Equal highest
Kaitaia	18.4	Nov-28th	1948	2nd-highest
Kaikoura	17.4	Nov-27th	1972	2nd-highest

Culverden	19.9	Nov-27th	1930	2nd-highest
Timaru	17.1	Nov-27th	1885	2nd-highest
Manapouri	14.2	Nov-26th	1973	2nd-highest
Lumsden	16.6	Oct-7th	1982	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	17.9	Nov-28th	1951	Equal 2nd-highest
South West Cape	12.9	Nov-26th	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Whatawhata	17.7	Nov-28th	1952	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	17.7	Nov-28th	1974	3rd-highest
Ashburton	17.9	Nov-27th	1928	3rd-highest
Mokohinau	17.3	Nov-27th	1994	Equal 3rd-highest
Te Puke	17.1	Nov-28th	1973	Equal 3rd-highest
Taupo	16.0	Nov-28th	1950	Equal 3rd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	18.3	Nov-28th	1961	Equal 3rd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	18.3	Nov-28th	1961	Equal 3rd-highest
Hamilton	17.4	Nov-28th	1946	Equal 3rd-highest
Hicks Bay	17.0	Nov-28th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Tautuku	13.5	Oct-16th	1976	Equal 3rd-highest
Cape Reinga	16.6	Nov-28th	1971	4th-highest
Paeroa	17.8	Nov-28th	1971	4th-highest
Tauranga	17.8	Nov-28th	1941	4th-highest
Ohakune	14.1	Nov-28th	1972	4th-highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	19.1	Nov-27th	1863	4th-highest
Orari Estate	14.8	Oct-7th	1972	4th-highest
Reefton	14.4	Nov-27th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Napier	-2.2	Sep-8th	1868	Lowest
Taihape	-5.0	Sep-11th	1972	Lowest
Naseby Forest	-8.2	Oct-31st	1983	Lowest
Alexandra	-5.5	Sep-26th	1992	Equal lowest
Mahia	2.9	Sep-13th	1990	2nd-lowest
Appleby	-2.6	Sep-30th	1932	3rd-lowest
Cheviot	-4.1	Sep-9th	1982	3rd-lowest
Le Bons Bay	0.7	Sep-6th	1984	4th-lowest
Balclutha	-3.2	Sep-21st	1964	Equal 4th-lowest
Campbell Island	-2.9	Sep-6th	1991	Equal 4th-lowest

Wind

On 4 October very strong winds occurred throughout the South Island. At least 2200 homes in Canterbury and Otago were without power as winds brought down trees onto power lines. The Waimate and Mackenzie Districts were worst affected and parts of these areas remained without power the following day. Fire crews responded to numerous callouts for downed trees, power lines and out of control fires from Southland to north Canterbury. A dust storm struck in Twizel, where the strongest winds were replaced by rain and thunder during the afternoon. Flights at Invercargill Airport were cancelled due to wind gusts which peaked at 130 km/hr, stranding dozens of passengers. Cancelled and diverted flights were also reported at Dunedin and Queenstown airports.

Approximately \$680,000 in insurance claims were lodged with rural insurance companies, and these included damage to houses, farm buildings and irrigators.

A combination of very strong winds, high temperatures and low humidity created the perfect recipe for extreme fire danger in eastern parts of the South Island on 7 October. Four homes were damaged by a large fire which burned on Saddle Hill (south of Mosgiel). Residents of 30 properties were forced to evacuate due to the fire. Farther north, residents of Dunback (Otago, north of Dunedin) were evacuated due to an uncontrolled fire which threatened property there. Several buildings were destroyed by a vegetation fire near Dunsandel (Canterbury, south of Christchurch), and SH 75 near Akaroa was closed due to an uncontrolled fire.

On 27 November, strong winds occurred in many parts of the country. In Wellington, approximately 12 flights were cancelled or diverted and the *East by West* ferry services to Eastbourne were cancelled. At least seven helicopters were used to fight a forest fire at Whareama (east of Masterton), with strong winds meaning conditions were too dangerous for fire fighters to tackle the blaze from the ground. Numerous roads were closed and power was out across parts of the Southern Lakes and Central Otago, where there was considerable damage to vegetation (mostly downed trees) resulting from strong winds. Specifically, power was reportedly out to consumers in parts of Wanaka, Dalefield, Lake Hayes, Lake Hayes Estate, Makarora, Cadrona, Glenorchy, Closeburn, and Alexandra.

The highest wind gust for spring 2015 was 172 km/hr, observed at Cape Turnagain on 5 October and South West Cape on 7 October.

Record or near record spring extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Puysegur Point	170	Nov-27th	1986	Highest
Tara Hills	107	Oct-4th	1985	Highest
Gore	122	Oct-4th	1987	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	143	Nov-27th	1994	Equal 3rd-highest
South West Cape	172	Oct-7th	1991	Equal 3rd-highest
Dannevirke	106	Oct-22nd	1961	4th-highest
Mahia	100	Sep-11th	1991	4th-highest
Cape Campbell	122	Sep-10th	1963	4th-highest
Oamaru	95	Oct-4th	1984	4th-highest
Manapouri	87	Nov-26th	1991	4th-highest

Lightning and hail

On 22 November prolonged thunderstorms impacted northern parts of the North Island. Approximately 10,000 lightning strikes were recorded, of which 1300 occurred in Auckland. More than 2000 Auckland homes lost powers during the severe weather due to trees that were brought down onto power lines.

Snow and ice

On 11 September, snowfall associated with a southerly blast brought the total snowfall for the season at *Coronet Peak* (Queenstown) to over three metres. This was a new record for the ski area, surpassing the previous record set in 2010.

Cloud and fog

On 14 September a blanket of fog delayed or cancelled 48 domestic flights at Auckland Airport.

For further information, please contact:

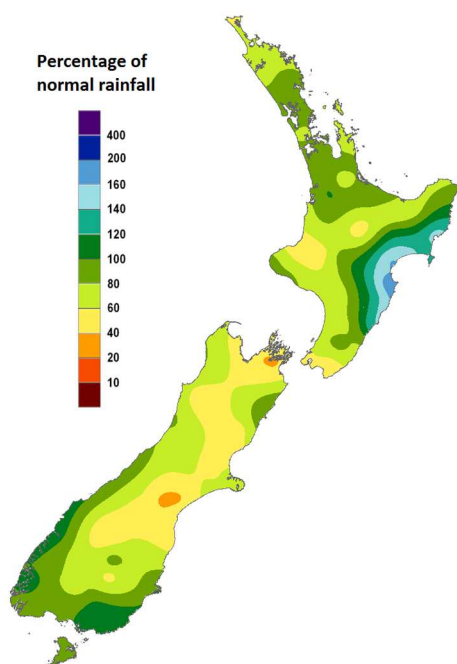
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Spring 2015 rainfall expressed as a percentage of normal, illustrating that it was a dry season in many parts of the country (indicated by light green, yellow and orange shades).

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