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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT



NEW ZEALAND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT ONE

TO

Rainfall Normals for New Zealand
1941 to 1970

STATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, INCLUDING
THE COOK GROUP, PITCAIRN ISLAND, NIUE ISLAND
AND WESTERN SAMOA



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Introduction

This publication is a supplement to N.Z. Met. S. Misc. Pub. 145 "Rainfall Normals for New Zealand 1941 to 1970". It contains rainfall normals for 160 stations. These stations are of two sorts; firstly those which record rainfall in octapent storage gauges which are read at intervals of several weeks, and secondly, ordinary daily rainfall stations which had less than five years of records at December 1970 but had reached five years by December 1973.

Computational Method

The normals were computed in a similar manner to those in the original publication and the same set of 341 base stations was used for estimating the 1941 to 1970 average rainfalls. However, in this case the comparisons were made by simple regressions between appropriate base stations and the stations whose normals were to be computed. Each station was compared with a number of base stations in this way, and the comparison having the lowest standard error of the estimate was used provided the corresponding 90% confidence interval about the estimate was less than $\pm 10\%$ of the estimate. In a few of the cases with octapent stations this criteria had to be relaxed slightly because the isolated nature of the stations made it impossible to find 'good' base stations for the comparisons.

Interpretation of the Normals

The normals in this publication are all estimates and are based on a minimum of five years records from each station. In all cases all available records were used. Apart from the octapent stations the stations are generally fairly new ones with relatively short periods of accumulated records and are all either Type 2 or Type 3. The interpretation of these Types is the same as in the original publication.

To identify the octapent stations they have been classified as Type 5. Monthly estimated normals are not available for these stations because of the irregular intervals at which the gauges are read. At some of these stations this irregular reading also makes total annual rainfalls difficult to estimate. This introduces an unknown, though probably less than 2%, error into their estimated normals. Though their normals are given to the nearest millimetre it is recommended that for most purposes normals below 1000 mm be rounded to the nearest 10 mm, those from 1000 mm to 2000 mm be rounded to the nearest 20 mm and those over 2000 mm be rounded to the nearest 50 mm. Such rounding will also make some allowance for the difficulty of finding good comparisons in high rainfall mountainous areas.

All the annual normals in the original publication and in this supplement have been incorporated in draft isohyetal maps of New Zealand on a scale of 1:500,000. Though this has been done as part of the checking routine following the computations, the maps will shortly be redrafted and copies will be available on this scale for sections of the country or on a much smaller scale for the whole country.

Amended Rainfall Normals

The original publication of 1850 normals did contain some poor estimates and these are amended in this supplement. Station D87181 Mount Arowhana, D97003 Glenfarg Station and H31592 Woodlands are the ones concerned.

Acknowledgement

This supplement was prepared under the direction of Mr A. I. Tomlinson. The computer programs were written by members of the E. D. P. Section of the Climatology Branch.

KEY TO SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- * - Signifies a climatological station
- Closed - Signifies a station closed prior to December 1970
- Type 1 - A station with a complete good quality record from 1941 to 1970
- Type 2 - A station with an incomplete record but high confidence in the estimated values given.
- Type 3 - A station with an incomplete record and only medium confidence in the estimated values given.
- Type 4 - A station with an incomplete record and low confidence in the estimated values given.
- Type 5 - A station with an octapent storage raingauge.

NZ METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE RAINFALL NORMALS 1941-70, MILLIMETRES