

**MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW  
DECEMBER 2022**

December 2022 was a sunny, mostly dry, and unusually cool summer month.

The rainfall total of 30.0 millimetres was 59 mm lower than the average making it the driest December since 2013 (22 mm). Daily falls were light apart from a moderate fall of 18.8 mm on the 13th.

It was unusually cool for the first month of summer. Based on maximum temperatures it was the coolest December for 11 years, but minimums were the lowest on record (131 years of records) with overnight temperatures dropping below 5.0 degrees on nine days.

There were three notable cold temperature extremes - see below.

Light frosts occurred on the 15th and 20th. Frosts are uncommon in the first month of summer, the last December frost was in 2013.

Thunderstorm activity was unusually low with storms on only two days.

Prevailing winds were light to moderate westerlies which is normal for early summer.

***Noteworthy events:***

**1st** - an overcast drizzly day with cool easterly winds which restricted the maximum temperature to just 14.8C. This is 9 degrees lower than the average, and was Armidale's coolest December day since 7th December 2011 (14.0C).

**15th & 20th** - The minimum temperature on the 15th of 0.4C with a light frost was the lowest for the month of December since 7th December 2013 when 0.4C was also recorded. Cold dry air following two cold fronts being pushed north from the Southern Ocean into New South Wales resulted in the unusually chilly conditions. The cool conditions continued for another five days with a second frost and minimum of 1.0C on the 20th. It is most unusual for frost level temperatures to occur in the second half of December.

***DECEMBER 2022 STATISTICS*** (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 30.0 mm (89.4 mm)

Rain days: 6 (10)

Average maximum temp: 23.3 deg (25.3 deg)

Average minimum temp: 7.7 deg (11.3 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 28.5 deg on the 29th

Lowest maximum temp: 14.8 deg on the 1st

Highest minimum temp: 15.6 deg on the 24th

Lowest minimum temp: 0.4 deg on the 15th

Fine sunny days: 17 (15)

Ideal weather days: 0 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 2 (8)

Days with frosts: 2 (0.2) light frosts: 2

Days with fogs: 1 (1)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 7, SW: 7, SE: 6, E: 5, S: 4, NW: 1, NE: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 4.7 mm (5.1 mm)

***Thunderstorm details:***

12th: 9.00-10.30am - moderate storms from west, 2.8 mm rain

4.55-5.20pm - slight storm from west

31st: 3.50-4.30pm - slight storm from south