

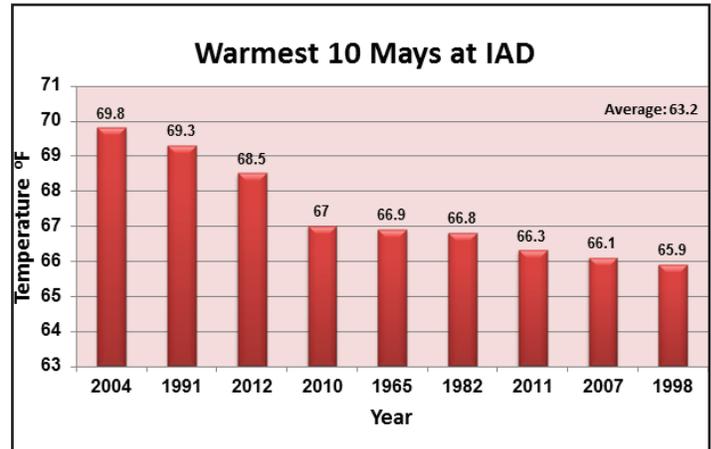
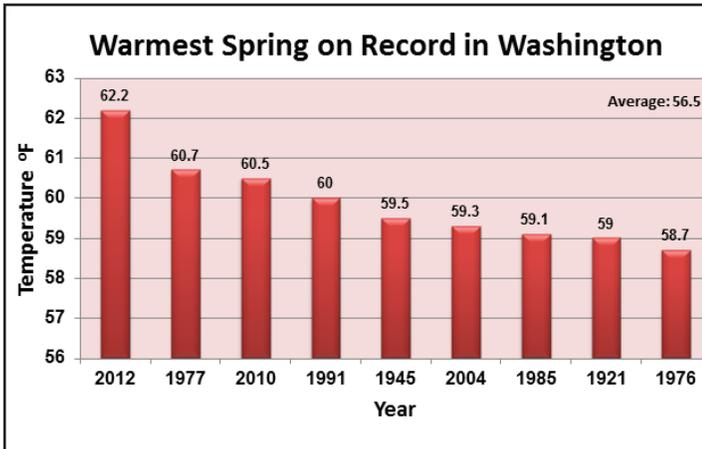


PRESTO

PREcipitation Summary and Temperature Observations
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



MAY 2012: Warm with Major Rainfall Event in Parts of Virginia SPRING: Dry; Warmest on Record at All Three Major Airports



May Highlights

- Washington observed 4th warmest May on record, IAD, 3rd warmest; tied for 7th warmest at BWI
- Third consecutive May with above normal readings at the three major airports
- Above normal temperatures for 16th consecutive month at BWI; 7th at DCA; 12th out of past 14 months at IAD
- Hot Memorial Day with DCA's first 90°F reading of season; IAD tied its record 90°F high; BWI recorded 93°F
- Subnormal rainfall at DCA and BWI for 5th consecutive month; above normal for the first month in 2012 at IAD
- Torrential rainfall across portions of Prince William (5.15" near Bull Run) and Loudoun County (3.10" near Round Hill) on the 22nd-23rd with numerous roads flooded and water rescues; IAD recorded 1.41" on 23rd, most on a calendar day since March 10, 2011

Seasonal Highlights

- Well above normal temperature for spring: +5.7°F at DCA, +6.6°F at BWI, +5.0°F at IAD
- Warmest spring on record at all three major airports
- Warmest average March temperature on record in Washington, 56.8°F, and at IAD, 54.3°F; 3rd warmest at BWI, 55.7°F, and warmest since 1945
- Highs at or above 70°F on 14 days in March at DCA, 11 days at BWI and IAD
- Dry start to spring with March rainfall totals generally between 1"-2" across much of metro area; BWI's total of 1.76" was its second March in past 25 years with less than 2" of precipitation
- Summer-like highs on April 16 with maximum reading of 90°F at BWI (equaling a record); 89°F at DCA and 88°F at IAD
- Parched conditions first two-thirds of April with wildfires in Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA; more than 4,000 acres burned in the Shipwreck Fire in Page County
- One major rainstorm on April 22 with more than 3.0" of precipitation across portions of St. Mary's County, over 2.0" in Baltimore County and over 1.0" in most other locations; snow accumulated in highlands of West Virginia with 3.0" in Bayard and in western Maryland, 6.0" near Frostburg in Allegany County

May 2012

Temperatures: Well above normal temperatures prevailed across the area in May. Positive departures were +5.4°F at DCA, +6.1°F at BWI, and +5.3°F at IAD, resulting in the 3rd warmest May on record at IAD, 4th warmest in Washington, and tied for 7th warmest at BWI. The month featured consistently warm temperatures for both maximum and minimum readings. DCA recorded 18 days greater than or equal to 80°F; BWI, 17 days, and IAD, 19 days. The area experienced a taste of summer-like heat with readings at or above 90°F on Memorial Day Weekend, the 28th and the 29th. The 28th marked the first 90°F reading of the season at DCA; IAD tied a record high for the date, 90°F. Minimum readings were well above normal as well. DCA's monthly minimum of 52°F was its warmest on record for May, while IAD average minimum of 58.1°F for the month also broke a record.

Precipitation: Amounts varied across the area due to localized showers and thundershowers. Below normal totals were recorded at DCA, 3.28" (-0.71") and BWI, 1.99" (-2.00"), while IAD observed above normal amounts, 5.38" (+0.83"). The month featured a number of severe weather episodes. On the 3rd, 1" hail struck Fletcher, VA (Greene County), and near Buckeystown, MD (Frederick County). The following day, strong thunderstorm winds toppled a large tree near Kettering, MD (Prince Georges County).

Another storm system on the 14th-15th produced heavy rains with 1.99" measured in Reisterstown, MD (Baltimore County), 1.69" in Remington, VA (Fauquier County), and 1.46" at DCA. Later on the 15th, severe thunderstorms dropped 1" hail near Glendie, VA (Stafford County), and damaging winds toppled numerous trees near Northwood, MD (Charles County).

The month's big rainmaker occurred on the 22nd-23rd mostly heavily impacting western portions of the metro area in Virginia and extending into the Shenandoah. Storm totals included 5.15" near Bull Run (Prince William County) and 3.10" near Round Hill (Loudoun County). The excessive rain flooded numerous roads and resulted in water rescues; in Nelson County, 1.5" hail struck Arrington. Strong to severe thunderstorms on the 27th caused wind gusts to 60 mph in Jefferson, MD (Frederick County), and a peak gust of 52 mph at IAD.

May 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)				Extreme/Day			Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	80.1	62.7	71.4	66.0	+5.4	91/29	52/11,12	3.28	3.99	-0.71	10.74
Baltimore (BWI)	79.2	58.8	69.0	62.9	+6.1	93/28	44/11	1.99	3.99	-2.00	10.70
Dulles (IAD)	78.8	58.1	68.5	63.2	+5.3	90/28	39/11	5.38	4.55	+0.83	12.81

Spring (March-May) Temperatures: Readings were well above normal at the three major airports, marking the third consecutive season with above normal temperatures at the three major airports. Departures were +5.7°F at DCA, +6.6°F at BWI and +5.0°F at IAD. March was the warmest on record in Washington, matching the April average temperature. The average maximum and minimum temperatures were either the highest on record or near record values. IAD recorded 5 days with highs at or above 80°F; DCA recorded 4 such days. DCA's maximum of 82°F on the 15th set a new record for the date. IAD broke high temperatures records on the 15th (84°F) and 19th (76°F), and equaled a record on the 23rd (83°F). April brought more seasonable weather with above normal readings at DCA and BWI and slightly below normal readings at IAD. April featured 3 days with highs at or above 80°F, with the areas highest temperatures recorded on the 16th when BWI soared to 90°F for the first time this year, equaling a record high. IAD last freeze for the month occurred on the 7th and at BWI on the 3rd. IAD average temperature for the month was 54.0°F; -0.3°F cooler than March for the first such occurrence on record. May brought back well above normal readings (see monthly summary).

Spring Precipitation: Despite a wet May in portions of the area, subnormal precipitation was observed across the metro region including the three major airports. Seasonal departures were well below normal: -3.97" at DCA, -5.08" at BWI, and -2.27" at IAD. It was the driest spring since 2007 at BWI. March began the season with well below normal precipitation. Washington's total of 1.02" was its 6th driest March total on record. A winter storm occurred across central Virginia into southern Maryland on March 5. Snowfall amounts were significant in central Virginia: 10.0" in Barboursville (Orange County). On March 20, early morning heavy showers and thunderstorms impacted parts of the area with hail to 1.75" struck Lacey Spring, VA (Rockingham County). On March 25, another system brought 2.98" of rain near Earlsyville (Albemarle County) and in Charlottesville where some roads were flooded. Severe weather struck portions of the Shenandoah Valley on March 28 where 0.75" hail was measured near Mt. Clifton, VA, and a barn was toppled by thunderstorm winds. April started very dry with less than 1/4 inch measured in the first 20 days. The majority of the month's rainfall occurred on April 22 with a soaking rain that brought more than inch to most of the area and up to 3 inches in outlying areas. The dry conditions, with strong winds at times, fueled wildfires in Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA. May continued dry but varied due to localized thunderstorms (see monthly summary).

Spring 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)				Extreme/Day			Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	71.5	52.8	62.2	56.5	+5.7	91/5-29	29/3-6	6.22	10.19	-3.97	T
Baltimore (BWI)	70.2	48.4	60.0	53.4	+6.6	93/5-28	25/3-6	5.74	10.82	-5.08	T
Dulles (IAD)	70.4	47.5	58.9	53.9	+5.0	90/5-28	21/3-6	8.72	10.99	-2.27	T

Looking Ahead to Summer: Does a hot spring equal a hot summer? Below is a listing of the top 10 warmest springs and the subsequent summer temperatures at DCA.

Average Spring Temperatures at DCA and Subsequent Average Summer Temperatures											
Year	2012	2011	2010	1991	2004	1945	1985	1921	1976	1979	1980
Spring	+5.7	+1.4°F	+4.4°F	+3.9°F	+3.2°F	+3.2°F	3.0°F	+2.9°F	+2.6°F	+2.5°F	+2.5°F
Summer	?	+4.2	+4.0°F	+2.4°F	-1.0°F	-1.8°F	-1.0°F	-1.6°F	+0.6°F	+3.0°F	+1.6°F