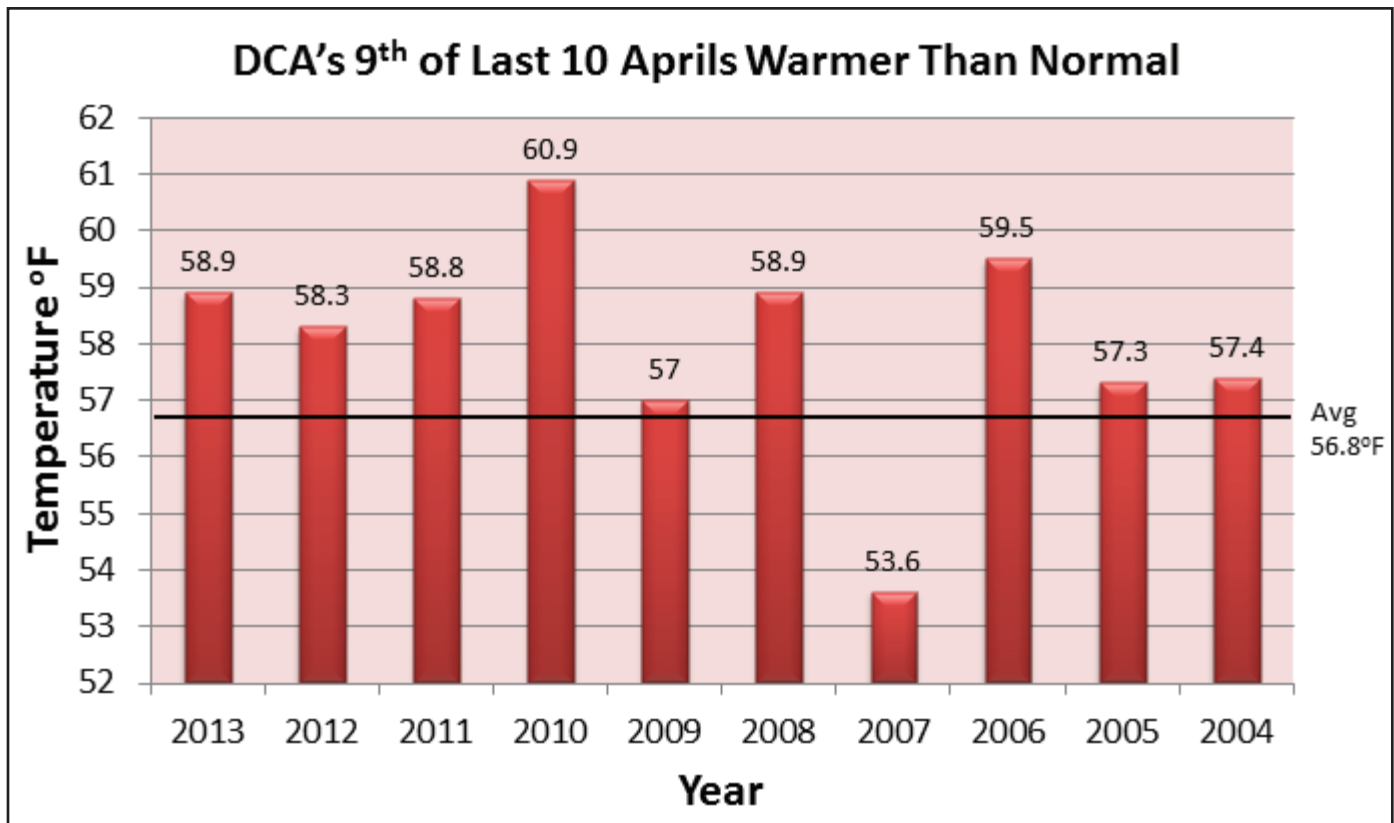


# PRESTO

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



## APRIL 2013: First Taste of Summer Heat; Dose of Severe Weather, Tornadoes



### April Highlights

- ⚡ Above normal temperatures at all three major airports: +2.1°F at DCA, +1.6°F at BWI, and +1.7°F at IAD
- ⚡ Sixth consecutive April with above normal readings at DCA and BWI
- ⚡ First 90°F or greater reading of season on 10<sup>th</sup> at DCA and IAD, 91°F, IAD, 89°F; records set at all three airports
- ⚡ Very cold minimum readings on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> with subfreezing temperatures at many locations. BWI observed its first occurrence in April of 3 consecutive days with minimums in the 20s since April 5-8, 1982. IAD minimums of 24°F on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 22°F on the 4<sup>th</sup> were its first occurrence of 2 consecutive days with minimum readings below 25°F in April since April 9-10, 1977
- ⚡ Subnormal rainfall at DCA, BWI, and IAD: 2.76" at DCA (-0.30"); 2.20" (-0.99" at BWI) and 2.30" (-1.17") at IAD
- ⚡ Two tornadoes confirmed on 19<sup>th</sup>: EF-1 with estimated wind speeds of 90 mph struck Fredericksburg, VA, and EF-0 tornado struck Largo, MD, in Prince Georges County, with estimated wind speeds of 85 mph; in Spotsylvania County, VA, straight-line thunderstorm wind gusts were estimated to 80 mph. The severe weather caused property damage and uprooted trees, and resulted in heaviest rainfall of month: 1.88" in Sykesville (Howard County) and 1.82" in Eldersburg, (Carroll County), MD. IAD total of 1.20" broke a daily record, while DCA recorded wind gusts to 53 mph during a thunderstorm.

## April 2013

**Temperatures:** After 2 months with subnormal readings, above normal temperatures returned across the area. Positive departures were +2.1°F at DCA, +1.6°F at BWI and +1.7°F at IAD. Summer like warmth prevailed from the 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> with highs at or above 80°F at DCA and IAD and from the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at BWI. The month's hottest day occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> when the mercury soared to a record 91°F at DCA and BWI, marking the first 90°F or greater day of the season, and 89°F at IAD.

In sharp contrast, the area observed unseasonably cold minimum readings from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> when BWI and IAD reported subfreezing readings. BWI observed its first April occurrence of 3 consecutive days with minimums in the 20s since April 5-8, 1982. BWI's minimum of 25°F was its lowest April temperature since April 4, 1992. IAD minimums of 24°F on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 22°F on the 4<sup>th</sup> were its first occurrence of 2 consecutive days with minimum readings below 25°F in April since April 9-10, 1977.

**Precipitation:** Subnormal rainfall was reported at the three major airports. Monthly totals were 2.76" at DCA (-0.30"); 2.20" (-0.99") at BWI) and 2.30" (-1.17") at IAD.

The month's major storm occurred from the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The event featured severe weather that included two tornadoes and heavy rainfall. The strongest of the two tornadoes, an EF-1 with estimated wind speed of 90 mph, struck Fredericksburg, VA. The tornado was on the ground for a minute with a path length of 0.75 miles and a maximum width of 150 yards. The tornado caused property damage and uprooted trees. The second tornado was an EF-0, which was sited in Largo, MD, (Prince Georges County). Estimated wind speeds were 85 mph with a path length of 0.5 miles and maximum width of 75 yards. This tornado resulted in damage to three homes and uprooted trees. In Spotsylvania County, VA, straight-line thunderstorm wind gusts, estimated to 80 mph, caused tree and property damage. Rainfall from this storm was heaviest in Maryland where 1.88" was measured in Sykesville (Howard County) and 1.82" in Eldersburg (Carroll County). IAD's total of 1.20" broke a daily record; DCA recorded wind gusts to 53 mph during the thunderstorm.

Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms also occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Highest totals were 1.38" in Deale, MD (Anne Arundel County) and 1.38" in Fredericksburg. In Maryland, winds gusted to 59 mph at the Dares Beach buoy and 0.75" hail struck Damascus (Montgomery County).

Earlier in the month, Southern Maryland was clipped by a storm system on the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> that produced heavy rainfall. Totals included 1.54" in Waldorf (Charles County) and 1.17" in Ridge (St. Mary's County).

### April 2013 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	YTD
National (DCA)	68.9	48.9	58.9	56.8	+2.1	91/10	31/4	2.76	3.06	-0.30	9.79
Baltimore (BWI)	66.2	44.5	55.3	53.7	+1.6	91/10	25/4	2.20	3.19	-0.99	10.43
Dulles (IAD)	67.7	44.5	56.1	54.4	+1.7	89/10	22/4	2.30	3.47	-1.17	10.79

**Looking Ahead to May:** Another warm May? The last three Mays have featured above normal temperatures in Washington. Will 2013 extend the streak? Listed below are the 10 most recent May departures from normal for average temperatures at DCA.

Last 10 May Departures from Normal for Average Monthly Temperature at DCA										
Year	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Average Monthly Temperature Departure	?	+5.4°F	+1.4°F	+3.7°F	-0.1°F	-0.9°F	+2.2°F	-0.5°F	-3.7°F	+6.2°F