

MAY 2007: Temperature: Temperatures were well above normal across the local area with monthly departures of +2.2°F observed at DCA, +2.6°F at BWI and +3.8°F at IAD. It was the warmest May in Washington since 2004 with DCA observing 20 days with highs at or above normal temperatures. The first taste of summer like weather occurred Memorial Day weekend as highs soared well into the 80's at most locations and reached at or above 90°F on the 26th for the first time in 2007, including a daily record of 92°F at IAD. BWI recorded three 90°F+ days (26th-27th, 30th), the most in May since 2000. The month's coolest daytime readings occurred on the 18th when highs only rose to near 60°F due to extensive cloud cover. The lowest minimum temperatures occurred on the 7th-8th when many suburban locations dropped into the 30's, including a low of 36°F at BWI and IAD on the 8th.

Precipitation: The region experienced well below normal rainfall in May with totals under 2.00" across most of the region and less than an inch across much of Loudoun County, VA, northeastward into Montgomery and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland. IAD's monthly precipitation total of 0.34" was the lowest amount ever recorded in May (see cover), while BWI's total of 0.94" was its 4th driest on record and driest May since 1986. While DCA's total was somewhat higher (1.75"), its monthly precipitation deficit was -2.07". May rainfall was primarily related to thunderstorms. Three events were noteworthy. On the 10th, a localized storm dumped nearly an inch of rain in D.C., including 0.93" at DCA. The thunderstorm also knocked out power to about 10,000 homes and businesses in Washington, D.C., and across portions of Maryland, according to press reports. On the 16th, a line of thunderstorms swept rapidly through the metro area. Wind damage was reported at numerous locations when gusts up to 66 mph were reported at Norrisville, MD (Harford County) and 48 mph at BWI. Hail measured nearly 0.9" near Freeland in Baltimore County; nickel size hailstones were reported in Warrenton, VA. The month's final thunderstorm occurred on the evening of the 27th; beginning in the Shenandoah and extending eastward to the metro area, into D.C. and parts of suburban Maryland. Strong winds downed many trees and large tree limbs. Wind gusts at the three major airports measured 46 mph at BWI, 40 mph at DCA and 39 mph at IAD; penny size hail was observed in Pine Grove, (Page County) VA.

MAY 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	77.6	58.0	67.8	65.6	2.2	91/26	44/8	1.75	3.82	-2.07	13.79
Baltimore (BWI)	78.1	52.9	65.5	62.9	2.6	92/26	36/8	0.94	3.89	-2.95	14.63
Dulles (IAD)	78.5	53.6	66.1	62.3	3.8	92/26	36/8	0.34	4.22	-3.88	11.33

SPRING (March-May) 2007: Temperature: Seasonal temperatures were above normal across the local area with 3-month departures of +0.3°F reported at DCA, +0.7°F at BWI and +1.9°F at IAD. There were 52 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA. March started the season warm and dry. The month featured numerous days with large daily temperature swings. The three major airports recorded 7 days in March with highs at or above 70°F, including two days (14th and 27th) with highs at or above 80°F. In contrast, an Arctic-like chill produced minimum temperatures in the teens at many locations from the 6th-8th, including a low of 11°F at IAD on the 8th. April brought increasingly rare below normal temperatures for the month. Unprecedented cold enveloped the area from the 5th-17th. BWI's average temperature reading of 44.2°F was the coldest ever observed for this April time frame; DCA's average of 44.3°F was second only to 1907. DCA tied a daily record low of 29°F on the 8th. Temperatures briefly rebounded in the latter half of the month with five 80°F readings in the last full week of the month. Despite those summer-like days, it was the coolest April in Washington in 24 years. May brought a return to above normal readings, resulting in the 2nd consecutive Spring with warmer than normal readings at the three major airports.

SPRING Precipitation: The local area recorded subnormal Spring precipitation with seasonal deficits of 1.08" at DCA, 0.71" at BWI, and 4.34" at IAD. At IAD, the 6.65" seasonal precipitation total was the 3rd lowest Spring precipitation total ever recorded. Two major storm systems, one in mid-March and the second in mid-April, accounted for the majority of the Spring precipitation. March rainfall totals ranged between 3"-4.5" across most of the area. DCA and IAD reported slight monthly deficits of 0.41" and 0.62", respectively, while BWI recorded a surplus of 0.24". The month's major precipitation event brought more than 2" of precipitation to most areas on March 15th-16th, causing numerous roads closures. For most areas, this was the heaviest precipitation since September 2006 when the remnants of Tropical Storm Ernesto moved through the local area. The March event brought wet snow across the area with up to 8" in the higher elevations. On March 5th, the area was hit by wind gusts up to 50 mph at some locations. Numerous trees and power lines were downed in portions of Montgomery County, MD., and Rockingham and Augusta counties in Virginia. For the 4th consecutive year, April brought above normal precipitation. More than 3" of rain fell in parts of Northern Virginia and more than 5" across parts of Maryland. The month started with a 1/2" of snow in some areas on the 7th. Then, echoing March, a major storm system came mid-month to provide the majority of the month's rain. The storm brought gale force northwest winds resulting in numerous power outages. Winds gusted to more than 50 mph across the area. May, the last month of meteorological Spring, ended on a dry note with less than 2" of rain across most of the Washington/Baltimore area.

SPRING 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	
National (DCA)	66.0	46.6	56.4	56.1	+0.3	91/5-26	20/3-8	9.11	10.19	-1.08	
Baltimore (BWI)	65.3	42.8	54.0	53.3	+0.7	92/5-26	14/3-8	10.11	10.82	-0.71	
Dulles (IAD)	66.4	43.3	54.8	53.0	+1.9	92/5-26	11/3-8	6.65	10.99	-4.34	

Looking Ahead to June: Does a dry May equal a dry June? Listed below are the most recent 10 May's with less than 2" of rain at DCA and the corresponding June rainfall total (Normal DCA June Precipitation: 3.13").

Year	2007	1999	1994	1991	1986	1977	1969	1965	1964	1963	1957
May	1.75"	1.28"	1.56"	1.57"	0.75"	1.73"	1.20"	1.72"	1.46"	1.06"	1.40"
June	?	2.26"	1.59"	1.27"	1.29"	3.28"	3.46"	1.88"	1.30"	6.87"	3.02"