

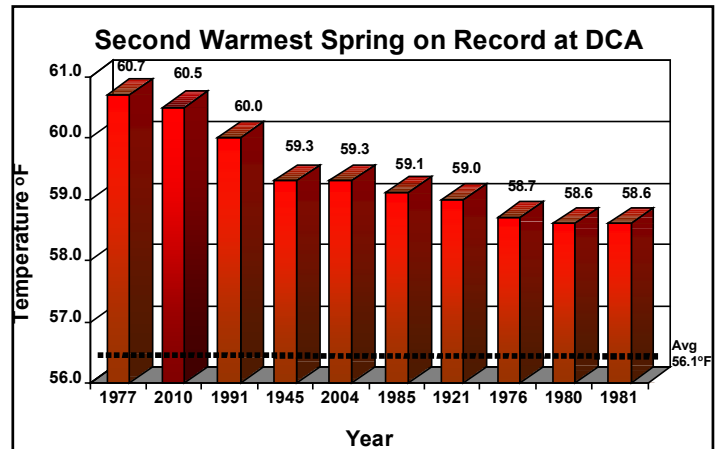
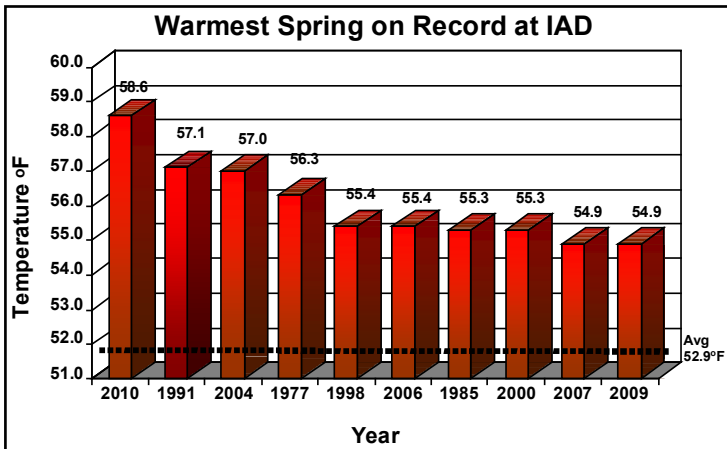


PRESTO

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



MAY 2010: Warm with Numerous Storms SPRING: Warmest at IAD, 2nd Warmest in Washington



May Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures at all three major airports: +3.7°F at DCA, +4.4°F at BWI and +4.7°F at IAD
- Three days with highs at or above 90°F at all three major airports, including monthly maximums on the 27th of 93°F at DCA, and 92°F at BWI and IAD
- Highs at or above 80°F on 13 days at IAD; 11 days at DCA and BWI
- Tenth wettest May on record at IAD: 5.42"; in contrast, DCA recorded driest April-May since 1999: 3.90"
- Strong to severe thunderstorms on 14th with hail reported throughout metro area, including 2" hail observed near Vienna (Fairfax County), VA, and St. Charles (Charles County), MD
- Slow moving thunderstorms in Northern Virginia produce copious rainfall on 23rd with 3.50" near Arcola (Loudoun County), VA, resulting in flash flooding and a daily record of 2.40" at IAD
- A deluge of 4.30" soaked portions of Nelson County, VA, on the 28th with flash flooding reported

Spring Highlights

- Above normal temperatures: DCA (+ 4.4°F), BWI (+ 4.3°F), and IAD (+ 5.6°F)
- Warmest spring on record at IAD with an average temperature of 58.6°F; 2nd warmest at DCA with average temperature of 60.5°F, highest since 1977; 7th warmest at BWI
- Highs at or above 90°F on 5 days each at DCA, BWI and IAD
- No freezing temperatures at DCA, first such occurrence ever in March; only 6 freezing/subfreezing minimum readings at IAD, fewest on record
- Major storm system March 12th-14th soaks region with 2"-5" in many areas, resulting in numerous road closures due to flooding. Greatest totals include 4.79" in Elkridge, MD, and 3.85" in Leesburg, VA
- Record high temperatures at IAD on April 5-7, and at BWI, on April 6-7, when many locations recorded their first 90°F or greater readings of the year, including 93°F at IAD on the 6th; earliest on record at IAD, tied for 2nd earliest at BWI and earliest in Washington since 1942
- Severe thunderstorms hit portions of Washington on the April 8, knocking down a large tree near the U.S. Capital; wind gusts measured up to 59 mph at DCA
- Significant hail event on April 25 with hail measuring up to 1.75" in Burkittsville, (Frederick County), and near Damascus, MD (Montgomery County); 1.50" hail observed near Lovettsville, VA (Loudoun County)
- Heavy downpours from thunderstorms on April 25 produced more than 2" of rain in part of Baltimore and Howard Counties in Maryland

May 2010

Temperature: For the third consecutive month, temperatures were well above normal across the Washington Baltimore area. Positive departures were +3.7°F at DCA, 4.4°F at BWI and +4.7°F at IAD. Summer-like readings were observed for nearly half the month. The three major airports each recorded 3 days with highs at or above 90°F. Maximum readings were at or above 80°F on 13 days at IAD and 11 days at DCA and BWI. IAD established three record highs during the month: 90°F on the 1st, 88°F on the 2nd and 89°F on the 14th. Minimum readings were unseasonably warm on the 2nd and the 3rd with lows at or above 70°F at the three major airports on the 2nd. Record high minimum temperatures were set at all three airports the following day with readings of 70°F at DCA, 69°F at BWI and 67°F at IAD. May did bring cooler days as well. On the 11th and 18th, highs held in the mid 50s to about 60°F across the area. In contrast to March and April's consistently mild overnight lows, May featured very chilly minimum readings on the 10th and 11th when temperatures in the suburbs were in the 30s, including 34°F at IAD and 35°F at BWI on the 10th.

Precipitation: Rainfall was variable across the region due to scattered showers and thunderstorms. Totals ranged from 2.40" (-1.42") at DCA, 3.49" (-0.40") at BWI to 5.42" (+1.20") at IAD. DCA recorded its driest April-May (3.90") since 1999, while IAD observed its 10th wettest May on record. Severe weather season was in full swing. Near dawn on the 3rd, tree damage was reported near Ladiesburg (Frederick County), MD, as the result of straight line winds. On the 12th, a strong thunderstorm struck Five Forks (Nelson County), VA, with penny size (0.75") hail. Rainfall was heavy in some spots, such as 1.18" in Wheaton (Montgomery County), MD. The month's most significant severe weather event occurred 2 days later; 62 local storm reports were reported across the region with hail up to 2" reported near Vienna (Fairfax County), VA, and St. Charles (Charles County), MD, while 1.75" hail struck Haymarket (Prince William County), VA, and near Maryland Line (Baltimore County), MD. Another rain event followed on the 17th-18th with 1.54" observed in portions of Charles County, MD. Slow moving thunderstorms on the 23rd resulted in many locations reporting their heaviest monthly rainfall. Totals included 3.50" near Arcola (Loudoun County), VA, where a road was closed due to flash flooding, 2.44" in McLean (Fairfax County), VA, and a daily record, 2.40", at IAD. The month's final storms occurred on the 27th-28th when severe weather struck Virginia. On the 27th, 1" hail was reported in Sudley (Prince William County), with winds gusts measured to 60 mph near Clifton (Fairfax County). On the 28th, 1.25" hail was reported near Stanley (Page County); 4.30" total rainfall resulted in flash flooding near Rockfish (Nelson County). Closer to the metro area, 2-day rainfall totals included 2.46" near Lake Barcroft (Fairfax County) and 1.47" at BWI.

MAY 2010 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	78.4	60.3	69.3	65.6	+3.7	93/27	43/10	2.40	3.82	-1.42	11.13
Baltimore (BWI)	77.3	57.4	67.3	62.9	+4.4	92/27,31	35/10	3.49	3.89	-0.40	16.61
Dulles (IAD)	77.7	56.3	67.0	62.3	+4.7	92/27	34/10	5.42	4.22	+1.20	16.71

SPRING (March-May) Temperature: All three months of season were well above normal. Positive departures were +4.4°F at DCA, +4.3°F at BWI and +5.6°F at IAD. The season was the warmest spring on record at IAD with an average temperature of 58.6°F, while DCA recorded its 2nd warmest spring (warmest since 1977) with an average temperature of 60.7°F. BWI reported its 7th warmest on record with an average temperature of 57.6°F. The season started with the warmest March on record at IAD and the 8th warmest in Washington. It was the warmest March since 2000 at DCA and BWI. DCA's monthly minimum of 33°F marked is first occurrence on record with no readings at or below freezing during March. BWI recorded freezing temperatures on 5 days, the least since 1973, and IAD on 6 days, the fewest on record for March. April continued the well above normal temperatures. Washington recorded its 5th warmest April, BWI, its 6th warmest, and IAD its 2nd warmest. The 90°F readings early in the month were the earliest ever observed at IAD, tied for second earliest at BWI and earliest in season in Washington since 1942. Many locations, including the three major airports, also recorded their first 90°F or greater readings on the 6th and 7th. Record highs were set at BWI on the 5th and 6th when maximum readings reached 84°F and 90°F and from the 5th-7th at IAD when highs of 86°F, 93°F and 91°F were measured. Maximum readings were also quite warm on the 16th and 30th when temperatures soared into the 80s across the area. See monthly summary above for May data.

Precipitation: Seasonal rainfall varied significantly at the major area airports: 7.45" at DCA (-2.45"), 11.22" at BWI (+0.40"), and 10.07" at IAD (-0.92"). March started the season with normal to near normal rainfall and only a trace of snow. The month's most significant storm occurred from the 12th-14th when soaking rains resulting in flooded roads and between 2"-4.8" to most of the area. On March 22, the season's first severe weather resulted in hail up to 1" in diameter in Slate Mills (Rappahannock County) and near Newington (Fairfax County), VA. April rainfall was well below normal across in most locations. None of the airports recorded an inch of rain on any calendar day. Severe weather was frequent in April. On the 5th, isolated severe thunderstorms moved through Northern Virginia with 1" hail measured near White Oak (King George County). Three days later, winds gusts were measured to 60 mph near South Gate, MD (Ann Arundel County). Scattered thunderstorm wind damage struck portions of Northern Maryland on the 16th, when 60 mph wind gust were measured near Ladiesburg (Frederick County). A widespread severe weather event occurred on the 25th with hail as large as 1.75" in Burkittsville, (Frederick County). The final severe weather event occurred on the 26th resulted in a water spout near Cobb Island, MD, and 1" hail was measured in St. Mary's County, MD. Heavy rainfall was noted in some locations, including 1.55" in Warrenton (Fauquier County). May precipitation varied by area. See monthly summary above.

SPRING 2010 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	70.0	50.9	60.5	56.1	+4.4	93/5-27	33/3-6, 27	7.45	10.19	-2.45	T
Baltimore (BWI)	68.4	46.9	57.6	53.3	+4.3	92/5-27, 31	29/3-6	11.22	10.82	+0.40	T
Dulles (IAD)	70.1	47.0	58.6	53.0	+5.6	93/4-6	29/3-8, 9	10.07	10.99	-0.92	T

Looking Ahead to May: 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	2010	1991	2004	1945	1985	1921	1976	1979	1980	1979
Spring	+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	+2.3°F
Summer	?	+2.4°F	-1.0°F	-1.8°F	-1.0°F	-1.6°F	+0.6°F	+3.0°F	+1.6°F	-0.5°F