

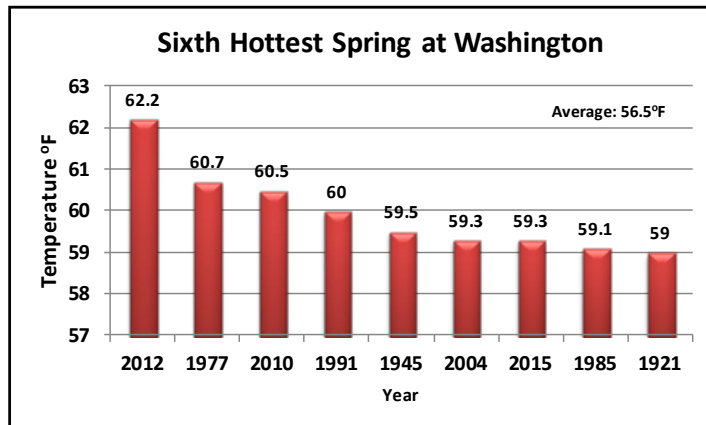
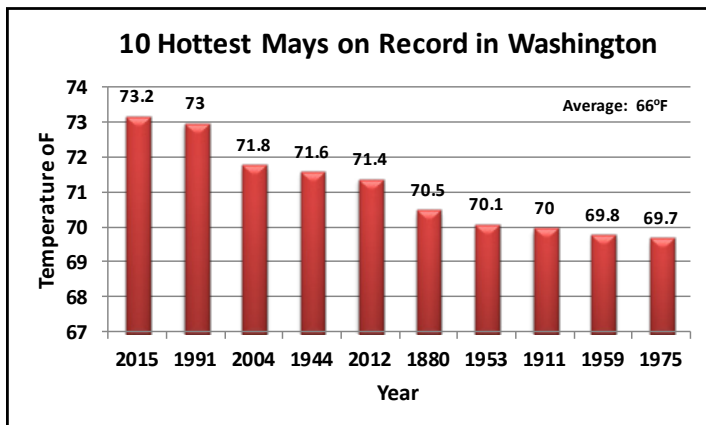


PRESTO

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



MAY 2015: Warmest on Record in Washington; SPRING: Sixth Warmest in Washington; Snowfall then Numerous Severe Weather Events



May Highlights

- ☛ Warmest May on record at DCA; 3rd warmest at BWI, 7th at IAD: Departures from normal: DCA, +7.2°F; BWI, +6.2°F; IAD, +5.7°F
- ☛ DCA recorded 7 days with highs at or above 90°F including the first occurrence of the season on the 12th, equalling 1939 with the 3rd greatest number of 90°F days
- ☛ Minimum readings were frequently well above normal with eight daily high minimums established at DCA, including the 10th-12th and 17th-19th; IAD broke four high minimum records
- ☛ Precipitation was below normal at all three major airports: DCA, 1.92" (-2.07"); BWI, 2.10" (-1.89") and IAD, 2.46" (-2.09")
- ☛ On the 6th, 1.75" hail struck near Centreville and 1.25" in Chantilly, VA (Fairfax County) and strong thunderstorm winds knocked down a tree blocking a roadway near Barnesville (Montgomery County), MD. Broad Run (Fauquier County), VA, was deluged with 2.21"
- ☛ On the evening of the 18th into the 19th, thunderstorms caused widespread heavy rainfall totalling 3"-4" across portions of northern and central Maryland and over an inch in most locations across the area. Flash flooding in Maryland shutdown the westbound lanes on Route 108 on Olney Mill Rd in Olney (Montgomery County) and stranded two vehicles in high water on Brock Bridge Rd near Savage (Anne Arundel County). Greatest rainfall totals included 4.11" near Towson (Baltimore County) and 3.66" near Walkersville (Frederick County); BWI set a daily record of 1.54"

Spring Highlights

- ☛ The area recorded above normal temperature for spring: DCA, +2.8°F; BWI, +0.6°F; IAD, +2.1°F
- ☛ Seasonal precipitation was below normal: DCA, -1.16"; BWI, -0.02; IAD, -2.56"
- ☛ Bitter cold conditions impacted the area on March 6 and the morning of the 7th; BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on the 6th and 6°F and 2°F on the 7th. IAD also set a daily minimum maximum of 27°F on the 6th and again toward the end of the month with a maximum of 37°F on the 28th, IAD's coldest high March temperature since March 30, 1964.
- ☛ The month's largest snowfall occurred on March 5 when 5"-9" of wet snow accumulated across the region. The storm started as rain on the 4th, then changed to wet snow behind an Arctic front on the 5th. The snow resulted in hazardous road conditions prompting most school systems and federal offices to close. The greatest snowfall amounts occurred in northern Maryland with 12.5" measured near Lineboro in Carroll County, and 10.3" near Walkersville (Frederick County). In Virginia, 11.0" accumulated near Winchester (Frederick County) and 9.0" in Herndon (Fairfax County). The 9.5" total at IAD was its greatest March snowfall since "The Storm of the Century" on March 13, 1993.
- ☛ The season's last freeze occurred on April 1 at BWI and April 12 at IAD
- ☛ On April 4, strong winds not associated with a thunderstorm gusted to 53 mph at Quantico Marine Corp (Prince William County), VA; winds gusted to 49 mph at IAD and 46 mph near Andrews AFB (Prince Georges County), MD

May 2015

Temperatures: The area featured well above normal to record warmth in the final month of meteorological spring. Positive departures were +7.2°F at DCA, +6.2°F at BWI and +5.7°F at IAD, resulting in the warmest May on record at DCA with an average temperature of 73.2°F. May was the 3rd warmest at BWI and 7th warmest at IAD. DCA recorded 7 days with highs at or above 90°F, including the first such day of the season on the 12th. BWI reported 2 days at or above 90°F, including its first of the season on the 28th. Washington tied 1939 for the 3rd greatest number of 90°F days in May. It was the 7th consecutive May with above normal temperatures at BWI and 6th consecutive at DCA. Summer like warmth was prevalent the majority of the month with 22 days at or above 80°F at DCA and BWI and 21 such days at IAD. Minimum readings were frequently well above normal with 8 daily high minimums set at DCA including three consecutive days from the 10th-12th and 17th-19th. DCA's minimum was a sultry 75°F on the 27th and 74°F on the 29th and 31st. IAD set four daily high minimum records and in sharp contrast, a record low maximum of 58°F on the 21st.

Precipitation: Monthly totals were subnormal at all three major airports: 1.92" (-2.07") at DCA, 2.10" (-1.89") at BWI and 2.46" (-2.09") at IAD. Despite the relatively dry month, numerous strong to severe thunderstorms impacted the region. On the afternoon of the 6th, 1.75" hail struck near Centreville and 1.25" in Chantilly (Fairfax County), VA; strong thunderstorm winds knocked down a tree blocking a roadway near Barnesville (Montgomery County), MD. Broad Run (Fauquier County), VA, was deluged with 2.21". On the 16th, 1.25" hail pelted near Lydia (Greene County), VA, area and torrential downpours brought 1.93" near Kingsville (Baltimore County), MD, and 1.93" near Leesburg (Loudoun County), VA.

On the evening of the 18th into the 19th, thunderstorms caused widespread heavy rainfall totalling 3"-4" across portions of northern and central Maryland and over an inch to most locations across the area. Flash flooding in Maryland shutdown the westbound lanes on Route 108 on Olney Mill Road in Olney (Montgomery County) and stranded two vehicles in high water on Brock Bridge Road near Savage (Anne Arundel County). The greatest rainfall totals included 4.11" near Towson (Baltimore County) and 3.66" near Walkersville (Frederick County). BWI set a daily record of 1.54". The final 3 days of the month featured isolated strong storms. On the 29th, 0.75" hail was measured in Spotsylvania, VA. The following day, a funnel cloud was observed in Waynesboro, VA. On the 31st, 2.74" deluged Clarksburg (Montgomery County), MD and 0.75" hail was observed near Gamber (Carroll County), MD.

May 2015 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	82.7	57.6	73.2	66.0	+7.2	92/28,31	51/2	1.92	3.99	-2.07	14.78
Baltimore (BWI)	80.6	57.6	69.1	62.9	+6.2	91/28	43/2	2.10	3.99	-1.89	17.20
Dulles (IAD)	80.3	57.5	68.9	63.0	+5.7	89/28,30	42/23	2.46	4.55	-2.09	13.86

Spring (Mar-May) Temperatures: DCA recorded above normal temperatures, equaling 2004 as the 6th warmest on record. BWI and IAD had near to above normal temperatures: DCA, +2.8°F; BWI +0.6°F; IAD, +2.1°F. Spring began with mid-winter cold. It was the second coldest March since 1996 at BWI and since 1997 at IAD. All three major airports recorded below normal temperatures for the first three months of 2015, the first such occurrence since 1969-70 at DCA and BWI, and since 1987-88 at IAD. BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on March 6 and 6°F and 2°F on March 7. Wind chill values were about -5°F during the morning of the 6th. IAD set a daily low maximum of 27°F on the 6th and again toward the end of the month with a maximum of 37°F on the 28th, its coldest high temperature so late in the season since March 30, 1964. The month finally transitioned to warmer temperatures on March 9 when DCA recorded 10 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 2 days with maximum readings of 70°F or greater; BWI observed 7 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 2 days with maximum readings of 70°F or greater; IAD, 8 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 1 day with a maximum readings of 70°F or greater. April switched to above normal temperatures for the first time in 2015. The season's last freeze occurred on April 1 at BWI and on April 12 at IAD. May brought record heat (see monthly summary).

Spring Precipitation: Near to subnormal precipitation was measured at the three major airports: DCA, 9.37" (-1.16"); BWI, 11.07" (-0.02"); IAD, 8.84" (-2.56"). Severe weather dominated the precipitation events later in April and May. The season started with all three major airports observing their third consecutive March with above normal snowfall and precipitation. The largest snowfall occurred on March 5 when 5"-9" of wet snow accumulated across the region. The storm started as rain on the 4th, then changed to wet snow behind an Arctic front on the 5th. The snow resulted in hazardous road conditions prompting most school systems and federal offices to close. The greatest snowfall total in Maryland was 12.5" near Lineboro (Carroll County), and in Virginia, 11.0" near Winchester (Frederick County). The 9.5" at IAD was its greatest March snow since March 13, 1993. Tragically, wind resulted in a fatality on March 15 when strong northwest winds to 40 mph caused a dead tree to hit and kill a hiker near Brownsville (Frederick County), MD. April rainfall varied widely across the region with DCA and BWI above normal and IAD below. Two significant events brought over an inch of rain to many locations. On April 22, scattered thunderstorms winds blew down trees to fall near Towson, (Baltimore City) and Patapsco (Carroll County), MD, and near Sperryville (Rappahannock County), VA. May was dry (see monthly summary).

Spring 2015 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	68.9	49.8	59.3	56.5	+2.8	92/5-28,31	15/3-6	9.37	10.53	-1.16	11.1
Baltimore (BWI)	65.7	43.2	54.4	53.8	+0.6	91/5-28	6/3-7	11.07	11.09	-0.02	20.2
Dulles (IAD)	66.2	43.1	54.6	52.5	+2.1	89/5-28,30	2/3-7	8.84	11.40	-2.56	25.1

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	2015	2012	2011	2010	1991	2004	1945	1985	1921	1976	1979
Spring	+2.8	+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
Summer	?	+3.5	+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