

APRIL 1990: While April temperatures averaged close to normal for the first time since November, the month contained significant extremes in temperatures with a number of unusually cold mornings with frost and freezes. In the western suburbs (IAD), readings dipped below freezing on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 18th and 19th, with a monthly extreme minimum temperature of 24°F on April 13. Even DCA, usually the warmest winter location of the five airports thanks to heat island and river effects, observed its first April freeze since 1987 (31°F on the 8th and 32°F on the 13th). New April daily minimum temperature records at IAD included: 24°F on the 13th, 31°F on the 18th, and 27°F on the 19th. A reading of 31°F on April 19 was a record low at BWI.

As a result of the relatively cold weather during the first two-thirds of April, temperatures averaged more than 3°F below normal at DCA during April 1–22. During April 23–30, however, an exceptionally warm spell, with 6 days of highs at 80°F or more, including 2 days of 91°F and 93°F on April 26–27 (most consecutive 90°F days in April since 2 days in 1977 and 5 straight days in 1976), lifted the average temperature above normal for the fourth consecutive month (the longest monthly stretch since 5 in-a-row during May–September 1987). Through April, 636 cumulative degrees have been recorded at National Airport, resulting in an average temperature of more than 5°F above normal for the year. This maintains 1990 as the warmest year on record in Washington (through the first 4 months of the year). New April daily maximum temperature records at BWI were 92°F on the 26th and 91°F on the 27th. In downtown Baltimore (Custom House), record highs included 98°F on the 26th, which tied the all-time April high, and 95°F on the 27th. IAD reported record highs of 85°F, 84°F, 92°F, 92°F, and 88°F on April 24–28, and the 92°F on the 26th and 27th also tied their all-time April record high.

April marked the wettest month this year and the most at the airports since October 1989. Between 10 and 12 days with measurable precipitation was recorded at the stations, with over an inch of rain reported on the 29–30 at all five locations and at least an inch of precipitation at BWI and DCA on the 14–15. The month was unfortunately known for its wet weekends, with rain falling on at least one weekend day throughout the month. An unusual late-season snow developed in the late evening on the 6th and extended into the 7th, with up to 4 inches measured at Dulles Airport (IAD's greatest April total) and 2.5 inches in portions of Montgomery County, MD. Farther east and south, much smaller totals were recorded as the snow generally melted as it hit the ground. At DCA, however, the April 1990 snowfall amount of 0.2" was the greatest April total since 0.6" in 1972.

APRIL 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	67.3	46.3	56.8	56.7	+0.1	93/27	31/8	4.09	2.93	+1.16	0.2
Baltimore (BWI)	65.4	43.8	54.6	54.0	+0.6	92/26	28/8 [#]	4.23	3.35	+0.88	0.1
Dulles (IAD)	66.9	41.3	54.1	53.3	+0.8	92/26*	24/13	5.06	3.14	+1.92	4.0
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	67.0	42.5	54.7	55	0	92/26*	26/8 [#]	4.48	3.2	+1.3	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	65.8	44.3	55.0	55	0	91/27	28/8	4.09	3.0	+1.1	0.1

Other dates of occurrence: [#]April 13, *April 27

LOOKING AHEAD : MAY:

WET APRILS = ? MAYS

With the 2nd wettest April observed in Washington since 1974, here is a look at the most recent (last 35 years) wettest Aprils and what took place in May (Note: Normal May rainfall is 3.48 inches at DCA based upon the period 1951 – 1980).

YEAR	Precipitation (inches)		COMPARED TO NORMAL
	APRIL	MAY	
1990	4.09	?	?
1983	6.88	4.62	ABOVE
1973	4.19	3.39	BELOW
1970	5.35	2.79	BELOW
1964	4.37	1.46	BELOW
1959	4.01	2.89	BELOW
1958	4.92	2.77	BELOW