

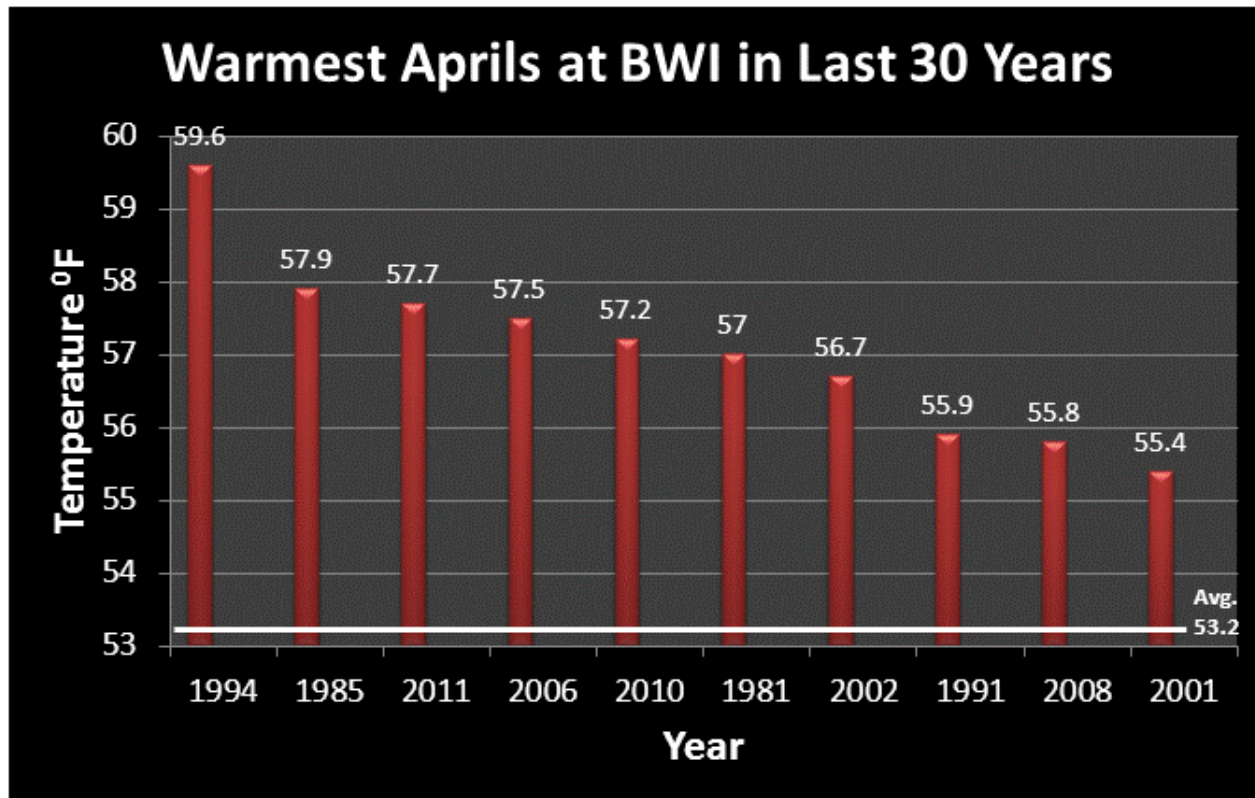


# PRESTO

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



## APRIL 2011: Above Normal Temperatures, With Widespread Severe Weather



### April Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures: +2.7°F at DCA, +4.5°F at BWI and +4.2°F at IAD
- Highs at or above 80°F on 7 days at all three major airports; most such days at BWI since 1985
- IAD recorded 4<sup>th</sup> warmest on record, BWI 12<sup>th</sup> warmest
- Region impacted by 18 tornadoes on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> including a long track EF-2 (winds to 130 mph) that traveled more than 30 miles in the Shenandoah Valley, resulting in two injuries; 5 EF-1 tornadoes (wind speeds to 100 mph) with the strongest near Churchville, VA (Augusta County) and 12 EF-0 tornadoes (wind speeds to 80 mph) with the strongest in Reston, VA (Fairfax County) and near Town Creek and Green Ridge, MD (Allegany County). Widespread property and tree damage according to press reports.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the area was struck by severe weather and heavy rainfall. Four tornadoes, causing property damage, were reported, including two EF-1 tornadoes, one near Winfield, MD (Frederick/Carroll County, winds to 100 mph) and one near Stuarts Draft, VA (Augusta County, winds to 95 mph) as well as two EF-0 tornadoes, one near Union Mills, MD, (Carroll County, winds to 80 mph) and one near Leesburg, VA (Loudoun County, winds to 70 mph). Winds gusted to 58 mph at DCA. Flash flooding caused one fatality in Waynesboro, VA, when a child was swept into high waters. BWI reported 1.29" of rain and IAD, 1.24".
- On the 12<sup>th</sup>, 0.75"-1.0" hail and flash flooding impacted the Shenandoah Valley, while torrential rain soaked Northern Maryland with 4.08" near Thurmont, MD (Frederick County)

## April 2011

**Temperatures:** Well above normal temperatures occurred across the area in April. Positive departures were +2.7°F at DCA, +4.5°F at BWI and +4.2°F at IAD. It was the warmest April at BWI since 1994. Maximum temperatures reached 80°F or greater on 7 days at the three major airports, the most since 2002 at DCA, and since 1985 at BWI, including 4 consecutive days: 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, BWI set a daily record high of 86°F; the 85°F reading at IAD established a new record and equaled the record at DCA. Two additional maximum temperature readings were equaled later in the month. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, BWI soared to 85°F, while on the 24<sup>th</sup> IAD recorded 85°F. Late in the month, near summer-like minimum readings occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, a record high minimum reading of 66°F occurred at DCA, while BWI's record high minimum occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> (68°F). IAD set new record minimums on both days, 67°F on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 68°F on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

In sharp contrast, BWI recorded cool maximum readings early in the month: 49°F (1<sup>st</sup>) and 48°F (8<sup>th</sup>), and later in the month on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, IAD reached only 49°F. The season's final freeze occurred on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at BWI (32°F) and on the 6<sup>th</sup> at IAD (30°F).

**Precipitation:** Above to well above normal rainfall was observed across the area. Monthly totals were 3.20" (+0.43") at DCA; 3.52" (+0.52") at BWI; and 5.21" (+1.99") at IAD. The month featured numerous storm systems including several bouts of severe weather. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a cold pool of air aloft caused thunderstorms and up to 1.0" hail near Dale City (Prince William County) but with generally small hail (rice size) across the area. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, early morning thunderstorms spawned a weak, EF-0, tornado near Northwood (Charles County) with winds to 65 mph, causing some property damage, according to reports. Winds also gusted to 65 mph near Perry Hall, MD (Baltimore County). A week later on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 0.75" to 1.0" hail struck many locations in the Shenandoah Valley as well as reports of flash flooding while well over an inch rainfall soaked much of the metro area. The heaviest rainfall fell near Thurmont, MD (Frederick County), 4.08", and near Stanardsville, VA (Greene County) 3.08".

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the area was again struck by severe weather and heavy rainfall. Four tornadoes, causing property damage, were reported, including two EF-1 tornadoes, one near Winfield, MD (Frederick/Carroll County, winds to 100 mph) and one near Stuarts Draft, VA (Augusta County, winds to 95 mph) as well as two EF-0 tornadoes, one near Union Mills, MD, (Carroll County, winds to 80 mph) and one near Leesburg, VA (Loudoun County, winds to 70 mph). Winds gusted to 58 mph at DCA. Flash flooding caused one fatality in Waynesboro, VA, when a child was swept into high waters. BWI reported 1.29" of rain and IAD, 1.24".

The month's final and largest severe weather event occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> when the storm system that ravaged much of the South spawned 18 tornadoes in the area. The strongest was a long track EF-2 (winds to 130 mph) that traveled more than 30 miles in the Shenandoah Valley, resulting in a two injuries and property damage, according to reports. There were 5 EF-1 tornadoes with the strongest near Churchville, VA (Augusta County, wind speeds to 100 mph) and 12 EF-0 tornadoes with the strongest in Reston, VA (Fairfax County) and near Town Creek and Green Ridge, MD (Allegany County, wind speeds to 80 mph). Fortunately, the weaker tornadoes only resulted in property and tree damage; no injuries or deaths were reported.

### April 2011 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
<b>National (DCA)</b>	68.6	49.0	58.8	56.1	+2.7	86/20	36/2,6	3.20	2.77	+0.43	11.97
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	68.1	47.3	57.7	53.2	+4.5	86/4,20	32/2	3.52	3.00	+0.52	13.86
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	68.7	45.9	57.3	53.1	+4.2	86/20,25	30/6	5.21	3.22	+1.99	14.36

**Looking Ahead to May:** First 90°F or greater temperature reading in Washington: While the area observed numerous summer like days in April, temperatures did not reach 90°F for the first April since 2008. Listed below are the dates of the first 90°F or greater temperature reading at DCA for the last recent 10 years. The latest 90°F occurred on July 12, 1979, while the earliest was reported on March 29, 1907.

Date of First 90°F or Greater Temperature Recorded at DCA for Last 10 Years										
Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Date	?	4/6	4/26	6/7	5/26	5/30	6/8	4/19	6/24	4/16