

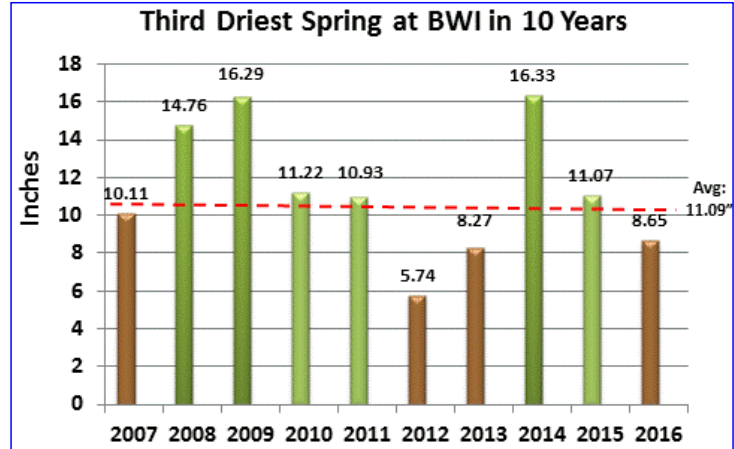
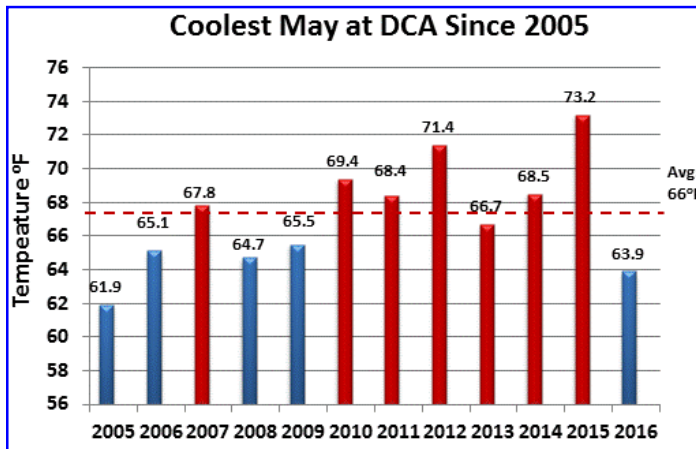


# PRESTO

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



## MAY: Wet and Cool Start, then Summerlike Temperatures SPRING: Season of Contrasts



### May Highlights

- Well below normal temperatures across the metro area:  $-2.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA,  $-1.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI &  $-1.3^{\circ}\text{F}$  at IAD
- Coollest May since 2005 at DCA and since 2008 at BWI and IAD
- First May since 2009 with subnormal temperatures at DCA, and since 2008 at BWI and IAD
- IAD reported 11 days with maximum reading below  $65^{\circ}\text{F}$ , the third most on record
- BWI observed its first  $90^{\circ}\text{F}$  days of the season on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>
- All three airports recorded well above average precipitation: DCA 5.65" (+1.66"); BWI 5.24" (+1.25") and IAD 6.08" (+1.53")
- DCA recorded measurable rainfall on 19 days (second most on record) including the first 11 days, while BWI and IAD reported measurable rainfall on 18 days (third most on record)
- A widespread severe weather outbreak impacted the area during the afternoon and evening on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. In Maryland, baseball size hail struck St. Charles (Charles County), MD, and tennis ball size hail struck Rockville (Montgomery County), MD; in Virginia, hail was measured at 2.25" near Occoquan (Prince William County). Wind gusts reached 60 mph in Hyattsville with numerous trees down and power outages reported in College Park, Bowie and Hyattsville (Prince Georges County), MD. Multiple trees were down across Cleveland Park, Forest Hills and the Chevy Chase sections of DC; flash flooding stranded a vehicle in high water near Belleview (Montgomery County), MD. Rainfall totals included 2.86" in Bethesda (Montgomery County), MD, 1.92" in DC, and 1.86" in McLean (Fairfax County), VA. IAD reported a calendar day record of 1.39"; DCA reported 1.24"

### Spring Highlights

- Above normal seasonal temperatures across the area: DCA,  $58.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  (+1.6°F); BWI,  $55.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  (+1.3°F); IAD,  $55.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ , (+3.0)
- Below normal precipitation at the three major airports: DCA, 8.86" (-1.67"), BWI, 8.65" (-2.44), IAD, 9.41" (-1.99)
- Measurable rainfall on 15 consecutive days at DCA setting an all-time record (Apr 27-May 11); 12 consecutive days at BWI (Apr 27- May 8), tied for 4<sup>th</sup> longest record
- Well above normal temperatures in March: second warmest March on record at IAD, fourth warmest in DC and sixth warmest at BWI with positive departures of  $+6.7^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA and  $+6.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI and IAD
- DCA recorded 10 days in March with highs at or above  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$ , including a record  $79^{\circ}\text{F}$  on March 10. BWI and IAD soared to record highs of  $82^{\circ}\text{F}$  on March 9 and  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 10<sup>th</sup>
- The season's final noteworthy snowfall occurred March 3-4: heaviest amounts were measured in Southern Maryland, including 6.3" near California (St. Mary's County), 4.6" in both Mount Victoria (Charles County) and near Huntingtown (Calvert County); elevated areas near Wintergreen in Augusta County, VA, reported 5.0" and near Shiloh (King George County), VA, 3.5"
- Powerful northwest winds in the wake of a strong cold front from late evening on April 2 into the overnight resulted in some damage in the area and led to two injuries near College Park (Prince Georges County), MD, when a tree fell on a car. Winds gusted to 66 mph at IAD and 59 mph at DCA. A power pole snapped in half blocking a street in Chevy Chase View (Montgomery County); lanes were blocked on Braddock Road by downed trees near Ravensworth (Fairfax County), VA
- Well below normal April precipitation at all three major airports: DCA, 2.05" (-1.01"); BWI, 1.31" (-1.88"); and IAD, 1.88" (-1.59"), marking the driest April since 1985 at BWI and since 2012 at DCA and IAD

## May 2016

**Temperatures:** The DC area recorded well below normal temperatures: DCA, -2.1°F; BWI, -1.5°F; and IAD, -1.3°F. It was the coolest May since 2005 at DCA, 2008 at BWI and IAD. This was the first May since 2009 with subnormal temperatures at DCA, since 2008 at BWI and IAD. Chilly readings were frequent thru the 22<sup>nd</sup> when the area finally experience a dramatic warm up to summertime temperatures that lasted through the end of the month. IAD reported 11 days with maximum readings below 65°F, third most on record, while DCA and BWI recorded 10 such days. IAD established a record low maximum temperature of 59°F on the 15<sup>th</sup> and equaled its chilliest high minimum on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a high of 57°F. Minimum temperatures fell into the 30s on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at IAD and on the 16<sup>th</sup> at BWI. The minimum reading of 37°F at IAD on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with the same low temperature the following day at BWI, equaled records for the date. In sharp contrast, BWI observed its first 90°F days of the season on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. DCA did not attain a 90°F or greater reading in May for the first time since 2009.

**Precipitation:** May was excessively wet across the area: DCA 5.65" (+1.66"); BWI, 5.24" (+1.25") and IAD, 6.08" (+1.53"). It was the wettest May since 2009 at DCA and BWI. DCA recorded measurable rainfall on 19 days (second most on record), including the first 11 days, while BWI and IAD reported measurable rainfall on 18 days (third most on record).

The first storms of note occurred on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when a widespread severe weather outbreak impacted the area during the afternoon and evening. In Maryland, baseball size hail struck St. Charles (Charles County) and tennis ball size hail struck Rockville (Montgomery County); in Virginia, hail was measured at 2.25" near Occoquan (Prince William County). Wind gusts reached 60 mph in Hyattsville where numerous trees were downed and power outages reported in College Park, Bowie and Hyattsville (Prince Georges County), MD. In DC, trees were downed across Cleveland Park, Forest Hills and the Chevy Chase; flash flooding stranded a vehicle in high water near Belleview (Montgomery County), MD. Rainfall totals included 2.86" in Bethesda (Montgomery County), MD, 1.92" in DC, and 1.86" in McLean (Fairfax County), VA. A calendar day record of 1.39" was reported at IAD; DCA reported 1.24". The following day, thunderstorm wind damage was reported south of DC. A tree fell on a house in Fredericksburg, VA, and there were numerous reports of trees down across Spotsylvania County, VA. Soaking rains on the 6<sup>th</sup> totalled 1.49" near Taneytown (Carroll County), MD, and 1.15" near Oak Hill (Fairfax County), VA. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, rainfall totalled 1.73" near Scottsville (Nelson County), VA, and 1.25" near Port Tobacco Village (Charles County), MD. Scattered severe thunderstorms were observed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> including 1.75" hail near Locust Dale (Madison County), VA, and 1.0" hail near Culpeper, VA, and in Chesapeake Beach (Calvert County), MD. The month's final event occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup> when torrential rains fell across portions of Southern Maryland. Flash flooding closed a road in Morganza (St. Mary's County) and 2.71" was measured near Prince Frederick (Calvert County).

### May 2016 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	71.3	56.5	63.9	65.0	-2.1	88/26,27	45/16	5.65	3.99	+1.66	15.33
Baltimore (BWI)	70.1	52.6	61.4	62.9	-1.5	90/26,27	37/16	5.24	3.99	+1.25	17.85
Dulles (IAD)	71.1	52.8	61.9	63.2	-1.3	89/27,28	36/16	6.08	4.55	+1.53	17.67

**Spring (Mar-May) Temperatures:** The major airports recorded above normal seasonal temperatures: DCA, 58.1°F (+1.6°F), BWI, 55.1°F (+1.3°F), IAD, 55.5°F, (+3.0) but temperatures swung up and down. March was the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record at IAD, 4<sup>th</sup> warmest in Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> warmest at BWI. DCA recorded a record 79°F on March 10. BWI and IAD soared to record highs of 82°F on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 80°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 10<sup>th</sup> also featured calendar day record high minimum readings with 57°F at DCA and BWI and a balmy 59°F at IAD. April was near normal. On April 1, DCA set a record high minimum of 64°F. On April 26, DCA equalled it's record high minimum of 65°F; BWI established a record high minimum of 62°F on the 1<sup>st</sup>. IAD also set a record high minimum of 64°F on the 1<sup>st</sup> and equalled a record high minimum of 62°F on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. BWI and IAD set record low temperatures of 24°F on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The season's final freezing temperature occurred at DCA and BWI on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at IAD on the 14<sup>th</sup>. May started cool but ended warm (see monthly summary above).

**Spring Precipitation:** All three major airports recorded below normal seasonal precipitation: DCA, 8.86" (-1.67"), BWI, 8.65" (-2.44), IAD, 9.41" (-1.99) but again the season saw a swing. March was the driest at DCA and BWI since 2012 and since 2006 at IAD. None of the airports recorded at least an inch of precipitation on any calendar day. The winter season's last noteworthy snowfall occurred March 3-4. The heaviest amounts were measured in Southern Maryland: 6.3" near California (St. Mary's County), MD, BWI measured 2.5", IAD, 1.3". It was the driest April since 1985 at Baltimore, and since 2012 at DCA and IAD. The area did observe some severe weather. On the late evening into the overnight on April 2-3, powerful northwest winds in the wake of a strong cold front resulted in damage to portions of the metropolitan area and led to two injuries near College Park (Prince Georges County), MD, when a tree fell on a car. On April 7, strong to severe thunderstorms struck southern Maryland, downed trees near Saint Charles and wires La Plata (Charles County). May was wet (see monthly summary above).

### Spring 2016 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	67.1	49.1	58.1	56.5	+1.6	88/5-26,27	29/3-3	8.86	10.53	-1.67	0.3
Baltimore (BWI)	65.7	44.3	55.1	53.8	+1.3	90/5-26,27	22/3-3	8.65	11.09	-2.44	2.5
Dulles (IAD)	66.5	44.5	55.5	52.5	+3.0	89/5-27,28	22/3-3	9.41	11.40	-1.99	1.3

**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	2016	2015	2012	2011	2010	1991	2004	1945	1985	1921	1976
Spring	+1.6	+2.8	+5.7°F	+1.4°F	+4.4°F	+3.9°F	+3.2°F	+3.2°F	3.0°F	+2.9°F	+2.6°F
Summer	?	+1.9	+3.5°F	+4.2°F	+4.0°F	+2.4°F	-1.0°F	-1.8°F	-1.0°F	-1.6°F	+0.6°F