

May Temperature: For the first month since April 2007, the Washington-Baltimore area recorded subnormal temperatures. Negative departures were -0.9°F at DCA, -2.4°F at BWI, and -1.2°F at IAD. DCA recorded 5 days with highs below 70°F; BWI, 11 days; and IAD, 10 days. The months' chilliest readings, normal for early May, occurred on the 12th as highs reached 52°F at DCA and 50°F at BWI and IAD. Most areas observed their coolest minimum temperatures on the 1st with 38°F recorded at BWI and 39°F at IAD. Above normal temperatures were confined mainly to the beginning and end of the month. Many locations reached into the 80s on the 2nd and 3rd with the most consistent period of 80°F or higher maximums occurring from the 26th-31st, including a maximum of 87°F at DCA on the months' final day.

May Precipitation: In sharp contrast to May 2007 when drought conditions commenced, near record levels of rainfall were recorded across many portions of the Washington/Baltimore area this May. DCA's total of 10.66" (+6.84") was just .03" below the record set in 1889 and 1953. It was also DCA's wettest month since June 2006 while IAD 9.38" (+5.16") and BWI's 7.77" (+3.89") observed their wettest Mays since 1989. DCA recorded 5 days with rainfall totals greater than 1" including a daily record of 2.63" on the 11th and 2.22" on the 9th. BWI recorded a daily record of 2.2" on the 12th, 1.49" on the 11th and 1.85" on the 9th. IAD set a daily rainfall record of 3.73" on the 11th.

Severe weather was reported with a storm system on the 9th. An EF2 tornado with estimated winds of 120 mph struck the England Run Subdivision in Stafford County, VA. The path of the storm was 4 miles long and 150 yards wide with numerous structures damaged. An EF0 tornado with estimated winds of 80 mph struck Camp Springs, MD. Damage was 100 to 200 yards wide and sporadic. Numerous trees and some property damage were reported. Rainfall totals ranged from 2" to nearly 5" including 4.72" in Woodbridge, VA (Prince William County) and 4.56" in Camp Springs. A second major storm just 2 days later on the 11th-12th brought 3"-7" of additional rainfall, resulting in water rescues, washed out roads and small streams and creeks overflowing their banks. Rainfall totals included 7.07" in North Beach, MD (Calvert County), 6.30" in Marlton (Prince Georges County) and 6.05" in Aldie, VA (Loudoun County). Winds gusted to 50 mph at DCA during the storm. The month ended with additional severe weather as straight line winds from thunderstorms gusted to 80 mph with penny size hail in the Silesia area near Ft. Washington and Friendly and Potomac Airfield, MD (Prince Georges County). Trees were uprooted and some damage was reported to the airport property; 1" hail was observed near Hybla Valley, VA (Fairfax County) and near Alexandria, VA. DCA observed 1.45" rainfall from this event. Andrew AFB measured winds gusts to 60 mph.

MAY 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	74.3	55.1	64.7	65.6	-0.9	87/31	48/12,13	10.66	2.82	+6.84	23.92
Baltimore (BWI)	72.0	49.0	60.5	62.9	-2.4	85/26	38/1	7.77	3.89	+3.88	20.03
Dulles (IAD)	72.6	49.6	61.1	62.3	-1.2	85/26,31	39/1	9.38	4.22	+5.16	22.20

Spring Temperature (March-May): A warm March and April resulted in above normal temperatures across the Washington/Baltimore area despite a cooler than normal May. Positive departures were DCA, +1.4; BWI, +0.5; IAD, +1.3. March began the spring season with warm temperatures prevalent throughout the month. DCA recorded 6 days with highs at or above 60°F and 4 days with highs at or above 70°F, including a monthly maximum of 74°F on the 28th. BWI recorded 8 days with highs at or above 60°F and 2 days with highs at or above 70°F, with a monthly maximum of 71°F on the 4th. IAD observed 9 days with highs at or above 60°F and 2 days at or above 70°F. IAD monthly maximum also occurred on the 4th (71°F). DCA recorded just 2 days with subfreezing lows. The March monthly minimum was a relatively mild 29°F. April marked the 12th consecutive month with above normal temperatures in the area. Highs soared into the 80s on 5 days from April 11-26. BWI recorded its final freeze of the season on April 3 (30°F); IAD, on April 16 (31°F). Spring is also known for frequent rapid rises in temperatures during the day. On April 18, BWI's temperature rose 42 degrees, from a morning minimum of 43°F to its monthly maximum of 85°F during the afternoon. May was the first month in the past 13 with below normal temperatures, although the month began and ended with more summer like days (see above).

Spring Precipitation: Despite a somewhat dry March, excessively wet conditions prevailed across the area this spring. The three month precipitation totals were more than 20" in some locations. IAD's total of 18.26" marked its wettest spring on record (see cover). DCA's total of 18.38" is its 3rd wettest on record and wettest since 1953. BWI's total of 14.76" was its wettest spring since 1993. March featured four major events, three of which tore through the area with extremely strong winds. During the first storm, on March 5-6, DCA recorded a gust at near hurricane force, 74 mph, the strongest wind speed ever observed in March. This event also brought the area's most significant rainfall for the month. The second event, on March 8, also brought near hurricane force winds with Westminster clocking gusts up to 73 mph and DCA, 60 mph. Two more storm systems brought about .5" of rain each. The final event ended the month with winds at 50 mph at DCA. April brought an average of 5"-7" of precipitation across the area. The month's greatest rainfall occurred on April 20-21 when torrential rain with repeated thunderstorms—nearly unprecedented in number for the area—dumped more than 2" in many locations, followed by a soaking rain the next day. Some locations recorded more than 4" from the event. The heavy rainfall lead to localized flooding, road closures and some creeks overflowing their banks. That same event brought three tornadoes, the strongest of which was an EF-1, which struck Chillum, MD (Prince Georges County). A final storm on April 28 brought almost another inch of rain and an EF-3 tornado, which struck Suffolk, VA, with winds in excess of 150 mph, more than 200 injuries and over 400 homes damaged, according to press reports. May's rainfall total was at record or near record levels.

SPRING 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml
National (DCA)	66.7	48.3	57.5	56.1	+1.4	86/5-31	29/3-9	18.38	10.19	+8.19
Baltimore (BWI)	64.4	43.1	53.8	53.3	+0.5	85/4-18, 5-31	23/3-2	14.76	10.82	+3.94
Dulles (IAD)	65.1	43.5	54.3	53.0	+1.3	85/5-26, 31	24/3/2, 25	18.26	10.99	+7.27

Looking Ahead to June: Does a Wet May = a Wet June? Below are the most recent 10 Mays at DCA with 4 or more inches of rain and the subsequent June rainfall. DCA's normal rainfall for June is 3.13 inches.

Year	2005	2003	1998	1996	1995	1990	1989	1988	1985	1983
May	4.61	7.06	4.05	4.96	4.19	5.20	7.77	4.50	5.79	4.62
June	2.87	7.87	4.42	3.14	2.42	3.14	6.02	0.95	2.05	7.09