

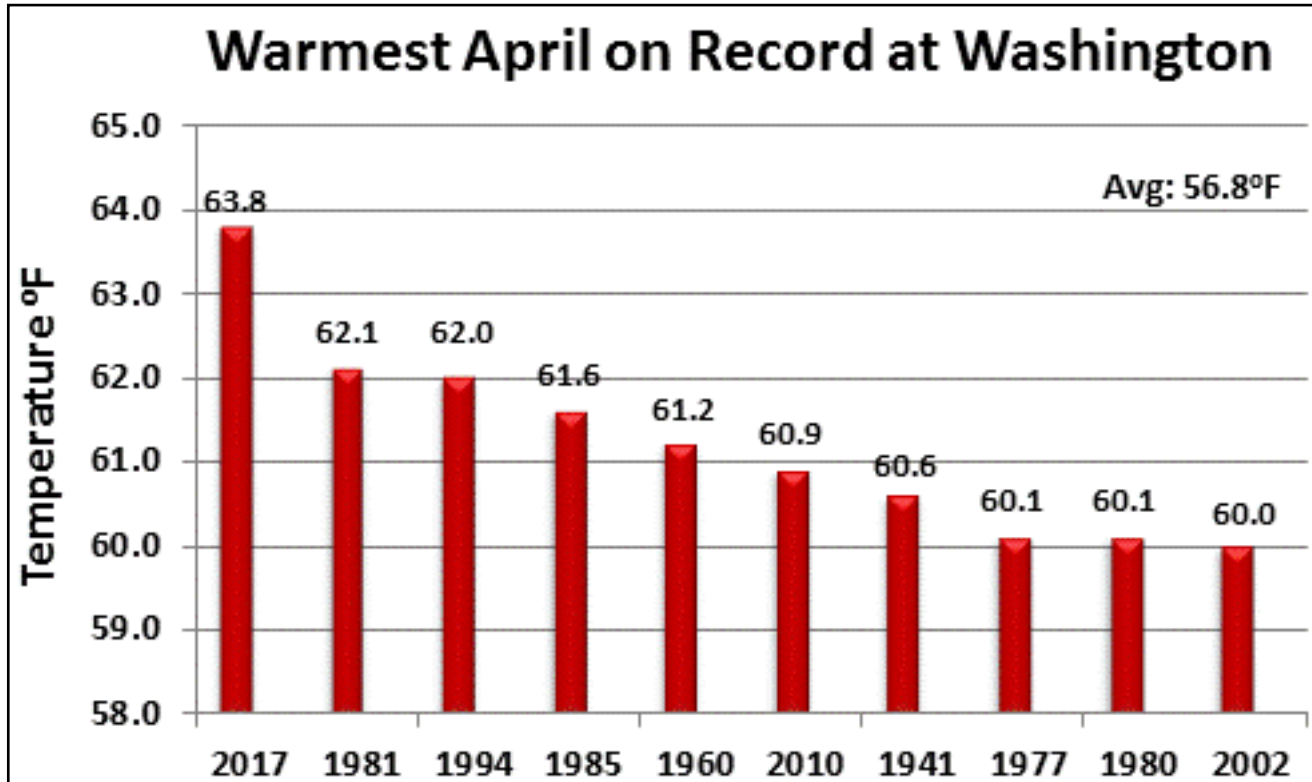


# PRESTO

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



## **APRIL 2017: Warmest on Record in Washington and at IAD; 2nd Warmest at Baltimore 7 Tornadoes Confirmed Across VA & DC**



### **April Highlights**

- ☛ Warmest April average temperature on record at DCA: 63.8°F; and at IAD, 61.0°F; 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest at BWI, 60.3°F.
- ☛ DCA recorded 10 days with highs 80°F or greater, IAD, 9 such days, BWI, 6; DCA recorded its first 90°F or greater reading in 2017.
- ☛ Low of 70°F at DCA on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the airport's first 70°F or greater minimum reading in April and earliest on record
- ☛ DCA marked its 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with below normal precipitation
- ☛ On the 6<sup>th</sup>, in the early afternoon, an intense line of showers and thunderstorms spawned seven EF-0 (wind speeds 70-85 mph) tornadoes across Virginia and the District, resulting in tree and property damage. Two injuries were reported, one from the tornado travelled from Arlington, VA, to D.C., where part of a Macy's storefront fell onto a car. The second injury occurred during the D.C. tornado running to Joint Base Anacostia Boiling and Anacostia, unroofing flying drywall on an apartment complex. The longest path length was 5.9 miles measured in the tornado north of Airlie in Fauquier County, VA. The widest path width was 175 yards, measured from the tornado north of Unionville in Orange County, VA.
- ☛ On the 21<sup>st</sup>, a severe thunderstorm produced large hail across parts of the area. In Maryland, hail measured 1.25" near Takoma Park and up to 1.0" in Chevy Chase, at NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring (Montgomery County), in Cheverly (Prince Georges County), in North Beach (Calvert County), MD, and near the National Arboretum in the District. Damaging thunderstorm winds toppled 20 tall trees, one of which landed on a minivan near Weedonville (King George County), VA.

## April 2017

**Temperature:** For the second time in 2017, DCA and IAD each reported their warmest month on record, marking the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month at with above normal temperatures at DCA and BWI. Positive departures for April were +7.0°F at DCA and +6.6°F at both BWI and IAD. The monthly average of 63.8°F at DCA easily shattered the previous warmest record of 62.0°F, set in 1981 and 1994. IAD's average of 61.0°F also easily surpassed its previous warmest April, 60.1°F, set in 1994. At BWI, the monthly average temperature of 60.3°F was a close second to the record set in 1941: 60.5°F.

Readings were summer like for about a third of the month. DCA recorded 10 days with highs 80°F or greater, IAD, 9 such days and BWI, 6. DCA recorded its first 90°F or greater reading in 2017 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 19 days earlier than the climatological average, May 17. DCA's 91°F temperature equaled a record for the date, while IAD broke a calendar day record at 89°F. IAD also equaled a record high of 86°F on the 30<sup>th</sup>. BWI set a new daily maximum temperature record of 87°F on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Minimum readings were also in record territory with the all-time warmest average monthly low temperature at DCA (54.7°F) and IAD (49.9°F). DCA recorded a low more typical of mid-summer on the 29<sup>th</sup>: 70°F, its first 70°F or greater minimum reading in April and earliest on record (previous record was May 2). DCA also equaled two high minimum readings (16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>); BWI's 67°F equaled a high minimum record on the 29<sup>th</sup> and IAD set five new daily record high minimums (12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>).

In sharp contrast, IAD reported its last freezing temperature (32°F) of the season on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Precipitation:** Near normal rainfall was observed at all three major airports: DCA, 2.62" (-0.44"); BWI, 3.52" (+0.33"); and IAD, 3.04" (-0.43"). DCA marked its 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with below normal rainfall. The month featured two significant severe weather events.

On the 6<sup>th</sup>, in the early afternoon, an intense line of showers and thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes across Virginia and the District, verified by an extensive survey by NWS Sterling, VA. The tornadoes were rated as EF-0 (wind speeds 70-85 mph), causing tree and property damage. Two injuries were reported, one from the tornado that ran from Arlington, VA, to D.C., where part of a Macy's storefront fell on a car. The second injury occurred during a tornado running from D.C. to Joint Base Anacostia Boiling and Anacostia, which unroofed drywall from an apartment complex. The longest path length for the event was 5.9 miles measured from the tornado north of Airlie in Fauquier County, VA. The largest path width was 175 yards from the tornado north of Unionville in Orange County, VA. The storm system also featured heavy rain and thunderstorms, resulting in at least half of the month's total rainfall with over 1" across most of the area and more than 2" in some places. Greatest amounts in Maryland included 2.41" near Elkridge (Howard County) and 2.19" near Catonsville (Baltimore County). In Virginia, high totals included 1.73" near Burke and 1.67" near McLean (Fairfax County). IAD marked a daily record 1.57", DCA reported 1.57" and BWI, 1.45".

The second major event occurred late afternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> when a severe thunderstorm produced large hail across part of the area. In Maryland, hail measured 1.25" near Takoma Park and 1.0" in Chevy Chase, at NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring (Montgomery County), in Cheverly (Prince Georges County), in North Beach (Calvert County), MD, and near the National Arboretum in D.C. Damaging thunderstorm winds took down 20 tall trees, one of which landed on a minivan near Weedonville (King George County), VA. Downpours soaked Port Tobacco Village in Charles County, MD (1.45").

The previous day (20<sup>th</sup>) featured damaging thunderstorm winds that knocked down a large tree at the intersection of Linden Lane and Warren Street in Silver Spring and blew a large tree fell onto a an apartment complex, causing structural damage in Adelphi (Prince Georges County). Takoma Park reported 1.23" of rainfall; quarter size hail was measured near Timberville (Rockingham County), VA.

Rainy conditions prevailed across the region on the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> as well with amounts of about a half inch across the metro area, 1.50" was measured near Afton (Albermarle County), VA.

### April 2017 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	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	72.9	54.7	63.8	56.8	+7.0	91/29	39/8	2.62	3.06	-0.44	9.24
Baltimore (BWI)	70.5	50.1	60.3	53.7	+6.6	89/29	34/9	3.52	3.19	+0.33	11.49
Dulles (IAD)	72.1	49.9	61.0	54.4	+6.6	89/29	29/8	3.04	3.37	-0.43	10.60

**Looking Ahead:** Will May continue the consecutive streak of above normal temperatures at DCA and BWI? After record to near record April warmth, attention turns to May and whether above normal monthly temperatures dating back to June 2016 will continue. The table below displays the positive departures from normal at DCA and BWI since June 2016.

	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16
DCA	1.0	2.9	3.6	5.0	3.6	3.9	2.2	6.1	5.7	0.4	7.0	?
BWI	0.6	2.7	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.4	2.0	6.1	5.4	0.3	6.6	?