

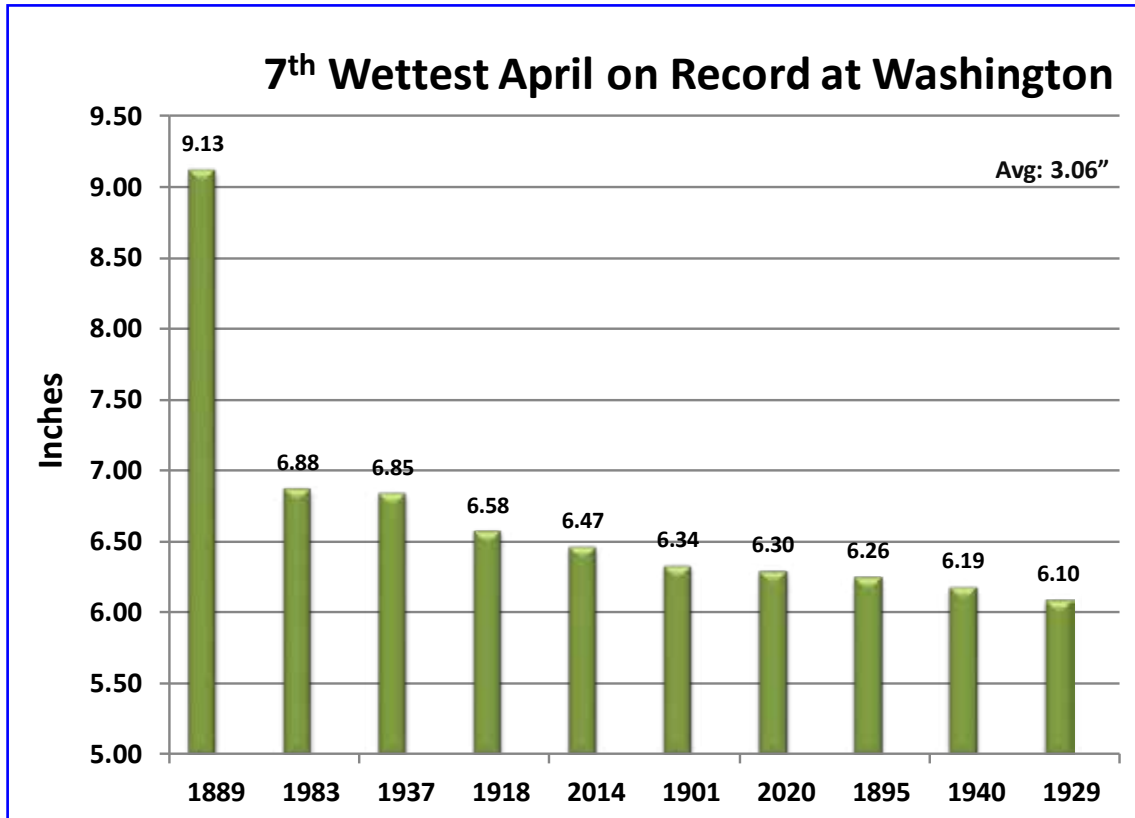


# PRESTO

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



## APRIL 2020: Wet, Chilly and Windy



### April Highlights

- Subnormal temperatures throughout area: DCA, 55.3°F (-1.5°F); BWI, 53.0°F (-0.7°F); and IAD, 51.9°F (-2.5°F).
- DCA and IAD recorded 15 consecutive days with normal or subnormal readings, 14<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, the longest period in Washington since March 2018.
- Late season freezes were recorded at BWI and IAD on both the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The area observed well above normal rainfall: DCA, 6.30" (+3.24"); BWI, 5.52" (+2.33"); and IAD, 5.56" (+2.09").
- It was the 7<sup>th</sup> wettest April in Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> wettest on record at IAD; wettest April since 2014 at all three major airports.
- Major storm on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with severe weather, heavy rainfall, flooding and severe winds. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, an EF-1 tornado struck near Frizzellburg in Carroll County, MD, with estimated wind speeds of 90 mph. The maximum path width was 75 yards and path length 0.4 miles. There was property damage to a couple of homes, a recreational vehicle and damage to trees. Strong to severe thunderstorms caused damaging wind gusts as a tree was uprooted and blown onto a house roof near Dundalk (Baltimore County), MD, while a tree fell onto a car near Rockville (Montgomery County), MD. The heavy rainfall flooded roads resulting in home evacuations near Greenfield (Nelson County), VA. Rainfall totals were generally between 2"-3" across the region. Calendar day rainfall records occurred at all three airports on the 13<sup>th</sup>: 2.33" at DCA; 1.97" at BWI and 1.79" at IAD. Peak gusts of 63 mph were reported at Calvert Cliffs (Calvert County), MD, and 62 mph at Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), MD.

## April 2020

**Temperatures:** For the first month since November 2019, all three major airports reported subnormal temperatures: DCA, 55.3°F (-1.5°F); BWI, 53.0°F (-0.7°F); and IAD, 51.9°F (-2.5°F). The month reversed the usual pattern with much cooler than normal temperatures during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the month, rather than the first half. Maximum readings reached 70°F or greater on 7 days, including the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, with a monthly maximum at DCA of 81°F on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on the 14<sup>th</sup>, temperatures dipped below normal for 15 consecutive days at DCA until the 29<sup>th</sup>, when DCA recorded a high of 75°F, marking the longest stretch of normal or subnormal temperatures since March 2018. Similar conditions occurred at BWI and IAD with both airports reporting a total of 7 days with maximum readings at or above 70°F, at least 9 warmer than normal days occurred from the 1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and one on the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

Minimum readings were also quite chilly. IAD recorded 13 days with lows at or below 40°F, including late season freezes of 29°F on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 30°F on the 19<sup>th</sup>. BWI reported 11 such days, including 32°F on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Even at DCA, readings were below 40°F on 5 days.

**Precipitation:** Well-above normal rainfall resulted in the 7<sup>th</sup> wettest April on record in Washington (see graphic) and 6<sup>th</sup> wettest on record at IAD. All three major airports recorded their wettest April since 2014: DCA: 6.30" (+3.24"); BWI, 5.52" (+2.33"); and IAD, 5.56" (+2.09"). The month also featured three significant events.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>, heavy overnight rainfall was followed the next day by severe thunderstorms and a confirmed tornado. The EF-1 tornado struck near Frizzellburg in Carroll County, MD, with estimated wind speeds of 90 mph, maximum path width, 75 yards and path length, 0.4 miles. A couple of homes, a recreational vehicle and numerous trees were damaged but no injuries or fatalities were reported. Strong to severe thunderstorms resulted in damaging wind gusts, uprooting a tree and blowing it onto a house roof near Dundalk (Baltimore County), MD. Another tree fell on a car near Rockville (Montgomery County), MD. The heavy rainfall flooded roads resulting in home evacuations near Greenfield (Nelson County), VA. Rainfall totals were generally between 2"-3". Calendar day rainfall records occurred at all three major airports on the 13<sup>th</sup>: DCA, 2.33", BWI, 1.97", and IAD, 1.79". Peak gusts of 63 mph were reported at Calvert Cliffs (Calvert County), MD, and 62 mph at Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), MD.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> overnight into the 24<sup>th</sup>, a soaking rainfall brought well over an inch to most locations including 1.72" in Fredericksburg (Stafford County), VA, 1.60" near Bryantown (Charles County), MD, and 1.42" in Washington, DC.

The month ended wet with significant rainfall on the 30<sup>th</sup> when over an inch to well over 2" fell, leading to more flooding in parts of the Shenandoah including Crimora (Augusta County) and Broadway (Rockingham County), VA. Damaging wind gusts from thunderstorms caused a tree to fall onto a home near Londontowne (Anne Arundel County), MD. The highest rainfall total in Maryland was 2.87" near Thurmont (Frederick County); in Virginia, 1.84" near Hughesville (Loudoun County); in West Virginia, 1.79" near Millville (Jefferson County) and in Washington, 1.91".

There were several additional noteworthy events. Isolated severe thunderstorms were observed during the late eve on the 7<sup>th</sup> into the early am hours of the 8<sup>th</sup> with 1.0" hail covering the ground in Craigsville (Augusta County), VA, and 62 mph winds measured near Paw Paw (Morgan County), WV. Very windy conditions occurred on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Peak gusts on the 9<sup>th</sup> included 60 mph in Swoope (Augusta County), VA, and on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 53 mph at Martinsburg, WV, Airport (MRB). MRB recorded 6 days with the maximum wind speed more than 30 mph and 3 days over 40 mph (equal to 6 days with tropical storm force winds). Along with the subnormal temperature were high elevation snowfall on the 14<sup>th</sup> with 4.5" measured at Wintergreen (Nelson County), VA, and 2.5" near Linden (Warren County), VA.

### April 2020 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				Year to Date
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	
<b>National (DCA)</b>	64.4	46.2	55.3	56.8	-1.5	81/13	37/19	6.30	3.06	+3.24	0	14.61
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	63.1	42.8	53.0	53.7	-0.7	78/8,13	32/17,19	5.52	3.19	+2.33	0	14.66
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	63.0	40.8	51.9	54.4	-2.5	78/8	29/17	5.56	3.47	+2.09	T	14.12

**Looking Ahead to May:** After a wet April, will May bring more showers? Listed below is the total rainfall at DCA for the most recent 10 Aprils with above normal precipitation and the subsequent May total. Normal April rainfall at DCA is 3.06"; normal May rainfall is 3.99".

Year	2020	2018	2015	2014	2011	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
<b>April</b>	6.30	3.59	3.41	6.47	3.20	4.22	4.92	4.17	3.10	4.33
<b>May</b>	?	8.73	1.92	4.96	1.70	8.05	10.66	1.75	2.21	4.61