

Central Indiana

April 2015

Climate Summary

Tied for 37th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 55th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

April started off warm as highs rose into the 60s and 70s over the first few days. Highs fell back briefly with the passage of a cold front from the 4th through 6th, with the warmest air of the month returning ahead of a strong cold front. Highs peaked in the upper 70s and lower 80s on the 9th, including Indianapolis which reached 80 degrees for the first time in 2015 on the 9th. Slightly cooler but seasonable weather followed for the next several days. Temperatures peaked once again in the mid and upper 70s on the 17th and 18th throughout central Indiana.

Low pressure tracking through the Ohio Valley brought the wettest day of the month for many locations on the 19th, and served to usher in a pattern change in the upper levels that maintained through much of the rest of the month as a broad upper trough developed over the eastern United States. This brought cooler temperatures to the Ohio Valley, with highs primarily in the 50s. There were a few frosty mornings as well with lows routinely falling into the lower and middle 30s. Temperatures began to recover the last few days of the month with many areas returning to the 60s during the day as the influence of the upper trough diminished across central Indiana.

Despite the cool finish to the month, the monthly average temperature for April was warmer than normal at Indianapolis for the first time since December.

Site	April 2015 Avg Temp	April 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
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Indianapolis	54.5	+1.5	80 on 9	30 on 4
Lafayette	51.4	-0.5	77 on 18	24 on 4
Muncie	52.6	+1.2	79 on 9	29 on 24
Terre Haute	54.5	+1.2	78 on 9	29 on 24
Bloomington	55.1	+1.5	79 on 9	29 on 4 and 24
Shelbyville	55.5	+2.7	81 on 9	29 on 4
Indy – Eagle Crk.	53.7	+0.6	79 on 9	30 on 4 and 24

At Indianapolis, there were 16 days with above normal average temperatures and 14 days with below normal average temperatures.

April 2015 was tied for the 37th warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

April rainfall ranged from below normal in northern Indiana to much above normal in southern Indiana. Precipitation in central Indiana was normal to above normal. Monthly totals measured from near 2 inches in northern Indiana to over 12 inches in south central Indiana. Much of the state received between 3 and 8 inches rain.

Rain was frequent during April returning every 2 to 3 days. The heaviest rains fell from the 2nd through the 10th. Amounts varied from 2 inches in central Indiana to nearly 8 inches in southern Indiana. Heavy rains, exceeding 2 inches, fell on the 2nd and 3rd, and at times from the 7th through the 9th.

After the 10th, the intensity of the rains decreased but the frequency continued. By the 21st, small portions of south central Indiana exceeded a foot of rain for April. After a brief dry spell from the 26th to the 29th, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms returned at the end of the month with an upper level low tracking through the area.

Lowland river flooding quickly returned to southern Indiana following rains on the 3rd and continued nearly uninterrupted in southwest Indiana through the 26th. One death attributed to heavy local rains occurred on the 8th. A 75-year old woman in the Pittsboro area of Hendricks County slipped into a rain filled drainage ditch and drowned.

Site	April 2015 Precipitation	April 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	4.00	+0.19	0.93 on 19	4 days 26-29
Lafayette	2.30	-1.24	0.70 on 25	5 days 26-30
Muncie	4.14	+0.47	1.04 on 19	4 days 26-29
Terre Haute	4.62	+0.47	1.02 on 9	4 days 26-29

Bloomington	4.80	+0.10	1.13 on 19	4 days 26-29
Shelbyville	4.67	+0.35	1.10 on 19	4 days 26-29
Indy – Eagle Crk.	5.06	+1.16	1.49 on 8	4 days 26-29

April 2015 was tied for the 55th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Severe weather impacted central Indiana primarily in the first 10 days of the month. The passage of a cold front on the 2nd brought thunderstorms producing large hail and at least one report of wind damage during the evening across southern portions of central Indiana.

Severe weather was much more extensive on the 8th through the 10th as a frontal boundary remained across the area. Thunderstorms impacted the region the morning with numerous occurrences of quarter size hail and flooding from heavy rainfall. Trees were downed and several buildings were damaged over Rush County as the storms moved through mid-morning. Scattered thunderstorms redeveloped over central Indiana during the late afternoon and early evening. Many of the storms produced large hail, with golf ball size hail occurring in Greenwood and in Tippecanoe County near Clarks Hill, and baseball size hail near Unionville in Monroe County. A severe storm produced a microburst across southern Daviess County, with numerous trees knocked down.

A squall line moved into the region from the west along a strong cold front late on the evening of the 9th into the early morning hours of the 10th. These storms primarily produced wind gust up to 60-65 mph in a few locations along with a few reports of trees down. Small hail occurred in a few spots as well.

For information on severe weather in other areas during April, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 49 mph out of the west-southwest on the afternoon of the 21th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 12 days during the month. Dense fog occurred on the 17th. Thunder was reported on 7 days during the month. Small hail was recorded on the 30th.

May 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for above normal temperatures. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 62.7 degrees. There are equal chances of above normal, normal or below normal precipitation for central Indiana. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 5.05”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.