

# Central Indiana

## April 2016

### Climate Summary

*Tied for 49<sup>th</sup> Warmest on record at Indianapolis*

*17<sup>th</sup> Wettest on record at Indianapolis*

#### Temperatures

After the warm finish to March, the weather started out much cooler across not only central Indiana and the Ohio Valley, but much of the country east of the Mississippi River to begin April. With the exception of three days, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> where high temperatures rose in the lower to mid 60s in some areas, highs remained in the 40s and 50s throughout most of the first half of April. Lows routinely fell into the upper 20s and lower 30s, with a few nights where temperatures fell into the middle 20s. The coldest day was the 9<sup>th</sup> as highs struggled to rise into the upper 30s and lower 40s.

With an earlier start to the growing season courtesy of the warmer March, the cold temperatures resulted in a number of nights and early mornings where hard freezes occurred. By the middle of the month, many parts of central Indiana were running several degrees below normal.

However, as chilly as the first half of April was across central Indiana, the second half of the month was much warmer than normal as highs in the 70s and 80s became more common. Many locations experienced an extended stretch of highs in the lower 80s from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, then again rose into the lower 80s on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Low temperatures throughout the last two weeks of the month were often warmer than highs had been during the first two weeks of April. As a result of the much warmer weather during the second half of the month, average temperatures recovered in most locations to finish slightly above normal for April.

| Site              | April 2016 Avg Temp | April 2016 Difference from Normal | Highest Temperature | Lowest Temperature |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Indianapolis      | 53.7                | <b>+0.7</b>                       | 83 on 18            | 26 on 3 and 5      |
| Lafayette         | 50.4                | <b>-1.5</b>                       | 82 on 18            | 24 on 5 and 9      |
| Muncie            | 52.5                | <b>+1.1</b>                       | 83 on 18            | 27 on 3 and 9      |
| Terre Haute       | 54.0                | <b>+0.7</b>                       | 83 on 18            | 26 on 5            |
| Bloomington       | 54.0                | <b>+0.1</b>                       | 84 on 18            | 25 on 3 and 5      |
| Shelbyville       | 54.7                | <b>+1.9</b>                       | 84 on 18            | 27 on 3            |
| Indy – Eagle Crk. | 53.4                | <b>+0.3</b>                       | 82 on 18 and 19     | 26 on 5            |

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

April 2016 was tied for the 49<sup>th</sup> warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

## Precipitation

Monthly rainfall and melted precipitation for April was below normal in portions of east central Indiana to above normal in much of central and southern Indiana. Totals ranged from slightly more than 2 inches in northeast Indiana to nearly 8 inches in south central Indiana. For the month, much of the state received between 3 and 6 inches. Precipitation fell in the form of rain, snow and hail.

Snow fell on several days in northern and central Indiana from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Most of this snow occurred late on the 8<sup>th</sup> and early on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Monthly snowfall totals in central Indiana ranged from a trace to an inch while those in northern Indiana ranged from 1 to as much as 4 inches in the South Bend area.

There were four rainy periods during April. The first was on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> when one-half to an inch of rain fell in northern Indiana. The second was on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> when central and southern Indiana received one to slightly more than 2 inches of rain.

One of the longest dry periods in April in recent memory prevailed from the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> before rains returned again. Rainfall from a few hundredths of an inch in eastern Indiana to over 2 inches in western Indiana occurred from the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. After nearly 3 days of dry weather, storms from late on the 25<sup>th</sup> through the end of April dumped from one-half inch of rain in northern Indiana to over 4 inches in southeast Indiana.

Minor river flooding followed the rainfall on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and after the 25<sup>th</sup>. Flooding was confined to southern Indiana. High water in southwest Indiana continued into the first week of May.

| Site              | April 2016<br>Precipitation | April 2016<br>Difference from<br>Normal | Wettest Day | Longest Dry<br>Stretch |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| Indianapolis      | 5.86                        | <b>+2.05</b>                            | 1.41 on 21  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Lafayette         | 3.14                        | <b>-0.40</b>                            | 0.71 on 30  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Muncie            | 3.19                        | <b>-0.48</b>                            | 0.76 on 11  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Terre Haute       | 5.42                        | <b>+1.27</b>                            | 1.37 on 11  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Bloomington       | 5.50                        | <b>+0.80</b>                            | 1.50 on 11  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Shelbyville       | 4.83                        | <b>+0.51</b>                            | 1.13 on 11  | 8 days 12-19           |
| Indy – Eagle Crk. | 3.86                        | <b>-0.04</b>                            | 1.09 on 11  | 8 days 12-19           |

April 2016 was the 17<sup>th</sup> wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

## Severe Weather

April remained quiet with respect to severe weather until late in the month. Strong to severe thunderstorms developed across the southern half of central Indiana during the late afternoon and evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Storms produced large hail up to ping pong ball size. A brief tornado touched down four miles southwest of Worthington in Greene County, causing some damage to a few barns and producing EF0 damage with peak wind gusts of 85 mph.

Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms developed once again on the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup>. The most intense storm produced a brief tornado three miles northwest of Zionsville in southeast Boone County. EF1 damage occurred with peak wind gusts of 100 mph. Additional storms impacted areas east of Indianapolis, including a thunderstorm that produced golf ball size hail and funnel clouds in Rush County.

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 57 mph out of the west-northwest on the afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and again from the west-southwest on the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 13 days during the

month. Ice pellets fell on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Thunder was reported on 7 days during the month.

## May 2016 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2016 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 is also a greater chance for below normal precipitation for central Indiana. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 5.05”.

***Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.***