



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

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APRIL 2010 FIRST RECORD-FREE MONTH IN KEY WEST SINCE MARCH 2009

APRIL WAS THE FIRST MONTH IN OVER A YEAR TO END WITHOUT REACHING OR SETTING ANY NEW RECORDS AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME SINCE NOVEMBER 2009 TO ROUND OUT A MONTH WITH NO NEW TEMPERATURE RECORDS. IN CONTRAST...MOST RECORDS SET OR TIED LAST YEAR DEALT WITH RECORD WARM TEMPERATURES WHEREAS THIS YEAR ALL TEMPERATURE RECORDS HAVE BEEN FOR COOL TEMPERATURES.

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES WERE 75.9 AND 76.0 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT FOR THE KEY WEST AND MARATHON AIRPORTS RESPECTIVELY. THESE AVERAGES LEFT KEY WEST 1.1 DEGREES AND MARATHON 0.1 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. THIS PAST APRIL ALSO BROUGHT BOTH SITES THE CLOSEST TO NORMAL FOR AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES SINCE NOVEMBER 2009...WITH KEY WEST 0.4 DEGREES BELOW AND MARATHON 0.2 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL.

WHILE NO TEMPERATURE RECORDS WERE SET IN KEY WEST LAST MONTH...THE SIGNIFICANT COOL PERIOD SINCE JANUARY DID EXTEND INTO APRIL. THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR AVERAGE OUT TO BE THE COOLEST START TO A YEAR SINCE RECORDKEEPING BEGAN IN 1873...WITH AN AVERAGE OF 68.2 DEGREES. THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR COOLEST JANUARY THROUGH APRIL WAS BACK IN 1931 WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 68.5 DEGREES.

ALMOST ALL REPORTING STATIONS SAW AN IMPROVEMENT IN RAINFALL TOTALS OVER APRIL 2009...WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BOTH THE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE AND THE AIRPORT IN KEY WEST. THIS TREND KEPT KEY WEST BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS FOR THE MONTH AND MARATHON ABOVE NORMAL.

MOST SITES THROUGHOUT THE KEYS RECEIVED BENEFICIAL RAINFALL EARLY ON THE EIGHTEENTH. STORMS WEAKENED AND DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT THE DRY TORTUGAS OR KEY WEST...BUT SITES AS CLOSE AS BIG COPPITT KEY DID RECEIVE HEAVY RAINFALL. ISLANDS UP THE KEYS CHAIN RECEIVED COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL AS STORMS DEVELOPED AND PUSHED NORTHEASTWARD.

AS SEEN IN THE TABLE BELOW...MARATHON...ISLAMORADA...AND JOHN PENNEKAMP STATE PARK IN KEY LARGO RECEIVED ALMOST TWICE AS MUCH RAIN THAN ALL OTHER REPORTING SITES COMBINED. A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AT ISLAMORADA WAS FROM THE EARLY MORNING HOURS ON THE 18TH WHEN 5.50 INCHES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR APRIL ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN...COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

APRIL RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	2010	Dep. fm Normal	2009	Dep. fm 2009
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.67		0.30	+0.37
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	0.86	-1.20	0.96	-0.10
Key West International Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	0.62	-1.44	0.70	-0.08
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.78		0.25	+1.53
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.85		0.75	+0.10
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	2.65		0.36	+2.29
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	4.35	+2.75	0.07	+4.28
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	2.83	+1.23	0.47	+2.36
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	10.16		1.05	+9.11
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	7.65		0.49	+7.16
Key Largo – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.71		0.27	+1.44

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AND FOR MARATHON/DUCK KEY THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED FOR MARATHON DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF DATA.

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