

Central Indiana

April 2018

Climate Summary

8th Coolest on Record at Indianapolis

28th Wettest on Record at Indianapolis

10th Snowiest on Record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

The theme for April was that winter refused to give way to Spring. Temperatures were consistently chilly through much of the month, resulting in the coldest April experienced for many across central Indiana since 1997. For only the third year since 2000, Indianapolis failed to make it to 80° through the first four months of the year. Lows at or below 32° occurred on 14 nights during the month in Indianapolis, the most ever recorded for an April. Overall, temperatures ran 5 to 8 degrees below normal for the month, and were 12 to 13 degrees colder on average than April 2017.

The persistent upper level trough over the eastern U.S. that was so prevalent in March, lingered throughout much of the first half of April. With the exception of the 3rd when temperatures rose into the 60s and low 70s ahead of a cold front, highs largely remained only in the 40s through the first 10 days of the month. Lows were commonly in the 20s through this time period, with some locations even dipping into the teens on the morning of the 8th. A brief stretch of warmth arrived from the 11th through the 15th as the eastern trough finally relaxed. Highs peaked in the upper 70s and lower 80s on the 12th and 13th.

The passage of a cold front on the 15th ushered in another short period of much cooler temperatures on the 16th and 17th. Many locations received light snow on the 16th as highs held only in the 30s. The high of 37° in Indianapolis on the 16th was one of the latest occurrences in the spring of a day that cold. Only two other days in recorded history from April 16 through the rest of the Spring have ever been colder. Beginning on

the 18th, temperatures were much closer to normal through the rest of the month, with highs largely ranging from the upper 50s through the mid 60s and lows in the 40s. There were still a few nights where temperatures fell into the 30s in late April, including a freeze for most of central Indiana on the morning of the 29th as temperatures fell into the upper 20s and lower 30s. Highs warmed into the 70s for the final day of April, signaling a transition to warmer weather to come as the calendar turns to May.

Site	April 2018 Avg Temp	April 2018 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	47.1	-5.9	79 on 13	24 on 5 and 8
Lafayette	44.0	-8.0	77 on 12	19 on 2 and 8
Muncie	46.2	-5.2	82 on 13	22 on 8
Terre Haute	47.2	-6.1	78 on 12	23 on 8
Bloomington	47.9	-5.7	79 on 12	21 on 8
Shelbyville	47.9	-4.9	82 on 13	24 on 8
Indy – Eagle Crk.	47.1	-6.0	78 on 12 and 13	23 on 8

At Indianapolis, there were 5 days with above normal average temperatures and 25 days with below normal average temperatures.

April 2018 was the 8th coolest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

Monthly melted precipitation totals ranged from around 2 inches in northwest Indiana to over 6 inches in central and southeast Indiana. Monthly precipitation was normal to above normal for central, southeast and extreme north central and northeast Indiana and below normal for the remainder of the state.

Much of central Indiana's rainfall occurred on the 3rd when the area received 2 to nearly 5 inches. The 3.90 inches that fell on the 3rd at Indianapolis area set a daily record for the month of April. Rainfall of one-half to slightly more than an inch fell in Indiana on the 14th and 15th and again in central and southern Indiana on the 23rd and 24th.

River flooding that began at the end of March became significant flooding in central and southern Indiana as a result of the 2 to 5 inches of rain that fell in central Indiana on the 3rd. A dry weather pattern from the 4th through the 13th allowed much of the flood waters to recede. Rains on the 14th and 15th of one-half to slightly more than an inch prolonged high water along the Wabash River. Flooding finally ended by the 22nd.

Site	April 2018	April 2018	Wettest Day	Longest Dry
------	------------	------------	-------------	-------------

	Precipitation	Difference from Normal		Stretch
Indianapolis	5.41	+1.60	3.90 on 3	6 days 25-30
Lafayette	2.95	-0.59	1.16 on 3	3 days 20-22, 24-26 and 28-30
Muncie	3.88	+0.21	2.44 on 3	4 days 10-13
Terre Haute	4.45	+0.30	2.74 on 3	7 days 24-30
Bloomington	4.04	-0.66	1.52 on 3	6 days 25-30
Shelbyville	4.54	+0.22	2.56 on 3	6 days 25-30
Indy – Eagle Crk.	3.92	+0.02	2.31 on 3	6 days 25-30

April 2018 was the 28th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Snowfall

Monthly snowfall totals for April measured from a trace to over 7 inches in the Frankfort area of central Indiana. More than an inch of snow fell in portions of southern Indiana during the month.

The Indianapolis area received 2.6 inches during the month, the most for April since 3.3 inches in 1982. This was the 10th snowiest April of record since snowfall records began in 1884. The biggest snow of the month occurred during the evening of the 1st and early on the 2nd when up to 6 inches fell in the Lafayette and Frankfort areas. The Indianapolis weather office measured 2.1 inches on the 1st, the highest daily total for April since 2.7 inches on April 8, 1957.

Severe Weather

The first severe weather of the year came on April 3 as central Indiana was impacted by a couple rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms during the afternoon and evening. Large hail up to golf ball size and damaging winds occurred with these storms. The evening line of thunderstorms also produced two tornadoes; the first near Covington in Fountain County and the second to the northeast of Lafayette in Tippecanoe County. Both tornadoes produced EF0 damage.

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 55 mph out of the southwest on the evening of the 3rd as thunderstorms moved through the Indianapolis area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 13 days during the month. Thunder was reported on just 2 days in April, including the 3rd when hail also occurred at the airport with thunderstorms.

May 2018 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2018 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 an equal chance for above, near or below normal precipitation for central Indiana. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 5.05”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.