

Central Indiana

April 2019

Climate Summary

Tied for 42nd Warmest on Record at Indianapolis

34th Wettest on Record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

Unlike April 2018, this April was much more typical for central Indiana, as the month experienced wide swings from cool and wet to warm and dry. Overall though, April ended up near to about 2° above normal across the region with many locations registering their first 80° of 2019.

Temperatures began the month near normal with highs ranging from the middle 50s to middle 60s. Temperatures rose into the 70s on the 7th and 8th and in some locations the 9th as well before rising to the warmest readings of the month and year to date in the 11th as many locations enjoyed the lower 80s. Temperatures would remain warm for one more day before slipping back to below normal levels for a few days as the region experience cool and wet weather.

Temperatures once again returned to the 70s for a couple days before cooler air was drawn back into the area as a slow moving storm system tracked to the southeast of central Indiana. Raw, windy and wet weather plagued much of the area on the 19th and 20th, with some locations unable to warm much higher than the middle 40s during the day. Once the system departed however, daytime highs in the 60s and 70s returned for much of the rest of the month with the exception of a couple cooler days in the 50s over northern portions of the area on the 27th and 28th as a nearly stationary frontal boundary provided cloudy skies and showers for the region.

The first night of the month was the coldest night with the region falling into the lower and middle 20s. For much of the region, this would be the only night that would fall into the 20s all month and for some, the only night that would even drop below freezing throughout April. While there were a few nights were lows fell into the 30s, 40s and 50s were much more common throughout the month. There were only a few instances of

patchy frost overall in April, with no widespread frost or freezing temperatures once the growing season had commenced by the middle of April.

Site	April 2019 Avg Temp	April 2019 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	54.1	+1.1	81 on 11	24 on 1
Lafayette	51.5	-0.5	79 on 11	22 on 1
Muncie	54.1	+2.7	82 on 11	22 on 1
Terre Haute	54.5	+1.2	80 on 11	25 on 1
Bloomington	55.2	+1.6	81 on 11	22 on 1
Shelbyville	55.3	+2.5	82 on 11	24 on 1
Indy – Eagle Crk.	53.6	+0.5	81 on 11	24 on 1

At Indianapolis, there were 17 days with above normal average temperatures, 12 days with below normal average temperatures and 1 day with normal average temperatures.

April 2019 was tied for the 42nd warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

Overall, April was a wet month with most of central Indiana reporting 4 to 7 inches of rain which is 125-150% of the normal precipitation for April. Much of the precipitation fell during the last half of the month after a dry start to April. Most of the rain fell over the course of three events. The first event occurred across central Indiana on the 12th and again on the 14th bringing a combined rainfall total of 1.5 to 3 inches across the state. Another period of rain lasted from the 18th to the 20th bringing an additional 1 to 2 inches of rain to central Indiana. The third period of heavy rain fell from the 25th to the 27th with two to four inches of rain reported, mostly across east central Indiana. For the month, the heaviest rain fell across the east central and southwestern portions of the state with 6 to 7 inches of rainfall reported.

Snowfall amounts across Indiana were minimal with snow only a trace of snow reported across portions central Indiana on April 14th.

Site	April 2019 Precipitation	April 2019 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	4.96	+1.15	1.30 on 25	3 days 1-3, 15-

				17 and 21-23
Lafayette	5.18	+1.64	0.95 on 25	3 days 1-3, 15-17 and 20-22
Muncie	6.20	+2.53	2.26 on 25	3 days 1-3 and 21-23
Terre Haute	5.47	+1.32	1.58 on 18	4 days 20-23
Bloomington	6.15	+1.45	1.40 on 14	3 days 1-3, 15-17 and 21-23
Shelbyville	4.24	-0.08	1.09 on 14	3 days 1-3, 15-17 and 21-23
Indy – Eagle Crk.	5.46	+1.56	1.13 on 14	3 days 1-3, 15-17 and 21-23

April 2019 was the 34th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms impacted northern portions of central Indiana on the 7th and again across east central Indiana on the afternoon of the 14th. A microburst caused damage to a few structures in Decatur County near Letts, with power lines blown down near Greensburg.

A small but potent mini-supercell thunderstorm tracked N/NE from Jennings County to Randolph County on the evening of the 25th, producing two EF1 tornadoes in Jennings County. The most extensive damage occurred to a home and a garage south of North Vernon, where peak winds were estimated at 100 mph. Extensive tree damage highlighted the second tornado in the northeast part of the county with peak winds at 95 mph. Additional pockets of wind damage with trees and limbs down occurred throughout parts of Decatur, Jennings and Rush Counties.

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 46 mph out of the north on the 19th in the wake of a frontal passage. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 11 days during the month with dense fog occurring on the 20th and 21st. Thunder was reported on 6 days in April.

May 2019 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2019 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for above normal temperatures and precipitation. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 62.7 degrees. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 5.05”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.