

Central Indiana

April 2021

Climate Summary

Tied for 62nd Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 66th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 13th Snowiest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

As can be typical in early spring, temperatures bounced around quite a bit during the month of April across central Indiana. The very beginning of the month was much colder than normal, but that quickly gave way to about a week of much above normal temperatures. Highs reached as warm as the upper 70s to around 80, marking the first 80 degree day of the year for some areas.

Much of the rest of the month had more days below average for most central Indiana locations. There were some extremes during that time though. Very cold air moved in around the 20th of the month, with highs only in the 40s and lows in the 20s.

Indianapolis set a new record low of 26 degrees on April 21st. The old record was 28 degrees set in 1907. Some locations reached slightly colder temperatures in April than was seen in March.

Nearly a week later, the other extreme arrived with highs in the 80s on the 27th. Thanks in part to dry soil conditions, Lafayette reached 89 degrees on the 27th. More seasonable air returned to end the month.

At many sites, the extremes balanced each other out, with monthly temperatures ending up less than a degree above normal. Other sites ended up a few degrees above normal.

Site	April 2021 Avg Temp	April 2021 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	53.2	+0.2	82 on 27	22 on 2
Lafayette	56.3	+4.4	89 on 27	21 on 2
Muncie	54.4	+2.9	86 on 27	22 on 2
Terre Haute	53.9	+0.6	83 on 27	20 on 2
Bloomington	53.9	+0.3	83 on 27	20 on 2
Shelbyville	54.8	+2.0	85 on 27	23 on 2
Indy – Eagle Crk.	53.2	+0.1	83 on 27	22 on 2

At Indianapolis, there were 13 days with above normal average temperatures, 15 days with below normal average temperatures and 2 days with average normal temperatures.

April 2021 was tied for the 62nd warmest April in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Precipitation

Rainfall amounts varied across the state during the month of April with total accumulation varying from between 1 and 1.5 inches in the north central and west central portions of the state to between 4 and 5 inches across the south. Those heavier amounts of rain across the south led to elevated river levels in the lower portions of the White and East Fork White river basins, but no flooding. Those rain amounts were below to much below normal with most locations running between 50 and 75% of normal amounts.

The first 7 days of April were either completely dry or mostly dry temperatures initially well below normal before becoming above normal. Some light rain fell on the 8th and 9th with widespread heavier rain starting on the 10th. Between the 10th and the 12th, rainfall amounts between 1 and 2 inches fell across the Indy metro area with another area of heavy rain across south central Indiana near Bedford.

Another period of quiet and cooler weather returned from the 12th to the 19th before an extremely abnormal snow event occurred across most of central Indiana on April 20th. Snowfall amounts ranged from 1 to 4 inches with most areas seeing around 2 inches snow. The heaviest amounts of snow were located in points north and east of Indianapolis.

The 2" of snow that fell at Indianapolis on the 20th set a record snowfall for the date. This was the most snowfall so late in the season at Indianapolis since snow fell in May, 1989. During the afternoon hours, snow generally melted as it landed due to the warm

ground temperatures, but by the evening and early overnight hours, the snow was able to accumulate on grassy and elevated areas with roads generally remaining clear. The snow depth of 1” on the 21st set a record for snow depth for that date at Indianapolis. The total amount of rain and melted snow generally amounts to around a half inch of precipitation. The snow event was followed by several nights of sub-freezing temperatures.

The final heavy rain event of the month occurred from the 28th to 29th of April with locally heavy amounts of rain across south central Indiana adding up to between 2 and 3 inches. This rain led to some localized flooding in Martin and Daviess counties with near moderate flooding occurring along Beaver Creek near Shoals. With the generally dry conditions across the rest of the month, no flooding occurred along the East Fork White or White rivers, but levels came within about a foot of minor flood stage along the White River between Petersburg and Hazleton.

Site	April 2021 Precipitation	April 2021 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	3.80	-0.01	1.55 on 10	5 days 2-6
Lafayette	2.68	-0.86	1.04 on 28	7 days 1-7
Muncie	2.44	-1.23	0.80 on 29	7 days 13-19
Terre Haute	2.13	-2.02	0.68 on 29	7 days 1-7
Bloomington	2.97*	-2.73	0.38 on 28	6 days 1-6
Shelbyville	2.36*	-1.96	0.80 on 29	5 days 2-6
Indy–Eagle Crk.	4.08	+0.18	1.06 on 29	5 days 2-6

*Shelbyville precipitation data was missing on the 20th.

* Bloomington precipitation is questionable near the end of the month.

April 2021 was tied for the 66th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

April as a whole was quiet in regards to severe weather. A brief, but intense microburst took place over Anderson on the 21st. The microburst damaged homes and brought some trees down.

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 the Indianapolis International Airport was 46 mph from the northwest on the 30th as a cold front passed through. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 9 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on 2 days. Thunder occurred on 3 days in April at Indianapolis.

May 2021 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2021 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates equal chances for above normal, normal, or below normal temperatures across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 63.6 degrees. The outlook calls for greater chances for above normal precipitation. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 4.75”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.