

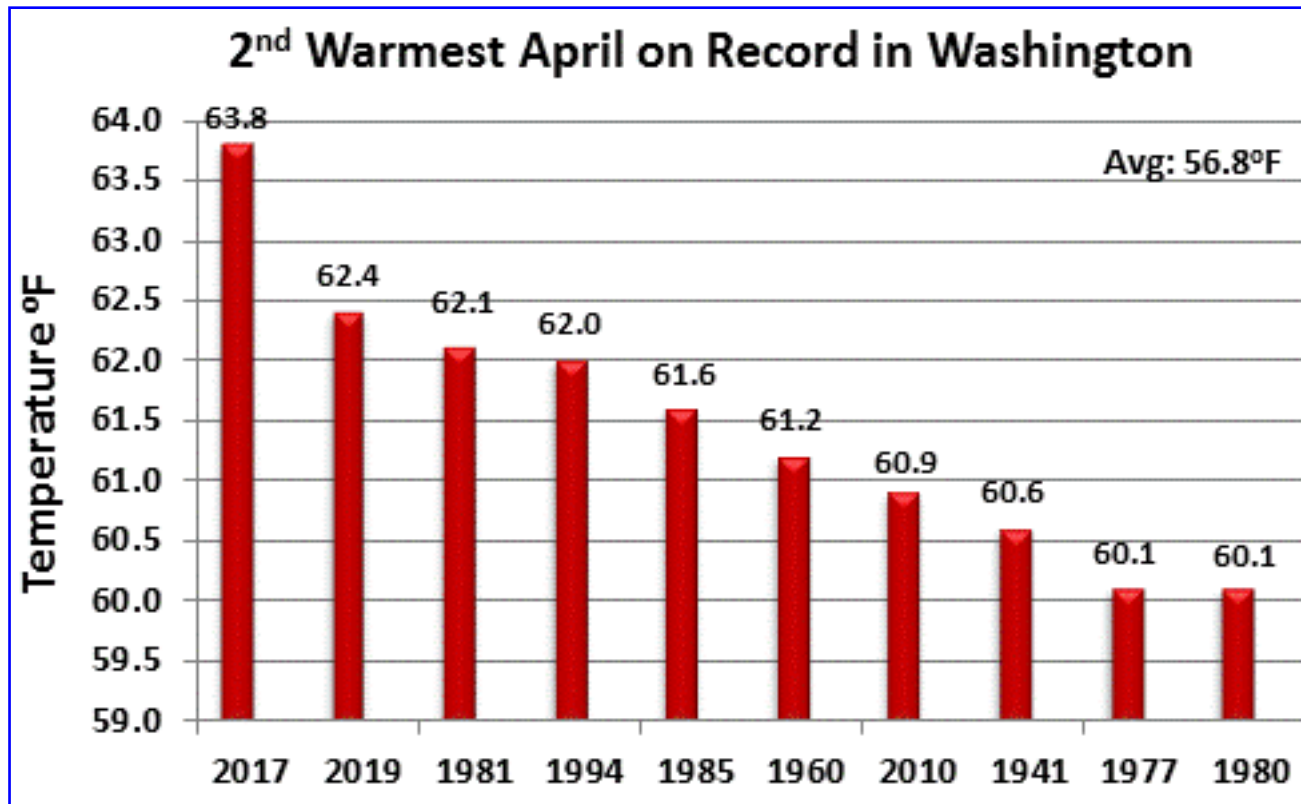


# PRESTO

PRECipitation Summary and Temperature Observations  
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



## APRIL 2019: Near Record Warmth; Tornado in Reston on 19<sup>th</sup> and in Baltimore County on 26<sup>th</sup>



### April Highlights

- ✦ Exceptionally warm conditions: DCA, +5.5°F; BWI, +5.8°F; IAD, +4.5 °F at IAD
- ✦ Washington observed its 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest April on record, Baltimore and IAD, 4<sup>th</sup>
- ✦ DCA reported 5 days with maximum temperatures at or above 80°F, 4 such days at BWI and IAD
- ✦ The season's final freeze occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at IAD (27°F) and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at BWI (30°F)
- ✦ Subnormal precipitation at DCA, BWI and IAD for first time since October 2018
- ✦ On the 14<sup>th</sup>, strong to severe thunderstorms resulted in one fatality and two injuries when a tree fell on a house in Stafford, VA. In Gaithersburg (Montgomery County), MD, 16 trees fell onto wires; winds gusted to 62 mph near Seat Pleasant (Prince Georges County), MD.
- ✦ On the 19<sup>th</sup>, an EF-0 tornado struck Reston (Fairfax County), VA, with estimated peak winds of 70 mph, maximum path length of 4 miles and maximum path width of 100 yards; the tornado caused tree and property damage along its path. A 2<sup>nd</sup> tornado was confirmed as an EF-1 near Shipman (Nelson County), VA, with estimated maximum winds of 100 mph, maximum path length of 1.5 miles and maximum path width of 125 yards. The tornado downed up to 200 trees, killing a horse and causing some property damage.
- ✦ On the 26<sup>th</sup>, an EF-1 tornado was confirmed in Monkton, (Baltimore County), MD. The estimated peak winds were 90 mph, a maximum path length of 3 miles and a maximum path width of 150 yards. Numerous trees were topped or snapped in its path.

## April 2019

**Temperatures:** Exceptionally warm conditions prevailed but there were no record maximum readings during the month. Positive departures were +5.5°F at DCA, +5.8°F at BWI and +4.5 °F at IAD. April was the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record in Washington (see graphic) and 4<sup>th</sup> warmest at Baltimore and IAD. DCA reported 5 days with maximum temperatures at or above 80°F with 4 such days at BWI and IAD.

After a chilly first 2 days of the month when IAD's maximum readings stayed in the 40s, the area experienced well above normal temperatures for most of the remainder of the month. DCA observed 18 days with maximum readings at or above 70°F and BWI and IAD, 16 such days.

Minimum temperatures were also well above normal. DCA recorded 6 days at or above 60°F including a record high minimum of 63°F on the 13<sup>th</sup>. IAD established 3 calendar day record high minimums including 60°F on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 61°F on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 64°F on the 19<sup>th</sup>. BWI also reported 3 days with high minimums above 60°F although the airport set no records. IAD recorded its final freeze of the season on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (27°F); BWI recorded its final seasonal freeze on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (30°F).

**Precipitation:** For the first month since October 2018, precipitation was below normal at the three major airports. Monthly totals at DCA were 2.24" (-0.82"); at BWI, 1.46" (-1.73"); and at IAD 2.82" (-0.65"). The region recorded three high impact severe weather events in April.

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, strong to severe thunderstorms resulted in one fatality and two injuries when a tree fell onto a house in Stafford, VA. In Gaithersburg (Montgomery County), MD, 16 trees fell onto wires. Winds gusted to 62 mph near Seat Pleasant (Prince Georges County), MD. Rainfall was heavy in some areas with 1.81" near Adamstown (Frederick County), MD, and 1.61" in Madison, (Madison County), VA. Following the storm, strong westerly winds on the 15<sup>th</sup> gusted to 62 mph near Thurmont (Frederick County), MD, and to 55 mph near Stephens City (Frederick County), VA, and at DCA.

During the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup>, severe thunderstorms spawned two tornadoes in Virginia. An EF-0 struck Reston (Fairfax County), VA, with estimated peak winds of 70 mph, maximum path length of 4 miles and maximum path width of 100 yards; the tornado caused tree and property damage along its path. The second tornado was confirmed as an EF-1 near Shipman (Nelson County), VA, with estimated maximum winds of 100 mph, maximum path length of 1.5 miles and maximum path width of 125 yards; the tornado downed up to 200 trees, killing a horse and causing property damage. Highest rainfall amounts from the event included 2.14" neat Thurmont, 1.70" near Leesburg (Loudoun County), VA, and a calendar day record 1.26" at IAD.

One week later on the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup>, the area observed its final severe weather outbreak of the month. An EF-1 tornado was confirmed in Monkton, (Baltimore County), MD; the estimated peak winds were 90 mph, with a maximum path length of 3 miles and a maximum path width of 150 yards. Numerous trees were topped or snapped in its path. Damaging thunderstorm winds blocked a ramp on I-695 Baltimore Beltway near Arbutus, along the outer loop of I-495 Capital Beltway near Garrett Park (Montgomery County), and near the inner loop of I-495 near Hillandale (Prince Georges County). Strong winds also followed this storm on the 27<sup>th</sup> with gusts to 54 mph in Baltimore City and to 46 mph at IAD.

### April 2019 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	72.2	52.5	62.4	56.9	+5.5	84/8	34/1	2.24	3.06	-0.82	13.06
Baltimore (BWI)	70.6	48.4	59.5	53.7	+5.8	84/8,23	30/2	1.46	3.19	-1.73	12.39
Dulles (IAD)	70.4	47.5	59.0	54.5	+4.5	83/23,30	27/1,3	2.82	3.47	-0.65	14.83

**Looking Ahead to May:** Does a warm April lead to above normal May temperatures? After near record April warmth, shown below are the top ten warmest Aprils and corresponding May average temperatures. May normal is 66.0°F.

Last 10 May Departures from Normal for Average Monthly Temperature in Washington										
Year	2017	1981	1994	1985	1960	2010	1941	1977	1980	2002
April	63.8	62.1	62.0	61.6	61.2	60.9	60.6	60.1	60.1	60.0
May	65.5	66.2	63.1	68.1	63.7	69.4	66.8	69.4	69.5	65.2