

MAY Temperatures: In sharp contrast to a year ago, the Washington/Baltimore area experienced well below normal temperatures. Monthly departures of -3.7°F were observed at DCA and BWI and -2.7°F at IAD. DCA's monthly average was nearly 10°F cooler than May 2004. A persistently cool flow of air from Canada or off the Atlantic Ocean were the dominant weather patterns for most of May, resulting in 24 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA. There were no 90°F+ highs at the three local airports; only 4 days with highs at or above 80°F at DCA & IAD and only 3 days of 80°F+ at BWI (May 2004: DCA and IAD recorded 20 days at or above 80°F, BWI 19, including two days with highs at or above 90°F). In addition, the three major airports recorded 13 days with highs below 70°F, including 4 days (6th, 20th, 24th, 25th) when maximum temperatures held in the 50's, readings more typical of March. Lows were also chilly with BWI recording 18 days with readings below 50°F and 15 such days at IAD. On the 3rd, daily minimum temperature records were equaled at both BWI and IAD with readings of 34°F and 32°F, respectively.

Precipitation was generally below normal across north central Maryland and above normal in Northern Virginia, D.C., and portions of Prince Georges County, MD. Rainfall totals varied from about 2.5" across portions of Montgomery, Howard, portions of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties in Maryland to nearly 5" just to the south, including DCA, IAD, and parts of Prince Georges County, MD. The large disparity was mainly the result of the thunderstorms in the Shenandoah that moved east and southeastward across the Northern Virginia suburbs and D.C. on the 14th while the northern suburbs received only small amounts of rain and no severe weather. Some of these storms were severe with reports of funnel clouds in McLean and Fairfax, VA, large hail (0.75 inches) in Loudoun County and Falls Church, VA, and strong winds that damaged trees and knocked out power to 47,500 customers across the Washington area, according to press reports. Severe weather was also reported in Landover, MD, with a wind gust to 78 mph and hail up to 1" in diameter reported at Andrews AFB. The month's heaviest rainfall fell on the 20th when an all-day rain soaked the region with two or more inches at many locations, setting daily records at all three major airports: DCA recorded 2.63", its 4th largest May total. On May 24th a moderate rainfall (0.83" at IAD) brought abnormally chilly readings in the 50's. May marked the 4th month in 2005 with above normal precipitation at DCA and IAD.

MAY 2005 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	70.9	52.8	61.9	65.6	-3.7	84/11	38/3	4.61	3.82	+0.79	18.34
Baltimore (BWI)	70.2	48.2	59.2	62.9	-3.7	86/11	34/3	2.64	3.89	-1.25	16.99
Dulles (IAD)	70.8	48.5	59.6	62.3	-2.7	87/11	32/3	4.86	4.22	+0.64	17.68

Spring (March-May) Temperatures: The season featured abnormally cool temperatures across the area. DCA recorded its coolest spring since 1984 (see cover) with a temperature departure of -2.10F, while a departure of -1.70F was observed at BWI, and -1.20F at IAD. Washington logged 63 days (68%) with at or below normal temperatures. Adding to the cool trend, there were no 90°F+ highs and only 7 days with readings at or above 80°F at DCA. March featured 26 days with at or below normal temperatures in Washington. On March 8, Arctic air plummeted temperatures 35°F to 40°F at most locations, dragging wind chill readings into the single digits at some locations. April featured slightly warmer than normal temperatures highlighted by 3 days with temperatures well into the 80's and 10 days with highs in the 70's. The month also featured a few cooler than normal temperatures and the last below freezing days at BWI and IAD. May reverted to the March pattern of cooler than normal readings.

Spring Precipitation was above normal at all three major airports with seasonal departures of +3.21" at DCA, +0.76" at BWI, & +2.14" at IAD. DCA and IAD recorded above normal precipitation all three spring months, the first such occurrence since 1998 at DCA, since 1984 at IAD. March's lone snowfall occurred on the 8th when up to 3" fell in elevations above 700 feet. March rain came in bursts. Two major storms caused flooding and broke daily and monthly rainfall records. March 20th brought thunderstorms and hail the size of peas and nickels to parts of Virginia and Prince Georges County, MD. April brought above normal rainfall with amounts generally between 4"-5" at most locations, including the three major airports. April began and ended with two significant storms, both of which brought heavy rain, strong winds and ¾" hail as well as knocking out power to as many as 10,000 customers in Northern Virginia, according to press reports. May thunderstorms on the 14th brought varied rainfall to the area.

SPRING 2005 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml
National (DCA)	63.1	45.0	54.0	56.1	-2.1	86/4-20	20/3-9	13.40	10.19	+3.21
Baltimore (BWI)	62.1	41.2	51.6	53.3	-1.7	86/4-19 ¹	17/3-10	11.58	10.82	+0.76
Dulles (IAD)	62.9	40.8	51.8	53.0	-1.2	87/5-11	17/3-9	13.13	10.99	+2.14

Other Occurrences: '15-11

Looking Ahead to June: With the coolest spring in 21 years behind us, should we expect a cool summer? Listed below are the 10 coolest springs (March-May) recorded in Washington in the last 50 years and resulting summer (June-August) average temperature. All but two cool springs resulted in cooler than normal summers.

Year	1984	1971	2005	1965	1967	1992	1996	1958	2003	1972
Spring Average Temperature	53.9	54.0	54.0	54.1	54.2	54.2	54.5	54.6	54.6	54.8
Departure from Normal	-2.2	-2.1	-2.1	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9	-1.6	-1.5	-1.5	-1.3
Summer Average Temperature	77.1	77.0	?	76.0	76.0	75.1	77.1	75.3	76.0	74.5
Departure from Normal	+0.1	0.0	?	-1.0	-1.0	-1.9	+0.1	-1.7	-1.0	-2.5