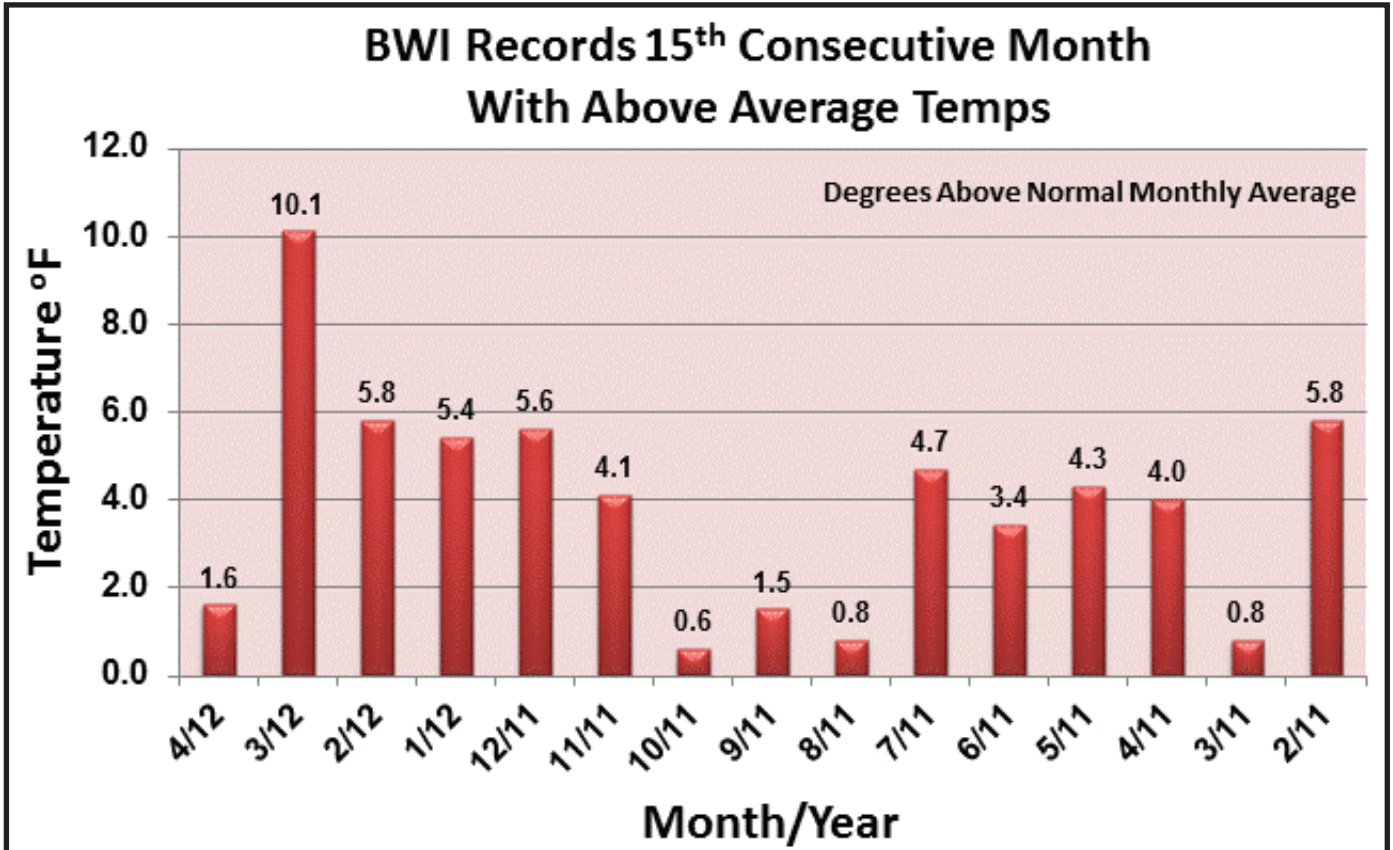


# PRESTO

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



## APRIL 2012: Cooler March than April at IAD; Dry With One Major Rain Event



### April Highlights

- ☛ Above normal temperatures at DCA, +1.5°F; BWI, +1.6°F; and subnormal at IAD, -0.4°F
- ☛ BWI marked 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with above normal temperatures; 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with above normal readings at DCA; 1<sup>st</sup> month since October 2011 with subnormal readings at IAD
- ☛ Summer-like highs on 16<sup>th</sup> with maximum reading of 90°F at BWI (equaling a record); 89°F at DCA and 88°F at IAD
- ☛ Third April in last 4 years that BWI recorded high of 90°F
- ☛ Large diurnal swing in temperatures on 14<sup>th</sup>; IAD: minimum 35°F, maximum 74°F; BWI: minimum 38°F, maximum 76°F;
- ☛ Very dry conditions first two-thirds of month with wildfires in Shenandoah and Page Counties in Virginia; More than 4,000 acres burned in the Shipwreck Fire in Page County
- ☛ One major rainstorm on 22<sup>nd</sup> with more than 3.0" of precipitation across portions of St. Mary's County, over 2.0" in Baltimore County and over 1.0" in most other locations; snow accumulated in highlands of West Virginia with 3.0" in Bayard and in western Maryland, 6.0" near Frostburg in Allegany County

## April 2012

**Temperatures:** After unprecedented warmth in March, temperatures returned to more seasonable levels in April. Monthly average temperatures were +1.5°F at DCA, +1.6°F at BWI, and -0.4°F at IAD. April featured 3 days with highs at or above 80°F, with the areas highest temperatures recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> when BWI soared to 90°F for the first time this season, equaling a record high; DCA topped out at 89°F and IAD, 88°F.

In sharp contrast, the month's coolest maximum readings occurred on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when highs struggled to reach 50°F at DCA and BWI; IAD's high of 47°F equaled its coolest maximum reading for the date. Minimum readings were often chilly in suburban locations; IAD recorded 14 days with minimum below 40°F and BWI observed 11 such days. IAD last freeze for the month occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup> and at BWI on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. IAD average temperature for the month was 54.0°F; -0.3°F cooler than March for the first such occurrence on record.

**Precipitation:** Below normal rainfall was observed across the area with monthly totals slightly less than 2" at the three major airports. Monthly totals were 1.92" (-1.14") at DCA, 1.99" (-1.20") at BWI and 1.82" (-1.65") at IAD. The majority of the month's rainfall occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> when a soaking rain provided the region with beneficial rain. Amounts were greater than an inch at BWI (1.33") and DCA (1.27"). Some locations in Maryland recorded much greater amounts, including 3.15" near the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County and 2.60" at Pimlico in Baltimore County. In Virginia, 1.90" was measured near Woolsey in Fauquier County and 1.56" near Burke in Fairfax County. Meanwhile snowfall accumulated in the highlands of West Virginia with 3.0" in Bayard, WV, and in western Maryland, 6.0" near Frostburg in Allegany County. MD. The first 20 days of the month featured very dry conditions with less than ¼" total rainfall at DCA and BWI. The dry conditions, with strong winds at times, fueled wildfires in Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA.

### *April 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area*

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day			Precipitation (Inches)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
<b>National (DCA)</b>	68.1	48.5	58.3	56.8	+1.5	89/16	40/11	1.92	3.06	-1.14	7.46
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	67.2	43.3	55.3	53.7	+1.6	90/16	32/3	1.99	3.19	-1.20	8.71
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	66.5	41.6	54.0	54.4	-0.4	88/16	30/7	1.82	3.47	-1.65	7.43

**Looking Ahead to May:** *First 90°F reading or greater for season at DCA?* While BWI recorded its first 90°F on the 16<sup>th</sup> and DCA came close at 89°F, will May bring the first such occurrence of the year in Washington? Listed below are the previous 10 years for the first 90°F or greater at DCA.

Date of First 90°F or Greater Temperature Recorded at DCA for Last 10 Years										
Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
<b>Date</b>	5/26	4/6	4/26	6/7	5/26	5/30	6/8	4/19	6/24	4/16