

WEATHER

Average temperatures and precipitation refer to the selected weather stations on pages 11 and 12.

TEMPERATURES

Unusually warm temperatures made the first couple days of **January** feel like spring. Strong cold fronts during the middle of the month provided a return to winter weather. The month ended seasonably with a monthly average temperature of 28 degrees, which was 2 degrees warmer than the previous year's average temperature of 26 degrees. Spring-like weather conditions occurred during the end of **February** with temperatures that pushed into the 60's and even hit 70 degrees in the Williamson and Weston area. The average temperature for February was 33 degrees, compared with 31 degrees in 2003. Temperatures averaged 45 degrees for **March** in 2003 and 2004. Very warm temperatures made a brief appearance in the Mountain State the first week of **April**. This warm weather quickly disappeared with every site reporting well below normal temperatures. The monthly average for April was 53 degrees, compared with 54 in 2003. After a chilly start, which included a couple of frosty mornings, there was a quick warm-up for the Mountain State in **May**. The monthly average temperature for May was 67 degrees, compared with 61 degrees in 2003. The monthly average temperature for **June** was 69 degrees, compared with 67 degrees in 2003. **July** temperatures averaged 73 degrees, the same in 2003. The monthly average temperature for **August** was 70 degrees, compared with 74 degrees in 2003. Humidity levels ran high as the tropical air moved over the state during the second week of **September**. The monthly average temperature for September was 67 degrees, compared with 64 degrees in 2003. Typical fall-like weather was observed during the first part of **October**. The monthly average temperature for October was 56 degrees, compared with 53 degrees in 2003. The cold air finally had a big influence on West Virginia during the middle of **November**. The lowest temperature recorded was 18 degrees in Marlinton. Temperatures for the month of November averaged 47 degrees, compared with 48 degrees in 2003. **December** started off with unusually warm temperatures with high's reaching into the 70's, and then temperatures took a dive and dropped overnight lows to below zero for several sites. The average temperature for December was 35 degrees, compared with 34 degrees in 2003.

PRECIPITATION

During the first two weeks in **January**, the bulk of the precipitation fell as rain instead of snow and only four locations reported over an inch of precipitation. The bulk of the rain and snow was reported at the end of January. The average precipitation was 2.86 inches, compared with 2.02 inches in 2003. The beginning of **February** brought a winter-like mix of rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain which resulted in flooding at several locations. The month ended with below normal precipitation amounts across the state. February average precipitation was 2.64 inches, compared with 5.41 inches the previous year. Average precipitation for **March** was 3.65 inches, compared with 1.83 inches in 2003. The beginning of **April** brought about a vigorous storm complex that delivered days of rain and soggy conditions across the state. Precipitation during April averaged 4.84 inches compared with 3.78 inches in 2003. The first two weeks in **May** provided little or no rainfall across the state. Thunderstorms and heavy showers, during the end of May, brought two to three inches of rain to the northern and north central sections of the state. The May monthly average precipitation was 6.34 inches, compared with 6.79 inches for 2003. For **June**, the monthly average precipitation was 4.39 inches, compared with 6.37 inches for 2003. For **July**, the monthly average precipitation was 4.19 inches, compared with 5.62 inches for 2003. Heavy thunderstorms dumped over three inches of rain over a few sites the first week in **August**. During August, the monthly average precipitation was 3.82 inches, compared with 5.10 inches for 2003. The monthly average precipitation for **September** was 7.53 inches, compared with 6.13 inches for 2003. The monthly average for **October** was 3.00 inches, compared with 2.74 inches for 2003. Precipitation for the month of **November** averaged 3.73 inches, compared with 6.11 inches for 2003. A couple of strong frontal systems, which moved across the state the first part of **December**, caused some sites to receive between one and two inches of rain. December precipitation averaged 2.53 inches, compared with 3.30 inches during 2003.

FREEZE DATES: Last Freeze Temperature In Spring and First in Fall, By State Divisions, 2002-2004

Division & Station	2002		2003		2004	
	Last in Spring	First in Fall	Last in Spring	First in Fall	Last in Spring	First in Fall
NORTH CENTRAL & NORTHWESTERN						
Weston	May 23	Nov 2	Apr 24	Oct 3	May 5	Oct 18
Fairmont	May 23	Nov 2	Apr 1	Oct 3	May 5	Nov 9
Middlebourne	May 23	Oct 22	Apr 28	Oct 3	May 5	Oct 18
Parkersburg	May 22	Nov 1	Apr 27	Oct 2	May 4	Oct 18
Creston	May 23	Nov 2	Apr 28	Oct 3	May 5	M
SOUTHWESTERN & SOUTHERN						
Huntington-AP	May 22	Nov 2	March 31	Oct 3	May 4	Nov 9
Charleston-AP	May 22	Nov 2	Apr 24	Oct 3	Apr 28	Nov 9
Logan	Apr 8	Nov 2	March 31	Nov 9	Apr 6	Nov 9
Union	May 23	Oct 18	Apr 24	Sept 30	May 5	Oct 12
Beckley-AP	May 22	Oct 18	Apr 24	Oct 2	May 4	Oct 17
EAST CENTRAL & NORTHEASTERN						
Elkins-AP	May 23	Oct 23	Apr 28	Oct 1	May 4	Oct 6
Moorefield	May 22	Nov 1	Apr 24	Oct 3	May 4	Oct 18
Wardensville	May 23	Oct 15	Apr 24	Oct 3	Apr 17	Oct 12
Martinsburg-AP	May 22	Oct 18	Apr 8	Oct 3	Apr 16	Oct 18

AP-Airport ^M Insufficient or partial data.

Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.