

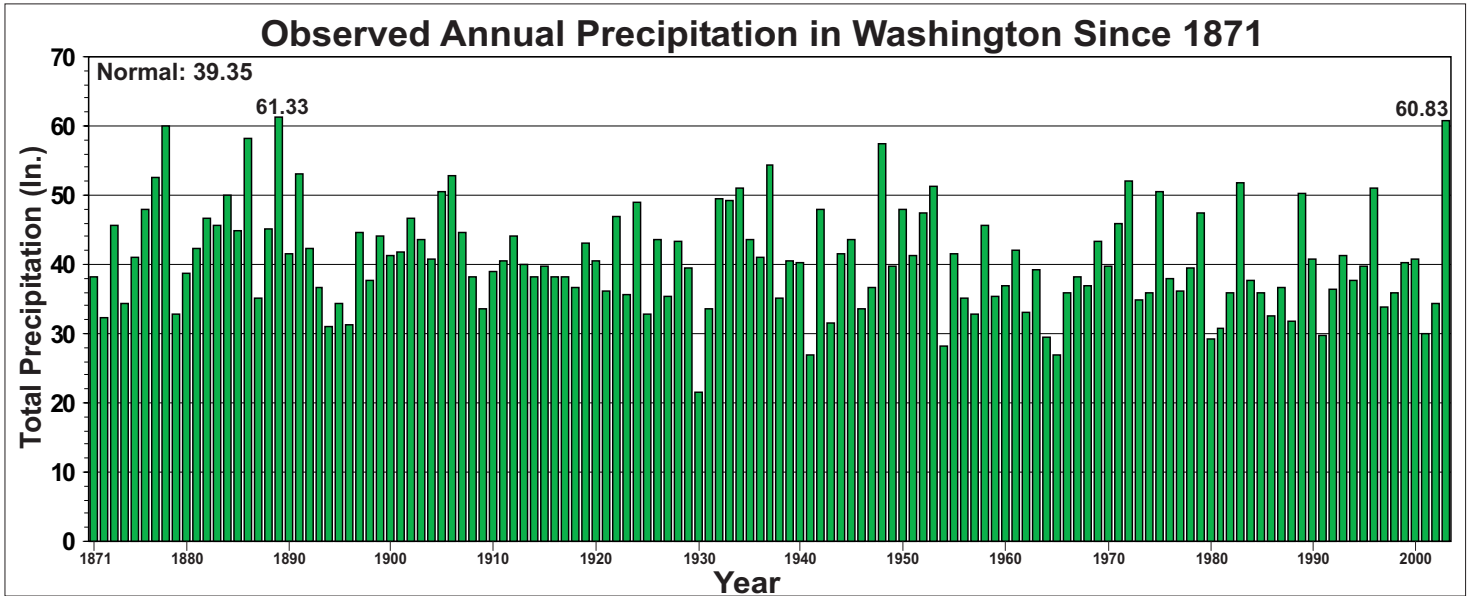


# PRESTO

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



## DECEMBER 2003 & ANNUAL REVIEW Second Wettest Year on Record in Washington; Coolest Year Since 1963 in Washington



### Monthly Highlights

- ◆ Slightly below normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area
- ◆ DCA logged 17 days with at or below-normal temperatures
- ◆ DCA recorded 19 days with lows at or below freezing
- ◆ Twelfth month out of the last 15 with subnormal temperatures at DCA
- ◆ Ninth month in 2003 with subnormal temperatures
- ◆ Eighth consecutive month and 10<sup>th</sup> in 2003 with above normal precipitation at the three major airports
- ◆ Season's first snowfall on 4th-5th, totals of 9" in portions of Montgomery County, MD, and Loudoun County, VA
- ◆ Above normal snowfall in Washington on consecutive December's for first time since 1969 and 1970.
- ◆ Rainfall over an inch in some locations on 14<sup>th</sup> combined with readings near 50F and snow melt result in flooded roads, stranding drivers in high water, and forcing two school districts to close down, according to press reports
- ◆ Warm finish to month with temperatures averaging more than 7°F degrees above normal at DCA from 22nd-31st as many areas record 60°F or higher on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29th

### Annual Highlights

- ◆ Abnormally cool, wet and snowy across the Washington/Baltimore area
- ◆ Coolest year (tied with 1967) since 1963 at DCA
- ◆ Only 20 days with 90°F+ highs at DCA
- ◆ Temperatures at or below freezing recorded on 78 days at DCA, the most since 1995
- ◆ Second wettest year ever recorded in Washington (60.83"), wettest on record at both BWI (62.66") and IAD (65.73")
- ◆ In September, Tropical Storm Isabel lashed area with winds in excess of 50 mph, more than 2" of rain, record storm surge of 7.5 feet on the Chesapeake Bay, 4.3' on Potomac, record flooding in Annapolis and Baltimore, two fatalities, according to reports, and over 500,000 lost power
- ◆ Sixth snowiest calendar year in Washington (39.5"), second at BWI (58.1"), and third at IAD (53.3)
- ◆ Wettest summer since 1969 (11th overall) at DCA, since 1979 at BWI and second wettest (19.98") on record at IAD
- ◆ Second wettest spring on record at IAD (15.16"), 8th wettest at BWI (13.38") and wettest at DCA (13.81") since 1993
- ◆ Largest snowstorm to hit Baltimore (28.2") and fifth largest in Washington (16.7") from February 15-18