

DECEMBER 2007

Temperature: Above normal temperatures were recorded across the area including the three major airports during the first month of meteorological winter. Positive temperature departures were +2.3°F at DCA, +1.1°F at BWI and +2.4°F at IAD. December marked the 7th month in the past eight with above normal readings in Washington. The higher than normal readings were primarily the result of relatively mild minimum temperatures, especially during the last third of the month. DCA recorded only 7 days with subfreezing minimums and none after 20th. The months warmest temperatures occurred on the 12th and 23rd when highs soared well into the 60s across most areas including a max of 64°F at DCA on both days. The first subfreezing days of the winter season occurred on the 5th and 6th at many locations including BWI and IAD, primarily the result of snowfall on the 5th and snow cover the following day. Minimum readings at suburban locations were in the low to mid teens in the 2 days following the snowfall, including a minimum temperature at IAD of 13°F on the 6th and 15°F on the 7th.

Precipitation: The metro areas recorded near normal precipitation with totals generally between 3"-4". Of the three major airports BWI's total was the greatest with 4.03" (+0.68"), DCA recorded 3.28" (+0.23") while IAD total of 2.97" was slightly below normal (-0.10"). The month featured the most days with measurable precipitation in 2007; all three airports recorded 16 days with at least .01". The months greatest rainfall occurred on the 15th -16th when about an inch of rain soaked the area. The month's first and only measurable snowfall occurred on the 5th when a steady snowfall accumulated between 2"-6" across the area; the greatest totals fell across northern Maryland, including Frederick County. The snowfall snarled morning rush hour traffic resulting in numerous accidents and lengthy delays for commuters. The snowfall marked the third time on the past 6 years that the season's first measurable snowfall occurred on Dec. 5th.

High winds caused downed trees and resulted in power outages in some locations on the 3rd and 16th. Peak wind gusts reached 53 mph at DCA on the 3rd and 61 mph at BWI on the 16th.

DECEMBER 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	47.7	35.9	41.8	39.5	+2.3	64/23,12	23/6	3.28	3.05	+0.23	2.6
Baltimore (BWI)	45.0	30.6	37.8	36.7	+1.1	63/23	14/7	4.03	3.35	+0.68	4.8
Dulles (IAD)	45.7	31.0	38.4	36.0	+2.4	61/12	13/6	2.97	3.07	-0.10	2.5

ANNUAL Temperature: For the 6th year in the past seven, all three major airports recorded above normal temperatures. DCA's average annual temperature of 58.9°F was +1.4°F. BWI recorded an average annual temperature of 56.3°F, +0.7°F; IAD 56.4°F, +2.2°F. In all, BWI and IAD observed 10 months with above normal temperature; DCA marked 9 such months. Only February and April brought subnormal temperatures throughout the region. February was the coldest in Washington since 1979. Some of DCA's largest monthly temperature departures were recorded in January and October. In January, BWI and IAD recorded 7 days with highs at or above 60°F; DCA recorded 6 such days. After the warm January, February brought a return to winter with lowest February average maximum temperature (38.1°F) and average minimum temperature (23.6°F) since 1979 at DCA. April 5-17 was the coldest on record in Washington since 1907, and coldest ever in Baltimore. Summer featured 10 days with highs at or above 95°F at DCA, including 102°F on August 8th; 17 at or above 95°F days at IAD. IAD recorded its hottest August ever (76.8°F, +3.1°F positive departure from normal). The heat trend continued into fall. Autumn was the warmest on record in Washington and at IAD (63.2°F at DCA, +3.8°F; 60.3°F, +4.5). October was the warmest on record at Washington and at IAD and 5th warmest at BWI. October included a record 94°F at all three major airports. December began the winter season with warmer than normal temperatures.

ANNUAL Precipitation: For the first time in 5 years, most of the local area recorded below normal precipitation. Annual precipitation totals at the three major airports were 32.93" at DCA (-6.42"), 34.97" (-6.97") at BWI; and 27.02" at IAD (-14.78"). Parts of Maryland and Northern Virginia were so dry that in late July a federal drought disaster was declared for some parts of the area. April, October and December were the only months with subnormal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area. January's precipitation was close to normal and included the seasons first snow, which brought about an inch across the area. In February, two winter storms impacted the region, totalling 9.8" of snow at IAD during the month. On March 15-16, more than 2" of rain soaked the metro area, resulting in numerous road closures. The storm also brought sleet and up to 8" of snow in areas such as Frederick County, MD. From April 14-16, a major storm system drenched the area with more than 2" of rain, flooded roadways, and brought gusts to 60 mph. On May 10, severe thunderstorms knocked out power to more than 10,000 residents and on the 16th, winds gusted to 66 mph in Harford County, MD. On June 27, a thunderstorm resulted in a fatality in Prince George County, MD. On June 12, hail measuring 2" in diameter was observed in Clinton, MD. An EF1 tornado (wind speeds up to 110 mpm) struck Fallston, MD, on July 16 with no injuries reported. On August 3, a localized severe thunderstorm struck Gainesville, VA, with 1.5" hail and winds gusting to 58 mph at Rosedale, MD (Baltimore County). On October 24-27, drought like conditions finally saw some relief when the area received a major rainfall toward the end of the month with 3"-7" measured across the area. November returned to drier conditions. December ended the year wet, the result of an early snowfall on the 5th and the most measurable days with precipitation (16) in 2007.

ANNUAL 2007 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	Snow
National (DCA)	67.6	50.3	58.9	57.5	+1.4	102/8-8	10/2-6	32.93	39.35	-6.42	10.2
Baltimore (BWI)	66.5	46.1	56.3	55.6	+0.7	102/8-8	8/2-6	34.97	41.94	-6.97	14.4
Dulles (IAD)	67.3	46.3	56.4	54.2	+2.2	101/8-8	5/2-8	27.02	41.80	-14.78	14.1

Looking Ahead to JANUARY: *Below average snowfall?* Three of the past 4 years have recorded below normal snowfall across the region. Here is a look at the past 10 years. Normal DCA January snowfall: 6.2".

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
January Snowfall	?	1.3	T	6.4	6.2	4.5	2.7	2.4	14.5	2.2	T