

FEBRUARY 2007 Temperature: The pattern change that led to colder than normal weather in mid January continued through the first 3 weeks of February, resulting in the 16th coldest February in Washington (coldest since 1979), 5th at BWI and 3rd at IAD. The intense cold resulted in just the 4th occurrence (since 1871) in which February's average temperature was more than 9°F lower than January's. Cold Arctic air enveloped the local area from the 1st -19th resulting in temperatures averaging more than 10°F below normal at DCA. BWI recorded 5 consecutive days (5th-8th) with at or below freezing highs while DCA and IAD observed 4 such days. Winds were frequently strong and gusty creating wind chill values near 0°F at times. The cold was especially intense on the 5th with highs close to 20°F across the local area. DCA's high of 22°F (on the 5th) was its lowest February maximum temperature since February 4, 1996, when the high only reached 17°F. For the month, BWI observed 7 days with at or below freezing highs, while DCA and IAD observed 6 such days, the most in February (tied w/1996) since 1979 at DCA. Night time readings were consistently cold. DCA recorded 25 days with at or below freezing lows, most since 1978, including 11 days with minimum temperatures at or below 20°F, the most since 1979. A moderation in temperatures occurred late in the month as highs climbed into the 50's at many locations on the 27th and 28th.

Precipitation: While the area observed subnormal precipitation, two winter storms impacted the area with a significant wintry mixture of precipitation and moderate snowfall. The first event on the 13th-14th started as light snow then changed to sleet, which fell heavily across the area overnight with accumulations up to 3" at IAD, 2.7" at BWI, 2.2" at DCA. Higher amounts of snow fell across outlying areas with 5.5" reported in Frederick, MD, and 5.3" in Stephens City, VA (Frederick County). The southern and eastern portions of the area were hit with freezing rain and up to 0.5" of ice, resulting in damage to trees and downed power lines. The Bowie area in Prince Georges County, MD, was especially hard hit. As many as 40,000 customers reportedly lost power at the height of the event. Loss of power to a traffic signal in Bowie contributed to a fatal traffic accident that claimed two lives, according to press reports. The second major storm system occurred on the 25th when a heavy wet snow fell from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Between 3"-5" of snow was reported across the local area, including 4.5" at IAD, 4.3" at BWI and 2.9" at DCA. Snowfall amounts up to 8" were measured in parts of the Shenandoah Valley. The month's only rainfall occurred on the night of the 20th with some locations recording up to 0.25".

FEBRUARY 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)	38.1	23.6	30.9	38.1	-7.2	59/22	10/6	2.22	2.63	-0.41	5.9
Baltimore (BWI)	36.8	21.3	29.1	35.5	-6.4	55/22	8/6	2.04	3.02	-0.98	8.5
Dulles (IAD)	37.0	20.1	28.6	34.8	-6.2	57/22	5/8	2.54	2.77	-0.23	9.8

WINTER (December-February) 2006-07 Temperature: Despite a frigid February, winter temperatures averaged above normal at the three major airports. Seasonal temperature departures were +1.1°F at DCA, +1.9°F at BWI, and +2.4°F at IAD, resulting in the 3rd consecutive warmer than normal winter in Washington. The winter featured a significant temperature change mid season. At DCA, temperatures averaged nearly 8°F above normal from Dec. 1- Jan. 16 then more than 5°F below normal the rest of the winter. Above normal December temperatures resulted in the 10th warmest December on record at DCA, 5th at BWI (13th in Baltimore), and 4th at IAD. Record highs were set at all three major airports on December 1 and 18 and January 6 when temperatures soared into the 70's. IAD's low of 57°F on January 5 was more typical of early June readings. Through January 16, DCA had recorded its 2nd warmest start of January with a positive departure of nearly 14°F, eclipsed only in 1950. Around mid-January more typical winter weather arrived and continued through month's end. Despite the cold end to the month, January marked the 9th month out the last 13 with above normal readings at all three major airports. On February 20, the minimum reading of 37°F at DCA and 38°F at IAD were the first occurrence since January 15 with an above freezing minimum across the area (35 days). Meanwhile, BWI continued its subfreezing streak of minimums through months' end, reaching 44 days by Feb. 28.

WINTER Precipitation: After a wet fall, the region recorded subnormal winter precipitation, including snowfall. Seasonal precipitation departures were -2.65 at DCA, -3.44 at BWI, & -2.50 at IAD. All 3 months recorded below normal precipitation. December precipitation averaged 1.5" below normal. The area received its only major December rainstorm on the 22nd-23th when 0.75" to about 1.50" soaked most of the area. Strong winds impacted the area on the December 1 when a powerful cold front brought winds gusts over 50 mph to parts of the area. Most locations observed their first snow flurries of the season on December 5 or 7. January started wet on New Year's Day but quickly changed to drier than normal conditions. Precipitation totals were generally between 2.00"- 2.50". The first measurable snowfall of the season fell on January 21 when 1"-2.5" blanketed the area. The snowfall resulted in slippery conditions, resulting in more than 200 accidents in the District alone, according to press reports. The snowfall was the latest first inch of snow in Washington since Jan. 28, 1995. Precipitation totals from the 9th through month's end were less than ½ inch throughout the area, with only .25" at BWI. February continued the drier than normal winter but brought snow and ice.

WINTER 2006-2007 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)	46.4	30.8	38.6	37.5	+1.1	75/12-1	10/2-6	6.24	8.89	-2.65	7.2
Baltimore (BWI)	45.6	27.9	36.7	34.8	+1.9	75/12-1	8/2-6	6.40	9.84	-3.44	9.4
Dulles (IAD)	45.8	27.2	36.5	34.1	+2.4	76/12-18	5/2-8	6.39	8.89	-2.50	11.4

Looking Ahead to March: March can be a month of extremes. Below is a list of some notable March climatological statistics for Washington since records began in 1871 (snowfall records began in 1988).

Temperature Extremes			Precipitation Extremes		
Coldest: 1885	Avg. Temp.: 34°F	Dep. Nml.: -12.°F	Wettest: 1891	Tot. Prec.: 8.84"	Dep. Nml.: +5.24"
Warmest: 1921, 1945	Avg. Temp.: 55.°F	Dep. Nml.: +9.°F	Driest: 1910	Tot. Prec.: 0.57"	Dep. Nml.: -3.03"
Extreme Minimum: 4°F (March 4, 1873)			Snowiest: 1914	Tot. Snowfall: 19.3"	Dep. Nml.: +17.7"
Extreme Maximum: 93°F (March 23, 1907)			Most precipitation in one day (liquid): 2.79" (March 9, 1881)		
Most days with: lows < 32°F: 24 (1960) ; highs > 90°F: 3 (1907)			Most snowfall in one day: 11.3" (March 29, 1942)		