

JANUARY 2007

Temperature: The persistent warmer than normal conditions that started near Thanksgiving continued through the first half of January. By mid-January the above normal temperatures had reverted to more normal winter weather. Monthly temperature departures were +5.8°F at DCA, +6.4°F at BWI and +7.4°F at IAD. BWI and IAD both recorded 7 days with highs at or above 60°F; DCA reported 6 such days. There were 4 consecutive days (13th-16th) with highs at or above 60°F BWI and IAD and two periods of 3 consecutive days (4th-6th & 14th-16th) with 60°F+ highs at DCA. On the 6th, highs soared into the 70's throughout the area, setting daily record highs at the three major airports (73°F at DCA and 71°F at BWI and IAD). Minimum readings held in the 50's in some locations on the 5th and across the area on the 6th. IAD's low of 57°F on the 5th was more typical of early June readings. Through January 16, DCA had recorded its second warmest start to the month with a positive departure of nearly 14°F, eclipsed only in 1950. In addition, DCA recorded 30 consecutive days with above normal temperatures (December 11, 2006 - January 9, 2007).

Around mid-January more typical winter weather enveloped the area and continued through month's end. DCA recorded 9 days with highs in the 30's, including the first winter day (January 21) with subfreezing highs. BWI and IAD recorded 3 days (21st, 26th, 29th) with highs at or below freezing. Minimum readings were at or below freezing from 16th through month's end throughout the area. Despite the cold end to the month, January 2007 marked the 9th month out the last 13 with above normal readings at all three major airports.

Precipitation: Despite a wet start to the month, drier than normal conditions prevailed across the region. Precipitation totals were generally between 2.00"- 2.50" with DCA recording 2.46" (Dep. Nml.: -0.75"); BWI measuring 2.48" (Dep. Nml.: -0.99") and IAD, 2.11" (Dep. Nml.: -0.94"). The majority of the month's precipitation fell during the first 8 days from two storm systems. New Year's Day brought a soaking rain to the area with amounts over an inch of rain observed at many locations including 1.07" at BWI and 1.03" at DCA. This event marked the greatest rainfall on New Years Day at DCA and BWI since 2003. About a week later (7th-8th), most areas received between ½ inch to ¾ inch of rain with somewhat higher totals in some areas, including 1.02" in Cedarville, MD (Prince Georges County) and 0.95" at Ft. Belvoir, VA (Fairfax County).

The first measurable snowfall of the winter season fell on the 21st when 1"-2.5" blanketed the local area. The snowfall resulted in slippery conditions across the area, resulting in more than 200 accidents in the District, according to press reports. The snowfall was the latest first inch of snow in Washington since January 28, 1995. Precipitation totals from the 9th through month's end were less than ½ inch throughout the area, with only .25" at BWI. It was the first such occurrence of subnormal precipitation at the all three major airports for the first 2 months of winter since 2001-2002.

JANUARY 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)	48.2	33.2	40.7	35.2	+5.8	73/6	15/26	2.46	3.21	-0.75	1.3
Baltimore (BWI)	47.4	30.0	38.7	32.3	+6.4	71/6	14/26	2.48	3.47	-0.99	0.9
Dulles (IAD)	47.5	30.7	39.1	31.7	+7.4	71/6	15/26,30	2.11	3.05	-0.94	1.6

Looking Ahead to February: Little snowfall through the winter season to date, what will February bring? With only about an inch of snowfall in this winter's first 2 months, will the pattern continue through February? Listed below are the 10 most recent winters at DCA that recorded less than 5 inches of snowfall through January 31 and the snowfall totals recorded in February. DCA normal is 5.2".

Year	December/January Snowfall (inches)	February Snowfall (inches)
2005-06	4.8"	8.8"
2001-02	2.7"	0.5"
2000-01	4.4"	2.8"
1998-99	2.7"	0.2"
1997-98	0.1"	Trace