

MARCH 2007

Temperature: March temperatures were above normal at all three major airports with monthly departures of +1.2°F at DCA, +1.4°F at BWI and +2.9°F at IAD. The month featured numerous days with large daily swings in temperature ranging from early summer like warmth to mid-winter cold. DCA observed 8 days with daily temperature departures of 10°F or greater and 6 days with temperature departures of -10°F or lower (see cover). Most locations, including the three major airports, recorded 7 days with highs at or above 70°F, including two days (14th and 27th) with highs at or above 80°F. Above normal temperatures in the final third of the month resulted in the 11th month in the past 15 with above normal temperatures at DCA, 12th at BWI and IAD.

In sharp contrast, DCA and IAD observed 9 days (BWI, 10) with highs below 50°F. The coldest weather occurred on the 7th when highs were only in the 20's throughout the area. It was the first March day with subfreezing highs at DCA since March 9, 1999. Many locations reported highs at or below freezing on the 6th, including BWI and IAD. Unseasonably cold conditions were also observed throughout the area on the 17th with highs in the 30's at many locations. The Arctic-like chill produced minimum temperatures in the teens at many locations from the 6th-8th, including a low of 11°F at IAD on the 8th.

Precipitation: Precipitation was near normal with monthly totals between 3"-4.5" across most of the area. DCA and IAD reported slight monthly deficits of 0.41" and 0.62", respectively, while BWI recorded a surplus of 0.24". March opened with a soaking rain during the night of the 1st into the 2nd with about two-thirds of an inch to an inch falling in the metro area and more than an inch falling north and east of Baltimore. The heaviest rainfall occurred in Carroll County, MD, where 1.57" fell, resulting in 17 road closures county wide. The month's most significant precipitation event began as a warm rain on the afternoon of the 15th, became heavy overnight as temperatures fell sharply, then changed to sleet on the 16th and finally ended as wet snow. Most locations reported more than 2" of precipitation (BWI 2.73") with more than 3" observed at some locations, including 3.05" in St. Mary's County. The long duration of the rain caused numerous roads across the area and in elevated areas of Virginia, including Nelson, Madison, Culpeper, Frederick and Warren counties. For most areas, this was the heaviest precipitation event since early September 2006 when the remnants of Tropical Storm Ernesto moved through the local area. The changeover to wet snow began earlier across the higher elevations and northern and western portions of Maryland and Virginia and resulted in a significant late season snowfall. Totals included 8" in parts of Frederick County, MD, and 5.5" in Winchester, VA, while the metro areas received generally an inch or less of snowfall (IAD recording a slightly higher amount of 1.2"). The month's only all snow event occurred on the 7th with a day long period of light snowfall. The higher elevations, especially in Maryland, again measured significantly higher snowfall totals with 5.5" in Wolfsville, MD, and 4.0" Frederick, MD. About 2" accumulated in the Washington area, including 1.9" at IAD, 1.8" at DCA and 0.8" at BWI.

March is known for strong winds and this March was no exception. On the 5th, wind gusts up to 50 mph were reported at some locations across the area. Numerous trees and power lines were downed by the strong winds in portions of Montgomery County, MD., and Rockingham and Augusta counties in Virginia.

MARCH 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Total	Precipitation (Inches)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNmI	Max	MinT		Norm	DepNmI	Year to Date
National (DCA)	58.0	37.4	47.7	46.5	+1.2	83/27	20/8	3.19	3.60	-0.41	7.87
Baltimore (BWI)	56.5	33.8	45.1	43.7	+1.4	83/14	14/8	4.17	3.93	+0.24	8.69
Dulles (IAD)	58.1	34.6	46.3	43.4	+2.9	83/27	11/8	2.93	3.55	-0.62	7.61

Looking Ahead to April: Last Freeze at DCA and IAD. April is usually the last month before fall when a 32°F or lower reading occurs in Washington. The city has never recorded a freezing reading in May, although suburban areas have. Below is a list of the last 32°F or lower reading at urban DCA and suburban IAD for the last 10 years.

At DCA				At IAD			
Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading
2006	March 23 (32°F)	2001	March 28 (28°F)	2006	April 10 (31°F)	2001	April 26 (32°F)
2005	March 18 (31°F)	2000	March 19 (32°F)	2005	April 17 (31°F)	2000	April 14 (32°F)
2004	April 5 (31°F)	1999	March 23 (32°F)	2004	April 16 (30°F)	1999	April 25 (31°F)
2002	April 1 (32°F)	1998	March 25 (31°F)	2003	April 1 (27°F)	1998	April 13 (32°F)
2001	April 7 (32°F)	1997	April 10 (28°F)	2002	April 1 (27°F)	1997	May 8 (31°F)