

FEBRUARY Temperature: The final month of climatological winter featured above normal temperatures across the area. The winter of 2007-08 marked the 7th of the last 10 at DCA with all three months (December-February) recording above normal readings. Positive departures were +2.9°F at DCA, +2.5°F at IAD and +1.6°F at BWI. Above normal readings were prevalent the first 10 days, with DCA and BWI recording 9 days with temperatures at or above 50°F. Spring-like highs were observed across the area from the 5th-7th; on the 6th, DCA set a record of 74°F; BWI, 72°F; and IAD, 71°F. DCA's 64°F on the 7th equalled a record from 1887. Although no records were set, temperatures again soared on the 18th to 74°F at DCA, 71°F at BWI and 69°F at IAD. In sharp contrast, DCA recorded 5 days with highs only reaching the 30s. The month's coldest day occurred on the 11th when the area observed subfreezing highs including a maximum reading of 28°F at BWI. IAD recorded minimum readings in the teens on 5 days, DCA on 1 day (11th).

Precipitation: February featured above normal precipitation across most locations with totals about 4"; the exception was portions of Northern Virginia where totals were less than 3". DCA recorded 4.17" (+1.54"), BWI 3.80" (+0.78") and IAD 2.68" (-0.09"). Snowfall was subnormal with less than 2" in the immediate metro areas. IAD recorded just a trace of snow, only its 7th such occurrence since 1962. Three significant storm systems impacted the region in February. The first day of the month featured a soaking rain that began as freezing rain in the far northern and western suburbs. Precipitation totals included 2.28" in Millers, MD (Carroll County); DCA measured 2.06", BWI, 1.80" and IAD, 1.44". Some trees were downed from up to ¼" ice in Purcellville, VA, (Loudoun County) and in Marshall, VA. (Fauquier County). The next major storm system on the 12th brought about ¼" of ice to the metro area. Freezing rain developed mid-afternoon and caused a transportation nightmare with hundreds of accidents; the event closed the region's largest highway interchange in Springfield, VA, for several hours. Some 35,000 customers lost power from the weight of the ice on tree branches falling onto power lines. Conditions improved overnight as temperatures rose above freezing and the ice changed to heavy rain. Storm totals were 1.44" at BWI, 1.35" at DCA, and 0.82" at IAD. The month's final storm brought a wintry mix on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were generally less than an inch before changing to sleet and rain. About a tenth of an inch of ice was reported in the metro area. Strong winds were observed on the 10th with gusts to 61 mph in Loudoun Heights, VA, and 52 mph at DCA and BWI.

FEBRUARY 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	49.6	32.4	41.0	38.1	+2.9	74/18	16/11	4.17	2.63	+1.54	1.0
Baltimore (BWI)	47.1	27.0	37.1	35.5	+1.6	72/6	13/11	3.80	3.02	+0.78	1.3
Dulles (IAD)	46.7	27.9	37.3	34.8	+2.5	71/6	14/11	2.68	2.77	-0.09	T

WINTER (December-February) Temperature: For the 7th winter out of the past 10, the Washington/Baltimore area experienced above normal temperatures; departures were +3.4 DCA, +1.9 at BWI and +3.0 at IAD. DCA recorded only 7 days in December with subfreezing minimums and none after the 20th. The month's warmest temperatures occurred on December 12 and 23 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 December 5-6 at many locations including BWI and IAD, primarily the result of snowfall on the 5th and snow cover on the 6th. Minimum readings in the suburbs were in the low to mid teens in the 2 days following the snowfall. January's above normal temperatures marked the 4th consecutive time temperatures were above normal across the Washington/Baltimore area for the first month. DCA recording only 6 days in January with highs below 40°F. Additionally, the area observed only 1 day (21st) with highs at or below freezing. All three major airports observed record highs on January 8: 73°F at DCA, and 70°F at BWI and IAD. IAD also observed a record high the following day with a maximum reading of 64°F. The region's coldest minimum temperatures occurred on the 20th and 21st when readings dropped into the single digits and teens. February featured above normal temperatures (see above).

WINTER Precipitation: Near normal precipitation with subnormal snowfall and a significant icing event were observed in the winter of 2007-08. Precipitation totals were near normal at DCA and BWI: 8.32" at DCA (-0.07"); and below normal at 9.30 at BWI (-0.54") and IAD, 6.91" (-1.98). Seasonal snowfall amounts were the least observed since the 2001-2002 winter season with three month totals of 4.9" at DCA, 8.5" at BWI and 6.5" at IAD. After a dry November, December brought normal precipitation. The month featured the most days with measurable precipitation in 2007; all three airports recorded 16 days with at least .01". December 5 marked the first measurable snowfall in the area with between 2"- 6" with the greatest amounts across northern Maryland. The snowfall marked the third time on the past 6 years that the season's first measurable snowfall occurred on Dec. 5th. January brought well below normal precipitation with monthly totals of 1" to 2". DCA marked its driest January since 2004 and BWI and IAD, since 2002. The month's largest storm was also the second significant measurable snowfall for the winter season. On January 17, a wet snow that changed to rain brought totals ranging from 1.3" at DCA to as much as 6.5" in Haymarket (Prince William County), VA. IAD measured 4"; BWI, 2.4". The month's remaining precipitation events totaled less than .25" during the month across most locations. February brought above normal precipitation and two ice storms. The second storm, on the 12th, caused major transportation impacts and hundreds of accidents (see above).

WINTER 2007-2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	48.3	33.5	40.9	37.5	+3.4	74/2-18	16/2-11	8.82	8.89	-0.07	4.9
Baltimore (BWI)	45.5	27.9	36.7	34.8	+1.9	72/2-6	8/1-21	9.30	9.84	-0.54	8.5
Dulles (IAD)	45.6	28.5	37.1	34.1	+3.0	71/1-21, 2-6	7/1-21	6.91	8.89	-1.98	6.5

Looking Ahead to March—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)		