

January 2008

Temperature: For the 4th consecutive January, temperatures were above normal across the Washington/Baltimore area. Positive departures were +5.1°F at DCA, +3.1°F at BWI and +3.8°F at IAD. The month was consistently warm. DCA recording only 6 days with highs below 40°F. Additionally, the area observed only 1 day (21st) with highs at or below freezing. BWI and IAD also recorded subfreezing highs on the 3rd. The months' warmest readings occurred from the 7th-9th as highs soared well into the 60s and 70s. All three major airports observed record highs on the 8th including 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. Minimum readings from the 7th-12th were at or above 40°F at DCA, with lows on the 6th-8th warmer than the average daily high temperatures.

The regions coldest minimum temperatures occurred on the 20th and 21st when readings dropped into the single digits and teens. IAD's low was 7°F on the 21st; Minimum readings at DCA and BWI were 8°F.

Precipitation: The area recorded well below normal precipitation with monthly totals of 1" to 2". The three major airports each recorded less than 1.5". DCA's total of 1.37" (-1.84") was its driest since 2004; BWI's total of 1.47" (-2.00") and IAD total of 1.26" (-1.79") were their driest since 2004 and 2002 respectively. The month's largest storm was also only the second significant measurable snowfall for the winter season. On the 17th, a wet snow that later changed to rain brought varying amounts to the area. Totals ranged from 1.3" at DCA to as much as 6.5" in Haymarket (Prince William County), VA, and 6" in Olney (Montgomery County), MD. IAD measured 4"; BWI observed 2.4". Liquid equivalents from the event were about ¾" across the area. The month's remaining precipitation events totaled were less than .25" during the month across most locations.

Wind: Strong winds impacted the region on the 30th. Gusts to 59 mph were measured in Middletown, (Frederick County), MD, and 58 mph in Martinsburg, WV. The three major airports recorded gusts to 49 mph at BWI, 43 mph at IAD and 39 mph at DCA.

JANUARY 2008 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)	47.6	32.4	40.0	34.9	+5.1	73/8	18/21	1.37	3.21	-1.84	1.3
Baltimore (BWI)	44.5	26.3	35.4	32.3	+3.1	70/8	8/21	1.47	3.47	-2.00	2.4
Dulles (IAD)	44.4	26.5	35.5	31.7	+3.8	71/7	7/21	1.26	3.05	-1.79	4.0

Looking Ahead to February: Warm January = Warm February? Does an unusually warm January yield a warmer than normal February? Below is a list of the 10 warmest Januarys and the corresponding February average temperatures at DCA.

Year	Jan. Avg. Temp. (°F)	Dep. Nml. (°F)	Feb. Avg. Temp. (°F)	Dep. Nml. (°F)
1950	48.0	+13.1	38.7	+0.6
1932	46.8	+11.9	42.9	+4.8
1890	43.8	+8.9	36.6	+5.3
1937	43.8	+8.9	43.4	-1.5
1913	43.6	+8.7	36.6	-1.5
1990	43.6	+8.7	45.2	+7.1
1998	43.0	+8.1	43.4	+5.3
2006	43.0	+8.1	38.6	+0.5
1974	42.9	+8.0	39.2	+1.1
1933	42.6	+7.7	43.8	+0.3
1949	42.6	+7.7	38.4	+5.7