

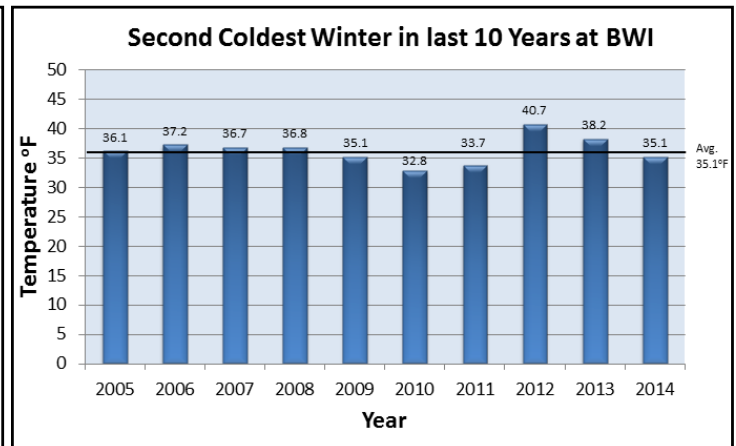
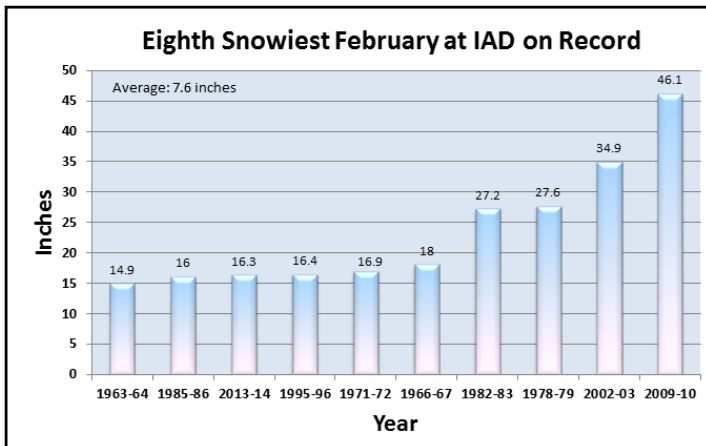


# PRESTO

PREcipitation Summary and Temperature Observations  
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



## FEBRUARY 2014: Major Snow & Ice Storm Along with Tornado WINTER: Warm Start, Frigid Finish, Wet and Snowy



### February Highlights

- Subnormal temperatures: -1.2°F at DCA, -2.9°F at BWI and -4.0°F at IAD
- Minimums at or below 32°F on 27 days at BWI and IAD
- Maximum readings at or below freezing on 5 consecutive days (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>), longest period since 2004 at DCA, 2007 at BWI, and 2003 at IAD
- Well above normal precipitation and snowfall were reported throughout the area including the three major airports. Precipitation totals were 4.02" (+1.40") at DCA, 4.58" (+1.68") at BWI and 3.81" (+1.07") at IAD; Snowfall totals were 11.2" at DCA, 14.2" at BWI and 16.3" at IAD.
- On Feb. 4-5, an ice storm impacted the far northern and western suburbs with significant amounts of freezing rain. Ice accumulations equaled 0.5" near Manchester (Carroll County), 0.4" near Westminster as well as near Frederick, MD. Virginia ice accumulation totals included 0.4" in Purcellville and 0.33" near Leesburg (Loudoun County). Damage was widespread across northern Maryland with numerous reports of downed trees and wires, and loss of power across portions of Frederick, Carroll, Harford and northern Baltimore counties.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the area marked the season's largest snowfall since Snowmageddon, Feb. 5-6, 2010. Totals in Maryland included 26.0" near Glyndon (Baltimore County), 24.8" near Westminster (Carroll County), and 22.2" near Sykesville (Howard County); In D.C., 11.4" accumulated at the Dalecarlia Reservoir; in Virginia, amounts included 22.2" near Round Hill (Loudoun County), 20.7" in Charlottesville, and 16.4" in West Springfield (Fairfax County). Airport totals at IAD were 13.3", BWI, 11.5", and DCA, 7.0".
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, a line of severe thunderstorms raced through Southern Maryland, resulting in tree damage and knocking out some power. One tornado was confirmed in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, rated an EF-0, with wind speeds estimated at 80 mph. The tornado caused intermittent damage along an 18 mile path with a maximum width of 75 yards.

### Winter Highlights

- Subnormal temperatures were reported at all three major airports: -0.8°F at DCA, -1.8°F at BWI and -2.4°F at IAD
- Coldest winter since 2010/11 at DCA, 2010/11 at BWI and tied with 2004/05 at IAD
- Subfreezing highs at DCA on 9 days, BWI and IAD, 21 days
- Minimums below 10°F at DCA on 2 days, at BWI on 10 days, and IAD, 12 days
- BWI low temperature of 62°F on Dec. 22 was the warmest minimum ever recorded on any day during the winter season (Dec. 1-Feb. 28-29). IAD minimum low of 62°F was its warmest record in December and tied with January 8, 1998, as its warmest during the winter season
- An intense cold wave occurred from Jan 22-26 with subfreezing temperatures throughout the period; longest period with maximum readings at or below 32°F in Washington and at IAD since 2007, and at BWI since 2005
- Jan. 22 was especially frigid; record minimum maximum high temperatures occurred at DCA (19°F) and at BWI and IAD (15°F). First maximum temperature below 20°F in Washington since January 16, 1994

## February 2014

**Temperatures:** February continued January's trend with subnormal temperatures. It was the first such occurrence since 2004 when both January and February temperatures were subnormal at the three major airports. Negative departures were -1.2°F at DCA, -2.9°F at BWI and -4.0°F at IAD. DCA measured 2 days with highs at or below freezing. BWI and IAD, 6 such days, including 5 consecutive days from the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, longest period since since 2007 at BWI and since 2003 at IAD. Minimum readings were consistently cold. BWI and IAD recorded all but 1 day (23<sup>rd</sup>) with minimums at or below freezing. Minimums were below 20°F on 5 days at BWI and IAD, a record low. Arctic air on the 28<sup>th</sup> resulted in a record low of 10°F and record minimum max. of 28°F. The month did feature a few warm days. DCA recorded 5 days with highs at or above 60°F, including 69°F on the 21<sup>st</sup>, BWI recorded 3 such days and IAD, 2.

**Precipitation:** The area recorded well above normal precipitation and snowfall. Precipitation totals at were 4.02" (+1.40") at DCA, 4.58" (+1.68") at BWI and 3.81" (+1.07") at IAD. Snowfall totals were 11.2" at DCA, 14.2" at BWI and 16.3" at IAD, most at all three airports since February 2010. The month's first major event began as heavy rain in the early morning hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> then changed to a heavy wet snow north and west of the cities, mainly in Maryland. Precipitation totals, mainly rain, in Virginia included 2.50" near Somerset (Orange County) and 1.41" near Fairfax Station (Fairfax County), while in Maryland totals included 1.22" near Odenton (Anne Arundel County). Airports precipitation totals were 1.48" at DCA, 1.34" at BWI and 1.33" at IAD. Snowfall amounts included 6.9" near Lineboro (Carroll County) and 6.0" in Sabillasville (Frederick County), MD. Then on the 4<sup>th</sup> into the 5<sup>th</sup>, an ice storm impacted the far northern and western suburbs with significant amounts of freezing rain. Ice accumulations equaled 0.5" near Manchester (Carroll County), 0.4" near Westminster and Frederick, MD. Virginia ice accumulation totals included 0.4" in Purcellville and 0.33" near Leesburg (Loudoun County). Damage was widespread across northern Maryland with numerous reports of downed trees and wires causing power loss of power across portions of Frederick, Carroll, Harford and northern Baltimore counties.

The season's largest snowfall since Snowmageddon Feb 5-6, 2010, began during the evening on the 13<sup>th</sup>, became heavy at times overnight, briefly changed to rain at dawn before ending as snow by evening. Totals in Maryland included 26.0" near Glyndon (Baltimore County), 24.8" near Westminster (Carroll County), 22.2" near Sykesville (Howard County); in D.C., 11.4" was measured the Dalecarlia Reservoir, and in Virginia, amounts included 22.2" near Round Hill (Loudoun County), 20.7" in Charlottesville, and 16.4" in West Springfield (Fairfax County). Airport totals were 13.3" at IAD, 11.5" at BWI and 7.0" at DCA.

The month also included spring like severe weather. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, a line of severe thunderstorms raced through Southern MD resulting in tree damage and knocking out some power from downed wires. One EF-0 tornado was confirmed in St. Mary's and Calvert Counties rated with wind speeds estimated at 80 mph. The tornado caused intermittent damage along an 18 mile path with its maximum width of 75 yards.

### February 2014 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				YTD
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	
National (DCA)	45.9	29.8	37.8	39.0	-1.2	69/21	14/28	4.02	2.68	+1.40	11.2	6.60
Baltimore (BWI)	41.7	24.1	32.9	35.8	-2.9	63/21	11/28	4.58	2.90	+1.68	14.2	7.29
Dulles (IAD)	41.5	22.9	32.2	36.2	-4.0	62/22	10/28	3.81	2.74	+1.07	16.3	6.50

**Winter (Dec-Feb) Temperatures:** Subnormal temperatures were reported at all three major airports. Negative departures were -1.2°F at DCA, -2.9°F at BWI and -4.0°F at IAD. It was the coldest winter since 2010/11 at DCA, 2010/11 at BWI, and tied with 2004/05 at IAD. December was warm. Records were broken or tied at all three airports on Dec 21-22 with maximum readings of 72°F at DCA, 71°F at BWI and 70°F/71°F at IAD. BWI low temp of 62°F was the warmest minimum ever recorded on any day during the winter season (Dec. 1-Feb.28, 29). IAD's low of 62°F was its warmest minimum on record in December and tied with January 8, 1998, as its warmest during the winter season. DCA's minimum of 57°F on the Dec. 22 broke a daily record. In sharp contrast, the area marked several days when highs held in the 30s. January was cold. The area measured its longest period with maximum readings at or below 32°F in Washington and at IAD since 2007 and at BWI since 2005. DCA measured a record minimum max. temperature on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 19°F, and BWI and IAD, 15°F. Wind chill readings at Flint (Frederick County), MD, dropped to a bone chilling -26°F. IAD reported 11 days with minimums below 10°F, including -2°F on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a daily record of 1°F on the 7<sup>th</sup>; BWI reported 10 days with minimums below 10°F, including 3°F on the 7<sup>th</sup> (daily record) and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. February continued cold (see monthly summary).

**Winter Precipitation:** Above normal precipitation and snowfall highlighted the 2013-14 winter season. DCA's precipitation total of 12.13" was its greatest since the winter of 2003; BWI's total, 12.56" and IAD total 12.08 was their largest since 2010. Winter snowfall totals were 19.3" at DCA, 26.9" at BWI and 33.0" at IAD, the most since winter of 2009-10. DCA recorded its 9<sup>th</sup> wettest December on record and 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest in past 20 years. The first winter storm of the season occurred Dec. 8, with up to 9" of snow north and west of Washington and in downtown Baltimore and up to .3" of ice and freezing rain. On Dec. 10, a second snow event brought up to 6" north and west of the major cities. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, a third winter storm again resulted in up to 4" of snow north and west of the metro area, mainly in Maryland. January precipitation was near normal but was the snowiest month since January 2011 at DCA and BWI and since February 2010 at IAD. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a steady wet snowfall developed late in the day before ending late evening with totals up to 7.5" in Maryland and up to 4.5" in Virginia. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Scarboro, MD, measured 11.2" of snow and in Virginia, IAD measured 8.5", 4<sup>th</sup> largest total in January at IAD. Finally, on the 28<sup>th</sup> into the 29<sup>th</sup>, a winter storm brought up to 6.7" of heavy snowfall across Southern Maryland. Ice was also an problem north and west of Washington and Baltimore on the 5<sup>th</sup>, including 0.25" in Leesburg, VA. February continued wet and snowy (see monthly summary).

### Winter 2014 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	45.5	29.4	37.4	38.2	-0.8	72/12-21,12-22	6/1-7	12.13	8.48	+3.65	19.3
Baltimore (BWI)	42.0	24.5	33.3	35.1	-1.8	71/12-21,12-22	3/1-7,1-23	12.56	9.32	+3.24	26.9
Dulles (IAD)	42.1	23.6	32.9	35.3	-2.4	72/12-22	2/1-23	12.08	8.38	+3.70	33.0

**Looking Ahead to March**—a month of extremes. Below is a list of some notable March statistics for Washington since 1871.

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: 2012	Avg. Temp.: 56.8°F	Dep. Nml.: +9°F	Driest: 2006	Tot. Prec.: 0.05"	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)		