

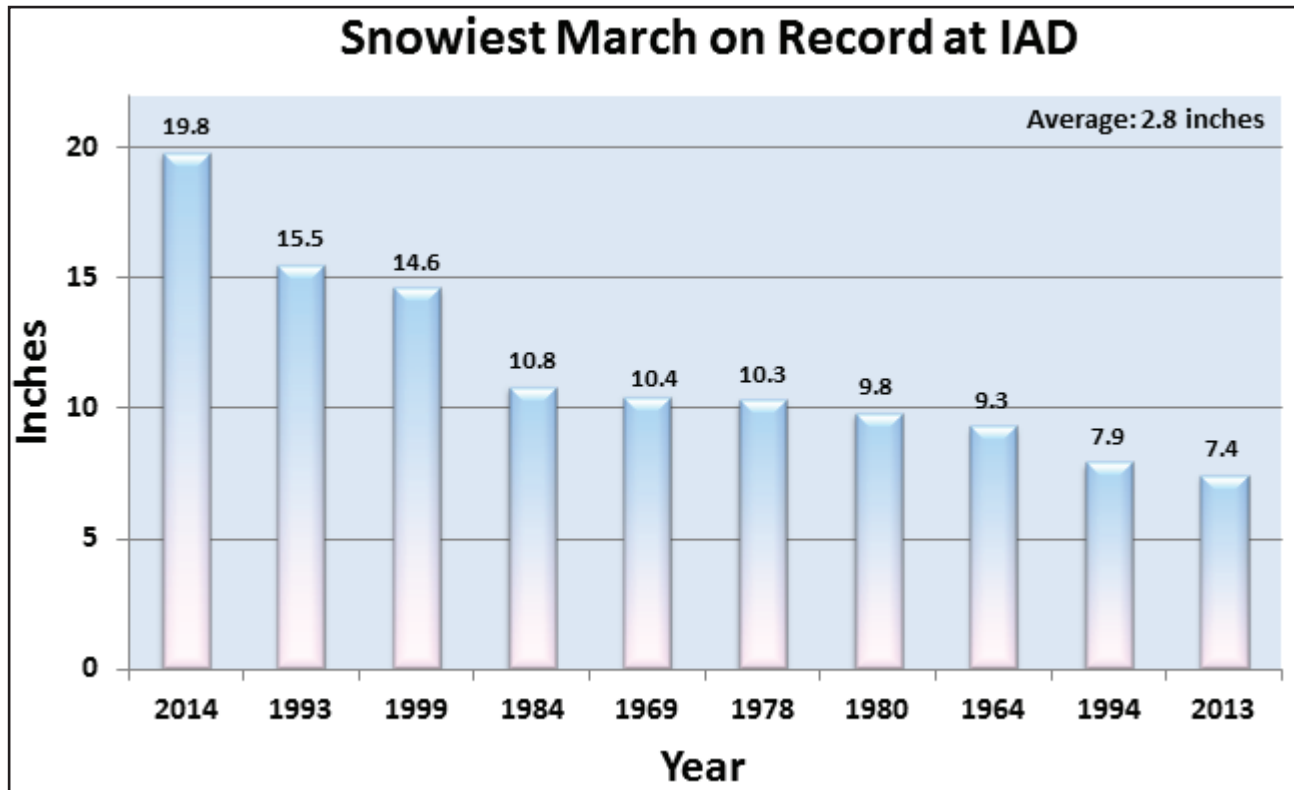


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH 2014: Cold And Snowy



### March Highlights

- Well below normal temperatures: DCA,  $-3.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; BWI,  $-5.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; IAD,  $-6.8^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Coldest March on record at IAD with an average temperature of  $37.4^{\circ}\text{F}$
- BWI and IAD observed a record low maximum of  $29^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 4<sup>th</sup>
- On the 4<sup>th</sup>, minimums bottomed out at  $14^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA, equaling its coldest March temperature since 1945;  $4^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI, coldest temperature on record for March and  $-1^{\circ}\text{F}$  at IAD, equaling Mar 15, 1993, for its coldest March reading
- Well above normal snowfall: 12.7" at DCA, most since 1960; 12.1" at BWI, most since 1993; and 19.8" at IAD most on record, breaking the previous record in 1993; IAD seasonal snowfall total 52.8" was its third greatest on record
- Major snowstorm 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> with totals generally ranging 7"-10" across the area: greatest amounts in Virginia included 13.7" in Haywood (Madison County) and 11.1" at IAD; in Maryland, highest amounts were 11.0" in Hillandale (Montgomery County) and 9.9" near Simpsonville (Howard County); in DC, 8.0" near Anacostia
- Soaking rains on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> totaled 2"-3" in most areas, resulting in reports of flooded roads and high water levels on rivers and streams in Maryland, particularly the Monocacy River near Walkersville (Frederick County) and Gunpowder Falls in Glencoe (Baltimore County). Greatest amounts in Maryland included 3.79" near Millers, (Carroll County), 3.00" near Damascus (Montgomery County) and 2.75" in West Springfield, VA (Fairfax County). The rain changed to wet snow during the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup> with heavy accumulation in elevated locations across parts of northern Maryland in Carroll County, including 9.0" near Manchester and 8.5" near Lineboro.

## March 2014

**Temperatures:** The first month of meteorological spring felt more like the fourth winter month. Temperatures sunk to record lows. Negative departures at the three airports were  $-3.9^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA, coldest since 1996;  $-5.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI and  $-6.8^{\circ}\text{F}$  at IAD, surpassing 1984 as its coldest March on record with an average temperature of  $37.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ . IAD reported 7 days with maximum readings in the 30s, including a record low maximum of  $39^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 24<sup>th</sup>; DCA and BWI recorded 6 such days. BWI's maximum of  $36^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 26<sup>th</sup> was a record low maximum temperature. Bitterly cold temperatures occurred through the month. Highs on the 4<sup>th</sup> reached just  $29^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI and IAD, a record for the date. Highs on St. Patrick's Day stayed below freezing at all three major airports; IAD marked a record low maximum of  $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Arctic air lead to numerous record lows. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, minimums bottomed out at  $14^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA, equaling DCA's coldest March temperature since 1945;  $4^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI, its coldest temperature on record for March, and  $-1^{\circ}\text{F}$  at IAD, equaling March 15, 1993, for IAD's lowest March reading. IAD low dipped to  $1^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a record and  $9^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 5<sup>th</sup>; BWI marked a frigid  $5^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a record for date. IAD set more record lows on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>,  $19^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $15^{\circ}\text{F}$  respectively; BWI tied a record low on the 27<sup>th</sup>, sinking to  $20^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

The month did bring some hints of spring. DCA recording 10 days with highs  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$  or greater, 9 such days at BWI and 7 at IAD. DCA's monthly high occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a  $73^{\circ}\text{F}$  reading.

**Precipitation:** Precipitation was above average for the month with totals over 4" at the three major airports: DCA, 4.26" (+0.78"); BWI, 4.38" (+0.48"); IAD, 4.10" (+0.72"). Snowfall also was well above normal: DCA, 12.7"; BWI, 12.1"; and IAD a record breaking 19.8" (most since 1993). The month featured four winter storms. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, rain began in the afternoon, changed to snow overnight and ended the next day. Snowfall generally ranged from 3"-5". In Virginia, greatest amounts included 8.5" near Ashburn (Loudoun County) and Nokesville (Prince William County); in Maryland, highest amounts were 8.3" near Clarksburg (Montgomery County), 6.0" in Nanjmoj (Charles County) and also in DC, near American University. The month's largest snowstorm occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> when snow arrived late in the day, continued heavily overnight, before ending the following afternoon. Snowfall totals generally ranged from 7"-10". The greatest amounts in Virginia included 13.7" in Haywood (Madison County) and 11.1" at IAD, while in Maryland, highest amounts were 11.0" in Hillandale (Montgomery County) and 9.9" near Simpsonville (Howard County); in DC, 8.0" fell near Anacostia. More snow fell on the 25<sup>th</sup> (same date as in 2013) but did not stick on most roads mainly due to the high sun angle. Highest totals included 4.5" in Opal (Fauquier County), VA, and 3.6" near Norbeck, (Montgomery County) MD. On the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, a final storm brought soaking rains totaling about 2"-3", flooding some roads and swelling rivers and streams, particularly the Monocacy River near Walkersville (Frederick County) and Gunpowder Falls in Glencoe (Baltimore County), MD. Greatest amounts were 3.79" near Millers, (Carroll County), MD, and 2.75" in West Springfield (Fairfax County), VA. The rain changed to wet snow during the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup> with heavy snow in elevated areas of northern Maryland: 9.0" near Manchester and 8.5" near Lineboro, Carroll County.

The month also featured strong winds on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Wind gusts were measured at 61 mph at IAD, 54 mph near Baileys Crossroads in Alexandria, VA, and near Germantown, (Montgomery County) MD, 53 mph at BWI and 52 mph at DCA.

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

Location	Station Temperatures ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				YTD
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	
National (DCA)	52.2	33.5	42.9	46.8	-3.9	73/22	14/4	4.26	3.48	+0.78	12.7	10.86
Baltimore (BWI)	48.8	28.1	38.5	43.6	-5.1	69/22	4/4	4.38	3.90	+0.48	12.1	11.67
Dulles (IAD)	48.3	26.5	37.4	44.2	-6.8	69/22	-1/4	4.10	3.38	+0.72	19.8	10.60

**Looking Ahead to April:** Last freeze at DCA and IAD. April is usually the last month before autumn when Washington records a  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  or lower reading. The city has never recorded a freezing reading in May, although suburban areas have. Below is a list of the last  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  or lower readings at DCA and IAD for the last 10 years.

DCA: Last $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ or lower reading				IAD: Last $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ or lower reading			
2013	April 4 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2008	March 9 ( $29^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2013	April 4 ( $22^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2008	April 16 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
2012	March 6 ( $29^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2007	April 9 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2012	April 25 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2007	April 11 ( $28^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
2011	March 28 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2006	March 23 ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2011	April 6 ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2006	April 10 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
2010	Feb. 27 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )*	2005	March 18 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2010	April 18 ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2005	April 17 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
2009	March 24 ( $28^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2004	April 5 ( $31^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2009	April 13 ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	2004	April 16 ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

\*Earliest last freeze in DCA's recorded history.