

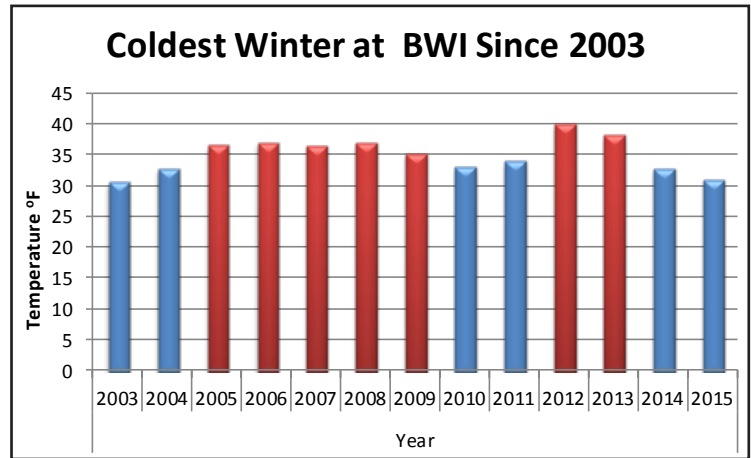
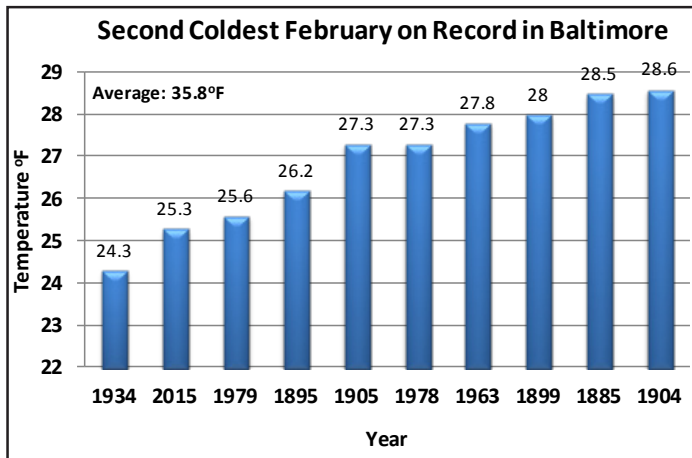


PRESTO

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



FEBRUARY 2015: Record Cold with Numerous Snow Events WINTER: Second Consecutive Winter with Above Average Snowfall, Below Average Temperatures



February Highlights

- Coldest February since 1934 in Baltimore and since 1979 at DCA and IAD; Negative departures were -8.7°F at DCA, -10.5°F at BWI and -10.8°F at IAD
- Coldest month at BWI (avg. temp., 25.3°F) and IAD (avg. temp. 23.1°F) since December 1989 and at DCA since January 1994 (avg temp, 28.8°F)
- DCA's minimum temperature of 5°F on the 20th was the lowest temperature in Washington since February 5, 1996; BWI's 1°F minimum tied January 19, 1997. IAD recorded 7 consecutive days (15th-21st) with minimums below 10°F, longest such period since 1989, while its monthly minimum of -4°F on the 24th was the coldest since February 6, 1996
- Second consecutive February with above normal snowfall for the first time since 2006-07. Monthly total at DCA, 9.8"; BWI, 14.6", IAD, 16.1"
- On 16th-17th, 4"-6" snow reported in the metro area with heavier amounts south and east of Washington. Highest amounts were 9.0" in Oakville (St. Mary's County), MD, and 8.3" near Spotsylvania (Spotsylvania County), VA.
- On the 21st, heavy snowfall especially north and west of the I-95 corridor; largest of the season in those locations. Greatest totals included 13.0" in Damascus (Montgomery County), MD, and 12.0" in Jefferson (Frederick County), MD, while in Virginia, 13.8" was measured near Lucketts (Loudoun County) and 12.0" in Culpeper. The immediate metro area measured generally 4"-7".

Winter Highlights

- Subnormal temperatures at DCA, -1.7°F; BWI, -3.1°F; and IAD, -4.2°F
- Coldest winter since 2003 at BWI and at IAD (see graphic above), since 2010 at DCA
- DCA recorded 11 winter days with maximum temperatures at or below freezing; BWI, 16; IAD, 15
- IAD logged 14 days with minimums at or below 10°F; BWI, 12; DCA, 2
- On Dec. 8th, icing conditions occurred in some areas outside the I-95 corridor during the late evening before changing to rain. Largest ice accumulations in Virginia were 0.31" near Woosley (Prince William County) and 0.2" in Opal (Fauquier County); in Maryland, 0.25" was measured in Mt. Airy (Carroll County), and 0.2" near Damascus (Montgomery County)
- Intense cold from the Jan. 6-8 along with biting northwest winds resulted in wind chill values 0°F to -10°F; maximum readings on the 7th and 8th were 22°F and 21°F at IAD and 24°F and 22°F at BWI; minimum readings dropped to 3°F at IAD and 6°F at BWI on the 8th
- The season's first measurable snowfall of greater than 1 inch occurred on Jan. 6. Snow started before the morning commute and caused hazardous road conditions as well as some school delays and closures. Total accumulation was 2"-4" across the area. The highest totals in Virginia were 5.0" near Middleburg (Loudoun County) and 4.8" near Woolsey (Prince William County); in Maryland, 4.1" accumulated in Severn (Anne Arundel County), near Emmitsburg (Frederick County) and near White Oak (Montgomery County); in D.C., 4.0" blanketed the U.S. Capitol; IAD measured 4.2", a daily record; DCA, 2.4", and BWI 2.3"
- On Jan. 18, light freezing rain coated roads across northern Maryland, resulting in a 49 vehicle pileup in northern Howard County and one reported fatality in Harford County

February 2015

Temperatures: Near unprecedented cold penetrated the region throughout the second half of the month resulting in one of the coldest Februaries on record. Negative departures were -8.7°F at DCA, -10.5°F at BWI and -10.8°F at IAD resulting in the coldest February since 1934 in Baltimore (see graphic) and since 1979 at DCA and IAD. It was also the coldest month at BWI (avg. temp. 25.3°F) and at IAD (avg. temp. 23.1°F) since December 1989 and at DCA since January 1994 (avg. temp. 28.8°F). DCA recorded 7 days at or below 32°F, BWI, 10; IAD, 9, the most in February since 1979. Minimum temperatures were frigid as well: IAD logged 14 days with minimums at or below 10°F; BWI, 12; DCA, 2. DCA's minimum temperature of 5°F on the 20th was the lowest temperature in Washington since February 5, 1996; BWI 1°F minimum was its coldest since January 19, 1997, which it tied. IAD recorded 7 consecutive days (15th-21st) with minimums below 10°F, its longest such period since 1989, while its monthly minimum of -4°F on the 24th was the coldest since Feb. 6, 1996. IAD also set record lows on 5 days and established 5 new lows for maximum temperature; BWI tied or broke record lows on 4 days and equaled or set new lows for maximum temperature on 4 days. Winds accompanying the cold lead to wind chill values of -5°F areawide on the 13th. BWI and IAD reported minimum readings at or below 32°F every day, their first such occurrence since 2007 at BWI, and since 1978 at IAD. In sharp contrast, on the 8th, DCA equaled a record high for the date, 68°F.

Precipitation: Numerous winter weather events produced above normal snowfall as well as consecutive Februaries with above normal totals for the first time since 2006-07. Monthly totals were 9.8" at DCA, 14.6" at BWI and 16.1" at IAD. Despite the snow, precipitation totals were subnormal: DCA, 1.68" (-0.94"), BWI, 2.24" (-0.66") and IAD, 1.76" (-0.98"). On the evening of the 9th, freezing rain resulted in 0.15" of ice near Park Hall (St. Mary's County), MD, and 0.13" in Cockeysville (Baltimore County), MD.

On Valentine's evening, a sudden blast of Arctic air led to brief heavy snow squalls and a flash freeze, icy roads, numerous traffic accidents and lengthy travel delays, according to press reports. Highest snowfall amounts in Maryland were 4.1" near Simpsonville (Howard County) and 3.0" near Laurel (Anne Arundel County).

On the 16th-17th, a steady snow fell from late afternoon thru the overnight, resulting in about 4"-6" in the metro area with heavier amounts south and east of DC. The highest amounts were 9.0" in Oakville (St. Mary's County), MD, and 8.3" near Spotsylvania (Spotsylvania County), VA.

On the 21st, heavy snow changed to sleet and ice across the metro area and south and east during the evening and then rain overnight, reducing snowfall totals in these locations; the precipitation remained mostly snow north and west of I-95 corridor leading to the heaviest snowfall of the season in those areas. The greatest totals were 13.0" in Damascus (Montgomery County), MD, and 12.0" in Jefferson (Frederick County), MD; while in Virginia, 13.8" was measured near Lucketts (Loudoun County) and 12.0" in Culpeper, VA. The immediate metro area measured generally 4"-7" and just 2.5" at DCA. Ice accumulated south and east of DC, including 0.25" in Maryland near Lothian (Anne Arundel County), MD, and 0.20" near Dentsville (Charles County), MD. The month's final snowfall occurred overnight into the morning hours on the 26th with 2"-3" across the DC-Baltimore area with greater amounts south and east, including 6.6" in Ridge (St. Mary's County), MD, and 6.0" near Shiloh (King George County), VA.

On the 15th, powerful winds gusted to 68 mph near Germantown (Montgomery County), MD, and 61 mph near Dahlgren, VA, when a thrust of Arctic air entered the region.

February 2015 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	Yr. to Date	Snow
National (DCA)	39.1	21.5	30.3	39.0	-8.7	68/8	5/20	1.68	2.62	-0.94	5.41	9.8
Baltimore (BWI)	35.1	15.6	25.3	35.8	-10.5	55/8	1/20	2.24	2.90	-0.66	6.13	14.6
Dulles (IAD)	35.7	15.0	25.4	36.2	-10.8	60/8	-4/24	1.76	2.74	-0.98	5.02	16.1

Winter (Dec-Feb) Temperatures: It was the coldest winter since 2003 at BWI and IAD and since 2010 at DCA. Subnormal seasonal readings at DCA, -1.7°F; BWI, -3.1°F; and at IAD, -4.2°F. December started the season with well-above normal readings. DCA set a record with only 4 days at or below 32°F. Readings soared to 70°F on Dec 1 at DCA and IAD, 69°F at BWI. BWI recorded 4 days of highs 60°F or greater and DCA, 3 such days. January brought several Arctic intrusions, including a 3-day stretch Jan. 6-8. Intense cold and biting northwest winds resulted in wind chill values of 0°F to -10°F. Maximum readings on the 7th and 8th were 22°F and 21°F at IAD and 24°F and 22°F at BWI. Minimum readings dropped to 3°F at IAD and 6°F at BWI on the 8th. February brought record cold (see monthly summary above).

Winter Precipitation: The season featured below normal precipitation at all three major airports: DCA, 8.48" (-0.43"); BWI, 9.32" (-0.39") and IAD, 8.38" (-0.30). Winter snowfall at DCA, 14.9" (+1.3"). BWI, 23.4" (+5.6) and IAD, 27.4" (+9.0). On Dec. 9, a rain event turned to ice outside the I-95 corridor with highest accumulation 0.31" at Woosley (Prince William County), VA, and 0.25" in Mt. Airy (Carroll County), MD. Further west, precipitation began as snow with 2.0" at Mount Solon, (Augusta County), VA. Some light snowfall was reported in Maryland on the 11th with 1.0" near Upper Falls (Baltimore County) and in Pleasant Hills (Harford County). It was the wettest January since 1999 at BWI and since 2006 at DCA, although snowfall was below normal at DCA, 3.6" (-2.0"), and at BWI, 5.9" (-0.9"); IAD was above normal, 8.7" (+1.3"). January featured 5 winter weather events. On Jan 6, the area marked it's first snowfall of an inch or more. On Jan. 18, light freezing rain resulted in a 49 vehicle pileup in northern Howard County and one reported fatality in Harford County. On the 21st, another snow event occurred with road temperature above freezing and only minor impacts. Highest totals were 3.8" near Damascus, (Montgomery County), MD, and 3.5" near Countryside, (Loudoun County), VA. February was snowy (see monthly summary above).

Winter 2014-15 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Seasonal Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Month-Day		Seasonal Precipitation (inches)				
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	
National (DCA)	43.8	29.2	36.5	38.2	-1.7	72/12-21,22	5/2-20	8.91	8.48	-0.43	14.9	
Baltimore (BWI)	40.3	23.6	32.0	35.1	-3.1	71/12-21,22	1/2-20	9.71	9.32	-0.39	23.4	
Dulles (IAD)	39.8	22.4	31.1	35.3	-4.2	71/12-22	-4/2-24	8.28	8.38	-0.30	27.4	

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)		