

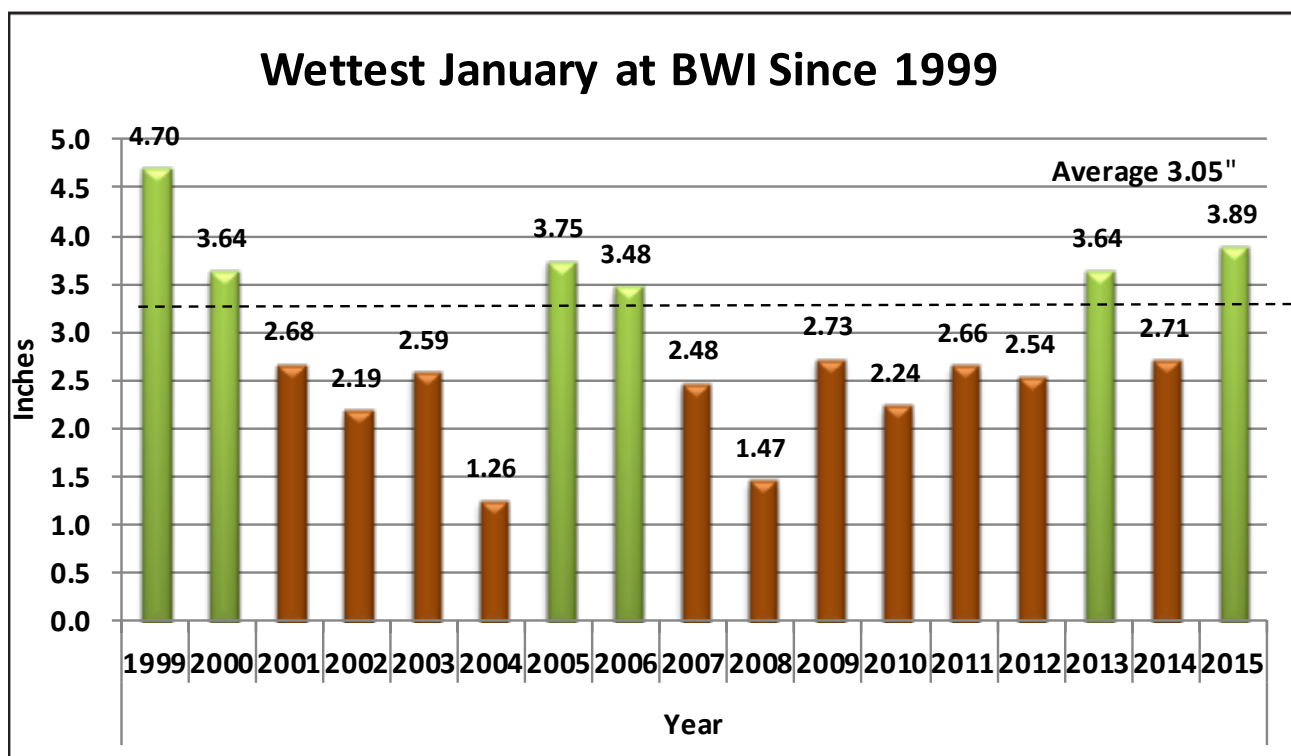


PRESTO

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



January 2015: Cold and Wet with Several Light to Moderate Snowfalls



January Highlights

- ☛ Slightly below to well below normal readings were recorded at the three major airports: DCA, -0.4°F; BWI, -2.1°F; IAD -3.5°F
- ☛ Intense cold from the 6th-8th 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
- ☛ IAD reported its first consecutive above normal snowfalls in January since 1987-88
- ☛ The season's first measurable snowfall of greater than 1 inch occurred on the 6th. 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 (Ann 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 the 18th, 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

January 2015

Temperatures: The three major airports recorded slightly below to well below normal readings for the month: DCA, -0.4°F; BWI, -2.1°F; IAD, -3.5°F. Arctic air pushed into the region several times including a 3-day stretch from the 6th-8th. 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. For the month, BWI reported 6 days at or below 32°F, IAD, 5; and DCA, 4. Minimum reading plummeted into the single digits on 4 days at IAD and 2 at BWI. IAD recorded only 2 days with minimum readings above freezing while BWI observed 3 such days.

The month's warmest day was the 4th, when highs soared to 60°F or greater, including 67°F at DCA. DCA recorded 4 more days in January with highs at or above 50°F.

Precipitation: Monthly totals were above normal at the three major airports: DCA, 3.73" (+0.92"); BWI, 3.89" (+0.84"); and IAD, 3.26" (+0.58"). It was the wettest January since 1999 at BWI (see cover) and since 2006 at DCA. Snowfall was below normal at DCA, 3.6" (-2.0"), and at BWI, 5.9" (-0.9") but above normal at IAD, 8.7" (+1.3"). IAD reported its first consecutive above normal snowfalls in January since 1987-88.

The first storm system of 2015 occurred on the 3rd- 4th, bringing a soaking rain. The greatest totals were 1.34" in Columbia (Howard County), MD, and 1.14" in Leesburg (Loudoun County), VA. The season's first measurable snowfall of greater than 1 inch occurred on the 6th. Snow started before the morning commute and with temperatures below freezing, caused hazardous road conditions and resulted in school delays and closures. Snowfall accumulated 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, highest totals were 4.1" in Severn (Ann Arundel County), near Emmitsburg (Frederick County) and near White Oak (Montgomery County) and in D.C., 4.0" blanketed the U.S. Capitol. IAD set a new daily record, 4.2"; DCA measured 2.4", BWI 2.3".

The next system brought about 0.75" rain to most of the area on the 11th-12th. In some areas, the precipitation began as freezing rain. Highest ice totals were .13" near Westminster (Carroll County) and in Bluemont (Loudoun County), VA. Greatest rainfall amount was 1.15" in Hollywood, (St. Mary's County), MD.

On the 18th, 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. 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.

The month's greatest precipitation event occurred on the 23rd-24th when wet snow changed to freezing rain in some areas and then rain throughout the region. Rainfall totals were greater than 1 inch with 1.50" measured in Pasadena (Ann Arundel County), MD; 1.20" at Franconia (Fairfax County), VA; and 1.12" in D.C.

The month's final noteworthy snowfall occurred on the 26th-27th. The event started as rain then changed to wet snow. Roads surfaces were above freezing for most of this event although slippery road were common after the storm when temperatures plummeted well below freezing. Highest snowfall totals were 4.2" in Bluemont, VA, and 4.0" near Frederick and Point of Rocks, (Frederick County), MD.

The area felt strong winds on the 5th and 30th with gusts to 51 mph in Polar Spring (Howard County), MD, on the 5th and 47 mph at IAD on the 30th.

January 2015 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	42.6	28.5	35.6	36.0	-0.4	67/4	12/8	3.73	2.81	+0.92	3.6
Baltimore (BWI)	38.8	22.8	30.8	32.9	-2.1	62/4	6/8	3.89	3.05	+0.84	5.9
Dulles (IAD)	38.1	21.3	29.7	33.2	-3.5	60/4	3/8	3.26	2.68	+0.58	8.7

Looking Ahead: *Cold January = Cold February?* After experiencing another colder than normal January in Washington, what does the final month of meteorological winter have in store? Below is a look at the most recent 10 Januaries with subnormal average temperatures and subsequent February temperatures (Feb. DCA Average: 39.0°F).

Year	2015	2014	2011	2010	2009	2004	2003	2001	2000	1996
January	35.6	32.2	33.7	35.3	31.7	30.6	31.1	35.5	35.9	32.9
February	?	39.0	41.8	34.2	39.8	38.2	33.7	40.9	42.5	37.3