

JANUARY 1993: Above normal temperatures and subnormal snowfall prevailed across the Washington/ Baltimore area for the fifth consecutive January. There were no prolonged cold spells so typical of January due to an atypical displacement of the jet stream which kept the most frigid air across the western and central U.S. There were no record daily highs reported at DCA, but consistently above normal minimum temperatures (only 4 nights were below normal) contributed to monthly departures greater than +5°F. Lows never dropped below 20°F at DCA, nor did IAD record any single digit readings, with the latter location observing the third warmest January on record. In addition, there was only one calendar day (midnight–midnight) when the mercury remained at or below freezing at DCA, well below the normal of 5 days. There were 25 days (81%) when daily readings were at or above normal at DCA and highs topped 60°F four times.

Precipitation was near normal at most of the airports (only BWI recorded subnormal amounts); however, snowfall was much below normal at all five locations. Enough Arctic air infiltrated the area on the 9th and 10th to change rain to snow, but only a trace was measured at DCA while up to 3 inches fell north and west of the city. Brief and heavy showers soaked the region on the 5th, producing more than an inch of rain across much of the area. Measurable precipitation fell on six consecutive days (8th – 13th), often accompanied by dense fog. There were 21 days with cloud cover, including a spate of 6 consecutive sun-less days from the 8th through the 13th. For the winter-to-date, there have been 45 (73%) cloudy days observed at DCA; however, mid and late month periods of relatively mild and dry weather yielded several days of sunshine.

JANUARY 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extremes/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	46.8	32.5	39.7	34.6	+5.1	65/4*	22/20#	2.90	2.72	+0.18	T
Baltimore (BWI)	45.7	30.0	37.9	31.8	+6.1	66/4	19/30	2.73	3.05	-0.32	1.4
Dulles (IAD)	45.3	28.2	36.8	30.6	+6.2	65/31	13/20	2.72	2.70	+0.02	3.2
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	45.7	28.5	37.1	32	+5	65/4*	16/20	3.46	2.8	+0.7	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	45.6	29.8	37.7	34	+4	65/4	18/20	3.15	3.1	+0.1	2.1

Other dates of occurrence: * January 5th; # January 30th; Normals Period 1961–1990 only for DCA, BWI, and IAD.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY: *Subnormal Winter (Dec.–Feb.) snowfall again!*

For the last 4 winters, DCA has recorded below normal snowfall. With only an inch of snow observed during the first two months of this winter, will this season produce the same result? Below is a list of the 10 least snowiest winters in Washington since snowfall records began in 1888. The normal (1961–1990) winter snowfall at DCA is 14.4”.

<u>Winter Season</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1972–1973	0	Trace	0.1”	0.1”
1949–1950	Trace	0.3”	Trace	0.3”
1931–1932	1.0”	Trace	Trace	1.0”
1992–1993	1.0”	Trace	?	?
1975–1976	0.4”	0.1”	0.9”	1.4”
1889–1890	0	Trace	1.5”	1.5”
1895–1896	1.2”	0.2”	0.1”	1.5”
1926–1927	1.0”	0.3”	1.0”	2.3”
1968–1969	Trace	0.2”	2.2”	2.4”
1930–1931	2.5”	Trace	Trace	2.5”
1937–1938	Trace	1.5”	1.4”	2.9”