

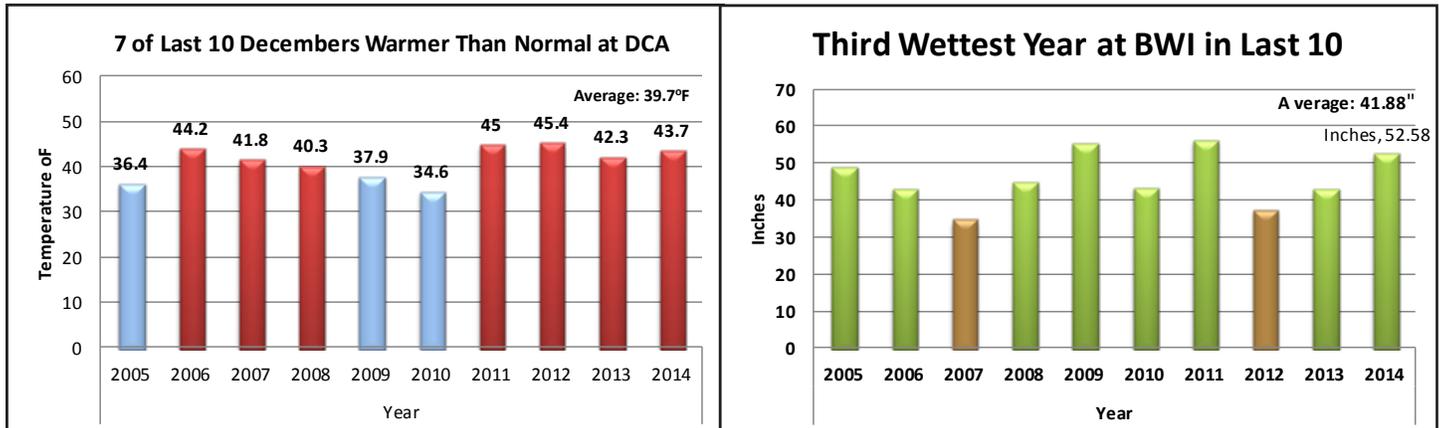


PRESTO

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



December 2014: Above Normal Temperatures/Little Snow Annual: Cool with Above Normal Precipitation and Snow



December Highlights

- Well-above normal readings: Positive departures were +4.0°F at DCA, +3.2°F at BWI and +1.7°F at IAD
- DCA set a record of only 4 days with minimums at or below 32°F for the month
- Monthly low 29°F at DCA, 21°F at BWI, and 19°F at IAD
- Precipitation was slightly above normal at the three major airports Monthly totals were 3.50" at DCA (+0.45"); 3.58" at BWI (+ 0.21"); and 3.26" at IAD (+0.30")
- Icing conditions in some areas outside the I-95 corridor during the late evening on the 8th before changing to rain. Largest ice accumulations in VA were 0.31" near Woosley (Prince William County), 0.2" in Opal (Fauquier County) while in MD 0.25" was measured in Mt. Airy (Carroll County), and 0.2" near Damascus (Montgomery County)

Annual Seasonal Highlights

- Near normal to subnormal annual temperatures: DCA and BWI, +0.3°F, -2.5°F at IAD
- Above normal precipitation: 44.41" at DCA (+4.67"); 52.58" at BWI (+10.70"); 46.07" at IAD (+4.63")
- Well above average snowfall: DCA, 30.5" (+15.1"); BWI, 36.6", (+16.5"); IAD, 49.7" at IAD (+27.7"); Snowiest year since 2010 at DCA, BWI, IAD
- Intense cold wave January 22-26 with subfreezing temperatures; longest period with maximum readings at or below 32°F in Washington and at IAD since 2007, since 2005 at BWI
- On February 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), MD; and 0.4" in Purcellville, VA
- Maximum readings at or below freezing on 5 consecutive days (Feb. 8-12), longest period since 2004 at DCA, 2007 at BWI, and 2003 at IAD
- On the February 13th, the area marked the season's largest snowfall since Snowmageddon, Feb. 5-6, 2010: IAD, 13.3"; BWI, 11.5"; DCA, 7.0"
- Coldest March on record at IAD with an average temperature of 37.4°F
- On Mar. 4, minimums bottomed out at 14°F at DCA, equaling its coldest March temperature since 1945; 4°F at BWI, coldest temperature on record for March and -1°F at IAD, equaling March 15, 1993, for its coldest March reading
- Well above normal March snowfall: 12.7" at DCA, most since 1960; 12.1" at BWI, most since 1993; and 19.8" at IAD most on record
- Major storm impacted area on April 29-30 with record rainfall: 4"-8", resulting in flash flooding, road closures, water rescues, landslide in Baltimore when a portion of a city street collapsed on train tracks
- On May 16, torrential rainfall flooded roads, led to numerous water rescues, with 2"-5" of rain. Daily records set at DCA (2.25") and at IAD (1.97"). An EF-0 tornado was confirmed near Middleburg, VA (Loudoun County)
- DCA recorded its coolest summer since 2009, BWI, 2004; IAD 2000
- On June 10, torrential downpours caused flooding in Berwyn Heights, (Prince Georges County), MD. The area was inundated with 4"-5" of rain in 2 hours, resulting in 24 water rescues and forcing residents to evacuate two dozen homes, according to press reports
- On July 3, thunderstorm winds tore a roof off an apartment building in College Park, MD, wind gusts measured 70 mph, 2.0" hail near Armel, (Frederick County), VA; A reported 80,000 homes and businesses across the area lost power
- On July 8, one child was killed and eight were injured by falling tree branches from damaging thunderstorm winds at a youth campsite near Lineboro, (Carroll County), MD. A reported 90,000 homes and businesses across the area lost power during the event
- On August 12, lines of intense showers and thunderstorms stalled over some areas resulting in torrential rainfall, significant urban and street flooding and numerous water rescues. BWI's total of 6.30" not only broke a daily record but also was its second greatest daily rainfall total.
- The year's most intense period of heat and humidity occurred at the beginning of September when DCA exceeded 90°F on 5 of the first 6 days, including maximum temperatures of 95°F on 3 days, September 1st, 2nd and 6th
- On October 15, severe thunderstorms in the early afternoon spawned two small EF-0 tornadoes, one in Virginia, one in Maryland.
- Pre-Thanksgiving storm November 26 resulted in first snow of season in many areas, soaking rain and travel congestion.

December 2014

Temperatures: Well-above normal readings prevailed with no Arctic intrusions from Canada: +4.0°F at DCA, +3.2°F at BWI and +1.7°F at IAD. DCA set a record with only 4 days at or below 32°F. It wasn't until New Year's Eve that IAD's minimum dropped into the teens with a low of 19°F (its warmest monthly minimum since 2008). There were no days at or below 32°F at all three major airports, the first such occurrence since 2009. The month's warmest temperatures occurred on the 1st when readings soared to 70°F at DCA and IAD, 69°F at BWI. BWI recorded 4 days of highs 60°F or greater and DCA, 3 such days.

Precipitation: Precipitation was slightly above normal with minimal snowfall. Monthly totals were 3.50" at DCA (+0.45"); 3.58" at BWI (+0.21"); and 3.26" at IAD (+0.30"). The month began wet with at least a trace of rainfall at DCA and BWI the first 9 days and 8 of the first 9 days at IAD. Several storm systems (2nd, 6th, 9th) produced between 1.5"-2.0" across most of the area. Slightly colder air preceded the system on the 9th resulting in icing conditions in some areas outside the I-95 corridor the late evening on the 8th before changing to rain. The largest ice accumulations in Virginia were 0.31" near Woolsley (Prince William County), 0.2" in Opal (Fauquier County); in Maryland, 0.25" was measured in Mt. Airy (Carroll County), and 0.2" near Damascus (Montgomery County). 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). The year's final significant event was a soaking rain on Dec. 24 with about 0.75" to 1" across most of the area.

December 2014 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	YTD
National (DCA)	49.8	37.6	43.7	39.7	+4.0	70/1	29/31	3.50	3.05	+0.45	T	44.41
Baltimore (BWI)	47.4	32.4	39.9	36.7	+3.2	69/1	20/31	3.58	3.37	+0.21	0.2	52.58
Dulles (IAD)	45.6	31.0	38.3	36.6	+1.7	70/1	18/31	3.26	2.96	+0.30	T	46.07

Annual Temperatures: The major airports observed near normal to below normal annual readings: +0.3°F at DCA and BWI and -2.5°F at IAD. The year started cold with January and February both below normal, the first such occurrence since 2004 at all three major airports. On Jan. 7, wind chill readings at Flint (Frederick County), MD, dropped to bitter cold -26°F. IAD marked it coldest March on record with an average temperature of 37.4°F and a record low maximum of 39°F on March 24. Highs on March 4 reached just 29°F at BWI and IAD, a record for the date and minimums on that date bottomed out at 14°F at DCA, equaling DCA's coldest March temperature since 1945; 4°F at BWI, its coldest temperature on record for March, and -1°F at IAD, equaling March 15, 1993, for IAD's lowest March reading. BWI marked a frigid 5°F on the 3rd, a record for date. April brought a taste of summer on the 13th when the mercury rose to the 85°F at DCA. Summer was cool with only one minor heat wave from July 15-21. IAD recorded its third fewest 90°F days. September featured the years most intense period of heat and humidity: temperatures exceeded 90°F on 5 of the first 6 days, including maximum temperatures of 95°F on 3 days. October's warmest reading were toward the end of the month when BWI and IAD recorded 80°F and 82°F respectively on the 28th. November was the 5th coldest on record and coldest since 1996 at IAD; BWI reported its second coldest November in the past 10 years. December readings were above normal (see monthly summary).

Annual Precipitation: The three major airport reported above normal to well above normal precipitation: DCA, 44.41" (+4.67"), BWI, 52.58" (+10.70"); and IAD, 46.07" (+4.53") and snowfall: DCA, 30.5", BWI, 36.6", IAD, 49.7". January was the snowiest month since January 2011 at DCA and BWI and since February 2010 at IAD. On Feb 13, the area marked the largest snowfall since *Snowmageddon*, Feb 5-6, 2010. Airport totals were 13.3" at IAD, 11.5" at BWI and 7.0" at DCA. March continued snowy with a record breaking 19.8" at IAD for the month, most since 1993. It was the second wettest April on record in Baltimore, wettest since 1889, and the wettest ever recorded at IAD. On April 30th, the area marked torrential downpours, thunderstorms, widespread flash flooding, numerous roads closures and water rescues. On April 29-30, heavy rain caused a landslide in Baltimore when a portion of a city street collapsed on train tracks, which destroyed several cars and weakened a retaining wall when the ground beneath crumbled. It was the wettest May since 2009 at DCA and IAD while in sharp contrast, BWI reported its 5th consecutive May with subnormal precipitation. On June 8, an EF-1 tornado struck Martinsburg, WV, with estimated wind speeds of 90 mph. The tornado's path length was 1 mile and its width, 100 yards, causing tree and property damage. Closer to the metro area, IAD was deluged with a calendar day rainfall record, 1.71". On June 10, torrential downpours caused flooding in Berwyn Heights, (Prince Georges County), MD. The area was inundated with 4"-5" of rainfall in just 2 hours, resulting in 24 water rescues and forcing residents to evacuate two dozen homes, according to press reports. On July 3, damaging thunderstorm winds with gusts to 70 mph tore off an apartment building roof in College Park, MD. On July 8, a child was killed and eight people were injured when thunderstorm winds knocked a tree onto a youth campsite near Lineboro, (Carroll County), MD. IAD reported its wettest August since 2003. The month's most dramatic event occurred on August 12 when lines of intense showers and thunderstorms lingered over some areas, resulting in significant flooding and numerous water rescues. It was the fourth driest September on record at IAD with just a few rainy days throughout the area. On October 15, a line of strong to severe thunderstorms in the early afternoon spawned two small EF-0 tornadoes (wind speeds estimated at 55-65 mph) that caused tree and property damage. One tornado was confirmed in the Belle Haven section of Alexandria (Fairfax County), VA. The path length was 1.5 miles and path width was 75 yards. The second tornado occurred near Savage (Howard County), MD. The path length was 0.4 miles and path width was 75 yards. Torrential downpours accompanied the thunderstorms. November brought early snow on the 13th-14th and a storm on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Despite warm ground temperatures, BWI and IAD measured their first measurable snow in November since 1996 at IAD, and since 2005 at BWI. December was wet but not snowy (see monthly summary).

Annual 2014 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)	66.8	50.1	58.5	58.2	+0.3	99/8-2	6/1-7	44.41	39.74	4.67	30.5
Baltimore (BWI)	63.7	44.3	54.0	53.7	+0.3	96/6-18	3/1-7, 1-23	52.58	41.88	10.70	36.6
Dulles (IAD)	63.1	42.9	53.0	55.5	-2.5	95/8-2	2/1-23	46.07	41.54	4.53	49.7

Looking Ahead to January: Will January snowfall continue subnormal? Listed below are the most recent 10 years when DCA observed subnormal snowfall in December and the corresponding January total. Normal DCA snowfall is 5.6".

Year	'99-'00	'00-'01	'04-'05	'06-'07	'08-'09	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13	'13-'14	14-15
December	T	2	0.1	T	T	2.1	T	0.2	1.5	T
January	14.5	2.4	6.4	1.3	1.9	7.3	2.0	0.9	6.6	?