

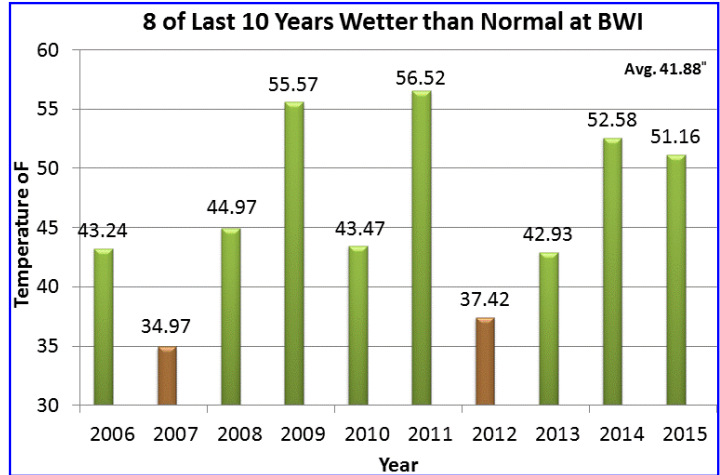
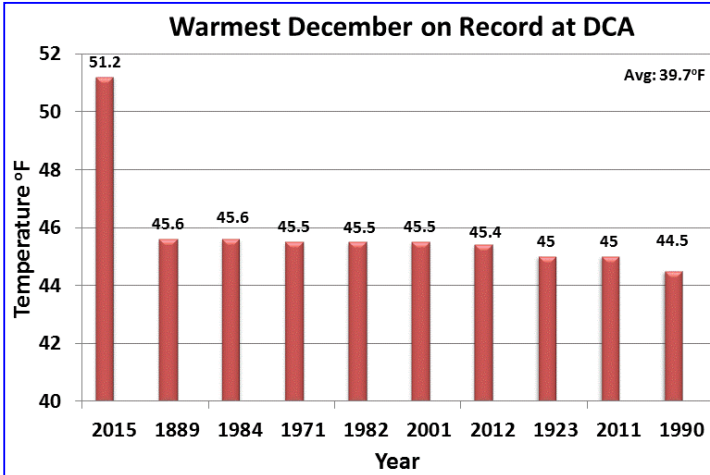


PRESTO

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



DECEMBER: Record Warmth and Wet ANNUAL: Well Above Normal Temperatures With Numerous High Impact Events



December Highlights

- Warmest December on record at DCA, BWI and IAD: +11.5°F at DCA, +12.3°F at BWI and +12.1°F at IAD
- DCA recorded only 2 days with minimum temperatures at or below freezing, least ever in December, including an all-time record for the warmest monthly minimum in December at 30°F
- BWI reported 5 days of 70°F or greater including 5 daily high temperature records; DCA observed 3 days of 70°F or greater including 2 daily high temperature records and IAD measured 4 days of 70°F or greater, including 3 daily high temperature records
- On the 24th, DCA and IAD measured their highest minimums on record for December, 60°F and 63°F, respectively.
- Persistence of warmth throughout month: DCA reported a record 14 days at or above 60°F and 26 days at or above 50°F; BWI recorded 11 days at or above 60°F and 29 days at or above 50°F; IAD, 12 days at or above 60 and 25 days at or above 50°F.
- Well above normal rainfall at the three major airports: DCA 4.84" (+1.79"); 5.85" (+2.48") and IAD, 3.76" (+0.80")
- Rainfall on the 23rd led to flash flooding and a swift water rescue near Highlandtown (Baltimore County), MD. Highest rainfall totals were 3.03" in Taneytown, Carroll County, MD, 2.21" at the White House, and daily records of 2.01" at BWI and 1.67" at DCA
- First flurries of the winter season were observed during the early am hours on the 19th at BWI and at IAD

Annual Highlights

- The major airports observed above normal temperatures: +2.1°F at DCA, +1.0°F at BWI and +0.4°F at IAD.
- 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
- It was the 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
- On Feb. 21, 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, 13.8" was measured near Lucketts, Loudoun County, VA. Metro area measured 4"-7".
- Bitter cold conditions impacted the area on March 6 and the morning of the 7th; BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on the 6th and 6°F and 2°F on the 7th. IAD also set a daily minimum maximum of 27°F on the 6th and again toward the end of the month with a maximum of 37°F on the 28th, IAD's coldest high March temperature since March 30, 1964.
- The month's largest snowfall occurred on March 5 when 5"-10" of wet snow accumulated across the region. The 9.5" total at IAD was its greatest March snowfall since "The Storm of the Century" (1993)
- On the evening of May 18-19, thunderstorms caused widespread heavy rainfall totalling 3"-4" across portions of northern and central Maryland and over an inch in most locations across the area causing some flash flooding in Maryland; BWI set a daily record of 1.54"
- On June 20, Tropical Storm Bill remnants resulted in isolated tornadoes, damaging thunderstorm winds and flooding rainfall. One fatality was reported in Poolesville, Montgomery County, MD, when a car struck a fallen tree bringing down electrical wires onto a vehicle. Two EF-0 tornadoes were confirmed.
- On June 27, two EF-1 tornadoes were confirmed in Southern Maryland.
- After midnight, on July 1, intense thunderstorm winds knocked down trees in the metro area and brought more than 2" of rainfall
- On July 4, numerous strong to severe thunderstorms struck the area, one causing a large tree to fall on a telephone pole and powerlines resulting in a transformer fire in Great Falls (Fairfax County), VA, and hail to 1.5"
- On Sep. 29, an EF-0 tornado was confirmed near Laurel and Scaggsville in Prince Georges and Howard counties, MD.

December 2015

Temperatures: The first month of meteorological winter featured unprecedented warmth. Positive departure at DCA, +11.5°F, (greatest departure from normal since January 1950), BWI, +12.3°F; and IAD, +12.1°F, resulting in the warmest December on record at all three airports. The were no intrusions of Arctic cold. DCA recorded only 2 days with minimum temperatures at or below freezing, least ever in December, including an all-time record for the warmest monthly minimum in December at 30°F. At all three airports, average monthly temperatures were shattered: DCA, 51.2°F, previous record 45.6°F; BWI 49.0°F, previous record 46.0°F, and at IAD 48.7°F, previous record 43.3°F. BWI reported 5 days of 70°F or greater, including 5 daily high temperature records; DCA, 3 days of 70°F or greater, including 2 daily high temperature records; and IAD, 4 days of 70°F or greater including 3 daily high temperature records. The area airports also set numerous daily high minimum temperatures: 4 days at DCA including a minimum of 60°F on the 24th, highest on record for December; 3 such days at BWI; and 4 such days at IAD, with a minimum of 63°F on the 24th, a record high reading for December. Temperatures held at or above 50°F from the 22nd-27th at DCA, 22nd-26th at BWI and 23rd-27th at IAD, equaling the longest such period on record for the month. The area observed just one day (19th) with below normal readings in Washington. DCA reported 14 days at or above 60°F and 26 days at or above 50°F, both records; BWI 11 days at or above 60°F and 29 days at or above 50°F; IAD 12 days at or above 60 and 25 days at or above 50°F.

Precipitation: Well above normal rainfall was reported at the three major airports: DCA, 4.84" (+1.79"); BWI, 5.85" (+2.48") and IAD, 3.76" (+0.80"). The month started off wet with about an inch across the metro area on the 1st and 2nd. The largest amount was 2.00" in Woodstock (Shenandoah County), VA. On the 17th, the I-95 corridor reported about a half inch of rain and portions of Southern Maryland reported over an inch including 1.52" in Ridge, St. Mary's County. An unseasonably, warm humid air mass for December pumped continuous moisture into the area with measurable rainfall from the 22nd-30th, along with dense fog during several overnight periods. The rainfall on the 23rd was the heaviest including reports of flash flooding leading to a swift water rescue near Highlandtown, Baltimore County, MD. Highest rainfall totals were 3.03" in Taneytown, Carroll County, MD; 2.21" at the White House, and daily records of 2.01" at BWI and 1.67" at DCA. Rainfall was also heavy on Christmas when over an inch fell across many portions the metro area including 2.18" in White Marsh, Baltimore County, MD; and 1.19" in Belmont, Loudoun County, VA.

December 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	Snow	Yr. to Date
National (DCA)	58.3	43.5	51.2	39.7	11.5	71/13,24	30/19	4.84	3.05	+1.79	0	45.02
Baltimore (BWI)	58.3	39.7	49.0	36.7	12.3	73/13	21/20	5.85	3.37	+2.48	T	51.16
Dulles (IAD)	57.7	39.6	48.7	36.6	12.1	73/13	23/6	3.76	2.96	+0.80	T	39.38

Annual Temperatures: The major airports observed above normal temperatures in 2015: +2.1°F at DCA, +1.0°F at BWI and +0.4°F at IAD. January started cold with wind chill values of 0°F to -10°F from Jan 6-8. Near unprecedented cold resulted in the coldest February since 1934 in Baltimore and since 1979 at DCA and IAD. March was the second coldest since 1996 at BWI and since 1997 at IAD. BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on March 6 and 6°F and 2°F on March 7. May was the 3rd warmest at BWI and 7th warmest at IAD. Washington tied 1939 for the 3rd greatest number of 90°F days in May. The season's first heat wave occurred June 11-16, with highs at or above 90°F at DCA, including a monthly maximum of 96°F on June 16. July marked the 7th out of the past 10 years with above normal readings at DCA. July most intense heat occurred on the 19th-20th when highs reached 98°F and 97°F at DCA, 97°F and 95°F at BWI and 94°F and 92°F at IAD. September was the 7th warmest on record at IAD and since 2010 at DCA and IAD. BWI's maximum reading of 94°F on Sep. 9 and IAD maximum reading of 93°F on the Sep. 8 equaled records for the date. Record breaking warmth occurred on November 6 when all three airports reached 80°F. December continued the record warmth (see monthly above).

Annual Precipitation: The major airports were highly variable from above normal at DCA, 45.02" (+5.28"), to well above normal at BWI, 51.18" (9.28"), to below normal at IAD, 39.38" (-2.25"). It was the snowiest January since 1999 at BWI and since 2006 at DCA. On January 18, light freezing rain resulted in a 49 vehicle pileup in northern Howard County and one reported fatality in Harford County. February brought above normal snowfall from several events. On March 5, 5"-9" of wet snow resulted in hazardous road conditions prompting most school systems and federal offices to close. On March 15, strong northwest winds to 40 mph caused a dead tree to hit and kill a hiker near Brownsville (Frederick County), MD. May was dry but included severe weather with hail. BWI recorded its wettest June on record and 4th wettest month of all-time. It was the 2nd wettest June on record at DCA, wettest June since 2006 at DCA and IAD, 5th wettest June at IAD; DCA measured greater than 2" of rain on a record 3 days. On June 20, remnants of Tropical Storm Bill brought tornadoes, damaging thunderstorm winds and flooding rainfall. One fatality was reported in Poolesville (Montgomery County), MD. Two EF-0 tornadoes were confirmed. August was the driest at IAD since 1998 and the 5th driest on record and driest since 2006 at DCA. September was extremely dry until the final days when heavy rainfall deluged some locations resulting in above normal monthly totals. The event, which began the evening of Sep. 29, also resulted in an EF-0 tornado near Laurel and Scaggsville in Prince Georges and Howard counties, MD. The year ended with above normal rainfall for the month but with only a trace of snow, none at DCA. (see monthly above).

Annual 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	Snow
National (DCA)	68.6	51.6	60.1	58.2	+2.1	97/7-17	5/2-20	45.02	39.74	+5.28	18.3
Baltimore (BWI)	66.1	46.0	56.1	55.1	+1.0	97/7-18	1/2-20	51.16	41.88	+9.28	28.2
Dulles (IAD)	66.9	45.3	55.7	55.3	+0.4	97/7-18	-4/2-24	39.38	41.64	-2.25	35.3

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	'00-01	'04-'05	'06-'07	'08-'09	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13	'13-'14	14-15	15-16
December	2	0.1	T	T	2.1	T	0.2	1.5	T	0
January	2.4	6.4	1.3	1.9	7.3	2.0	0.9	6.6	3.6	?