

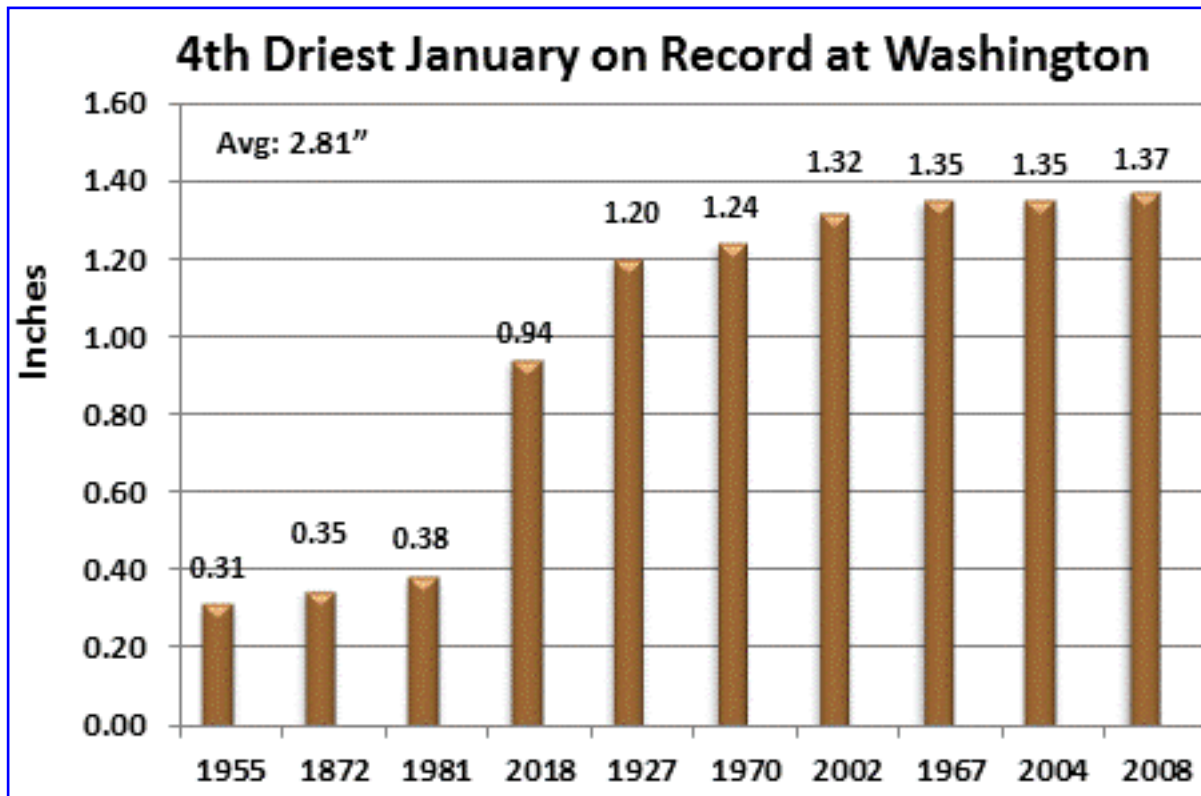


PRESTO

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



JANUARY 2018: Large Temperature Swings; Continued Very Dry



January Highlights

- ☛ Slightly below normal temperatures at three major airports: DCA, -0.3°F; BWI, -0.9°F; and IAD -0.8°F
- ☛ Brutally cold first week of 2018 with average temperature at BWI a record 15.2°F, breaking the previous record by more than 3°F; Washington's average temperature was its 4th coldest on record at 19.0°F and coldest since 1918; IAD recorded a record cold first week at 15.3°F
- ☛ On the 12th, IAD soared to 70°F, tying a daily record.
- ☛ For the month, DCA and IAD reported 8 days with highs 60°F or greater, including a calendar day record 63°F at IAD on the 21st; BWI recorded 6 such days
- ☛ First December-January with subnormal temperatures at DCA, BWI and IAD since winter of 2009-10
- ☛ Very dry conditions for the second consecutive month with an inch or less of liquid precipitation at DCA and BWI, resulting in the 4th driest January on record in Washington and 6th driest in Baltimore
- ☛ On the 4th, Southern Maryland was impacted by a coastal snowstorm with highest totals 6.3" near Callaway (St. Mary's County) and 5.0" near Prince Frederick (Calvert County); strong winds followed the storm with gusts to 57 mph near Clarksburg (Montgomery County) MD, and 51 mph near Bull Run (Prince William County), VA

January 2018

Temperatures: After wild temperature swings from record cold to unseasonably warm, the first month of 2018 temperatures averaged slightly below normal at the three major airports: -0.3°F at DCA, -0.9°F at BWI and -0.8°F at IAD. These readings are the first occurrence of two consecutive months with subnormal readings at DCA, BWI and IAD since January/February 2015 and the first occurrence in December/January since 2009-2010.

The first week of the month (1st-7th) featured brutally cold conditions. The average temperature at BWI was a record 15.2°F, breaking the previous record by more than 3°F. Washington's average temperature was its 4th coldest at 19.0°F and coldest since 1918. IAD recorded a record cold first week at 15.3°F. Including the final 5 days of 2017, IAD recorded 12 consecutive days with maximum temperatures at or below freezing. Along with gusty northwest winds at times during this period, wind chill values reached "feel like" temperatures of -9°F near Midland (Fauquier County), VA, on the 1st; -19°F near Sabillasville (Frederick County) MD, on the 2nd and -17°F near Germantown (Montgomery County), MD, on the 5th.

Several records were set at IAD including a low maximum of 23°F on New Year's Day, a record low of 1°F on the 3rd, a record low maximum of 19°F on the 5th and 6th and a record low of -1°F on the 7th. DCA record a single digit minimum of 8°F on the 7th while IAD's minimum fell to 1°F on the 7th and into the single digits on the 1st, 3rd and 6th. BWI's minimum of 1°F on the 7th also set a daily record.

Then a dramatic warm up occurred for much of the remainder of the month. Just 2 days after the bitter cold, maximum readings reached 51°F at DCA and 50°F at IAD. Three days later on the 12th, IAD soared to a record tying 70°F. For the month, DCA and IAD reported 8 days with highs 60°F or greater, including a calendar day record 63°F at IAD on the 21st; BWI recorded 6 such days.

Warm minimum readings also broke records at all three major airports on the 12th: 58°F at IAD, 57°F at DCA and 53°F at BWI. Additionally, IAD set two more daily warm minimum temperatures: 48°F on the 22nd and 45°F on the 28th.

Precipitation: Very dry conditions continued for the second consecutive month with less than an inch of liquid precipitation at DCA and BWI, resulting in the 4th driest January on record in Washington and 6th driest in Baltimore. Monthly totals were 0.94" (-1.87") at DCA, 1.00" (-2.05") at BWI and 1.79" (-0.89") at IAD.

The December-January total liquid precipitation at DCA was 1.44", the second driest on record and driest since 1981, while BWI's 2 month total for the two months of 1.95" was also its 2nd driest on record and driest since 1955. A majority of the month's liquid precipitation was in the form of beneficial rainfall from the 12th-13th. Copious moisture moved from south to northwest of the I-95 corridor. Largest amounts included 2.66" near Front Royal, (Warren County), VA; 2.15" near Thurmont (Frederick County), MD, and 1.46" at IAD.

On the 28th-29th, Front Royal, VA, received another good soaking with 1.60" measured. Heavy rain was also observed across southern Maryland with 1.21" near Park Hall (St. Mary's County).

Although the metro area had only minor winter weather events, southern Maryland was impacted by a coastal storm on the 4th. Highest totals included 6.3" near Callaway (St. Mary's County) and 5.0" near Prince Frederick (Calvert County). Strong wind gusts followed the storm with gusts to 57 mph near Clarksburg (Montgomery County), MD, and 51 mph near Bull Run (Prince William County), VA.

January 2018 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)	44.7	26.7	35.7	36.0	-0.3	68/23	8/7	0.94	2.81	-1.87	1.2
Baltimore (BWI)	42.1	21.9	32.0	32.9	-0.9	64/23	1/7	1.00	3.05	-2.05	2.2
Dulles (IAD)	43.3	21.4	32.4	33.2	-0.8	70/12	-1/7	1.79	2.68	-0.89	0.4

Looking Ahead: *Continued Below Normal Snowfall?* For the 5th time in the past 7 years, December and January recorded below normal snowfall in Washington. Listed below are January and December snowfall and the subsequent February snowfall totals in inches. Average DCA January Snowfall: 5.6", February: 5.7".

Year	2017/18	2016-17	2014-15	2012-13	2012-11	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2001-02	2000-01
December	1.9	T	T	0.2	T	T	2.6	T	0	2.0
January	1.2	1.4	3.6	0.9	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	2.4
February	?	T	9.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.0	5.9	0.5	2.8