

JANUARY 2001: Slightly warmer than normal conditions along with subnormal precipitation, including snowfall, highlighted the first month of 2001 across the Washington/Baltimore area. Monthly temperature departures between +0.9°F and +1.4°F were observed at the three major airports. The persistent cold weather which dominated the region in December ended around the 10th and was followed by generally warmer than normal conditions the remainder of the month. DCA recorded 18 days with at or above-normal temperatures, including 11 such days from the 10th-20th. In sharp contrast to the previous month, there were no days with subfreezing highs at DCA (6 such days in December). BWI recorded three days with highs of 32°F or lower while IAD observed four such days compared to a total of 6 & 10 December days, respectively. In addition, DCA's above-normal daily average temperature on the 10th (39°F; Dep. Nml.: +4°F) ended a string of 23 consecutive days (December 17th-January 9th) with at or below-normal temperatures. On the 15th, DCA, BWI and IAD all recorded their first minimum temperature above 32°F since December 16th, November 28th and November 27th, respectively. January 2001 marked the 13th winter month (December-February) of the last 14 with above-normal temperatures at DCA.

Monthly precipitation totals between two and three inches were common across the local area, yielding the fourth consecutive month with subnormal precipitation at all three major airports and the driest January since 1985 at DCA. The majority of the months precipitation occurred on the 18th-19th when a series of storm systems generated more than an inch of rain at all five airports. The rain changed to snow during the evening of the 20th before ending. Snowfall amounts ranged between 1 and 4 inches, with a few higher amounts (up to 10") reported well north and west of Washington/Baltimore area. The only other winter weather occurred on the 5th when a steady, light snow (up to 2 inches) fell, causing few problems. The final precipitation event of the month occurred on the 30th and 31st, producing a little over half an inch of rain at most locations. It was the fourth January in the past five years with subnormal snowfall.

JANUARY 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	42.8	28.2	35.5	34.6	+0.9	59/11	20/3	2.22	2.72	-0.50	2.4
Baltimore (BWI)	41.3	24.8	33.0	31.8	+1.2	56/11	14/3	2.68	3.05	-0.37	2.7
Dulles (IAD)	41.5	22.6	32.0	30.6	+1.4	57/11	11/22*	2.54	2.70	-0.16	5.1
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	43.1	25.0	34.0	N/A	N/A	59/11	16/4#	2.58	2.8	-0.2	2.2
Andrews AFB (ADW)	40.1	24.2	32.1	N/A	N/A	55/11	14/5@	3.67	3.1	+0.6	2.6

* January 23rd; # January 5th; @ January 22nd.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY: *Another winter with subnormal snowfall?*

With the first two months of meteorological winter (December-February) behind us and only 4.4 inches of snow recorded at DCA, the question arises whether the Washington area will experience another winter with subnormal snowfall? Since the 1987-88 winter, there has been only one winter with above-normal snowfall (1995-1996: 40.3") at DCA, although last winter was very close to normal with 15.4". Below is a list of winter snowfall totals at DCA since the winter of 1987-88. [Normal Winter (December-February) Snowfall at DCA: 15.6"]

Winter	December Snowfall (In.)	January Snow fall (In.)	February Snow fall (In.)	Total (In.)
1987-88	Trace	13.1	Trace	13.1
1988-89	1.2	2.9	1.2	5.3
1989-90	9.0	0.2	Trace	9.2
1990-91	3.0	4.8	0.3	8.1
1991-92	0.0	4.0	2.6	6.6
1992-93	1.0	Trace	4.1	5.1
1993-94	2.6	3.5	3.1	9.2
1994-95	0.0	3.9	5.8	9.7
1995-96	1.3	23.8	15.2	40.3
1996-97	0.2	2.3	4.0	6.5
1997-98	0.1	Trace	Trace	0.1
1998-99	0.5	2.2	0.2	2.9
1999-2000	Trace	14.5	0.9	15.4
2000-01	2.0	2.4	?	?