

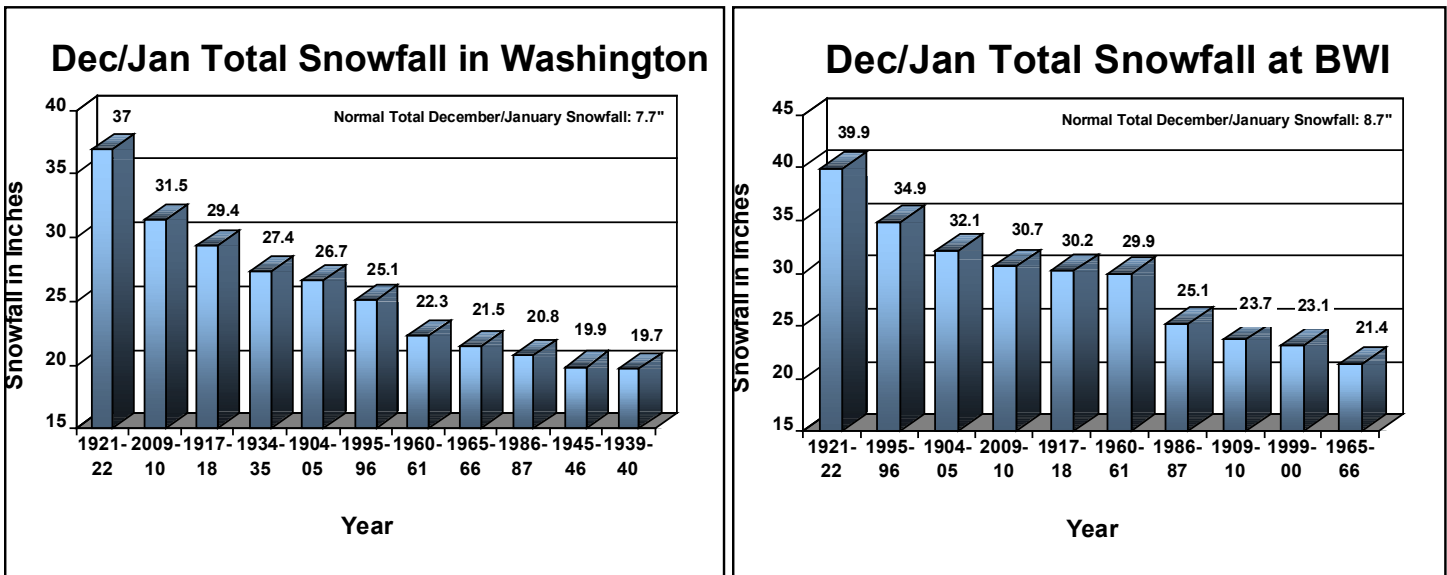


# PRESTO

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



## JANUARY 2010: Heavy Rains in Shenandoah; Significant Snowfall Across Region on 30<sup>th</sup>



### January Highlights

- ✦ Above normal temperatures across area: +0.4°F at DCA and BWI, and +1.7°F at IAD
- ✦ DCA recorded 13<sup>th</sup> month in the past 17 with above normal temperatures
- ✦ Highs soar into 60s on 25<sup>th</sup>, including 68°F at DCA, 66°F at BWI and 65°F at IAD
- ✦ Subfreezing highs on 4 days at DCA, 5 days at BWI and IAD
- ✦ Minimums in the single digits in some areas on 31<sup>st</sup>, including 8°F at BWI
- ✦ High winds with gusts close to 50 mph on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> result in some power outages, tree damage and low wind chill temperatures
- ✦ Flooding rains in the Shenandoah on the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> with 4"-6" measured, resulting in water rescues in Staunton, VA, wind gusts over 58 mph in Annapolis, and over 3" rain in portions of Frederick County, MD
- ✦ Major snowstorm on 30<sup>th</sup> with over 15" in portions of Southern Maryland, nearly a foot in portions of Albemarle County, VA, and 5"-8" across the Baltimore/Washington area
- ✦ First occurrence of above normal snowfall in both December and January since 1963-64 at DCA, since 1995-96 at IAD and since 2003-04 at BWI

## January 2010

**Temperatures:** The first month of the new decade featured above normal temperatures across the area with positive departures of +0.4°F at DCA and BWI, and +1.7°F at IAD. In Washington, this marked the 13<sup>th</sup> winter month (December-February) out the past 17 with above normal readings. Consistently cold temperatures occurred from the 2<sup>nd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> when maximum readings remained below 40°F. The cold snap included 2 days (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> at IAD) with subfreezing highs accompanied by very strong winds resulting in wind chill values between 0°F-10°F. Chevy Chase Village in D.C. recorded winds gusted to 49 mph on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Reston, VA, measured 48 mph on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, resulting in tree damage and signal disruptions across Northern Virginia as well as trees blocking Rte. 410 in Prince Georges County and a portion of Rte. 70 in Frederick County, MD, according to press reports. Another push of Arctic air closed the month as highs remained below freezing across the area on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and also on the 31<sup>st</sup> at BWI, among other locations. DCA's 4 days with subfreezing highs were the most observed in any month since February 2007, which also observed 4 subfreezing days in a row. January ended with the coldest minimum temperatures of the month when some suburban locations plummeting into the single digits, including 8°F at BWI.

A pronounced January thaw occurred from the 14<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> with above normal temperatures across the area. Highs reached well into the 60s on the 25<sup>th</sup> including 68°F at DCA, 66°F at BWI and 65°F at BWI. Highs at or above 50°F occurred on 8 days at DCA, BWI, and IAD during this period.

**Precipitation:** While well below normal precipitation occurred throughout the immediate metro area, significantly greater totals occurred south and west of Washington with monthly totals in excess of 6". Washington's total of 1.56" (-1.65") was its 12<sup>th</sup> driest January since 1887. BWI reported 2.24" (-1.23") and IAD 2.01" (-1.04"). The month featured two significant storms. The first storm, which occurred from the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, included heavy rains, with flooding in the Shenandoah and strong winds. The event produced a narrow but strong line of heavy downpours during the early morning hours on the 25<sup>th</sup> across areas of Augusta, Page, Nelson, and Madison Counties in Virginia. Rainfall totals included 5.79" near Stuarts Draft (Augusta County), 5.60" in Montebello (Nelson County) and 4.06" near Crozet (Augusta County). The heavy rain resulted in flash flooding and water rescues in Staunton, VA. Meanwhile, high winds impacted the metro area with gusts to 58 mph near Annapolis, MD (Anne Arundel County), 55 mph near Mt Airy (Carroll County), and 51 mph near Reston, VA (Fairfax County). Rainfall totals included 3.20" in Wolfsville, MD (Frederick County) and 2.36" near Somerset in Washington, D.C.

The second major event of the month was a significant snowfall on the 30<sup>th</sup>, during which snow developed across the southern suburbs in the early morning hours then moved steadily across the remainder of the metro area, becoming moderate to heavy at times, diminishing during the evening. The storm, while occurring on a weekend, had a major impact on transportation because roads conditions became hazardous and numerous flights were delayed or cancelled at the three major airports. Snowfall amounts were greatest south and east of Washington and included 15.2" in Ridge, MD (St. Mary's County) and 11.8" near Scottsville, VA (Albemarle County). Locally, DCA measured 6.4", BWI, 5.5", and IAD, 4.5". December-January was the first occurrence with consecutive months recording above normal snow at the three major airports since 1963-64 at DCA, 1995-96 at IAD and 2003-04 at BWI.

Additional storm systems during the month included between 1/2"-3/4" rainfall in many locations on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a light snowfall on the 8<sup>th</sup> with amounts generally between of 1"-3" across the area.

### JANUARY 2010 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	42.5	28.0	35.3	34.9	+0.4	68/25	16/3,31	1.56	3.21	-1.65	7.4
Baltimore (BWI)	40.9	24.4	32.7	32.3	+0.4	66/25	8/31	2.24	3.47	-1.23	7.5
Dulles (IAD)	41.5	25.3	33.4	31.7	+1.7	65/25	11/31	2.01	3.05	-1.04	5.7

**Looking Ahead:** Does a snowy December/January lead to a snowy February? Listed below are the most recent 10 years when December and January measured above normal snowfall in Washington and the subsequent February snowfall totals in inches.

Year	2009/10	1981/82	1963-64	1960-61	1947-48	1945-46	1939-40	1934-35	1921-22	1917-18
December Snowfall	16.6	1.7	6.4	8.7	3.6	10.3	4.4	3.0	5.5	6.8
January Snowfall	7.4	15.3	8.9	13.6	12.1	6.8	15.3	24.4	31.5	22.6
February Snowfall	?	5.3	11.7	18.0	7.7	4.5	4.3	3.5	3.0	1.5