

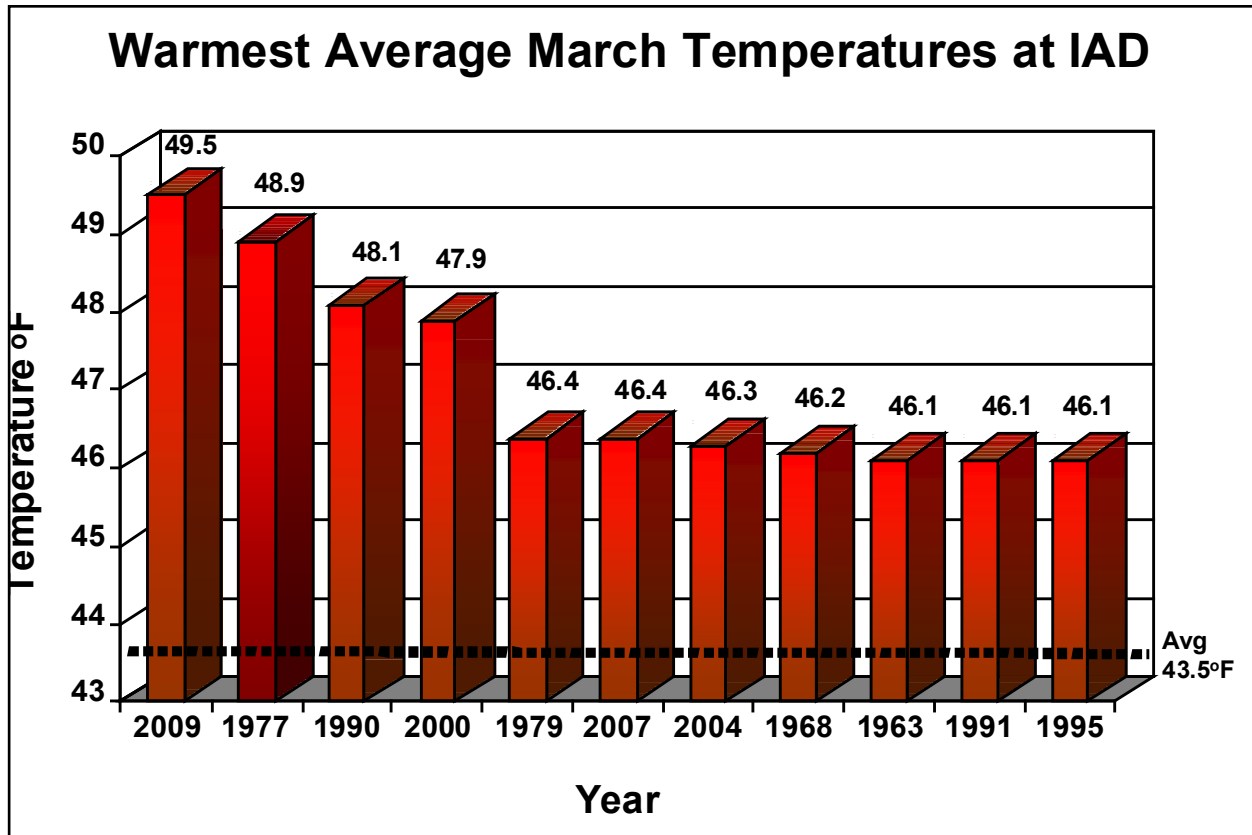


PRESTO

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



MARCH 2010: Warmest on Record at Dulles



March Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures across the area: +4.7°F at DCA, +4.8°F at BWI, +6.1°F at IAD
- Highs 70°F or greater on 6 days at DCA and BWI; 5 such days at IAD
- No freezing temperatures at DCA, first such occurrence ever in March; only 6 freezing/subfreezing minimum readings at IAD, fewest on record
- Above normal temperatures in March for 8 of past 9 years at IAD and 7 of past 9 years at DCA and BWI
- Near to above normal precipitation across the area including 5.53" (+1.60") at BWI
- Major storm system 12th-14th soaks region with 2"-5" in many areas, resulting in numerous road closures due to flooding. Greatest totals include 4.79" in Elkridge, MD, and 3.85" in Leesburg, VA
- Flooding in portions of the Shenandoah on the 29th when more than 2" of rainfall was observed
- First severe weather outbreak of season occurs across portions of Northern Virginia on the 22nd with hail up to 1" measured in Fairfax and Rappahannock counties.

March 2010

Temperatures: The first month of meteorological spring featured well above normal temperatures across the Washington/Baltimore area. Positive departures were +4.7°F at DCA, +4.8°F at BWI and +6.1°F at IAD. March was the warmest on record at IAD (see cover graphic) and the 8th warmest in Washington. In addition, it was the warmest March since 2000 at DCA and BWI. There were no intrusions of cold air. DCA's monthly minimum of 33°F marked its first occurrence on record with no readings at or below freezing during March. BWI recorded freezing temperatures on 5 days, least since 1973, and IAD on 6 days, fewest on record for March. Maximum temperatures were frequently quite warm. DCA and BWI recorded 6 days with highs at or above 70°F, IAD 5 such days. DCA and IAD reported only 4 days with maximum temperatures in the 40s, BWI 5 days.

Precipitation: Near to above normal precipitation was observed across the region with amounts generally between 3.5" to more than 6" across portions of central and northeast Maryland as well as some part of Northern Virginia. Monthly totals at the three major airports were 3.55" at DCA (-0.05"), 5.53" at BWI (+1.60"), and 3.36" at IAD (-0.19").

The month's most significant storm occurred from the 12th-14th when a long duration system brought soaking rains to the region. Many areas reported numerous road closures due to flooding. Some of the most notable 3-day totals in Maryland included Elkridge 4.79" (Howard County), Thurmont 3.96" (Frederick County) and Severn 3.93" (Ann Arundel County). Northern Virginia also recorded some significant totals from the event, including 3.85" in Leesburg (Loudoun County), 3.01" in Warrenton (Fauquier County) and 2.59" in Stafford. BWI recorded 2.31" on the 13th, for a total of 3.69" during the 3 days.

The first severe weather of the season occurred on the 22nd when large hail struck portions of Virginia. Slate Mills (Rappahannock County) and near Newington (Fairfax County) measured up to 1" hail. Rainfall totals averaged about ½ inch across the region.

The month's final significant rainfall began during the evening of the 28th and ended around dawn on the 29th. Flooding occurred in the Shenandoah with a number of roads closed by high water in Luray (Page County) and Harmony (Shenandoah County). Rainfall totals included 2.76" near Luray, 2.36" near Elkton (Page County), and 2.16" near Stuarts Draft (Augusta County). Locally, rainfall totals averaged about an inch.

MARCH 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	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	59.8	42.5	51.2	46.5	+4.7	76/21	33/6,27	3.55	3.50	-0.05	T	7.23
Baltimore (BWI)	58.2	38.7	48.5	43.7	+4.8	75/21	29/6	5.53	3.93	+1.60	T	11.92
Dulles (IAD)	60.1	38.9	49.5	43.4	+6.1	78/21	29/8,9	3.36	3.55	-0.19	T	10.00

Looking Ahead to April: Last Freeze at DCA and IAD. April is usually the last month before autumn when a 32°F or lower reading occurs in Washington. The city has never recorded a freezing reading in May, although suburban areas have. Below is a list of the last 32°F or lower reading at urban DCA and suburban IAD for the last 10 years.

At DCA				At IAD			
Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading	Year	Date of last 32°F or lower reading
2009	March 24 (28°F)	2004	April 5 (31°F)	2009	April 13 (32°F)	2004	April 16 (30°F)
2008	March 9 (29°F)	2003	April 1 (32°F)	2008	April 16 (31°F)	2003	April 1 (27°F)
2007	April 9 (31°F)	2002	April 7 (32°F)	2007	April 11 (28°F)	2002	April 1 (27°F)
2006	March 23 (32°F)	2001	March 28 (28°F)	2006	April 10 (31°F)	2001	April 26 (32°F)
2005	March 18 (31°F)	2000	March 19 (32°F)	2005	April 17 (31°F)	2000	April 14 (32°F)