

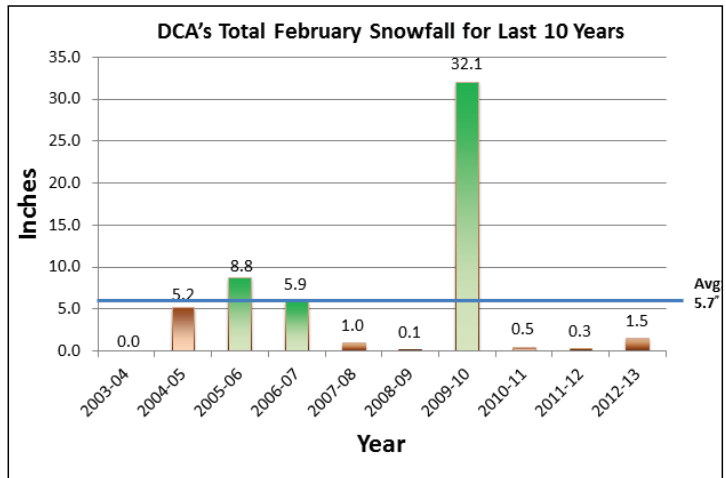
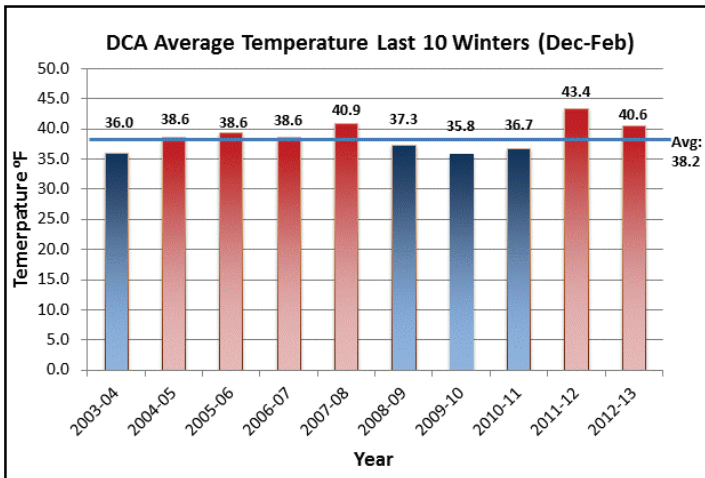


# PRESTO

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



## FEBRUARY 2013: Dry With Little Snowfall WINTER: Above Normal Temps; No Major Snowstorms



### February Highlights

- Slightly below normal temperatures across area -0.7°F at DCA, -0.8°F at BWI and -0.9°F at IAD
- DCA's monthly maximum of 60°F on the 15<sup>th</sup> was its coolest monthly value since January 2011
- Subnormal precipitation across area with less than 2 inches total at all three airports: DCA, 1.67"; BWI, 1.95"; and IAD, 1.63"
- Soaking rain from 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> with more than 2 inches in portions of the Shenandoah Valley with 2.44" in Haywood (Madison County) and 2.36" near Orange (Orange County). The Delecarlia Reservoir in Washington, D.C., reported 1.84"
- Subnormal snowfall across region with generally less than an inch in the immediate metro area; several small to moderate snowfalls across the area: on 1<sup>st</sup>, near Davidsonville, MD (Ann Arundel County), 2.3"; on 8<sup>th</sup>, in Reva, VA (Culpeper County), 5.0", on the 15<sup>th</sup>, near Manchester, MD, (Carroll County) 3.0"

### Seasonal Highlights

- Above normal temperatures at the three major airports: 40.6 (+2.4°F) at DCA, 38.2 (+3.1°F) at BWI and 38.2 (+2.9°F) at IAD
- Subnormal snowfall at the three major airports: 1.5" (-12.1") at DCA, 4.8" (-12.5") at BWI, and 5.3" (-13.1) at IAD
- Record 71°F at DCA on Dec. 3 with highs into 70s area wide on Dec 3-4
- Soaking rains greater than one inch area wide on Dec 20-21 and 26<sup>th</sup> with totals close to 2 inches in Baltimore County on the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and close to 2 inches in Fairfax County, VA and Ann Arundel County, MD, on the 26<sup>th</sup>
- Accumulating snowfall totaling 3"-4" across portions of Carroll and Frederick Counties in Maryland and Loudoun County, VA, on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>
- Rapid temperature change during final 10 days of January: initially, four consecutive days (22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>) with highs below 30°F at BWI and IAD, first such occurrence since February 5-8, 2007; then rapid rise in temperatures including a 47°F rise in the maximum temp from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> at DCA (25°F to 72°F), greatest since January 1994
- Moderate snowfall across Southern Maryland on Jan. 24. Totals included 5.5" in Ridge (St. Mary's County) and 5.0" near Drum Point (Calvert County)
- Tropical-like moisture plume deluges area on Jan. 30-31 with torrential rainfall totalling more than 4" in some areas: 4.52" near Paeonian Spring, VA (Loudoun County) and 4.31" near Winfield, MD (Carroll County). Heavy rainfall flooded roads, flood warnings were issued for some rivers and streams, and several water rescues occurred on roads in rapidly rising water
- Washington has not measured an inch of snow in any one event through month's end since the Commuteageddon storm on January 26, 2011

## February 2013

**Temperatures:** The final month of meteorological Winter featured slightly below normal temperatures across the area with negative departures of -0.7°F at DCA, -0.8°F at BWI and -0.9°F at IAD. The month featured no extreme temperature variations, neither Arctic cold nor unseasonably warm. DCA's their monthly maximum of 60°F on the 15<sup>th</sup> was its coolest monthly value since January 2011; however, the airport reported no subfreezing days. Monthly minimums also were not excessively cold with lows for the month 13°F at IAD and 17°F at BWI.

**Precipitation:** The Baltimore/Washington area observed subnormal precipitation and snowfall at the three major airports with precipitation totals less than 2 inches. Monthly totals were 1.67" (-0.95") at DCA, 1.95" (-0.95" at BWI) and 1.63" (-1.11") at IAD. The month's biggest precipitation event occurred when rain developed about midday on the 26<sup>th</sup> and continued overnight into the early morning hours on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The greatest amounts occurred in the Shenandoah Valley where 2.44" was measured in Haywood (Madison County) and 2.36" near Orange (Orange County). The Delecarlia Reservoir in Washington, D.C., reported 1.84"; Bushwood, MD (St. Mary's County) measured 1.50". There were several small snowfalls across the area during the month. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2.3" was observed near Davidsonville, MD (Ann Arundel County); on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 5.0" was measured in Reva, VA (Culpeper County), and on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 3.0" fell near Manchester, MD (Carroll County). Strong winds also impacted the area on the 8<sup>th</sup> with gusts to 51 mph near Glen Burnie, MD (Anne Arundel County) and 51 mph near Smith Island, VA. Meanwhile, another month passed with no snow event equal to or greater than 1 inch at DCA, a record total of 764 days back to the *Commuteageddon* storm on Jan. 26, 2011.

### February 2013 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)				
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	YTD
<b>National (DCA)</b>	45.1	31.6	38.3	39.0	-0.7	60/15	18/2	1.67	2.62	-0.95	0.4	4.20
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	42.4	27.6	35.0	35.8	-0.8	59/15	17/2	1.95	2.90	-0.95	0.5	5.59
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	43.2	27.4	35.3	36.2	-0.9	58/15,11	13/2	1.63	2.74	-1.11	1.3	5.33

**Winter (December-February) Temperatures:** Winter featured well above normal temperatures despite a colder than normal February. Positive departures were +2.4 at DCA, +3.1°F at BWI and +2.9°F at IAD. December temperatures were above normal on all but 3 days at DCA, 2 days at BWI, and 5 at IAD. DCA marked a record 71°F on Dec 3. There were no intrusions of arctic air. DCA recorded just 5 days with minimums at or below freezing. January continued the warmer than normal weather with well above normal readings at all three major airports on all but 5 days, Jan. 22-27, when Arctic air entrenched the area. This cold blast marked the first such occurrence of highs below 30°F at BWI and IAD since February 5-8, 2007. A dramatic warm up occurred immediately following the cold wave with highs reaching 70°F at IAD on the 29<sup>th</sup>, then 70°F or greater at the three major airports the following day. The 47°F rise in maximum readings from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> was the largest increase at DCA since January 1994. IAD's maximum of 72°F on the 30<sup>th</sup> was its warmest January reading since January 4, 2004, when the maximum was 73°F. February switched to colder than normal readings (see February summary above).

**Winter Precipitation:** The Washington/Baltimore area recorded no significant snowfall and below normal precipitation this winter at the three major airports: DCA, 7.23", (-1.25"); BWI, 8.70" (-0.62") and IAD, 8.29" (-0.09"). Most of December's precipitation fell during two events. On Dec. 21, rainfall totals generally were between 1"-2". On Dec. 26, wet snow changed to heavy rain bringing 1"-4" to the area. Across the northern and western suburbs, snowfall up to 4.0" fell on Dec. 24 and Dec. 29. Strong winds occurred on Dec. 27 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Winds gusted to 50 mph in Springdale, MD (Prince Georges County) on the 27<sup>th</sup>; on the 30<sup>th</sup> gusts were measured at 53 mph in Arbutus (Baltimore County), MD, and to 52 mph near Quantico, VA (Prince William County). January brought slightly above normal precipitation at DCA and IAD and slightly below normal amounts at DCA. The majority of the month's precipitation occurred on Jan. 15-16 and Jan 30-31. The first event brought about an inch to most of the area. The second event featured a plume of tropical moisture, more common in late spring or summer. Many locations received more than 4", resulting in flooded roads, flood warnings, and several water rescues. Rainfall totals included 4.52" near Paeonian Spring, VA (Loudoun County), and 4.31" near Winfield, MD (Carroll County). In addition, wind damage from thunderstorms across portions of VA, knocked down trees in Stanardsville (Greene County) and near Charlottesville (Albemarle County). Snowfall generally was light with two minor events on the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Southern Maryland experienced a moderate snowfall with totals reaching 5.5" in Ridge (St. Mary's County), and 5.0" near Drum Point (Calvert County). Then on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the highest totals were 2.5" in Great Mills (St. Mary's County), MD, and 2.0" near Severn and Riviera Beach (Anne Arundel County), MD, and near Emmitsburg (Frederick County). February continued the drier than normal trend with only minimal snow. (See February summary above.)

### Winter 2012-13 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)				
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow	
<b>National (DCA)</b>	48.3	34.4	40.6	38.2	+2.4	72/12-4,1-30	15/1-23	7.23	8.48	-1.25	1.5	
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	46.1	30.3	38.2	35.1	+3.1	70/12-3,4;1-30	11/1-25	8.70	9.32	-0.62	4.8	
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	46.5	30.0	38.2	35.3	+2.9	71/12-4	9/1-23	8.29	8.38	-0.09	5.3	

**Looking Ahead to March**—a month of extremes. Below is a list of some notable March statistics for Washington since 1871.

Temperature Extremes			Precipitation Extremes		
Coldest: 1885	Avg. Temp.: 34°F	Dep. Nml.: -12°F	Wettest: 1891	Tot. Prec.: 8.84"	Dep. Nml.: +5.24"
Warmest: 2012	Avg. Temp.: 56.8°F	Dep. Nml.: +9°F	Driest: 2006	Tot. Prec.: 0.05"	Dep. Nml.: -3.03"
Extreme Minimum: 4°F (March 4, 1873)			Snowiest: 1914	Tot. Snowfall: 19.3"	Dep. Nml.: +17.7"
Extreme Maximum: 93°F (March 23, 1907)			Most precipitation in one day (liquid): 2.79" (March 9, 1881)		
Most days with: lows < 32°F: 24 (1960); highs > 90°F: 3 (1907)			Most snowfall in one day: 11.3" (March 29, 1942)		