

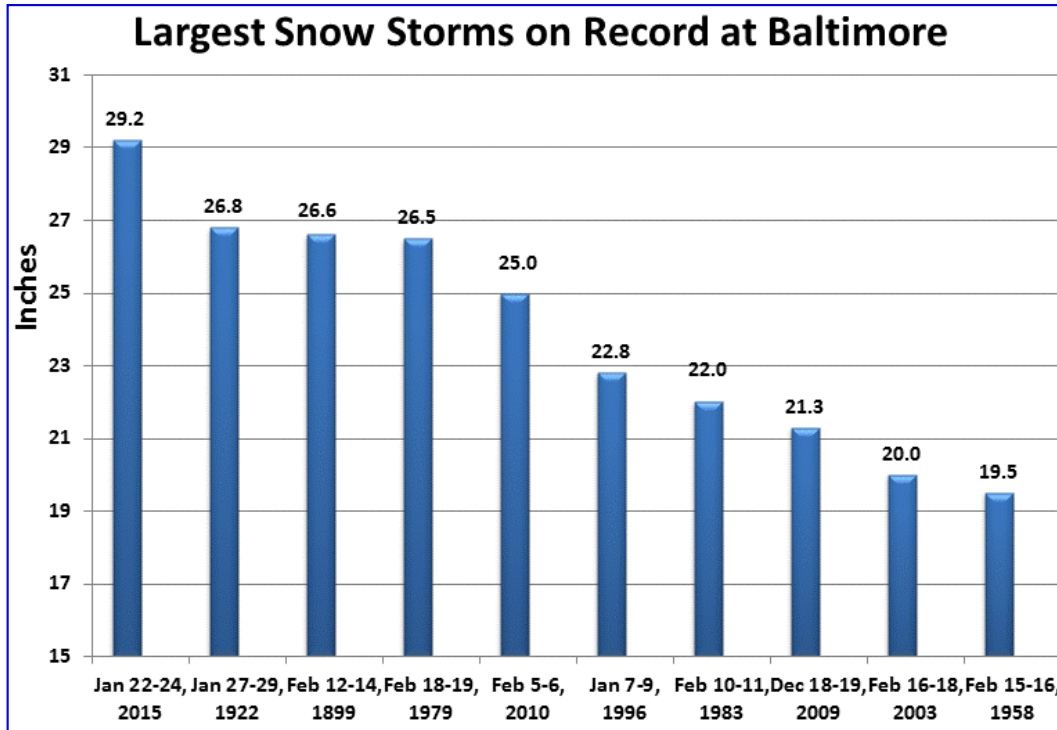


# PRESTO

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



## JANUARY: Blizzard of 2016, More Winter-Like Temperatures



### January Highlights

- ☛ Slightly below normal temperatures at the three major airports:  $-1.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA,  $-1.0^{\circ}\text{F}$  at BWI and  $-1.7^{\circ}\text{F}$  at IAD
- ☛ The area observed its first significant cold wave of the season with maximum readings at DCA at or below freezing on 4 days (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>), on 5 days at BWI (18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) and 6 consecutive days at IAD (18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>). Minimum readings on the 25<sup>th</sup> at IAD,  $4^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and at BWI,  $8^{\circ}\text{F}$
- ☛ The Blizzard of 2016 started the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> with snow heavy at times overnight and at varying intensity on the 23<sup>rd</sup> before ending about midnight. Many locations reported thunder-snow about dawn on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Strong winds gusted to 55 mph at Patuxent River (St. Mary's County), MD, and to 45 mph at Quantico Marine Corp (Prince William County), VA, resulting in considerable blowing and drifting snow and causing near whiteout conditions at times. Transportation was nearly impossible at the height of the storm. Airports, government and businesses closed. Many school systems remained closed through the following week. There were 9 fatalities locally; initial economic loss to the region was estimated at \$570 million, according to press reports. Snowfall amounts across the region ranged from about 1.5 feet to over 3 feet. Greatest totals in Maryland include 38.5" near Potomac and 35.2" near Gaithersburg (Montgomery County) and Point of Rocks (Frederick County); BWI measured a record 29.2", an all-time single daily record of 25.5" on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. In DC, 26.0" was measured at the Dalecarlia Reservoir, 22.4" at the National Zoo and 17.8" at DCA, equally DCA's 4<sup>th</sup> greatest total on record. In Virginia, 36.6" was measured near Bluemont (Loudoun County) and 32.1" near Bull Run (Prince William County); IAD reported 29.3", 2<sup>nd</sup> only to "Snowmageddon" on Feb. 5-6, 2010. IAD also set a single calendar day January record of 22.1" on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and set an all-time record 28" for snow depth on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The snowfall jackpot occurred near Johnstown (Berkeley County), WV, with 43.0".

## January 2016

**Temperatures:** After a record warm December, temperatures returned to more seasonal levels. Readings were slightly below normal at the three major airports: -1.1°F at DCA, -1.0°F at BWI and -1.7°F at IAD. January featured the season's first significant cold wave when maximum readings were at or below freezing on 4 days at DCA (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>), on 5 days at BWI (18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) and 6 consecutive days at IAD (18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>). Minimum readings at IAD were 4°F and at BWI, 8°F on the 25<sup>th</sup> when deep snow cover contributed to low temperatures. IAD also recorded single digits (9°F) on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The metro area also recorded bone chilling wind chill values on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> (-10°F). The month's warmest readings occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> when temperatures soared to 63°F at BWI, 62°F at DCA and a record 59°F at IAD. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, BWI reported 61°F and IAD 60°F.

**Precipitation:** Near to record monthly January snowfall amounts were measured at BWI (30.0") and at IAD (29.8") from the Blizzard of 2016; DCA's monthly snowfall (18.8") was also well above normal. Monthly precipitation was above normal at BWI, 3.50" (+0.45"), IAD 4.47" (+1.79") while DCA was near normal 2.68" (-0.13").

The blizzard of 2016 started the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> with snow became heavy at times overnight and varying in intensity on the 23<sup>rd</sup> before ending about midnight. Many locations reported thunder-snow about dawn on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Strong winds gusted to 55 mph at Patuxent River (St. Mary's County), MD, and to 45 mph at Quantico Marine Corp (Prince William County), VA, resulting in considerable blowing and drifting snow and causing near whiteout conditions at times. Transportation was nearly impossible during the height of the storm. Airports, government and businesses closed. Many school systems remained closed through the following week. There were 9 fatalities locally and initial economic loss to the region are estimated at \$570 million, according to press reports. The snowfall was relatively dry and being windblown, did not stick to power lines and trees, reducing power loss.

Snowfall amounts across the region ranged from about 1.5 to 3 feet. Greatest totals in Maryland were 38.5" near Potomac and 35.2" near Gaithersburg (Montgomery County) and Point of Rocks (Frederick County); BWI measured an all-time record 29.2" and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, an all-time single daily record of 25.5". In Washington, 26.0" was measured at the Dalecarlia Reservoir, 22.4" at the National Zoo and 17.8" at DCA, equally the 4<sup>th</sup> greatest total on record. In Virginia, 36.6" was measured near Bluemont (Loudoun County) and 32.1" near Bull Run (Prince William County), while IAD reported 29.3", 2<sup>nd</sup> only to "Snowmageddon" on Feb. 5-6, 2010. IAD also set a single calendar day January record of 22.1" on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and set an all-time record 28" for snow depth on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The snowfall jackpot occurred near Johnstown (Berkeley County), WV, with 43.0".

On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the season's first measurable snow began at the end of rush hour and lasted until after midnight. While amounts were light, timing of the storm and cold ground surfaces led to snow covered roads. It took some commuters up to 6 hours to drive home, according to press reports. Snowfall totals included 1.6" near the National Zoo and 1.4" near Falls Church (Fairfax County), VA.

The month's heaviest rainfall occurred from the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> until about dawn on the 10<sup>th</sup> when over an inch was reported in many areas including 1.94" near Thurmont (Frederick County), MD, and 1.64" in Sperryville (Rappahannock County), VA.

In addition to the blizzard, strong winds were reported on the 10<sup>th</sup>, knocking trees onto power lines near Germantown (Montgomery County), MD, with gusts to 51 mph near Ijamsville. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, wind gusts to 51 mph were measured near Bloomfield (Frederick County). On the 29<sup>th</sup>, wind gusts to 53 mph were observed near Belvedere height (Ann Arundel County), MD, and to 52 mph near Quantico (Prince William County), VA.

## January 2016 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)	42.5	27.3	34.9	36.0	-1.1	62/10	15/19	2.68	2.81	-0.13	18.8
Baltimore (BWI)	41.6	22.2	31.9	32.9	-1.0	63/10	8/25	3.50	3.05	+0.45	30.0
Dulles (IAD)	41.5	21.4	31.5	33.2	-1.7	60/31	4/25	4.47	2.68	+1.79	29.9

**Looking Ahead:** Does a snowy January lead to a snowy February? Listed below are the most recent 10 years when January measured above normal snowfall in Washington and the subsequent February snowfall totals in inches. Average DCA January Snowfall: 5.6", February: 5.7".

Year	2016	1996	1987	1966	1935	1925	1922	1918	1912	1892
January Snowfall	18.8	23.8	20.8	21.3	24.4	18.0	31.5	22.6	16.9	20.5
February Snowfall	?	15.2	10.3	6.9	3.5	T	3.0	1.5	0.5	7.5