

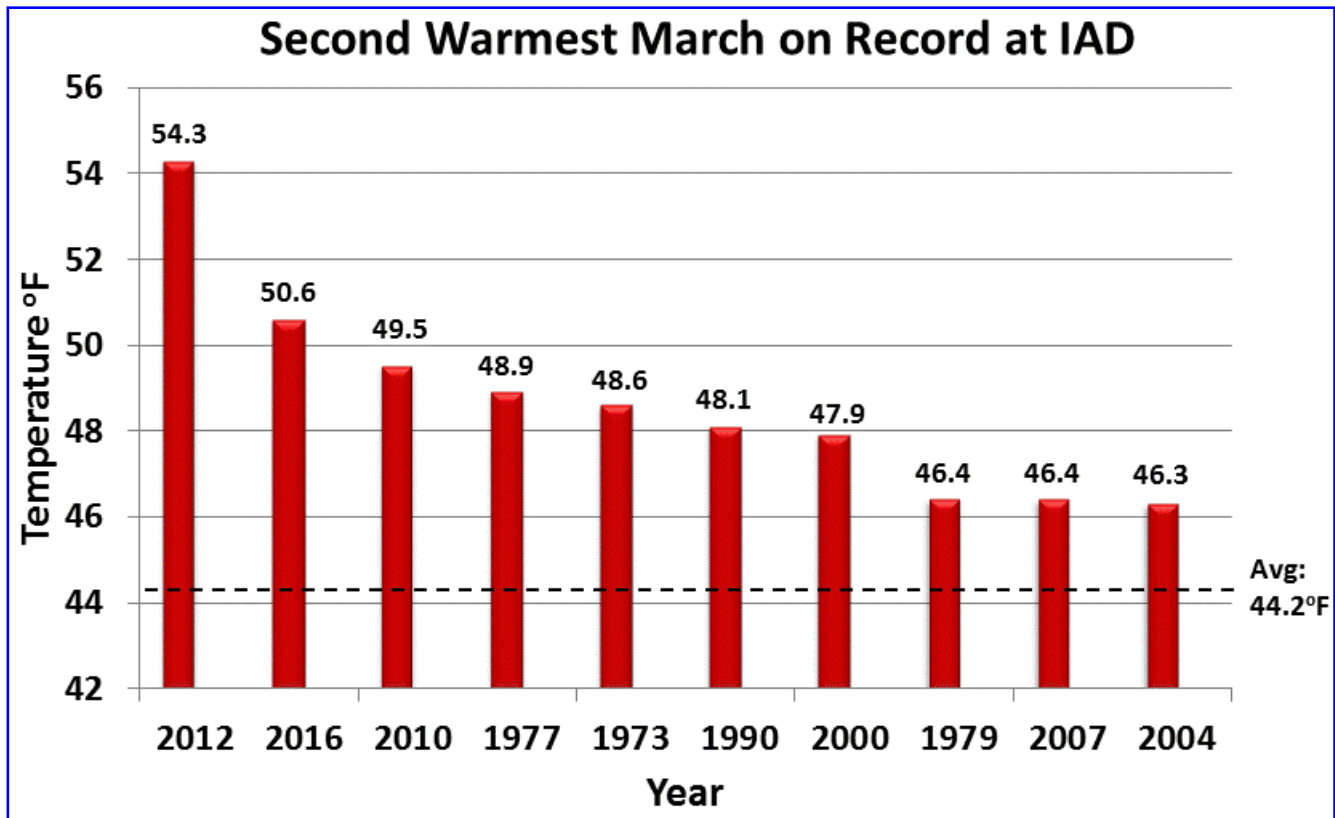


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH: Above Normal Temperatures with Subnormal Precipitation



### March Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures: 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record at IAD, 4<sup>th</sup> warmest in Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> warmest at BWI with positive departures of +6.7°F at DCA and +6.4°F at BWI and IAD
- DCA recorded 10 days with highs at or above 70°F, including a record 79°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>. BWI and IAD soared to record highs of 82°F on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 80°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>
- Well below normal precipitation was measured at the three major airports: DCA, 1.16" (-2.32"); BWI, 2.10" (-1.80"); and IAD, 1.45" (-1.93"); the month was the driest March at DCA, BWI since 2012 and since 2006 at IAD
- The season's final noteworthy snowfall occurred the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: heaviest amounts were measured in Southern Maryland including 6.3" near California (St. Mary's County), 4.6" in both Mount Victoria (Charles County) and near Huntingtown (Calvert County); elevated areas near Wintergreen in Augusta County, VA, reported 5.0" and near Shiloh (King George County), 3.5"
- Strong wind gusts on the 28<sup>th</sup> caused isolated areas of damage: a tree fell on a house in Sykesville, (Carroll County) MD, and a tree blocked a road near Oakton, (Fairfax County), VA. Maximum wind gusts of 55 mph were recorded near Sabillasville (Frederick County) and 54 mph and near Belvedere Heights, (Anne Arundel County), MD; winds peaked at 51 mph near Leesburg and 49 mph near Lovettsville (Loudoun County), VA, as well as at DCA.

## March 2016

**Temperatures:** The first month of spring featured well above normal temperatures. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record at IAD (graphic), 4<sup>th</sup> warmest in Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> warmest at BWI. Positive departures were +6.7°F at DCA and +6.4°F at BWI and IAD, marking the warmest March since 2012 at the three major airports.

DCA recorded 10 days with highs at or above 70°F, including a record 79°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>. BWI and IAD soared to record highs of 82°F on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 80°F on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 10<sup>th</sup> also featured calendar day record high minimum readings with 57°F at DCA and BWI and a balmy 59°F at IAD.

There were no intrusions of arctic cold. DCA and IAD observed only 4 days with highs in the 40s and BWI, only 5 such days. After dropping to 32°F or below from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, DCA recorded no subfreezing low temperatures the remainder of the month.

**Precipitation:** The three major airport measured well below normal precipitation: DCA, 1.16" (-2.32"); BWI, 2.10" (-1.80") and IAD, 1.45", (-1.93"). The month was the driest March at DCA, BWI since 2012 and since 2006 at IAD. None of the airports recorded at least an inch of precipitation on any calendar day.

The season's final noteworthy snowfall began the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and ended pre-dawn on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The heaviest amounts were measured in Southern Maryland, including 6.3" near California (St. Mary's County), 4.6" in both Mount Victoria (Charles County), and near Huntingtown (Calvert County); In elevated areas in Virginia snow totals included 5.0" near Wintergreen in Augusta County and 3.5" near Shiloh, (King George County). BWI measured 2.5" while IAD observed 1.3".

The month's largest rain event began the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> ending about dawn on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Portions of Maryland recorded over an inch for the event including 1.15" in Kingsville and 1.13" in White Marsh (Baltimore County); BWI's storm total was 1.11".

The month also featured strong wind gusts on the 28<sup>th</sup>, causing isolated areas of damage. A tree fell on a house in Sykesville, (Carroll County) MD, and a tree blocked a road near Oakton, (Fairfax County), VA. In Maryland, maximum wind gusts were 55 mph near Sabillasville (Frederick County) and 54 mph near Belvedere Heights, (Anne Arundel County); winds peaked at 51 mph near Leesburg and 49 mph near Lovettsville (Loudoun County), VA, as well as at DCA.

### March 2016 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

| Location        | Station Temperatures (°F) |       |      |      |        | Extreme/Day |      | Precipitation (inches) |      |        |      | Yr. to Date |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------|------|------|--------|-------------|------|------------------------|------|--------|------|-------------|
|                 | AvMx                      | AvMin | AvgT | NmlT | DepNml | Max         | Min  | Total                  | Nml  | DepNml | Snow |             |
| National (DCA)  | 63.1                      | 44.0  | 53.5 | 46.8 | +6.7   | 79/9,10     | 29/3 | 1.16                   | 3.48 | -2.32  | 0.3  | 7.63        |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 61.2                      | 38.8  | 50.0 | 43.6 | +6.4   | 82/9        | 22/3 | 2.10                   | 3.90 | -1.80  | 2.5  | 11.30       |
| Dulles (IAD)    | 62.6                      | 38.5  | 50.6 | 44.2 | +6.4   | 82/9        | 22/3 | 1.45                   | 3.38 | -1.93  | 1.3  | 9.71        |

**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 suburbs. 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 readings at DCA and IAD for the last 10 years.

| DCA  |                                    |      |                                    | 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 |
| 2015 | March 29 (28°F)                    | 2010 | Feb. 27 (31°F)*                    | 2015 | April 12 (31°F)                    | 2010 | April 18 (32°F)                    |
| 2014 | March 27 (27°F)                    | 2009 | March 24 (28°F)                    | 2014 | April 21 (31°F)                    | 2009 | April 13 (32°F)                    |
| 2013 | April 4 (31°F)                     | 2008 | March 9 (29°F)                     | 2013 | April 4 (31°F)                     | 2008 | April 16 (31°F)                    |
| 2012 | March 6 (29°F)                     | 2007 | April 9 (31°F)                     | 2012 | April 25 (31°F)                    | 2007 | April 11 (28°F)                    |
| 2011 | March 28 (31°F)                    | 2006 | March 23 (32°F)                    | 2011 | April 6 (30°F)                     | 2006 | April 10 (31°F)                    |

\*Earliest last freeze in DCA's recorded history.