

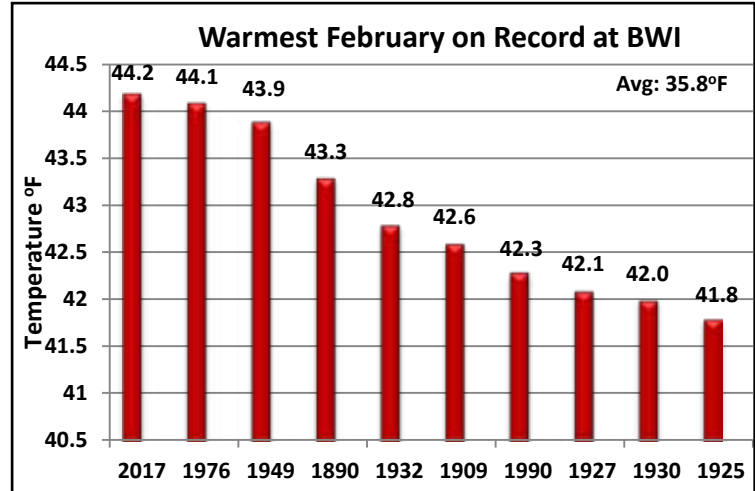
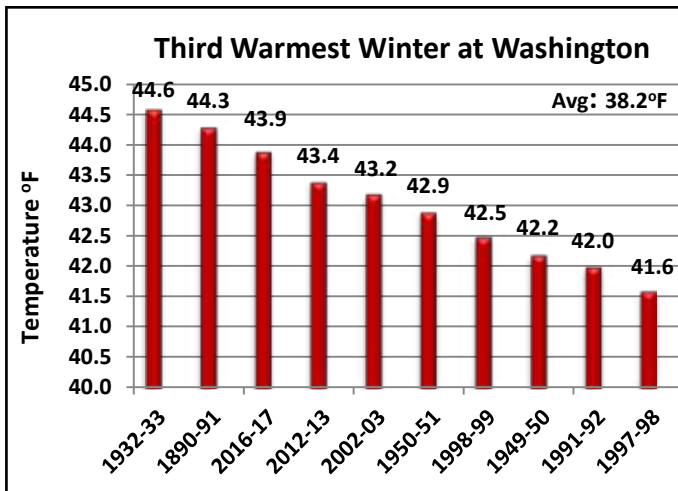


# PRESTO

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



## **FEBRUARY 2017: Warmest All Time: DCA, BWI & IAD; EF-1 Tornado Strikes Southern Maryland WINTER: Warmest All Time at IAD; 3rd Warmest at DCA; Little Snowfall in Metro Areas**



### February Highlights

- Warmest February on record at the three major airports: DCA, + 8.7°F; BWI, +8.4°F; IAD, +8.6°F
- Maximum readings in the 70s were reported on 7 days at BWI, an all-time record, 6 days at DCA (2nd most on record) and 6 days at IAD, equaling an all-time record for the month
- Record high temperatures on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: 73°F and 74°F at DCA; 72°F at BWI both days and 72°F and 71°F at IAD; 77°F reading at IAD on 23<sup>rd</sup> broke another calendar day record
- DCA marked 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with subnormal precipitation, BWI, 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month. Less than one inch of precipitation at DCA (6<sup>th</sup> driest on record) and at IAD (7<sup>th</sup> driest on record); driest since 2009 at all three airports
- Strong winds impacted the area late evening thru early morning on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with peak gusts at 66 mph at DCA, 63 mph in Hyattsville, (Prince Georges County) MD and 58 mph at IAD; Numerous reports of trees and power lines were downed across the region
- An EF-1 tornado (estimated wind speed of 90mph) was confirmed near La Plata and Waldorf in Charles County, MD. The tornado was on the ground for 11 minutes with a maximum path width of 125 yards and a path length of 8.4 miles. No fatalities or injuries were reported but trees were snapped, uprooted and toppled with some property damage to homes. Large hail measuring 1.75" struck near Roseville (Stafford County), VA and hail measured 1.25" in MD near White Marsh (Baltimore County) and near Mount Harmony (Calvert County).

### Winter Highlights

- Warmest on record at IAD; 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest at DCA, 8<sup>th</sup> warmest at BWI
- BWI and IAD recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest snowfall on record, 0.7" and 1.6", respectively; 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest snowfall on record at DCA, 1.4"
- Ninth driest winter at IAD, 5.80"
- Sleet and freezing rain coated roads on morning of Dec. 17, resulting in four fatalities and dozens more injured. Sections of the Capital Beltway and I-95 were closed for hours; a tanker truck went off the highway and burst into flames in Baltimore killing two and injuring at least 12, causing a 55 car pileup, according to press reports. Ice accumulations reached 0.2" at BWI and near Pimlico in Baltimore City and 0.13" near Leesburg, (Loudoun County) VA
- On Jan 12, DCA soared to 72°F; BWI and IAD reached 70°F, equaling a record at BWI and breaking a record at IAD
- DCA recorded 19 consecutive days (Jan. 11-29) with minimum readings above freezing, an all-time record
- The season's first major snowfall dumped significant amounts over Southern Maryland and portions of Virginia south of Washington on Jan. 7 but much less fell in the immediate metro area. Storm totals in Maryland included 9.7" near Ridge, 8.0" and near California (St. Mary's County) and 7.5" near Dowell and Chesapeake Woods (Calvert County); in Virginia, highest totals were 5.5" in Jersey (King George County) and 3.4" near Sealston and near Fredericksburg (Stafford County)

## February 2017

**Temperatures:** Unprecedented warmth enveloped the area during winter's final month. Positive departures were + 8.7°F at DCA, +8.4°F at BWI and +8.6°F at IAD, marking the warmest February on record at the three major airports. The average temperature for the month was 47.7 °F at DCA, 44.2°F at BWI and 44.8°F at IAD. May-like maximum temperatures in the 70s were reported on 7 days at BWI, an all-time record, 6 days at DCA, 2<sup>nd</sup> most on record, and 6 days at IAD, equaling an all-time record for the month. High temperature records were set at all three airports on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: 73°F and 74°F at DCA; 72°F at BWI both days and 72°F and 71°F at IAD. Additionally, the 77°F reading at IAD on the 23<sup>rd</sup> broke another record for the calendar day. High minimum readings continued the record-breaking list: DCA broke records on 4 days, 2 such days at BWI and 5 days with new or equaled records at IAD. IAD recorded 5 days with minimum readings at or above 50°F, the most all-time, while DCA reported 3 such days, 2<sup>nd</sup> most all-time. The month's coldest day in Washington was on the 10<sup>th</sup> with a high temperature of 39°F, the only such occurrence when readings did not reach at least 40°F.

**Precipitation:** The month was very dry and often windy with drought intensity increasing from a moderate to severe by month's end. It was the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with subnormal precipitation at DCA and the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month at BWI. Monthly rainfall totals were 0.68" (-1.94") at DCA, 6th driest on record; 1.46" (-1.44") at BWI; and 0.71" (-2.03") at IAD, 7<sup>th</sup> driest on record and driest since 2009 at all three airports. The three major airports reported only a trace of snow. The month's lone snowfall event occurred across Carroll County, MD, on the 9<sup>th</sup> when 4.0" was measured near Taneytown and 2.3" near Millers. Strong winds followed the event areawide with gusts to 57 mph near Independent Hill (Prince William County), VA; 53 mph in Gaithersburg, (Montgomery County) MD and 51 mph at IAD as well as near Catholic University in Washington. Strong winds also impacted the area late evening thru early morning on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> when peak gusts reached 66 mph at DCA, 63 mph in Hyattsville, (Prince Georges County) MD, and 58 mph at IAD. There were numerous reports of trees and power lines downed across the region. Occupants were trapped in their home near Germantown, MD, when a tree crashed onto their house, according to press reports. There were 10 reports of trees down across Howard County, MD, and numerous trees downed in Merrifield and Falls Church, VA. Later on the 13<sup>th</sup>, winds gusted to 61 mph near Flint (Frederick County), MD, and to 59 mph near Quantico (Prince William County), VA. Two days later on the 15<sup>th</sup>, peak wind gusts reached 49 mph near Morningside and near Andrew Air Force Base in Maryland.

The season's first severe weather outbreak occurred on the month's final afternoon. An EF-1 tornado (estimated wind speed of 90 mph) was confirmed near La Plata and Waldorf in Charles County, MD. The tornado was on the ground for 11 minutes with a maximum path width of 125 yards and a path length of 8.4 miles. No fatalities or injuries were reported but trees were snapped, uprooted and toppled with damage to homes. Large hail measuring 1.75" struck near Roseville (Stafford County), VA, and hail measured 1.25" in Maryland near White Marsh (Baltimore County) and near Mount Harmony (Calvert County).

### February 2017 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)  | 57.6                      | 37.8  | 47.7 | 39.0 | +8.7   | 77/24       | 23/10 | 0.68                   | 2.62 | -1.94  | T    |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 56.1                      | 32.3  | 44.2 | 35.8 | +8.4   | 77/23       | 17/4  | 1.46                   | 2.90 | -1.44  | T    |
| Dulles (IAD)    | 56.8                      | 32.9  | 44.8 | 36.2 | +8.6   | 77/24,25    | 14/4  | 0.71                   | 2.74 | -2.03  | 0.6  |

**Winter (Dec-Feb) Temperatures:** The winter of 2016-17 featured well above normal temperatures at the three major airports fueled by a record warm February and a well above normal January. Positive seasonal departures were +5.7°F at DCA, +5.4°F at BWI and +5.5°F at IAD. December started the season with above normal temperatures but included three Arctic air intrusions with wind chill in the single digits; IAD recorded a record low temperature of 9°F. on Dec. 16. January was well above normal. The month's highest readings occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> when DCA soared to 72°F and BWI and IAD reached 70°F, equaling a record at BWI and breaking a record at IAD. The three airports set several high minimum records as well. The month included some Arctic cold from Jan 7-9 when maximum readings held in the 20s. February was well above normal (see monthly summary).

**Winter Precipitation:** Seasonal precipitation was well below normal with little snowfall: DCA, 6.04" (-2.44"); BWI, 6.92" (-2.40"); and IAD, 5.80" (-2.58"). Winter snowfall was even more minimal: DCA, 1.4" (-12.2"); BWI, 0.7" (-17.1); and IAD, 1.6" (-16.9). December started the dry winter with slightly below normal rainfall and no measurable snow at the three major airports. The month featured a winter storm on the 17<sup>th</sup> that resulted in dangerous road conditions due to sleet and freezing rain, resulting in four traffic related fatalities and dozens of injuries. January featured near normal precipitation and again little snowfall. The season's first major snowfall dumped significant amounts over Southern Maryland and portions of Virginia south of Washington on Jan. 7 but only about an inch fell in the immediate metro area. February continued dry (see monthly summary).

### Winter 2016-17 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)  | 51.8                      | 38.9  | 43.9 | 38.2 | +5.7   | 77/2-24       | 15/1-8 | 6.04                   | 8.48 | -2.44  | 1.4  |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 49.6                      | 31.4  | 40.5 | 35.1 | +5.4   | 77/2-23       | 10/1-9 | 6.92                   | 9.32 | -2.40  | 0.7  |
| Dulles (IAD)    | 50.1                      | 31.5  | 40.8 | 35.3 | +5.5   | 77/2-24, 2-25 | 7/1-9  | 5.80                   | 8.38 | -2.58  | 1.6  |

**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.: +5.36" |
| Warmest: 2012  | Avg. Temp.: 56.8°F | Dep. Nml.: +9°F  | Driest: 2006  | Tot. Prec.: 0.05" | Dep. Nml.: -3.43" |
| Extreme Minimum: 4°F (March 4, 1873)                           |                    |                  | Snowiest: 1914  |                   |                   |
| Extreme Maximum: 93°F (March 23, 1907)                         |                    |                  | Tot. Snowfall: 19.3"  |                   |                   |
| Dep. Nml.: +18.0"  |                    |                  | 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)              |                   |                   |