

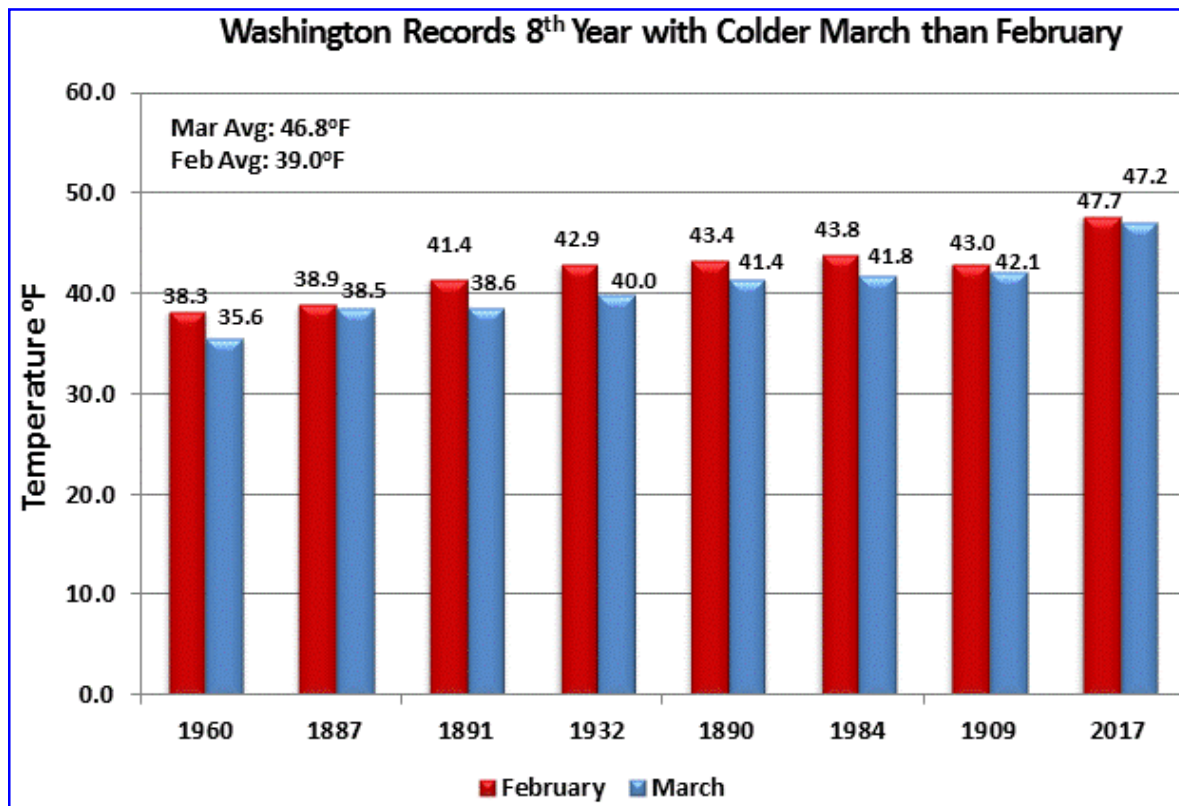


PRESTO

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



MARCH 2017: Colder March than February at DCA and BWI; Winter Storm on 13th -14th



March Highlights

- ☛ All three airports marked their 10th consecutive month at or above normal temperature
- ☛ Colder March than February at DCA and BWI; first such occurrence since 1984
- ☛ Record tying 80°F at DCA on 1st; on 25th, 80°F at BWI and record 78°F at IAD
- ☛ Subfreezing high of 31°F on the 15th broke record for date at IAD and equal recorded at BWI
- ☛ On March 13th-14th a winter storm impacted the region. In Maryland, snowfall totals included 11.0" near Sabillasville (Frederick County) and 8.0" near Westminster and Lineboro (Carroll County). Closer to the cities where snow changed to sleet, totals included 4.5" near Damascus (Montgomery County) and 4.0" near Pimlico (Baltimore County). In Virginia, totals included 8.0" near Lovettsville (Loudoun County), 4.5" near Lincolnia (Fairfax County) and 3.2" near Baileys Crossroads (Arlington County); IAD recorded a calendar day record 4.1"
- ☛ Powerful wind gusts swept through the region during the afternoon of the 2nd accompanied by brief showers and thunderstorms. Peak winds gusts included 78 mph at Quantico (Prince William County), VA, 66 mph at Germantown (Montgomery County), MD, 62 mph at Andrew AFB (Prince Georges County), MD, and 61 mph in King George, VA. The strong winds caused tree and property damage, stripping roof shingles and siding on four buildings in an apartment complex in White Marsh (Baltimore County), MD
- ☛ DCA and BWI observed their 10th consecutive month with below normal precipitation

March 2017

Temperatures: The three airports reported near or at normal temperatures: +0.4°F at DCA, +0.3°F at BWI and exactly normal at IAD. The slightly above normal temperatures at DCA and BWI resulted in the 10th consecutive month with above normal readings and 9th at IAD. After an unprecedented warm February, the monthly average temperatures were cooler in March (47.2°F) than in February (47.7°F), marking only the 8th such occurrence on record in Washington and first since 1984 (see graphic). BWI also observed a warmer March than February with average March temperature of 43.9°F following an average February reading of 44.2°F, the 6th occurrence in Baltimore and the first time since 1984. As is typical for a transition month, temperatures fluctuated widely. DCA equaled a record high 80°F on the 1st and reported 5 days with highs at or above 70°F. At BWI, the maximum temperature soared to 80°F on the 25th and rose to 70°F or greater on 5 days. BWI also set a record warm minimum reading of 55°F on the 1st. IAD recorded a record high temperature of 78 °F on the 25th along with 4 additional days with maximum readings in the 70s and a record warm minimum reading of 53°F on the 1st.

In sharp contrast, on the 14th-15th, maximum readings held in the 30s across the area and between 40°F and 49°F on 8 other days. BWI tied a record minimum high temperature of 31°F on the 15th and reported 5 days with highs only in the 30s. IAD set a new record for cold on the 15th with a high temperature of just 31°F and 4 additional days during the month with highs only in the 30s.

Precipitation: Monthly totals were near slightly below normal at DCA: 3.19" (-0.29") and BWI: 3.82" (-0.08") and above normal at IAD: 4.12" (+0.74"). DCA and BWI observed their 10th consecutive month with below normal precipitation. The month featured two significant storm systems. On March 13th-14th a winter storm impacted the region as snow developed during the evening hours on the 13th then changed to sleet overnight in the metro area before ending as snow the following day. The storm resulted in hazardous road conditions and led to closures or delays to business and schools. Airlines cancelled and delayed flights, according to press reports. In northern Maryland, snowfall totals were greater with less sleet. Totals included 11.0" near Sabillasville (Frederick County) and 8.0" near Westminster and Lineboro (Carroll County). Closer to the cities, totals included 4.5" near Damascus (Montgomery County) and 4.0" near Pimlico (Baltimore County). In Virginia, totals included 8.0" near Lovettsville (Loudoun County), 4.5" near Lincolnia (Fairfax County) and 3.2" near Baileys Crossroads (Arlington County); IAD recorded a calendar day record 4.1". The precipitation changed to freezing rain closer to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland with 0.25" ice accumulation near Georgetown (Anne Arundel County) and near Columbia (Howard County). Following the storm on the 15th, strong winds buffeted the area. Peak gusts included 59 mph near Sabillasville and 58 mph near Burke (Fairfax County), VA.

On the final day of the month, over an inch of rainfall fell in many locations. Greatest amounts in Virginia included 1.76" near Remington (Fauquier County), a daily record 1.55" at IAD and 1.52" near Oak Hill (Fairfax County). In Maryland, highest totals were 1.52" near Damascus and 1.51" near Eldersburg (Carroll County). The heavy rainfall caused flooding and some road closures in Pumphrey (Anne Arundel County) and on Woodburn and Fox Mill Roads in Fairfax County.

On the 18th, Southern Maryland and the extreme southern DC suburbs recorded heavy rainfall ending as wet snow. Precipitation totals included 1.27" near Fredericksburg (Spotsylvania), VA, and 1.00" near Leonardtown (St. Mary's County), MD.

Powerful wind gusts swept through the region during the afternoon of the 2nd accompanied by brief showers and thunderstorms. Peak winds gusts included 78 mph at Quantico (Prince William County) VA, 66 mph at Germantown (Montgomery County), 62 mph at Andrew AFB (Prince Georges County), MD and 61 mph in King George, VA. The strong winds caused tree and property damage, stripping roof shingles and siding on four buildings in an apartment complex in White Marsh (Baltimore County), MD.

March 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)	56.5	37.9	47.2	46.8	+0.4	80/1	22/15	3.19	3.48	-0.29	2.0
Baltimore (BWI)	53.8	34.1	43.9	43.6	+0.3	80/25	18/5	3.82	3.90	-0.08	2.3
Dulles (IAD)	54.8	33.7	44.2	44.2	0.0	78/25	17/13	4.12	3.38	+0.74	5.7

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
2016	April 10 (31°F)	2011	March 28 (31°F)	2016	April 14 (31°F)	2011	April 6 (30°F)
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)

*Earliest last freeze in DCA's recorded history.