

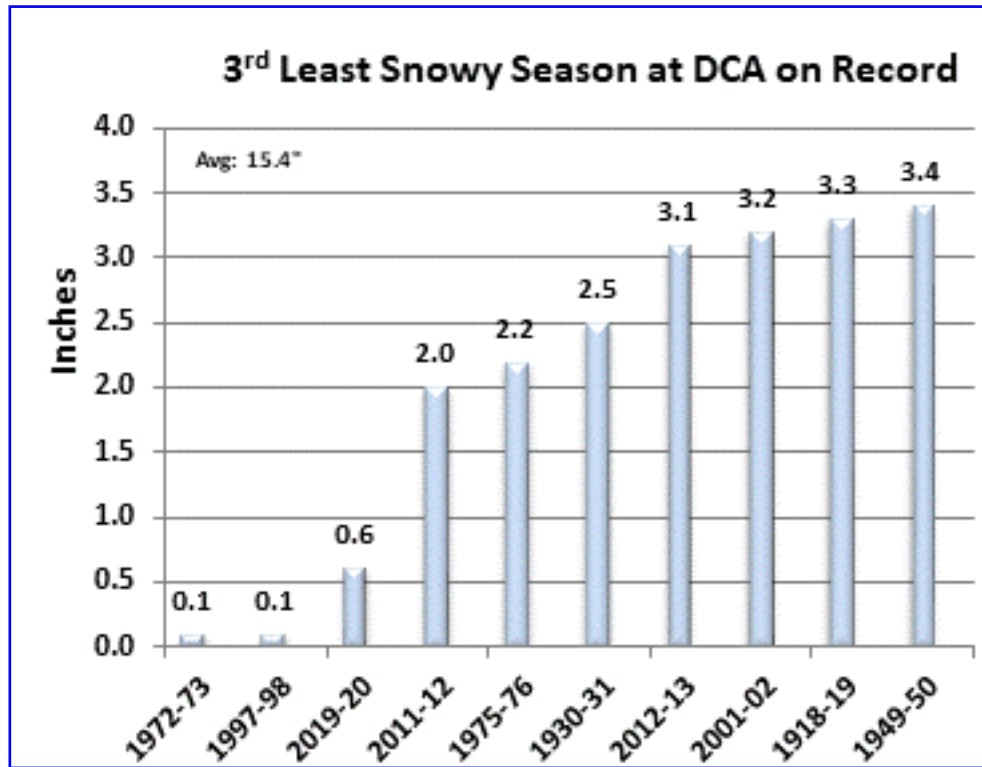


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH 2020: Well Above Normal Temps, Drier Than Normal with No Snow



### March Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures: DCA (+6.4°F), BWI (+7.3°F) and IAD (+6.2°F)
- 5<sup>th</sup> warmest March on record for DCA and BWI, 3<sup>rd</sup> for IAD
- Below normal precipitation despite frequent rainy days: DCA, 2.31" (-1.17"); BWI 3.95" (-0.85") and IAD, 1.99" (-1.38")
- No snowfall was measured at DCA and BWI and only a trace at IAD
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a widespread severe weather outbreak occurred with numerous reports of wind damage and trees down. All the damage was created by straight line winds. The strongest winds occurred west of the metro with a peak gust of 68 mph measured at the Hagerstown Regional Airport (Washington County), MD; 60 mph near Ridgely (Allegany County), MD; 60 mph near Petersburg (Grant County), WV, and 60 mph near Point of Rocks (Loudoun County), VA; DCA measured a 54 mph gust
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, IAD set a record maximum of 80°F and high minimum, 55°F; while DCA tied a record at 83°F

## March 2020

**Temperatures:** The first month of meteorological spring continued the trend of well above normal temperatures for the area. Temperatures ranged from 6 to 8 degrees above average for most locations: DCA (+6.4°F), BWI (+7.3°F) and IAD (+6.2°F), making it the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest March on record for DCA and BWI and 3<sup>rd</sup> for IAD. Despite the above average readings, only the 20<sup>th</sup> set a record: IAD observed a record maximum of 80°F, beating the former record 77°F set in 1976, and a record warm minimum, 55°F; also on the 20<sup>th</sup>, DCA tied a record at 83°F. Otherwise, it was a consistently warm month with temperatures consistently above normal. Baltimore had 27 days above average days, Reagan had 26 such days and IAD, 24 such days.

There were only a few days with the daily temperature averaging below normal for all three stations. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, DCA had marked its only day at or below freezing; BWI had 2 days with lows below freezing (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Dulles had 6 days with low temperatures at or below freezing.

**Precipitation:** All three major airports reported below normal precipitation, despite frequent rainy days. Precipitation anomalies were ¾ of an inch to 1½ inches below normal: DCA, 2.31" (-1.17"); BWI 3.95" (-0.85") and IAD, 1.99" (-1.38"). DCA and BWI measured no snow for the month and IAD, just a trace. The only significant snowfalls occurred in the mountainous areas of West Virginia. Despite these totals, almost half the month had days with measurable precipitation (15 at DCA, 14 for BWI and IAD) but the amounts were often light.

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### March 2020 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	Year to Date
<b>National (DCA)</b>	62.1	44.3	53.2	46.8	+6.4	83/20	26/1	2.31	3.48	-1.17	0	8.31
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	62.2	40.8	50.9	43.6	+7.3	83/20	20/1	3.05	3.90	-0.85	0	9.14
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	61.0	39.7	50.4	44.2	+6.2	80/20	21/1	1.99	3.38	-1.39	T	8.56

**Looking Ahead to April:** *With a warmer than average March, what does April bring?* DCA has had five Marches (1921, 1945, 1946, 2012 and 2016) on record with an average temperature higher than March 2020; four of the following Aprils observed above average temperatures. BWI had four such Marches (1921, 1945, 1946 and 2012) with all of the following Aprils above average and for IAD, there have been two Marches (2012 and 2016) on record with an average temperature higher than March 2020 (50.4 F) and both of the following Aprils observed monthly average temperatures -0.3 degrees lower than normal.

April also is usually the last month before autumn when a 32°F or lower reading occurs in the 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
2019	March 8 (32°F)	2014	April 3 (27°F)	2019	March 27 (27°)	2014	March 24 (28°F)
2018	March 21 (32°F)	2013	April 4 (31°F)	2018	April 30 (31°F)	2013	April 4 (31°F)
2017	March 23 (30°F)	2012	March 6 (29°F)	2017	April 9 (32°F)	2012	April 25 (31°F)
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)

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