

MARCH 1989: March 1989 halted a trend of subnormal monthly precipitation as all five locations recorded surplus precipitation for the first time since last November. This also broke a four-year sequence of extremely dry Marches in the region. Individually, BWI has now had three consecutive wetter than normal months (Jan: 3.07", +0.07"; Feb: 3.36", +0.38"; Mar: 4.24", +0.52" for a total of 10.67"). The last time this occurred was during November 1986-January 1987. At DCA, this marks the first time since December 1986-January 1987 that two consecutive months were wetter than normal (Feb: 2.80", +0.18"; Mar: 4.30", +0.84"). In addition, 1989's three month total of 9.59" is the wettest start to a calendar year since 1984 when 11.28" fell. Yet 1984 still ended up 1.27" below normal.

After mentioning the lack of March snowstorms at DCA in February's PRESTO, most of the region was glazed by sleet, freezing rain, and light snow on March 6. Of the five stations, ADW reported the most with 2.35" of frozen precipitation while IAD, DCA, BWI, and DAA observed 0.9", 0.4", 0.3", and a trace, respectively.

March temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal; however, the month was anything but normal. During the first 14 days of March, cold weather prevailed throughout the area (e.g. DCA's temperatures averaged more than 5°F below normal). After a brief warm spell during March 15-18, the passage of a strong cold front brought subnormal temperatures to the area for the next 6 days. Southwesterly flow returned during the last week of March as highs exceeded 80°F at most locations on March 28 and 29.

MARCH 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	54.9	37.3	46.1	45.8	+0.3	85/29	20/8	4.30	3.46	+0.84
Baltimore (BWI)	53.1	34.3	43.7	43.3	+0.4	85/28	19/8	4.24	3.72	+0.52
Dulles (IAD)	54.4	32.4	43.4	42.4	+1.0	86/28	18/8	4.01	3.43	+0.58
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	56.4	36.1	46.2	44	+ 2	83/29	23/8	4.89	3.7	+1.2
Andrews AFB (ADW)	54.3	36.4	45.3	45	+ 0	85/28	21/8	6.38	3.6	+2.8

A LOOKBACK AT THE EXTREMES OF SPRING (MARCH-MAY) PRECIPITATION:

STATION	WETTEST		DRIEST		RECORDS BEGAN:	NORMAL AMOUNT:
	AMOUNT	YEAR	AMOUNT	YEAR		
DCA	24.02"	1889	3.47"	1986	1871	9.87"
BWI	18.82"	1983	3.97"	1986	1951	10.51"
IAD	15.08"	1973	4.37"	1969	1963	10.19"