

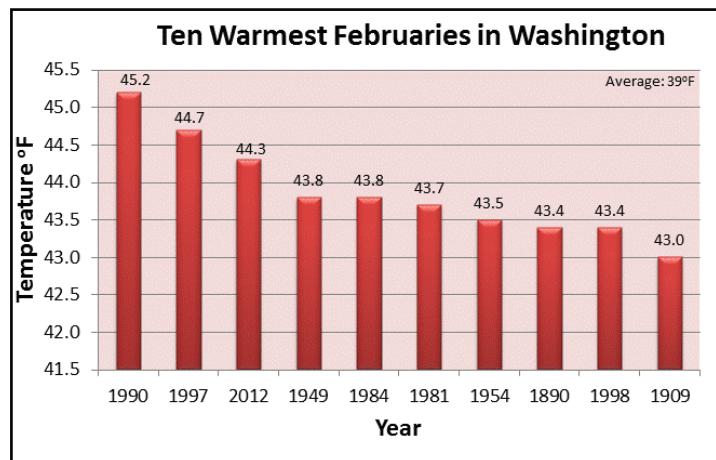


# PRESTO

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



## FEBRUARY 2012: Well Above Average Temperatures WINTER: Consistently Warmer Than Normal; Little Snowfall



### February Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures across the area: +5.3°F at DCA, +5.8°F at BWI and +4.7°F at IAD
- Third warmest on record at DCA and 4<sup>th</sup> warmest at IAD; warmest since 1997 at DCA and since 1998 at BWI and IAD
- Highs at or above 70°F in many locations on 1<sup>st</sup> including 72°F at DCA and 70°F at BWI; record 69°F at IAD
- Highs at or above 50°F at DCA on 18 days; 16 at IAD and 15 at BWI
- BWI observed 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive month with above normal temperatures
- Negligible snowfall across metro area: 0.3" at DCA; 0.5" at BWI and 1.4" at IAD
- Soaking rainfall on Leap Year Day with more than 2 inches across portions of Howard and Montgomery Counties, MD, and over 1 inch throughout most of the area; some flooded roads in Baltimore City, Howard and Montgomery Counties, MD, and Orange County, VA
- Significant snowfall across central Virginia on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> with about 6.0" in Charlottesville and as much as 10" in portions of Augusta County

### Winter Seasonal Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures across area: + 5.1°F at DCA; +5.6°F at BWI and +4.7°F at IAD
- Warmest winter on record at IAD (see graphic); 3rd warmest in Washington and 7<sup>th</sup> warmest in Baltimore
- Only 1 day with maximum temperatures at or below freezing at DCA (32°F on Jan. 22) fewest since 2002; Lowest maximum readings 31°F at BWI and IAD
- Coldest minimum reading 17°F at DCA; 14°F at IAD and 13°F at BWI on 1/4
- No snowstorms: winter snowfall totals: DCA: 2.0" DCA; 1.8" at BWI; 3.1" at IAD
- DCA 29°F monthly minimum is all-time warmest for December
- Major storm system on Dec. 6-7 with excessive rainfall including an all-time December daily record of 3.10" on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall totals from well over 2" to well over 4" flooded numerous roads across the area; rain changed to wet snow in high elevations in Loudoun County, VA, and accumulated 4.0" near Bluemont; strong winds followed storm with gusts to 46 mph at BWI on 8<sup>th</sup>
- Maximum temperatures in January at or above 60°F at DCA on 6 days, at BWI and IAD 4 days including record 66°F on 31<sup>st</sup>
- Brief heavy showers including some thundershowers impacting the morning rush hour with heavy downpours on Jan. 27

## February 2012

**Temperatures:** The consistent pattern of well above normal temperatures continued for the final month of meteorological winter. Positive departures were +5.3°F at DCA, +5.8°F at BWI and +4.7°F at IAD. February was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest in Washington and 4<sup>th</sup> warmest at IAD and warmest since 1997 at DCA and since 1998 at BWI and at IAD. There were few cold days; DCA recorded 18 days with highs at or above 50°F; 16 at IAD and 15 at BWI. The warm temperatures included highs at or above 70°F in many areas on the 1<sup>st</sup>, including 72°F at DCA and a record 69°F at IAD. High soared into the 60s on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. BWI's average maximum reading of 51.1°F equaled 2002 for its 6<sup>th</sup> warmest on record. The average minimum temperature for the month in Washington (36.3°F) and IAD (30.8°F) was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest on record. The relatively mild monthly minimum readings included 20°F on the 13<sup>th</sup> at BWI. DCA's minimum of 48°F on the 2<sup>nd</sup> set a new record maximum while 50°F at BWI equaled its record high minimum for the date.

**Precipitation:** The three major airports recorded subnormal precipitation with totals between 2"-3". Monthly amounts were 2.33" (-0.29") at DCA, 2.48" (-0.48") at BWI and 2.24" (-0.50") at IAD. The majority of the month's precipitation fell on Leap day as a soaking rain with well over 2" in some areas and more than an inch throughout most of the region. The greatest amounts were in Maryland: 2.33" near Columbia (Howard County) and 2.04" near Gaithersburg (Montgomery County); in Virginia, totals included 1.92" near Lovettsville, VA, (Loudoun County) and in Washington, 1.62" at the National Arboretum. Some roads were flooded across portions of Baltimore City, Howard and Montgomery Counties, MD, and across Orange County, VA. Snowfall was minimal across the metro area with monthly totals 0.3" at DCA; 0.5" at BWI and 1.4" at IAD. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, some locations in Maryland measured heavier totals in snow squalls including 3.9" near Manchester (Carroll County) and 3.0" near Jarrettsville (Harford County). Strong winds caused an injury near Fairfax Station, VA, when a tree crashed into a house. A significant snowfall occurred well south and west of Washington across central Virginia on the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> with 10.0" near Greenville (Augusta County), and 7.5" near Barboursville (Orange County). In a sign of spring conditions, severe weather was reported on the 24<sup>th</sup> across portions of Southern Maryland with 60 mph winds near Northwood in Charles County and 1.0" hail struck Patuxent River Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County. Strong winds buffeted the region following this storm system with gusts to 64 mph near Flint (Frederick County), 54 mph near BWI and to 51 mph at IAD.

### February 2012 Weather Statistics For The Washington/Baltimore Area

| Location        | Station Temperatures (°F) |      |      |      |        | Extreme/Day |          | Precipitation (Inches) |      |        |      |            |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|----------|------------------------|------|--------|------|------------|
|                 | AvMx                      | AvMn | AvgT | NmIT | DepNml | Max         | MinT     | Total                  | Nml  | DepNml | Snow | Yr to Date |
| National (DCA)  | 52.4                      | 36.3 | 44.3 | 39.0 | +5.3   | 72/1        | 23/11,12 | 2.33                   | 2.62 | -0.29  | 0.3  | 4.52       |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 51.1                      | 32.1 | 41.6 | 35.8 | +5.8   | 70/1        | 20/13    | 2.42                   | 2.90 | -0.48  | 0.5  | 4.96       |
| Dulles (IAD)    | 51.1                      | 30.8 | 40.9 | 36.2 | +4.7   | 69/1        | 17/13    | 2.24                   | 2.74 | -0.50  | 1.4  | 4.09       |

**Winter (December-February) Temperatures:** The winter featured consistently well above normal temperatures with few and only brief intrusions of Arctic air. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest winter in Washington (avg. temp. 43.3°F), 7<sup>th</sup> warmest in Baltimore (avg. temp. 40.7°F) and warmest on record at IAD (40.1°F). December thru February temperatures was the warmest since 1931-32 in Washington and since 1949-50 in Baltimore. December started the season with well above normal temperatures, tying for the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest on record at DCA; warmest since 2001 and 5<sup>th</sup> warmest at IAD. On Dec. 21, BWI and IAD set record highs, 62°F, and 61°F respectively. DCA's first freeze of the season didn't occur until Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, third latest on record. All three airports set daily minimum high temperature records on the 6<sup>th</sup>: 55°F at DCA, 56°F at BWI and IAD. January continued the warmer than normal winter pattern. Several temperature records for the warmth were set at IAD, including 66°F maximum reading on the 31<sup>st</sup> and a high minimum of 40°F on the 17<sup>th</sup>. DCA observed only 1 day (22<sup>nd</sup>) with maximum readings at freezing and none below 32°F. February continued the warmer than normal winter (see monthly summary).

**Winter Precipitation:** Near to somewhat above normal precipitation occurred across the area. Positive departures were +0.94 at DCA, +0.14 at BWI, and +0.17 and IAD. Snowfall was significantly below normal. Across the metro region, there were no snowstorms. Winter snowfall totalled only 2.0" at DCA, 1.8" at BWI and 3.1" at IAD. DCA and BWI did not record 1.0" of snow on any one calendar day the entire season. December began the season with well above normal precipitation but only a trace of snow in the immediate metro area. The month featured three significant storm systems. The major event, on Dec. 6-7, deluged the area with the heaviest rainfall of the month. Totals ranged from well over 2" to well over 4" in some locations resulting in urban and small stream flooding, and numerous road closures due to high water and more than 4" of snow to the north and west of the metro area. The three major airports set daily rainfall records on Dec 7 with 3.10" at DCA, 2.38" at BWI, and 2.14" at IAD. Strong winds lashed the area in the storm's wake with gusts to 51 mph at Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), MD. January switched to below normal precipitation across the area and minimal snow. The month featured one significant rainfall event on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> with well over an inch in many locations. Strong winds impacted the region after the rainfall ended including gusts to 53 mph near Flint, MD (Frederick County). Snowfall for the month was well below normal with monthly totals between 1"-2" at the major airports. February continued with drier than normal conditions (see monthly summary).

### Winter 2012 Weather Statistics For The Washington/Baltimore Area

| Location        | Station Temperatures (°F) |      |      |      |        | Extreme/Day |        | Precipitation (Inches) |      |        |      |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|--------|------------------------|------|--------|------|--|
|                 | AvMx                      | AvMn | AvgT | NmIT | DepNml | Max         | MinT   | Total                  | Nml  | DepNml | Snow |  |
| National (DCA)  | 51.4                      | 35.3 | 43.3 | 38.2 | +5.1   | 72/2-1      | 17/1-4 | 9.42                   | 8.48 | +0.94  | 2.0  |  |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 50.5                      | 30.9 | 40.7 | 35.1 | +5.6   | 70-2/1      | 13/1-4 | 9.46                   | 9.32 | +0.14  | 1.8  |  |
| Dulles (IAD)    | 50.1                      | 30.0 | 40.1 | 35.3 | +4.7   | 69/2/1      | 14/1-4 | 8.55                   | 8.38 | +0.17  | 3.1  |  |

**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.: +5.24" |  |
| Warmest: 1921, 1945  | Avg. Temp.: 55.°F | Dep. Nml.: +9°F  | Driest: 2006  | Tot. Prec.: 0.05"    | Dep. Nml.: -3.03" |  |
| Extreme Minimum: 4°F (March 4, 1873)                           |                   |                  | Snowiest: 1914  | Tot. Snowfall: 19.3" | Dep. Nml.: +17.7" |  |
| Extreme Maximum: 93°F (March 23, 1907)                         |                   |                  | 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)              |                      |                   |  |