

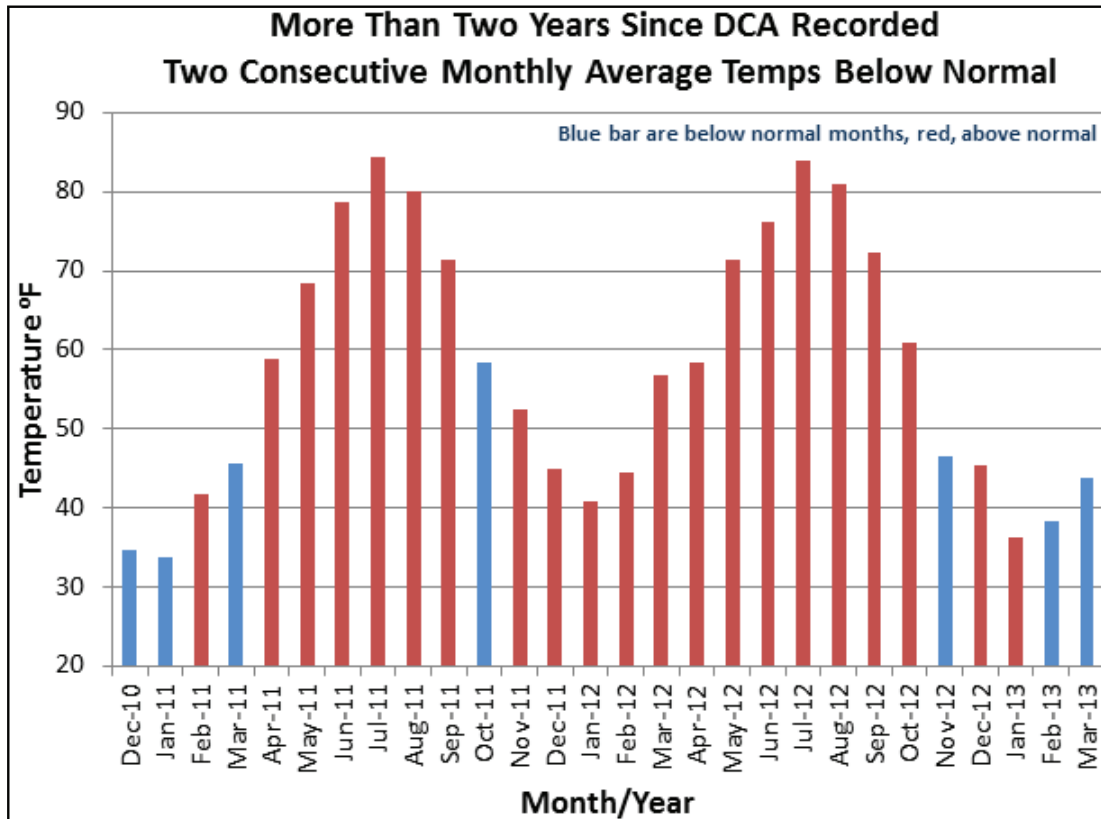


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH 2013: Winter Continues with Subnormal Temperatures and Above Normal Snowfall



### March Highlights

- Well below normal temperatures at all three major airports: -3.0°F at DCA and BWI; -4.0°F at IAD
- Monthly average temperatures at DCA (43.8°F) and BWI (40.6°F) were the coldest since 2005; IAD (40.2°F) was the coldest since 1996
- DCA did not record a 65°F or greater maximum reading in March (63°F); first such occurrence since 1958
- Average maximum temperature was 48.9°F at BWI, 49.2°F at IAD; coldest since 1993
- Snowiest March since 1999 at IAD (7.4"); only the third year on record with two snowfall events greater than 3.0" in March; daily records of 3.3" on 6<sup>th</sup> and 3.2" on 25<sup>th</sup>
- On the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, a coastal storm brought heavy snowfall across the Potomac Highlands: Totals in Virginia included 20.3" in Fisherville (Augusta County), 20.1" near Singers Glen (Rockingham County), and 20.0" near Linden (Warren County); in metro area, heaviest snowfall totals included 12.0" at Mt. Weather (Loudoun County), VA, 6.7" near Chantilly (Fairfax County), VA, and 5.8" near Manchester, (Carroll County), MD
- Season's largest snowfall fell on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: high snowfall totals included 5.5" near Long Green, MD, (Baltimore County) and 5.4" near Columbia (Howard County). In Virginia, totals included 6.9" in Marshall (Fauquier County) and 4.5" near Dunn Loring (Fairfax County). BWI and IAD set a daily snowfall record of 3.2" and 3.3" respectively. DCA's 1.4" was its first 1 inch or greater snow event since the Commuteageddon Storm on January 26, 2011, a record 788 days

## March 2013

**Temperatures:** March temperatures more closely resembled a continuation of winter than a transition to spring. All three major airports reported much below normal temperatures: -3.0°F at DCA and BWI and -4.0°F at IAD. Monthly average temperatures at DCA (43.8°F) and BWI, (40.6°F) were the coldest since 2005, while IAD's average temperature (40.2°F) was its coldest since 1996. In sharp contrast to 2012 (the warmest March on record at DCA and IAD, and third warmest at BWI) there were no periods of well above normal temperatures. In 2012, DCA recorded 18 days with maximum readings at or above 65°F compared to 2013 when the monthly maximum was 63°F. BWI's average maximum temperature of 48.9°F and IAD's 49.2°F average were their coldest since 1993. In addition, IAD recorded 5 days with maximum readings in the 30s, resulting in daily readings 15°F-20°F degrees below normal. Minimum temperatures were consistently cold as well. IAD reported 19 days with minimums at or below freezing; BWI, 15 such days.

**Precipitation:** The colder than normal temperatures contributed to much of the area experiencing above normal snowfall. Monthly totals were 7.4" at IAD (+4.6"), 3.2" at BWI (+1.3"), and 1.6" at DCA (+0.3"). IAD recorded its snowiest March since 1999; DCA and BWI recorded their snowiest month since January 2011. Despite the snowfall, precipitation was below normal at the three major airports: DCA, 2.80" (-0.68"); BWI, 2.64" (-1.26"); and IAD, 3.16" (-0.22").

The month's first wintry storm occurred from the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> when wet snow developed about midnight and continued until midafternoon before changing to rain. The greatest accumulations were at northern and western locations with totals including 12.0" at Mt. Weather (Loudoun County), 6.7" near Chantilly (Fairfax County), and 5.8" near Manchester, MD (Carroll County). IAD set a daily snowfall record of 3.3". Further west in the Potomac Highlands, the event resulted in heavy snowfall. Totals in Virginia included 20.3" in Fishersville (Augusta County), 20.1" near Singers Glen (Rockingham County), and 20.0" near Linden (Warren County).

The next storm system on the 12<sup>th</sup> brought heavy rain. Downpours resulted in localized flash flooding and road closures in elevated locations such as Bethel, (Fauquier County), VA, near Rixeyville (Culpeper County), VA, and near Windsor, (Frederick County), MD, with totals about 1.50".

The month ended with two more wintry events. On the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, the area was on the northern edge of a storm system with heaviest snowfall south of Washington. The highest totals were 3.3" near Culpeper County, VA, and 3.0" in Earlysville, (Albemarle County), VA.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, a steady wet snowfall, moderate to heavy overnight into the morning hours, brought many locations their largest snowfall of the season. Totals in Maryland included 5.5" near Long Green (Baltimore County), and 5.4" near Columbia (Howard County). In Virginia, totals included 6.9" in Marshall (Fauquier County) and 4.5" near Dunn Loring (Fairfax County). The 3.2" and 3.3" totals measured at BWI and IAD broke daily snowfall records; DCA's 1.4" was its first 1 inch or greater of snow since the Commuteageddon Storm on January 26, 2011, a record 788 days.

### March 2013 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	YTD
National (DCA)	51.5	36.1	43.8	46.8	-3.0	63/10	28/22	2.80	3.48	-0.68	1.6	7.00
Baltimore (BWI)	48.9	32.4	40.6	43.6	-3.0	62/9	25/15	2.64	3.90	-1.26	3.2	8.23
Dulles (IAD)	49.2	31.3	40.2	44.2	-4.0	62/10	22/23	3.16	3.38	-0.22	7.4	8.49

**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. 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
2012	March 6 (29°F)	2007	April 9 (31°F)	2012	April 25 (31°F)	2007	April 11 (28°F)
2011	March 28 (31°F)	2006	March 23 (32°F)	2011	April 6 (30°F)	2006	April 10 (31°F)
2010	Feb. 27 (31°F)*	2005	March 18 (31°F)	2010	April 18 (32°F)	2005	April 17 (31°F)
2009	March 24 (28°F)	2004	April 5 (31°F)	2009	April 13 (32°F)	2004	April 16 (30°F)
2008	March 9 (29°F)	2003	April 1 (32°F)	2008	April 16 (31°F)	2003	April 1 (27°F)

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