

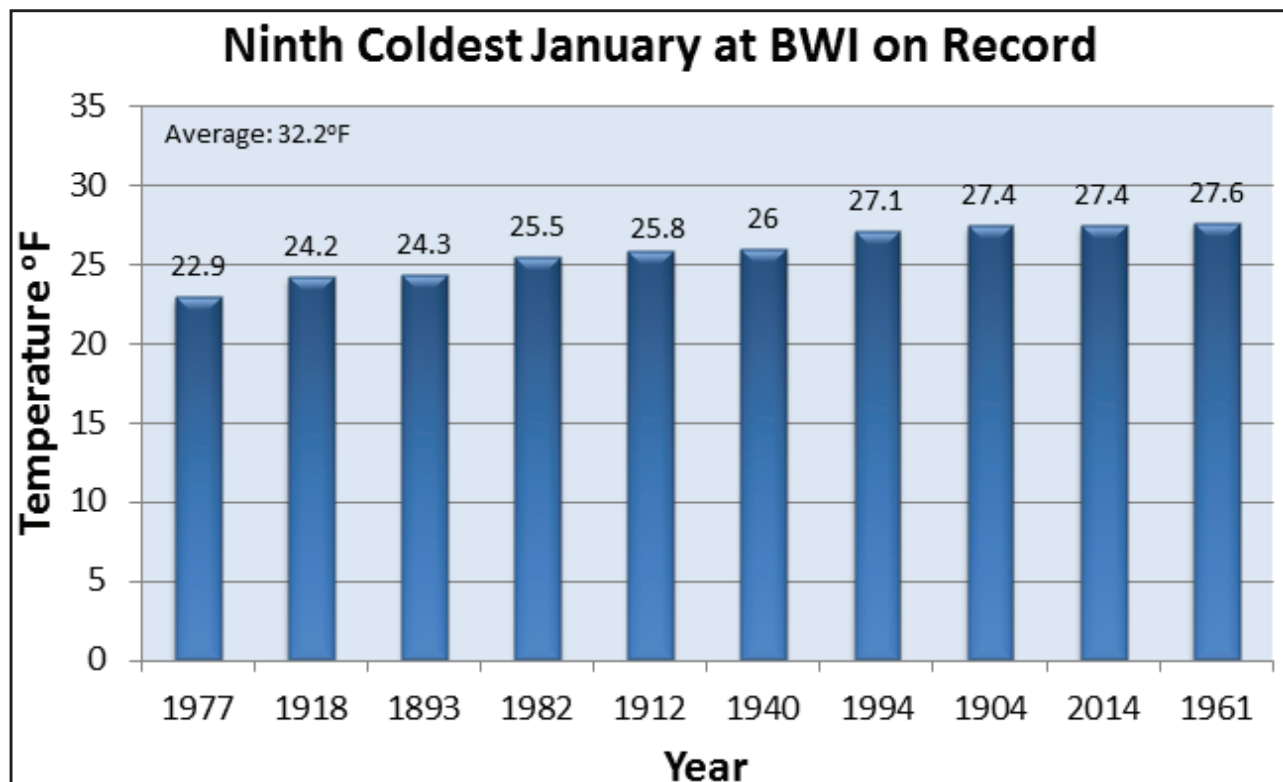


# PRESTO

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



## JANUARY 2014: Numerous Frigid Days, Snowiest Since 2000 at Dulles



### January Highlights

- ☛ Coldest January since 2009 at DCA and since 1994 at BWI and IAD: DCA, -3.8°F, BWI, -5.5°F, IAD, -6.0°F
- ☛ An intense cold wave occurred from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> with subfreezing temperatures throughout the period; longest period with maximum readings at or below 32°F in Washington and at IAD since 2007, and at BWI since 2005
- ☛ The 22<sup>nd</sup> was especially frigid; record minimum max. high temps occurred at DCA (19°F) and at BWI and IAD (15°F). First maximum temperature below 20°F in Washington since January 16, 1994
- ☛ IAD reported 11 days with minimums below 10°F, including -2°F on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a daily record of 1°F on the 7<sup>th</sup>; BWI reported 10 days with minimums below 10°F, including 3°F on the 7<sup>th</sup> (daily record) and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ☛ The -2°F reading at IAD on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was its coldest since February 9, 1996
- ☛ Snowiest month since January 2011 at DCA and BWI and since February 2010 at IAD
- ☛ On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a steady wet snow developed late in the day before ending late evening: highest Maryland totals included 7.5" in Norrisville (Harford County), 7.0" near Catonsville (Baltimore County), and 4.2" at BWI; in D.C., 3.0" was measured, and in Virginia, totals included 4.5" near Leesburg (Loudoun County), 3.6" near McLean (Fairfax County), 3.0" at IAD, and 1.9" at DCA
- ☛ On the 21<sup>st</sup>, a dry wind-blown powdery snow developed behind an Arctic front by mid-morning and continued moderate to heavy at times until mid evening. Highest Maryland totals included 11.2" near Scarboro (Harford County), 11.0" in Phoenix (Baltimore County), 5.1" at BWI, 7.0" near the National Zoo in D.C.; in Virginia, totals included daily record 8.5" at IAD, 7.0" near Franconia (Fairfax County) and 3.8" at DCA, first event greater than 2.0" since the Commuteageddon Storm on January 26, 2011

## January 2014

**Temperatures:** Numerous Arctic air masses resulted in average temperatures well below normal across the region. Negative departures were -3.8°F at DCA, -5.5°F at BWI and -6.0°F at IAD, leading to the 6<sup>th</sup> coldest January on record at IAD and the 9<sup>th</sup> coldest at BWI. DCA recorded 7 subfreezing days, BWI and IAD, recorded 12 such days, the most any month since January 2004. The area was enveloped in an intense cold wave from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> with subfreezing temperatures. It was the longest period with maximum readings at or below 32°F in Washington and at IAD since 2007 and at BWI since 2005. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was especially frigid: DCA measured a record minimum max. temperature, 19°F, and BWI and IAD, 15°F. An equally frigid day occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup> when high temperatures held mainly in the teens including record maximum minimums that reached only 16°F at BWI and 18°F at IAD. Wind chill readings at Flint (Frederick County), MD, dropped to a bone chilling -26°F.

Minimum readings were consistently cold. IAD reported 11 days with minimums below 10°F, including -2°F on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a daily record of 1°F on the 7<sup>th</sup>; BWI reported 10 days with minimums below 10°F, including 3°F on the 7<sup>th</sup> (daily record) and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. January marked the most days with minimums below 10°F at IAD since 1988, BWI tied for most on record with 1988, 1982 and 1977. The -2°F reading at IAD on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was its coldest observation since February 9, 1996.

The negative monthly departures would have been even greater if not for a warm period between the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> when DCA was above 50°F each day including a maximum reading of 61°F on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Precipitation:** While precipitation was near normal across the area, snowfall was above normal. Monthly precipitation departures were -0.23" at DCA, -0.34" at BWI and +0.01" at IAD. Monthly snowfall totals were 12.0" at IAD, 9.8" at BWI and 6.6" at DCA. It was the snowiest month since January 2011 at DCA and BWI and since February 2010 at IAD.

The month featured three significant snow events. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a steady wet snowfall developed late in the day before ending late evening. The highest Maryland totals included 7.5" in Norrisville (Harford County), 7.0" near Catonsville (Baltimore County) and 4.2" at BWI. In D.C., 3.0" was the high total and in Virginia totals included 4.5" near Leesburg (Loudoun County), 3.6" near McLean (Fairfax County), 3.0" at IAD and 1.9" at DCA.

Then on the 21<sup>st</sup>, a dry wind-blown powdery snow developed behind an Arctic front by mid-morning and continued moderate-to-heavy at times until mid evening. The largest Maryland totals included 11.2" near Scarboro (Harford County), 11.0" in Phoenix (Baltimore County), and 5.1" at BWI; a site near the National Zoo in D.C. measured 7.0"; in Virginia, totals included a daily record 8.5" at IAD (4<sup>th</sup> largest in January at IAD), 7.0" near Franconia (Fairfax County) and 3.8" at DCA.

The final snow event occurred late evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> into the 29<sup>th</sup> when a winter storm brought heavy snowfall across Southern Maryland. Totals included 6.7" in Ridge (St. Mary's County) and 6.5" in Lusby (Calvert County). Additional winter hazards included some ice accumulation north and west of Washington and Baltimore on the 5<sup>th</sup>, including 0.25" in Leesburg and Purcellville (Loudoun County), VA, 0.25" in Frederick (Frederick County), MD, and 0.20" near Damascus (Montgomery County), MD. The month's heaviest rainfall occurred from the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> when soaking rains produced over an inch in many locations including 1.57" in Scottsville (Nelson County), VA, and 1.50" in Shady Side (Ann Arundel County), MD. DCA recorded 1.44", BWI, 1.28" and IAD, 1.27". Damaging thunderstorm winds from the event knocked down power lines in Ridge, MD.

### January 2014 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	40.8	23.7	32.2	36.0	-3.8	61/13	6/7	2.58	2.81	-0.23	6.6
Baltimore (BWI)	37.0	17.8	27.4	32.9	-5.5	58/13	3/7,23	2.71	3.05	-0.34	9.8
Dulles (IAD)	36.9	17.5	27.2	33.2	-6.0	56/13	-2/23	2.69	2.68	+0.01	12.0

**Looking Ahead:** *Cold January = Cold February?* After experiencing the coldest January in Washington since 2009, what does the final month of meteorological winter have in store? Below is a look at the most recent 10 Januaries with subnormal average temperatures and what temperatures occurred in February (Feb. Avg 39.0°F).

Year	2014	2011	2010	2009	2004	2003	2001	2000	1996	1994
January	32.2	33.7	35.3	31.7	30.6	31.1	35.5	35.9	32.9	28.8
February	?	41.8	34.2	39.8	38.2	33.7	40.9	42.5	37.3	36.3