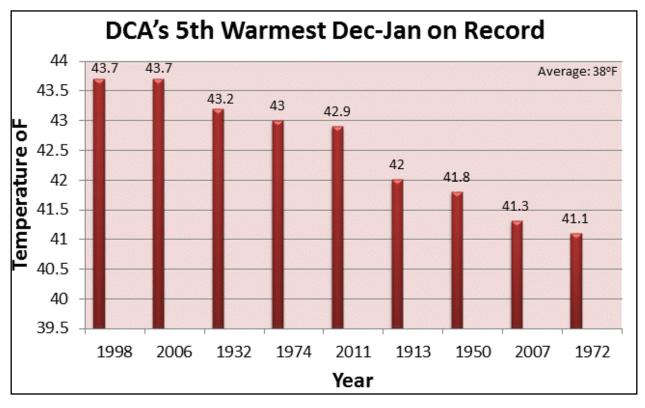




JANUARY 2012: Consistently Warm With Subnormal Snowfall



January Highlights

- Above normal temperatures at all three major airports: +4.7°F at DCA, +5.4°F at BWI and +4.5°F at IAD
- Third consectuive month with above normal temperatures at DCA, BWI, and IAD
- Maximum temperatures at or above 60°F at DCA on 6 days, at BWI and IAD 4 days including record 66°F on 31st
- Maximum temperatures at or above 50°F at IAD on 15 days, only four such occurrences on record
- Tonly one day, 22nd, with maximum readings at freezing (32°F) at DCA for month
- Soaking rainfall of greater than an inch in many locations on the 11th-12th
- Below normal snowfall across the region with amounts less than 2" at DCA, BWI and IAD
- Brief heavy showers including some thundershowers impacting the morning rush hour with heavy downpours on 27th

January 2012

Temperatures: January continued the warmer than normal winter pattern with above normal temperatures throughout the area. Positive departures were +4.7°F at DCA, +5.4°F at BWI and +4.5°F at IAD. The month was consistently warm with only brief intrusions of cold temperatures. Maximum readings were at or above 60°F on 6 days at DCA, and 4 days at BWI and IAD. In addition, daily high temperatures were at or above 50°F on 15 days at DCA and IAD and on 14 days at BWI.

Several temperature records for the warmth were established at IAD including 66°F maximum reading on the 31st and a high minimum of 40°F on the 17th. DCA observed only 1 day (22nd) with maximum readings at freezing and none below 32°F.

Minimum monthly readings at the three major airports remained well above 10°F for the middle of winter with the coldest temperatures recorded 17°F at DCA, 14°F at IAD and 13°F at BWI.

Precipitation: Subnormal precipitation was observed across the area including the three major airports. Monthly totals were 2.19" (-0.62") at DCA, 2.54" (-0.51") at BWI, and 1.85" (-0.83") at IAD. The month featured one significant rainfall event on the 11th-12th. Totals were well over an inch in many locations including 1.66" in Woodbridge, VA (Prince William County); 1.64" in Washington, DC, and 1.50" in Rockville, MD, (Montgomery County). Strong winds impacted the region after the rainfall ended including gusts to 53 mph near Flint, MD (Frederick County), and 49 mph near Lovettsville, VA (Loudoun County).

Snowfall for the month was well below normal with monthly totals between 1"-2". The area was impacted with three minor snowfall events.

On the 3^{rd} - 4^{th} , 3.0" was measured near Upperville, VA (Loudoun County). Then on the 9^{th} , a weak system resulted in 2.3" measured near Camp Springs, MD (Prince Georges County), and 2.0" in Manassas, VA.

Finally, on the 20th, light rain changed to wet snow with the highest totals in Maryland at 2.6" near Parkton (Baltimore County) and 2.4" near Kingsville (Harford County).

The month's final event occurred on the 27th when heavy showers, including rare January thundershowers, were observed in many areas, with rainfall totals of 0.89" at BWI and 0.63" at DCA.

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Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme	e/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow
National (DCA)	49.3	32.2	40.7	36.0	4.7	68/7	17/4	2.19	2.81	-0.62	1.7
Baltimore (BWI)	47.9	28.6	38.3	32.9	5.4	66/7,31	13/4	2.54	3.05	-0.51	1.3
Dulles (IAD)	47.8	27.7	37.7	33.2	4.5	66/31	14/4	1.85	2.68	-0.83	1.7

Looking Ahead: Continued Below Normal Snowfall? After 2 months with no significant snowfall, what does February have in store? Listed below are the most recent 10 years with subnormal December and January snowfall at DCA and the resultant totals in February. February average, 4.8"

Year	2012-11	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2001-02	2000-01	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97	1994-95
December	Т	Т	2.6	Т	0	2.0	0.5	0.1	0.2	0
January	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	2.4	2.2	Т	2.3	3.9
February	?	0.1	1	5.9	0.5	2.8	0.2	Т	4.0	5.8