

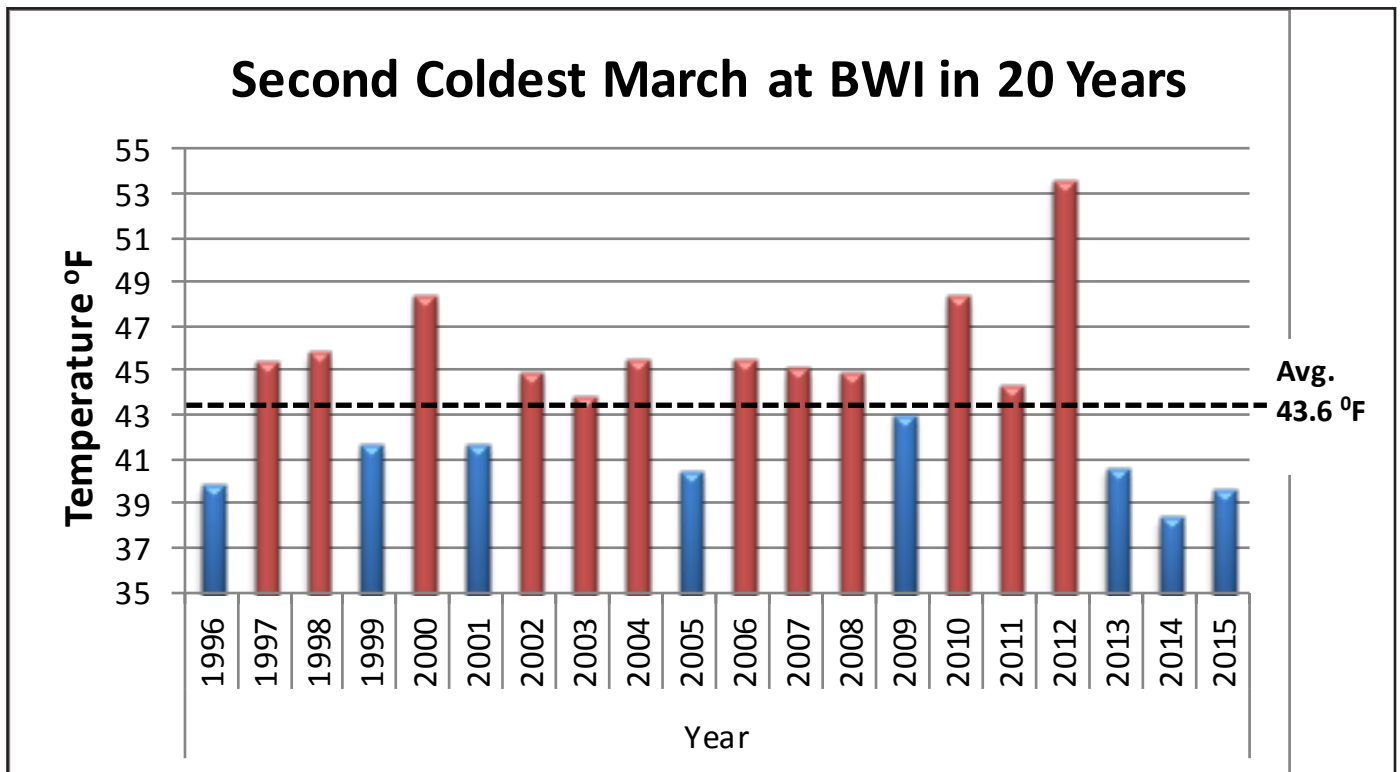


PRESTO

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



MARCH 2015: Third Month with Subnormal Temperatures; More Snowfall



March Highlights

- Well below normal temperatures with negative departures of -1.5°F at DCA, -3.9°F at BWI and -4.0°F at IAD
- All three major airports recorded below normal temperatures for the first 3 months of 2015: first such occurrence since 1969-70 at DCA and BWI, and since 1987-88 at IAD.
- Bitter cold conditions impacted the area on the 6th and the morning of the 7th; BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on the 6th and 6°F and 2°F on the 7th. IAD also set a daily minimum maximum of 27°F on the 6th and again toward the end of the month with a maximum of 37°F on the 28th, IAD's coldest high March temperature since March 30, 1964.
- Snowfall totals were 4.9" at DCA, 7.7" at BWI and 10.5" at IAD, resulting in the third consecutive March with above normal snowfall at all three major airports.
- The month's largest snowfall occurred on the 5th when 5"-9" of wet snow accumulated across the region. The storm started as rain on the 4th, then changed to wet snow behind an Arctic front on the 5th. The snow resulted in hazardous road conditions prompting most school systems and federal offices to close. The greatest snowfall amounts occurred in northern Maryland with 12.5" measured near Lineboro in Carroll County, and 10.3" near Walkersville (Frederick County). In Virginia, 11.0" accumulated near Winchester (Frederick County) and 9.0" in Herndon (Fairfax County). The 9.5" total at IAD was its greatest March snowfall since "The Storm of the Century" on March 13, 1993.

March 2015

Temperatures: The month featured well below normal temperatures again with negative departures of -1.5°F at DCA, -3.9°F at BWI and -4.0°F at IAD. It was the second coldest March since 1996 at BWI (see graphic), and since 1997 at IAD. All three major airports recorded below normal temperatures for the first three months of 2015, the first time since 1969-70 at DCA and BWI, and since 1987-88 at IAD. Bitter cold conditions impacted the area on the 6th and the morning of the 7th; BWI and IAD broke low temperature records with minimums of 10°F and 9°F on the 6th and 6°F and 2°F on the 7th. Wind chill values were about -5°F during the morning of the 6th. IAD set a daily low maximum of 27°F on the 6th and again toward the end of the month with a maximum of 37°F on the 28th, its coldest high temperature so late in the season since March 30, 1964. The long siege of at or subfreezing minimums ended at 37 days on the 4th at BWI and IAD when they each recorded their first above freezing low temperatures since January 25.

The month finally transitioned to warmer temperatures on the 9th when DCA recorded 10 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 2 days with maximum readings of 70°F or greater; BWI observed 7 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 2 days with maximum readings of 70°F or greater; IAD, 8 days with highs at 60°F or greater and 1 day with a maximum readings of 70°F or greater.

Precipitation: All three major airports recorded above normal precipitation and snowfall: DCA, 4.04" (+0.56"); BWI, 4.67" (+0.77"); IAD, 3.92" (+0.54"). Snowfall totals at DCA were 4.9"; BWI, 7.7"; and IAD, 10.5", resulting in the third consecutive March with above normal snowfall at all three major airports. Several winter storms continued impacted the area. The first day of the month featured light snow changing to freezing rain with ice accumulations about .25" across the metro area with higher totals in isolated areas such as .35" near Bel Air (Harford County), MD, and .33" on Cobb Island (Charles County), MD.

The month's largest snowfall occurred on the 5th when 5"-9" of wet snow fell across the region. The storm started as rain on the 4th, then changed to wet snow behind an Arctic front on the 5th. The snow resulted in hazardous road conditions prompting most school systems and federal offices to close. The greatest snowfall amounts occurred in northern Maryland: 12.5" near Lineboro (Carroll County), and 10.3" near Walkersville (Frederick County). In Virginia, 11.0" accumulated near Winchester (Frederick County) and 9.0" in Herndon (Fairfax County). The 9.5" at IAD was its greatest March snow since "The Storm of the Century" on March 13, 1993. The month's only other noteworthy snowfall occurred on the first day of climatological spring (20th). The storm again began as rain and changed to wet snow. Amounts were generally 2"-4" with up to 6" high elevations of Washington and Allegany Counties, MD; relatively warm surface temperatures before the snowfall melted some of the snow before it accumulated.

The month also included two significant rain events on the 13th-14th and 26th-27th, which provided most of the area with between 1/2"-3/4" inch of rain from each system. Tragically, wind resulted in a fatality on the 15th when strong northwest winds to 40 mph caused a dead tree to hit and kill a hiker near Brownsville, (Frederick County), MD.

March 2015 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr. to Date	Snow
National (DCA)	54.5	36.1	45.3	46.8	-1.5	77/26	15/6	4.04	3.48	+0.56	9.45	4.9
Baltimore (BWI)	50.3	29.1	39.7	43.6	-3.9	74/26	6/7	4.67	3.90	+0.77	10.80	7.7
Dulles (IAD)	51.3	29.2	40.2	44.2	-4.0	74/26	2/7	3.92	3.38	+0.54	8.94	10.5

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 suburbs. 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
2014	March 27 (27°F)	2009	March 24 (28°F)	2014	April 21 (31°F)	2009	April 13 (32°F)
2013	April 4 (31°F)	2008	March 9 (29°F)	2013	April 4 (31°F)	2008	April 16 (31°F)
2012	March 6 (29°F)	2007	April 9 (31°F)	2011	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)*	2007	March 18 (31°F)	2010	April 18 (32°F)	2005	April 17 (31°F)

*Earliest last freeze in DCA's recorded history.