

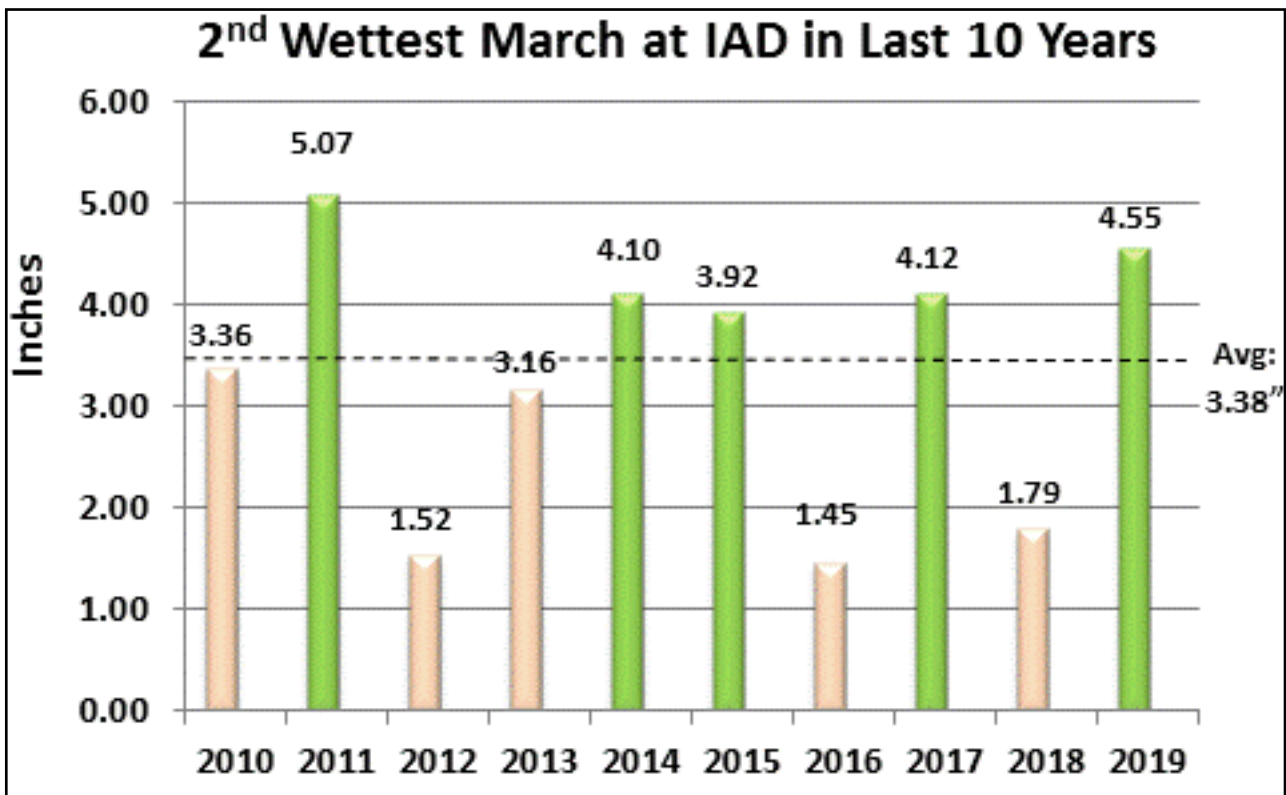


# PRESTO

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



## MARCH 2019: Cold Start with Some Snow; Major Storm 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>



### March Highlights

- Normal to near normal temperatures: DCA exactly normal (46.8°F); BWI, slightly below (-0.6°F); IAD, (-1.4°F)
- Very cold on 6<sup>th</sup> with subfreezing highs at BWI (32°F) and IAD (31°F)
- DCA and BWI recorded 4 days at or above 70°F; DCA reached 79°F on the 30<sup>th</sup>; BWI, hit 78°F on the 15<sup>th</sup>; IAD marked 3 days at or above 70°F including 77°F on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- Above normal precipitation at the three major airports: DCA, 4.00" (+0.62"); BWI, 4.14" (+0.24") and IAD, 4.55" (+1.17")
- On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the area observed wet snow with moderate accumulations north and west of the cities. Totals in Maryland included 7.3" near Sabillasville and 5.2" in Norrisville (Harford County); in Virginia, totals included 4.5" near Basye (Shenandoah County) and 3.8" near Gainesboro (Frederick County)
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, copious amounts of rain impacted the region with numerous reports of flooded roads. In Maryland, a vehicle was stranded in flood waters near Perry Hall (Baltimore County) and near Fort Meade (Anne Arundel County). In Virginia, Rte I-29 was closed near Chantilly (Fairfax County) and high water closed several roads near Round Hill (Loudoun County). Highest totals in Maryland included 3.87" near Bel Air, (Harford County), and 3.27" near Buckeystown (Frederick County); In Virginia, 3.50" was reported near Reston, (Fairfax County) and 3.40" near Bluemont (Loudoun County); IAD's total of 2.69" not only set a calendar day record rainfall but also a record rainfall for any day in March

## March 2019

**Temperatures:** The first month of meteorological spring featured normal to slightly subnormal values. DCA's average temperature was exactly normal (46.8°F) while BWI (-0.6°F) and IAD (-1.4°F) were slightly below. The month started cold with well below normal temperatures during the first 9 days. Maximum readings were in the 40s on 7 days and in the 30s on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, highs failed to rise above freezing at BWI (32°F) and IAD (31°F) and minimum readings dropped to the teens on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

More seasonable conditions prevailed during the remainder of the month along with some spring-like temperatures. Maximum readings rose into the 70s on 4 days at DCA and BWI and on 3 days at IAD. Monthly maximum temperatures soared to 79°F at DCA on the 30<sup>th</sup>, to 78°F at BWI on the 15<sup>th</sup> and to 77°F at IAD on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. DCA's last freezing temperature of the season occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> (32°F).

**Precipitation:** Above normal amounts were reported at the three major airports. Monthly totals were DCA, 4.00" (+0.52"); BWI 4.14" (+0.24") and IAD, 4.55" (+1.17"). Wintry conditions prevailed at times during the first three precipitation events.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, shortly after midnight, 1"-3" of snow accumulated over most of the area with somewhat higher totals across northern Maryland. The largest amount was 4.1" near Sabillasville (Frederick County). Rain followed later on the 1<sup>st</sup> ending late at night. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the immediate suburbs observed wet snow with little accumulation which changed to rain. Significantly greater amounts of snow accumulated north and west of the cities. Totals in Maryland included 7.3" near Sabillasville, 5.2" in Norrisville (Harford County). In Virginia, totals included 4.5" near Basye (Shenandoah County) and 3.8" near Gainesboro (Frederick County). On the 8<sup>th</sup>, light amounts of snow accumulated including 1.5" in Centerville (Fairfax County), VA, and 1.4" in Damascus (Montgomery County), MD.

The month's largest precipitation event occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> when more than 3 inches of rain fell in some areas and over 2 inches was measured in most locations resulting in numerous reports of flooded roads. In Maryland, a vehicle was stranded in flood waters near Perry Hall (Baltimore County) and near Fort Meade (Anne Arundel County). In Virginia, Rte I-29 was closed near Chantilly (Fairfax County) and high water closed several roads near Round Hill (Loudoun County). Highest totals in Maryland included 3.87" near Bel Air, (Harford County), and 3.27" near Buckeystown (Frederick County). In Virginia, 3.50" was reported near Reston, (Fairfax County) and 3.40" near Bluemont (Loudoun County). IAD's total of 2.69" not only set a calendar day record rainfall but also a record rainfall for any day in March. In Washington, the Dalecarlia Reservoir reported 2.25". During the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, some severe thunderstorms developed across the area. Damaging thunderstorm winds caused a tree to fall onto a house near North Beach (Calvert County), MD, and 0.75" hail struck Falls Church, VA. Strong winds followed the storm on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with gusts to 54 mph near Thurmont (Frederick County), MD, and to 53 mph near Shady Grove (Greene County), VA.

### March 2019 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	Snow	Year to Date
National (DCA)	55.4	38.1	46.8	46.8	0.0	79/30	22/6	4.00	3.48	+0.52	0.3	10.82
Baltimore (BWI)	53.3	32.8	43.0	43.6	-0.6	78/15	18/6,7	4.14	3.90	+0.24	2.7	10.93
Dulles (IAD)	53.7	31.8	42.8	44.2	-1.4	77/15,30	16/7	4.55	3.38	+1.17	1.6	12.01

**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
2018	March 21 (32°F)	2013	April 4 (31°F)	2018	April 30 (31°F)	2013	April 4 (31°F)
2017	March 23 (30°F)	2012	March 6 (29°F)	2017	April 9 (32°F)	2012	April 25 (31°F)
2016	April 10 (31°F)	2011	March 28 (31°F)	2016	April 14 (31°F)	2011	April 6 (30°F)
2015	March 29 (28°F)	2010	Feb. 27 (31°F)*	2015	April 12 (31°F)	2010	April 18 (32°F)
2014	March 27 (27°)	2009	March 24 (28°F)	2014	April 21 (31°F)	2009	April 13 (32°F)

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