FEbruary 2020: Above Normal Temperatures, Little or No Snowfall but Above Normal Precipitation

Winter: Warm with Rare Severe Weather

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

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February 2020

**Temperature:** February was another mild month across the region: DCA, 43.3°F (+6.2°F); BWI, 42.0°F (+4.8°F); IAD, 41.4°F (+4.5°F). Average temperatures at all three airports were generally above average except for the 14th and 15th, 20°F-22°F and 27°F-29°F. The coldest lows for the month occurred on the 15th when temperatures dipped to 22°F at DCA, 19°F at BWI and 15°F at IAD. There were no days with high temperatures at or below freezing. Several record warm days were measured: On the 3rd, BWI set a record high of 67°F and IAD, 67°F. BWI. The next day, DCA observed a record warm low temperature of 49°F, BWI, 48°F; and IAD, 53°F. A week later, on the 11th, DCA measured a record warm low temperature of 48°F, IAD, 46°F. IAD also set record warm low temperatures of 41°F on the 10th and 44°F on the 26th.

**Precipitation:** The last month of winter featured slightly above average precipitation for much of the region but no measurable snowfall: DCA, 3.21" (+0.59"), BWI, 2.98" (+0.08 BWI and IAD, 3.24" (+0.50"). There were no days with greater than or equal to 1" at any of the three major airports. On the 21st, DCA and IAD recorded their only snowfall, a scant Trace; BWI recorded no snow. The only accumulating snow across the region occurred well outside the metro area and those values were less than 1".

**Severe Weather:** A rare severe weather outbreak occurred on the 7th when five tornadoes were verified and numerous damaging wind gusts observed. The event included three EF-1 tornadoes: one near Dickerson, MD; one in Westminster/Manchester, MD, and a third in Monrovia, MD. There were also two EF-O tornadoes: one struck at Leesburg, VA, and the second at Boyds/Dawsonville, MD. There were no injuries or fatalities in any of the tornadoes but there was significant tree and property damage to homes, a barn and utility lines. Prior to this event, only 4 tornadoes had been reported in Maryland during February since 1950. See details on the events.

### February 2020 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>AvgMx</th>
<th>AvgMin</th>
<th>AvgT</th>
<th>NmIT</th>
<th>DepNml</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Nml</th>
<th>DepNml</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National (DCA)</td>
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<td>35.8</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>+4.6</td>
<td>65/4</td>
<td>22/15</td>
<td>3.21</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>+0.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore (BWI)</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>+4.8</td>
<td>67/3,4</td>
<td>19/15</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>3.06</td>
<td>+0.08</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dulles (IAD)</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>+4.5</td>
<td>67/3,4</td>
<td>15/15</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>+0.50</td>
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**Winter (Dec-Feb) Temperatures:** For the 5th consecutive winter season, the three major airports reported above normal readings: DCA, +4.5°F; BWI, +5.6°F; and IAD, +4.4°F. December started the season warm but set no records and included no arctic air incursions. January had the largest positive anomalies. In fact, it was the warmest January since 2006 at DCA and BWI and the 7th warmest on record at IAD. There were no high temperatures at or below freezing for each of the three stations. DCA never observed a low below 20°F, (lowest was 22°F on December 19 and February 15) BWI’s lowest temp was 19°F, which occurred December 20, January 21 and 22 and February 19; the lowest temperature at Dulles was 15°F on February 15. The majority of the days during the winter averaged above normal. For DCA, 73% of the winter’s days had an average temperature above normal, BWI, 77%, and IAD, 68%. January 11-12 and February 3-4 and 10-11 saw record high minimums across parts of the region. Record high temperatures occurred on January 12. February continued warm (See monthly summary above).

**Winter Precipitation:** The season was slightly wetter than normal: DCA, 9.28" (+0.80") BWI, 9.66" (+0.34") IAD, 9.54" (+1.16"). Snowfall was well below normal: DCA, 0.6" (-14.6"); and IAD, 1.8" (-20.1") and below normal at BWI, 2.9" (-11.0"). Overall precipitation amounts were slightly above normal for the winter but a lack of snowfall was a major theme. Snowfall amounts were in the top 10 lowest on record for each station. If there is no more snow this season, DCA will end up with 3.8% of normal snowfall, BWI will have 8.9% and IAD will have 13%.

December started the season with normal rainfall and minimal snow, marking the 10th consecutive below normal December snowfall. The first measurable snow in many locations occurred on the December 11 with the largest amount, 1.0", near Westminster (Carroll County), MD. On December 16, 2.3" was measured near Sabillasville (Frederick County, MD). A few locations measured significant icing including 0.50" near Thurmont (Frederick County, MD).

January continued warm with little snow. The only snowfall of note fell on January 7. High totals included 6.0" west of Norrisville (Baltimore County), MD; 5.5" east of Linville (Rockingham County), VA; 5.5" west of Linden (Warren County), VA; 5.3" east of Omps (Morgan County), WV; and 1.0" in Delcarlia Reservoir in DC. Icy roads during the event contributed to a car crash, resulting in one fatality and 2 injuries in Fauquier County, VA, according to media reports. There were some minor snow accumulations on January 18 along with some sleet and ice accumulation. Maximum ice accumulation in Maryland was 0.15" in both Emmerton and Wagners Hill (Harford County). In Virginia, 0.13" was measured near Beavardam Reservoir (Loudoun County) and Berryville (Clarke County). Maximum ice accumulation in West Virginia was 0.18" north of Shepherdstown (Jefferson County). Icy roads during the event contributed to a car crash, resulting in one fatality and 2 injuries in Fauquier County, VA, according to media reports. February was wet with no snow but included unseasonal severe weather (see monthly summary above).

### Winter 2019-20 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>AvgMx</th>
<th>AvgMin</th>
<th>AvgT</th>
<th>NmIT</th>
<th>DepNml</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Nml</th>
<th>DepNml</th>
<th>Snow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National (DCA)</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>+4.6</td>
<td>72/1-11</td>
<td>22/12-19, 2-15</td>
<td>9.28</td>
<td>8.48</td>
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<td>Baltimore (BWI)</td>
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<td>32.0</td>
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<td>35.1</td>
<td>+5.6</td>
<td>72/1-11</td>
<td>19/12-20; 1-21,22, 2-19</td>
<td>9.66</td>
<td>9.32</td>
<td>+0.34</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dulles (IAD)</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>+4.4</td>
<td>70/1-11</td>
<td>15/2-15</td>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td>+1.16</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Looking Ahead to March**—a month of extremes. Below is a list of some notable March statistics for Washington since 1871.

**Temperature Extremes: Current Average 46.8°F**
- **Coldest:** 1885, Avg Temp: 34.0°F
- **Warmest:** 2012, Avg Temp: 56.8°F
- **Extreme Minimum:** 4°F (March 4, 1873)
- **Extreme Maximum:** 93°F (March 23, 1907)

**Precipitation Extremes: Current Average 3.48**, **Snow: 1.3**
- **Wettest:** 1891, Tot Prec.: 8.84""""
- **Driest:** 2006, Tot Prec: 0.05"""
- **Snowiest:** 1914, Tot Snowfall: 19.3"""
- **Most precipitation in one day (liquid):** 2.79"""" (March 9, 1881)
- **Most snowfall in one day:** 11.3"""" (March 29, 1942)