

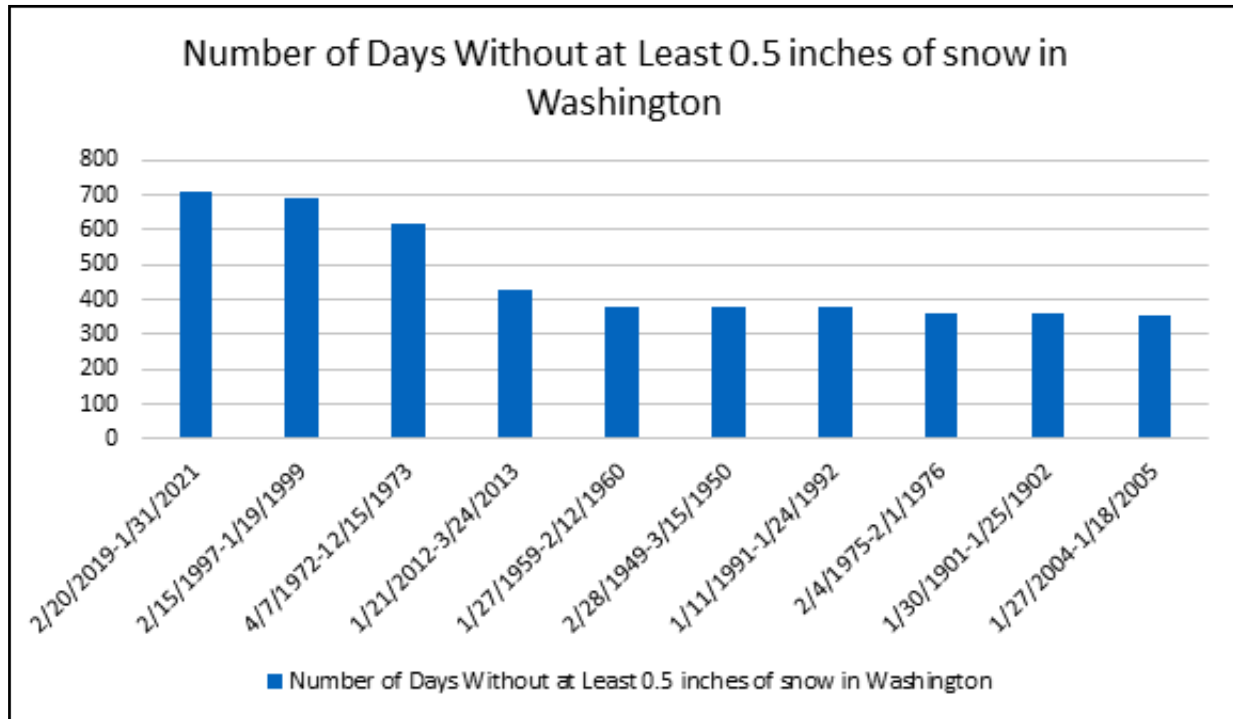


# PRESTO

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



## JANUARY 2021: Warm and Dry with One Winter Storm



### January Highlights

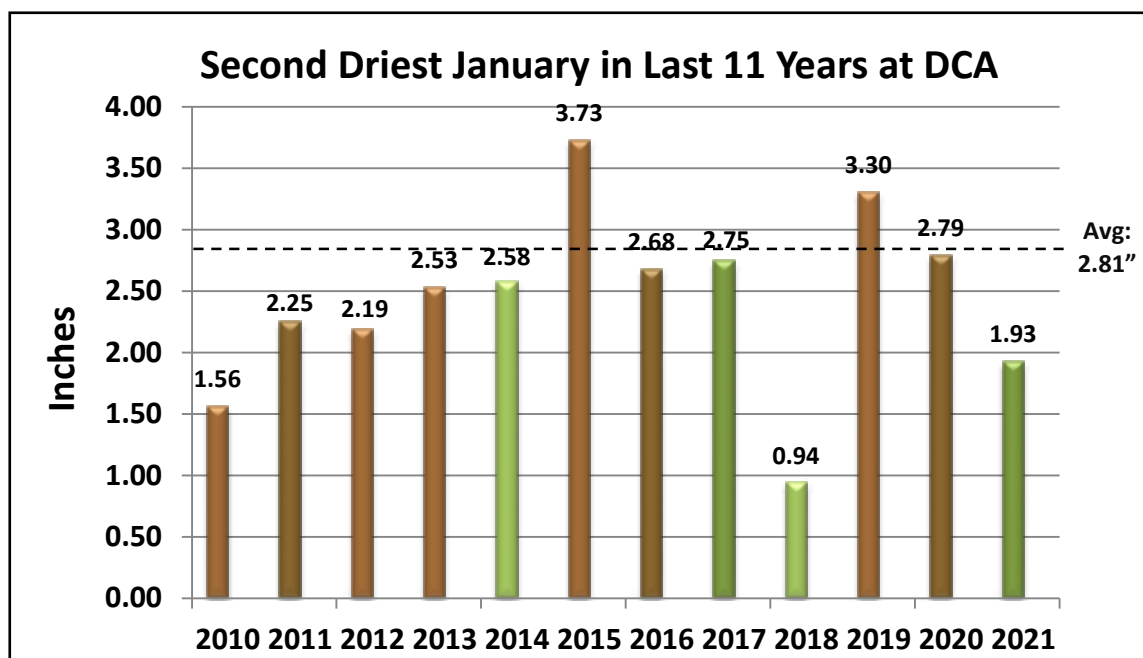
- ☔ The month featured above normal temperatures: DCA, 38.6°F (+2.6°F); BWI, 36.7°F (+3.8°F); and IAD, 35.5°F (+2.3°F); DCA and BWI had no days with maximums below freezing.
- ☔ On the 1<sup>st</sup>, ice accumulated up to 0.25 inches in McHenry and Deer Park (Garrett County), MD.
- ☔ On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, western Maryland and eastern West Virginia had significant snowfall. High totals include 7.5" in McHenry, MD, on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 5.0" on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Cherry Grove, (Pendleton County), WV.
- ☔ Most of the area reported light snow and ice accumulation on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Pimlico (Baltimore City), MD, had 1.4" snow and Wintergreen, (Augusta County), VA, reported 0.50" of ice. DCA ended a streak of 372 days without any snow accumulation with 0.3", Washington's 3<sup>rd</sup> longest such streak on record. The longest is 381 days from January 28, 1959 to February 12, 1960. Baltimore ended its record for the most days without measurable snowfall in December 2020, 343 days (January 8 – December 15).
- ☔ More light snow fell on the 28<sup>th</sup> to the south and west with Sherando, (Augusta County), VA, reporting 1.5".
- ☔ On the 31<sup>st</sup> through February 3, widespread snowfall accumulations generally ranging from 1" to 7" measured in the lower terrain with up to a foot in the higher terrain. DCA measured 2.3", ending a streak of 710 days without at a daily observation of at least 0.5". This event also ended 710 days without at least 1" of snow, the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest streak on record. The longest streak without an inch of snow was 788 days from January 26, 2011, to March 24, 2013. BWI set a daily record for snowfall with 3.8".

## January 2021

**Temperatures:** The first month featured above normal temperatures at all three major airports largely due to high minimums rather than maximums: DCA, 38.6°F (+2.6°F); BWI, 36.7°F (+3.8°F); and IAD, 35.5°F (+2.3°F). There were no extremes in temperature, cold or warm. The range between the highest and lowest temperature at DCA was 34°F (58°F/24°F). This range tied for the smallest in January on record.

The month featured no arctic blasts once again. On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, DCA marked its 6<sup>th</sup> warmest minimum January temperature on record, 24°F; the highest monthly minimum at IAD and BWI was 19°F. The last at or below freezing maximum temperature recorded at DCA occurred on February 1, 2019, a streak of 730 days as of January 31, 2021.

**Precipitation:** Monthly precipitation was below normal in the area for the first month since June 2020 at DCA, July at BWI and September at IAD: DCA, 1.93" (-0.88"); BWI, 2.15" (+0.90"); and IAD, 1.88" (-0.80"). Despite a couple of winter events that ended a long-running snow drought (see highlights), snowfall was also below normal with DCA getting 46% of normal (2.6"), BWI getting 63% of normal (4.3") and IAD getting 44% of normal (3.2").



### January 2021 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
National (DCA)	45.5	31.7	38.6	36.0	+2.6	58/2	24/29,30	1.93	2.81	-0.88	2.6
Baltimore (BWI)	44.6	28.9	36.7	32.9	+3.8	57/2	19/30	2.15	3.05	-0.90	4.3
Dulles (IAD)	43.8	27.3	35.5	33.2	+2.3	56/2,14	19/21,30	1.88	2.68	-0.80	3.2

**Looking Ahead:** In the 2000s, February has brought several historic winter storms to Maryland, northern Virginia and eastern West Virginia, especially in early to mid-February. It has been 7 years since the last major winter storm in February. Are we due? Below is a list of the most significant winter storms in February in the last 20 years.

- ☁ **February 15-17, 2003:** Widespread 12" to more than 24" of snow
- ☁ **February 13-14, 2007:** Widespread sleet and ice with 4-8" of sleet and up to 0.75" of ice
- ☁ **February 5-6, 2010:** Incredible snow totals of 18"-36" were common with blizzard like conditions
- ☁ **February 9-10, 2010:** 12"-24" of snow common north of Washington, with blizzard conditions; February 2010 set many monthly snowfall records for the area
- ☁ **February 13, 2014:** 12"-24" of snow common across the area.