

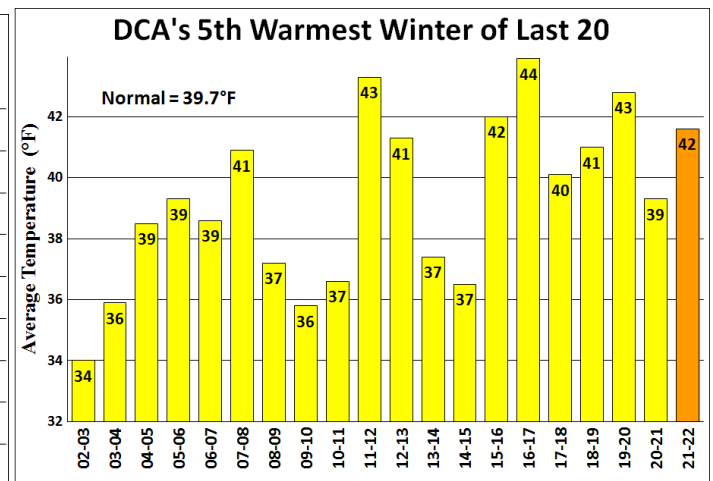
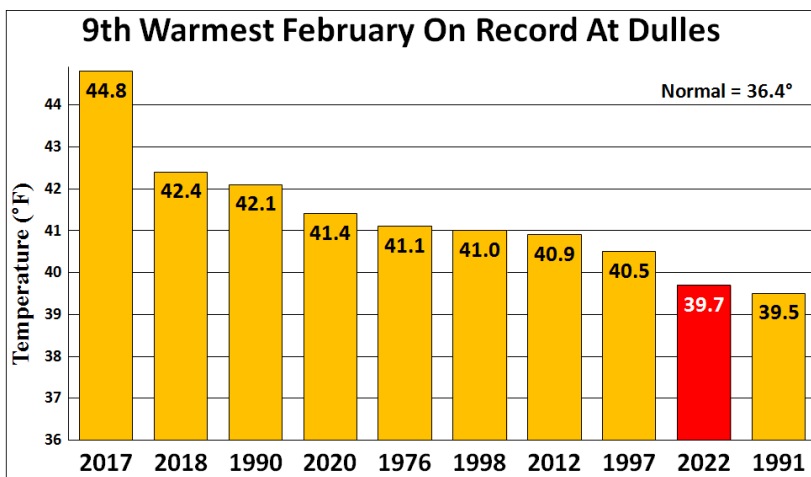


# PRESTO

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



## FEBRUARY 2022: Warm, Rainy 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Then Quite Dry; WINTER: Anomalous December Leads to Warm, Dry Season; Although January Snowy & Rather Cold



### February Highlights

- Well above normal **temperatures**: DCA 42.6°F (+2.6°); BWI 40.0°F (+3.4°); IAD 39.7°F (+3.3°)
- IAD observed the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest February on record (1963-2022), see above graphic
- Near normal **precipitation**: DCA 2.33" (-0.29"); BWI 2.31" (-0.59"); IAD 2.30" (-0.31")
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Complex storm system tracking up Blue Ridge brings appreciable rains of 0.80"-1.50" for most, with more near DC metro, including **2.31"** near Falls Church (Fairfax Co.), VA while the 3 airports reported 1.58"/1.29"/1.26"
- 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>: Many recorded wind gusts >50 mph, including **65 mph** at BWI (18<sup>th</sup>) and 56 mph at IAD (19<sup>th</sup>)

### Winter Seasonal Highlights

- Warm December led to above normal **temperatures**: DCA 41.6°F (+1.9°) BWI 39.3°F (+2.8°); IAD 38.7°F (+2.7°)
- 12/11 & 17 - DCA record MaxT **70F** & **65F** respectively; record **high minimum** temperature at all sites (12/17) while IAD added **3 more record high minimums** (12/11, 12/30, 12/31)
- Very dry December led below normal **precipitation**: DCA 6.69" (-2.20"); BWI 7.40" (-2.29"); IAD 6.66" (-2.19")
- Only third December on record with **no snow observed** at any of the 3 airports (following 1994, 2001)
- 1/3: Rain to heavy snow drops 5-12" on most of DC metro & points S&E; jackknifed trucks shut down I-95 in VA, stranding motorists for up to 27 hours; **15.0"** in Spotsylvania Co., VA, 14.3" near Waldorf (Charles Co.), MD
- 1/16: Strong Nor'Easter brings snow, ice, rain, and marginally severe winds. 4-8" snow across mountains, 1-4" common elsewhere, with **7.0"** near Front Royal (Frederick Co.), VA and several **8.5"** reports in/near Staunton and Waynesboro, VA; ice near 0.1-0.2" for many locations, with **0.25-0.30"** across Frederick Co., MD; downed trees in Calvert County, MD, and gusts measured to **63 mph**

Author: Wayne Presnell; Editor: Monica Parker; Contributors: Alexander McGinnis, Andy Horvitz

NWS Analyze Forecast and Support Office, contact: [Wayne.Presnell@noaa.gov](mailto:Wayne.Presnell@noaa.gov); PRESTO online at: <http://www.weather.gov/publications/presto>

## February 2022 & Winter Season 2021-2022

**February Temperatures:** February temperatures were above normal area-wide, but there were no high temperature records set. DCA was 2.6F above its monthly average temperature while BWI and IAD were 3.4F and 3.3F above normal, respectively. It was Dulles' 9<sup>th</sup> warmest February on record.

**February Precipitation:** The month's precipitation was a little less than normal. DCA was 0.29 inches below normal, while BWI and IAD were 0.59 inches and 0.31 inches below normal, respectively. There was very little snow during the month. The only day with accumulating snowfall was the 13<sup>th</sup>, when IAD had 0.9 inches, BWI had 0.7 inches, and DCA had a trace. Strong winds with gusts >50 mph occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, including a **65 mph** gust at BWI (18<sup>th</sup>) and a 56 mph gust at IAD (19<sup>th</sup>).

### February 2022 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				
	Av Max	Av Min	Avg T	Nml T	ΔNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml P	ΔNml	Year To Date	Snow
National (DCA)	53.1	32.1	42.6	40.0	+2.6	77/23	21/15	2.33	2.62	-0.29	6.01	T
Baltimore (BWI)	52.2	27.8	40.0	36.6	+3.4	76/23	16/15,20	2.31	2.90	-0.59	6.58	0.7
Dulles (IAD)	52.0	27.4	39.7	36.4	+3.3	76/23	14/20	2.30	2.61	-0.31	6.20	0.9

**Winter (Dec-Feb) Temperatures:** Winter temperatures averaged ~2–3°F above normal, with daily maximums noticeably more anomalous (+3.0–4.0°) than daily minimums (near +1.0°). December was the warmest month relative to normal with ~6-7°F positive anomalies. January was a consistently cold month however, with ~2-3°F negative departures. Despite the overall warmth, no record high temperatures were set during the winter, although several record high minimums were recorded, especially at IAD; 1/1: DCA (**53°F**) and IAD (**56°F**). January noted several very cold mornings north and west of the metros; 1/15: Millers (Carroll Co.), MD dropped to 6°F; 1/22: 6°F near Winchester, VA, and 1°F at Martinsburg, WV; on 1/26, Oakland (Garrett Co.), MD had the region's lowest reading at **-22°F**. Maximum temperatures of 32° or below occurred almost entirely during January, with the three airports' seasonal totals at 3, 6, and 7 days – all of which were 4 fewer days than normal. Minimum temperatures under 20° totaled 4, 14, and 18 days.

**Winter Precipitation:** Liquid precipitation was overall limited, with departures ranging from -2.19" to -2.29" from normal. December and February were both dry, with IAD recording the **2nd driest December** in their 59-year period (just behind the all-time record - 0.42" in 1965); January noted slightly above normal precipitation across the region, and IAD actually set a modest daily precipitation record (1.12") on 1/16.

DCA's Dec-Feb snowfall total (12.3") had a slight positive anomaly, +0.7"; this 3-month total for BWI (14.0") and IAD (12.3") was slightly below normal, by -2.4" and -4.5" inches, respectively. Appreciable snowfalls occurred between January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, with no significant snowfall in the metros outside of this 2 week period. On 1/3, a burst of heavy snowfall created a major, long-duration traffic jam on I-95 from DC southward. 1/7 found more snow with the typical gradient: 3" and less DC and south, 3"+ BWI and north/west, with 6.0" in Rockville (Montgomery Co.), MD, and 8.0" near Thurmont (Frederick Co.), MD. Significant snow and ice then fell across most of the area on 1/16. On 1/29-30, another Nor'Easter brought the greatest snowfall to the south/east of metros, with as much as 7.0" in St. Mary's Co., while 2" or less fell along and west of I-95. IAD failed to surpass DCA's winter snowfall total, which is roughly a 1-in-10 year occurrence and has usually only happened in below-normal, if not anomalously low seasons of total snowfall.

### Winter 2021-22 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)				
	Av Max	Av Min	Avg T	Nml T	ΔNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml P	ΔNml	Greatest Day	Snow
National (DCA)	50.3	32.9	41.6	39.7	+1.9	77/2-23	16/1-22	6.69	8.89	-2.20	1.08"/2-4	12.3
Baltimore (BWI)	49.3	29.3	39.3	36.5	+2.8	76/2-23	13/1-27	7.40	9.69	-2.29	1.31"/1-16	14.0
Dulles (IAD)	49.1	28.3	38.7	36.0	+2.7	76/2-23	9/1-30	6.66	8.85	-2.19	1.12"/1-16	12.3

**Looking Ahead:** What type of March weather trends usually follow a warm and dry winter (December-February)?

DCA	1982-83		1990-91		1999-00		2001-02		2007-08		2012-13		2016-17		2017-18		2021-22	
	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR	WINT	MAR
AV TEMP	40.8°	48.7°	42.0°	48.8°	40.1°	51.7°	43.2°	47.6°	40.9°	49.0°	41.3°	43.8°	43.9°	47.2°	40.1°	43.6°	41.6°	??
PRECIP	6.52"	4.84"	8.46"	4.42"	8.21"	3.98"	3.32"	3.37"	8.82"	2.80"	7.23"	2.80"	6.04"	3.19"	6.23"	1.92"	6.64"	??

*DCA 1991 - 2000 Normal Monthly Temperatures (°F), Snowfall (In.): WINTER (39.7°, 8.89") ... MAR (47.6°, 3.50")*