

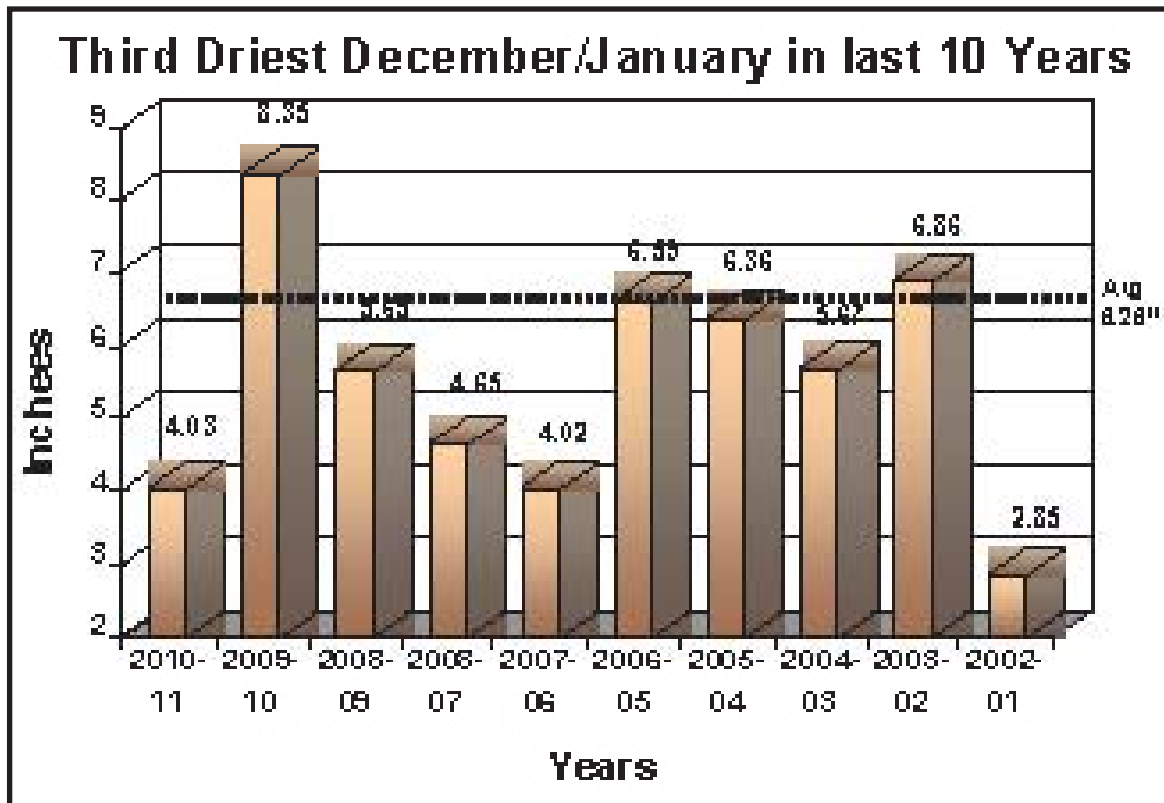


PRESTO

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



JANUARY 2011: Persistently Cold With Winter Storm Severely Impacting Area



January Highlights

- ⚡ Subnormal temperatures throughout area: -1.3°F at DCA, -2.1°F at BWI and -1.7°F at IAD
- ⚡ Highs below 40°F on 21 days at BWI and IAD; 19, at DCA
- ⚡ Coldest temperatures of winter season on 22nd-24th, with subfreezing highs and minimums in single digits including 6°F at IAD and 8°F at BWI on 24th;
- ⚡ Minimums at or below freezing on 30 days at BWI and IAD; most in January since 1994
- ⚡ High impact winter event on 26th with a rapid start of moderate to heavy sleet then wet snow accompanied in some areas by thunder and lightning. Accumulations from 5" to up to a foot in some areas beginning mid to late afternoon during rush hour created transportation nightmares. Weight of wet snow resulted in tree damage and power loss to a reported 400,000 users across the area
- ⚡ Snowiest January at BWI (10.7") and IAD (10.3") since 2000

January 2011

Temperatures: For the second consecutive month, temperatures were subnormal across the area. Negative departures were -1.3°F at DCA, -2.1°F at BWI and -1.7°F at IAD. After a brief warm start with highs near 60°F on the 1st and 2nd, readings were consistently cold. High temperatures only topped 50°F on the 19th. Maximum readings held in the 30s from the 6th-14th (7th-14th at DCA). This year marked the third consecutive January with at least 8 consecutive days with highs at or below 40°F at all three major airports. The month's coldest readings occurred from the 22nd-24th when highs remained at or below freezing across the region. Many suburban locations recorded minimum readings in the single digits on the 24th; IAD reported single digit readings of 9°F on the 22nd-23rd and 6°F on the 24th. Minimum temperatures were also consistently cold; BWI and IAD recording all but 1 day at or below freezing, the most in January since 1994.

Precipitation: Subnormal precipitation was observed across the area with totals generally ranging from about 2" inches to nearly 3" in a few locations. Monthly totals were 2.25" (-0.96") at DCA; 2.66" (-0.81") at BWI; and 1.87" (-1.18") at BWI. Monthly snowfall totals were above normal at the three major airports: 7.3" at DCA, 10.7" at BWI and 10.3" at IAD. The month's most significant storm and the majority of the January's snowfall occurred on the 26th in two distinct periods. Light snow started in the early morning hours ending after dawn after leaving a couple of inches, with the highest amounts across the northern suburbs. Then in the mid to late afternoon to about mid-evening, a potent upper air disturbance kicked off moderate to heavy sleet that changed to a wet snow accompanied by thunder and lightning in many areas. The precipitation fell heavily from the beginning of the event, moving from west to east, creating major impacts to the evening rush hour. Accumulations ranged from about 5" in Washington to a foot in some suburban areas. The rapid change from wet roads to road covered by heavy sleet and then heavy wet snow during an early rush hour resulted in major transportation nightmares. In many areas, traffic was almost completely stalled for hours. Because precipitation during the day fell as drizzle, treatment on roads was washed away. It took some motorists more than 6 hours to drive from the downtown areas to their suburban homes, according to press reports. In addition, the wet snow clung to trees and power lines and its weight resulted in tree damage and power loss to nearly 400,000 users across the area with some customers without power for close to week following the event, accordingly to press reports. Snowfall totals included 5.0" at DCA, and daily records of 7.6" at BWI and 7.3" at IAD, while about a foot was measured across some portions of Howard, Montgomery, Baltimore and Carroll counties in Maryland and Loudoun County, VA, and as much as to 10" in Fairfax County and close to 9.0" in Prince William County, VA.

Two additional storms in January created much less impact but still resulted in hazardous road conditions. On the 11th, light snow from late afternoon until late evening accumulated a couple of inches across the area. The second event occurred about a week later when light snow changed to sleet and then to freezing rain during the evening of the 17th into the overnight hours on the 18th, with a couple of tenths of an inch of ice accumulated on exposed surfaces in some areas.

JANUARY 2011 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

| Location | Station Temperatures (°F) | | | | | Extreme/Day | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------------|----------|------------------------|------|--------|------|
| | AvMx | AvMn | AvgT | NmIT | DepNml | Max | MinT | Total | Norm | DepNml | Snow |
| National (DCA) | 39.7 | 27.6 | 33.6 | 34.9 | -1.3 | 59/2 | 17/22,24 | 2.25 | 3.21 | -0.96 | 7.3 |
| Baltimore (BWI) | 37.8 | 22.7 | 30.2 | 32.3 | -2.1 | 60/2 | 8/24 | 2.66 | 3.47 | -0.81 | 10.7 |
| Dulles (IAD) | 37.8 | 22.1 | 30.0 | 31.7 | -1.7 | 58/2 | 6/24 | 1.87 | 3.05 | -1.18 | 10.3 |

Looking Ahead: *A Cold February?* Following two consecutive winter months with subnormal readings, will February complete a sweep of cold winter months? Listed below are the most recent 10 years when both December and January observed subnormal temperatures at DCA and the subsequent temperatures during February.

| Year | 2010-11 | 2004-05 | 2002-03 | 1995-96 | 1993-94 | 1981-82 | 1976-77 | 1969-70 | 1962-63 | 1961-62 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| December | -4.9 | -0.3 | -2.3 | -3.9 | -1.4 | -1.0 | -4.0 | -3.2 | -6.3 | -3.1 |
| January | -1.3 | -4.3 | -3.8 | -2.0 | -6.1 | -6.8 | -9.5 | -4.9 | -3.5 | -0.3 |
| February | ? | +0.1 | -4.4 | -0.8 | -1.8 | +5.6 | +0.7 | -1.0 | -7.0 | -3.5 |