

**January 2005:** The first month of 2005 featured a split personality. For the first 14 days, temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal at DCA. The three major airports recorded 5 days with highs at or above 60°F, including one day (13<sup>th</sup>) when highs hit or exceeded 70°F at DCA and BWI. Daily record highs were set on New Years Day at all three major airports, with highs of 69°F at DCA, 68°F at IAD and 67°F at BWI. Even the lengthy January nights featured well above normal readings. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, DCA finally recorded a subfreezing low, the latest date for a 32°F or lower reading in January, eclipsing the record set in 1890. Washington was on pace for a balmy January until a dramatic shift in the weather pattern occurred about mid-month. Repeated blasts of Arctic air brought unusually cold weather into the eastern U.S., which continued from mid January through month's end. Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, temperatures averaged around 9°F below normal at DCA. During this 15-day span, there were 9 days (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) with subfreezing highs. Most locations saw lows dip into the teens frequently. On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, blustery conditions accompanied the cold air, producing wind chill readings as low as -10°F at most locations. Finally, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, highs rose above 40°F. The abnormally cold conditions during the last half of the monthly nearly balanced out the exceptional warmth during the first 2 weeks of January, yielding monthly temperature departures between +1°F and +3°F at the three major airports.

Monthly precipitation averaged slightly above normal at the three major airports with amounts between 3"-5" common across most of the Washington/Baltimore area. The first half of the month featured a major rain-storm on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> when more than 2" soaked most of the local region, leading to several water rescues, flooded roads and numerous road closures, according to press reports. Daily records for rainfall were set at DCA, 1.82"; and IAD, 1.79" and near record at BWI, 1.94". As temperatures dropped the second half of the month, precipitation for the remainder of the month occurred in a frozen form. The season's first measurable snowfall, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, brought 1"-2" at most locations, creating hazardous road conditions when temperatures remained well below freezing. Inauguration Day featured some sunshine and highs in the 30's with light winds. A second winter storm brought several hours of moderate snow during the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Amounts between 3" to 5" were measured at many locations, resulting in dangerous road conditions and hampering air travel. The Washington/Baltimore area was on the southern edge of a large coastal storm that dumped a foot of snow across portions of northeast Maryland, southeast Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York and more than 2 feet of snow and blizzard conditions across parts of New England. The month's final winter storm dropped wet snow, sleet and freezing rain on the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. On the plus side, the storm occurred on a weekend, easing the job of snow removal crews. The frigid temperatures and frequent winter storms provided snow cover at many locations from the 19<sup>th</sup> through month's end.

### **JANUARY 2005 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA**

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	Dep	Nml Snow
National (DCA)	42.9	29.2	36.0	34.9	+1.1	71/13	12/24 <sup>1</sup>	3.31	3.21	+0.10	6.4
Baltimore (BWI)	41.5	26.3	33.9	32.3	+1.6	70/13	9/24	3.75	3.47	+0.28	7.6
Dulles (IAD)	42.6	26.9	34.7	31.7	+3.0	69/4 <sup>2</sup>	7/24	3.14	3.05	+0.09	7.4

Other Occurrences: <sup>1</sup>Jan. 28, <sup>2</sup>Jan 13

**Looking Ahead to February:** February has been know for some of our biggest snowstorms including two President's Day storms (2003, 1979). However, in many years little snow has been observed. Listed below are the 10 most recent February's and snowfall recorded in Washington (DCA normal is 5.2")

### **Ten Most Recent February Snowfall Records**

Year	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
February Snowfall (In)	Trace	28.7	0.5	2.8	0.9	0.2	Trace	4.0	15.2	5.8