

**UNUSUAL AND NOTEWORTHY  
METEOROLOGICAL EVENTS  
AT WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Revised and updated from the original 1945 edition  
of the Climatic Handbook for Washington, D.C.*

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Arlington, Virginia  
2008

## HIGH AND LOW PRESSURES

The following tables give the highest and lowest pressures of record prior to 1915 and since to 1915.

*Prior to January 1, 1915*

<i>Highest</i>					<i>Lowest</i>			
Month	Inches	Year	Day	Time	Inches	Year	Day	Time
January	31.04	1899	2	10 AM	28.72	1913	3	11 AM
February	30.97	1876	5	Noon	28.71	1896	5	2 PM
March	30.82	1913	18	9 AM	28.92	1909	25	8 AM
April	30.70	1909	11	9 AM	29.10	1901	3	8 AM
May	30.56	1914	19	9 AM	29.35	1883	21	3 PM
June	30.50	1884	15	11 AM	29.37	1902	26	2 AM
July	30.53	1892	7	10 AM	29.59	1900	8	7 PM
August	30.42	1880	17	7 AM	29.46	1888	21	8 PM
September	30.64	1904	22	9 AM	29.14	1896	29	11 AM
October	30.83	1879	26	8 AM	28.79	1878	23	7 AM
November	30.85	1891	19	10 AM	28.99	1878	22	2 PM
December	30.97	1896	28	10 AM	28.72	1872	10	5 PM

*From January 1, 1915 to present*

<i>Highest</i>					<i>Lowest</i>			
Month	Inches	Year	Day	Time	Inches	Year	Day	Time
January	31.01	1927	27	10 AM	28.85	1922	11	11 AM
February	31.05	1981	13	9 AM	29.04	1965	8	Noon
March	30.95	1996	10	10 AM	28.54	1993	13	6 PM
April	30.74	1923	1	8 AM	29.10	1929	16	4 PM
May	30.62	1936	22	11 AM	29.09	1929	3	1 AM
June	30.46	1919	13	8 AM	29.37	1918	12	4 PM
July	30.38	1943	2	8 AM	29.40	1932	1	6 PM
August	30.47	1925	24	Noon	28.94	1933	23	8 PM
September	30.57	1942	29	10 AM	29.38	1999	16	2 PM
October	30.72	1929	10	10 AM	28.80	1954	15	6 PM
November	30.84	1930	29	10 AM	29.26	1920	17	3 AM
December	30.94	1933	29	10 AM	29.08	1944	12	6 AM

It will be noted that the extreme range of pressure is from 31.05" on February 13, 1981 to 28.54" on March 13, 1993. There have been only three occasions when the pressure rose above 31.00" as follows:

*The high barometer of January 2, 1899.* The pressure reading of 31.04" was the second highest of record and occurred on one of the few days when a temperature below zero has

been recorded at 24th and M Streets. The observer did not enter any note of special interest this day.

*The high barometer of January 27, 1927.* The third highest pressure reading of record was on January 27, 1927, when the weather was otherwise not very unusual. The barometer read 30.44" at 8 AM on January 26 and rose to 30.99" at 8 AM, January 27, and to 31.01" at 10:30 AM. The weather was not unusually cold, the minimum temperature being 8° on this day and the dry bulb temperature was 16° when this high pressure was reached. The sky was cloudless and the wind light. This minimum temperature was the coldest temperature of the winter of 1926-27.

*The high barometer of February 13, 1981.* The reading of 31.05" was the highest pressure of record at National Airport and for the city of Washington. As with the other high pressure records, the weather this day was not especially cold. The high was 38° and the low was 20°, the skies were cloudless with a wind of 12 mph from the north-northeast at the time of the reading. The low temperature of 16° on February 12 was the lowest of the month.

The following table is a list of occurrences of pressures below 29.00 inches:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Pressure</i>
1878	October	23	28.79
1878	November	22	28.99
1878	December	10	28.72
1886	January	9	28.96
1888	December	17	28.97
1896	February	6	28.71
1908	January	7	28.93
1909	March	25	28.92
1912	February	21	28.99
1913	January	3	28.72
1918	January	12	28.89
1922	January	11	28.85
1924	March	11	28.98
1932	March	6	28.67
1933	August	23	28.94
1942	March	3	28.74
1954	October	15	28.80
1960	February	19	28.96
1961	February	26	28.98
1970	April	2	28.96
1978	January	25	28.88
1984	March	28	28.69
1993	March	13	28.54