

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU

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In Cooperation with Maryland State Weather Service

# CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

## MARYLAND AND DELAWARE SECTION

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### GENERAL SUMMARY

December was rather mild, with precipitation decidedly below normal. Snowfall was light and was confined to the Allegheny Mountain region. There was much cloudiness, with a resultant deficiency in the monthly sunshine. A cold wave marked the close of the month.

Mean monthly temperatures were close to 1° above normal over the section, except slightly below normal in Delaware, about 1° below in the three counties in Maryland to the southward of Delaware, and 1° to 3° below in the Allegheny Mountain region.

Mild temperatures during the month were interrupted by brief periods of moderately cold weather on the 10-11th, 14-18th, and 23d-25th. On the 26th, however, a severe cold wave overspread the section and continued to the close, producing below-zero temperatures on the 27th and 28th in the Allegheny Mountain region. Lowest temperatures of the month ranged from 7° below zero at Frostburg to 15° above at Crisfield. Highest temperatures of the month occurred on the 5th, 6th, or 8th; they ranged from 50° in the Allegheny Mountain highlands to between 60° and 64° in the central and southern portions of the Eastern Shore.

Precipitation was chiefly in the form of rain, and most of it fell during the wet period of the 2d-5th, inclusive. The monthly average was four-sevenths of the normal. Monthly amounts were between 1 and 2 inches generally over the northern half of the section, between 2 and 3 inches in southern Maryland, and between 2 and 4.2 inches over the southern half of the Eastern Shore.

Light sleet fell in the Allegheny Mountain region on the 9th and over the entire section during the night of the 15-16th; also at Baltimore on the 9th and 25th.

Monthly snowfall averaged one-sixth of the normal. In the Allegheny Mountain region monthly amounts ranged from 4.5 inches on the eastern slope to 11.5 inches in the northern highlands. Elsewhere over the section monthly amounts were a "trace" generally. Light snow fell in the Allegheny Mountain region during the nights of the 9-10th and 16-17th and on the 22-23d and 25th; also in the highlands on the 26th, 27th, and 28th. Flurries occurred over the northern portion of the section during the night of the 15-16th and over the section between the Allegheny Mountains and the Atlantic coast during the nights of the 9-10th, 22-23d, 25-26th, and 26-27th.

A "white" Christmas was enjoyed in the Allegheny Mountain region, where the heaviest snow of the month—2 to 4 inches—fell that day. The ground remained snow-covered to the close of the month.

Sunday, the 27th, was bitterly cold, with strong northwest winds.

The cold wave of the 26th-31st caused ice of 5 to 9 inches in thickness on ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers; ice several inches in thickness also formed in upper Chesapeake Bay. Outdoor operations, such as building, oystering, etc., were interrupted; sail craft and small boats were frozen in; and thin, or slush, ice formed in the docks of Baltimore Harbor.

After the 27th, navigation of steam vessels between Baltimore and Philadelphia was interrupted on account of ice in upper Chesapeake Bay and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and also between Baltimore and points on the tributaries of Chesapeake Bay because of ice in the tributaries.

High northeast winds prevailed on the 2-3d, with gale force on the coast; some interruption to wire communication resulted on the Eastern Shore by blowing down of poles. Strong westerly winds occurred on the 13th, 23d, 25th, and 27th.

Heavy fog formed in upper Chesapeake Bay region on the 4th and 5th and throughout the Chesapeake Bay region on the 22d.

*Crops.*—Winter grains were benefited by the rains and mild temperatures, and were green and in good condition. However, in the Allegheny Mountain region they were snow-covered on and after the 25th, while elsewhere in the section they turned brown during the cold wave. Digging of late potatoes ended in the Allegheny Mountain region during the second decade. Husking of corn was finished, except in some localities. Strip-ping of tobacco, butchering, and woodcutting were in progress. Harvesting of ice began before the close of the month.—*J. B., jr.*

### PRESSURE

The monthly mean sea-level pressure at Washington was 29.98; at Baltimore, 29.97; at Aberdeen, 29.96 inches. The highest at Washington was 30.56 on the 29th; at Baltimore, 30.52, and at Aberdeen, 30.50 inches—both on the 30th. The lowest at Washington was 29.46, and at Baltimore, 29.43 inches—both on the 12th; at Aberdeen, 29.61 inches on the 25th.

### TEMPERATURE

The monthly mean for the section, 35.4°, is 0.4° above normal. The highest monthly mean was 39.6° at Crisfield; the lowest, 27.2°, at Grantsville. The highest temperature, 64°, occurred at Cambridge and Salisbury on the 6th and at Princess Anne on the 5th; the lowest, -7°, at Frostburg on the 28th. The greatest local monthly range was 58° at Frostburg; the least, 42°, at Annapolis. The greatest daily range was 34° at Friendsville on the 11th.

### PRECIPITATION

The monthly average for the section, 1.90 inches, is 1.47 inches below normal. The greatest monthly amount was 4.22 inches at Millsboro; the least, 0.90 inch, at Chesapeake City and Pleasant Hill. The greatest amount in 24 hours was 1.50 inches at Princess Anne on the 2d and at Millsboro on the 2-3d. The average monthly snowfall, 0.8 inch, is 3.9 inches below normal. The greatest monthly snowfall was 11.5 inches at Grantsville. The average number of days with 0.01 inch or more, 9, is normal.

### WIND

The prevailing direction for the section was northwest. The total movement at Washington was 6,302; at Baltimore, 4,979; at Aberdeen, 6,476 miles. The maximum velocity at Washington was 33 miles, and at Baltimore, 31—both from the northeast on the 2d; at Aberdeen, 36 miles from the northwest on the 23d.

### SUNSHINE AND CLOUDINESS

At Washington 41 per cent of the possible sunshine was recorded; at Baltimore, 50 per cent; at Aberdeen, 42 per cent. For the whole section the average number of clear days was 12; partly cloudy, 7; cloudy, 12.

Climatological Data for December, 1925

Table with columns: Stations, Counties, Elevation, Length of record, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Date, Lowest, Date, Greatest daily range), Precipitation (Total, Departure from normal, Greatest in 24 hours, Total snowfall), Number of days (With precip., Clear, Partly cloudy, Cloudy), Prevailing direction of wind, Observers.

The departures from normal temperature and precipitation are computed only for such stations as have ten or more years of record, but all complete reports are used in determining section or division means. Data in italics determined from surrounding stations. T. Precipitation is less than 0.01 inch rain or melted snow. Reference letters, a, b, c, appearing in the table indicate number of days missing; for example, b represents two days, etc. Post office addresses of these stations are as follows: Of Bell, Glendale; of Coleman, Worton; of Fallston, Bagley; of Ferry Landing, Owings; of Great Falls, Bethesda; of Pleasant Hill, Owings Mills; of Public Landing, Snow Hill. †Also on other dates. \*Customhouse Building, Gay and Water Streets. \*\*Weather Bureau Building, 24th and M Streets.

Daily Precipitation for December, 1925

Table with columns for Station, Watersheds, Day of month (1-31), and Total. Rows list various stations in Maryland and Delaware with their respective precipitation data for each day of the month.

Except as otherwise indicated observations are generally made late in the afternoon, near sunset, and precipitation recorded is for the 24 hours ending at the time of observation.
\*\*\*Regular Weather Bureau station; precipitation is for the 24-hour period, midnight to midnight.
||| Precipitation measured in the morning; amount then recorded is for the preceding 24 hours.
T. Trace, or less than 0.01 inch. Data in italics determined from surrounding stations.

COMPARATIVE DATA FOR MARYLAND AND DELAWARE FOR DECEMBER

Table comparing climatic data for Maryland and Delaware from 1895 to 1926. Columns include Year, Temperature (Mean, Departure from normal, Highest, Lowest, Average), and Precipitation (Departure from normal, Greatest local, Least local, Greatest in 24 hours, Snowfall, Number of days with 0.01 inch or more).

Daily Temperatures for December, 1925

Table with columns for Station, Day (1-31), and Mean. Rows list various stations in Maryland and Delaware, including Aberdeen, Annapolis, Baltimore, etc., with their respective maximum and minimum temperatures for each day.

\* , b , etc., indicate respectively 1, 2, 3, etc., days missing from the record. Instruments are read in the morning; the maximum temperature then read is charged to the preceding day, on which it almost always occurs. Temperatures at Aberdeen, Baltimore, and Washington are from midnight to midnight; at other stations, except Cumberland and Takoma they are for the 24-hour period ending late in the afternoon, near sunset. Data in italics determined from surrounding stations.