

# December 2017

## Glen Allen, Virginia

December was the third coldest and the driest on record at Glen Allen. The monthly mean temperature was 39.2°F, a -3.6°F departure from the nine-year average. December had its highest maximum of 67.8°F on December 23<sup>rd</sup> but had only 3 days of ≥65°F. On 20 days, the minimum reached freezing or below which was third greatest in December in the past 9-years. The lowest temperature was 13.7°F occurring on the 28<sup>th</sup> which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest minimum ever recorded at Glen Allen in December. The lowest dew point occurred on December 31<sup>st</sup> and was 0.7°F which was the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest on record. Temperatures were warm to the 7<sup>th</sup> then below average to the 18<sup>th</sup> then warm to the 23<sup>rd</sup> then colder again. The highest barometric pressure for December was 30.70 inches recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup> which tied for the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest barometric pressure. December had a total of 5.3 inches of snow, the 3<sup>rd</sup> greatest in the past 9 years. The 5.2 inches of snow on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> was also the most to fall so early in December. The total snow for 2017 was 11.9 inches which was a -5.2 inch deficit. The precipitation total for the month was only 0.99 inches the least on record for December giving a -3.55 inch departure based on a nine-year average. There were only 6 days with measurable precipitation in December the least on record and half of these were snow days. The total precipitation for the year was 40.30 inches which was a 5.24 inch deficit. Only 2012 was drier with 34.12 inches. The average relative humidity of 68% was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest on record for December. The month had a wind run of 2083.4 miles which was a new record for December and the windiest day was the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a wind run of 170 miles.

## Richmond International Airport

The mean temperature for the Richmond International Airport was 39.6°F which was a -1.4 degree departure and the 50<sup>th</sup> coldest in the past 120 years. The minimum temperature of 14°F on the 28<sup>th</sup> was the lowest minimum in December since 2004 when 13°F was recorded. The lowest maximum temperature of 27°F for December which occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> was also the lowest since 2004.

December had 3.1 inches of frozen precipitation which was one inch above the average. This was the first measurable snow in December since 2010. The 1.05 inches of precipitation for December made it the 11<sup>th</sup> driest December in the past 130 years with a -2.21 inch departure. The total precipitation for 2017 was 37.96 inches which was a 5.64 inch deficit for the year. The Airport also set 2 daily records for the date.

1. December 9<sup>th</sup> with a maximum of 33 °F and a minimum of 32 gave a 1°F temperature range. This has occurred only once before in December in 1972 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in the past 120 years.
2. The low maximum temperature on the 28<sup>th</sup> was 27°F, the lowest maximum for the date; the previous record was 28°F in 1924.