

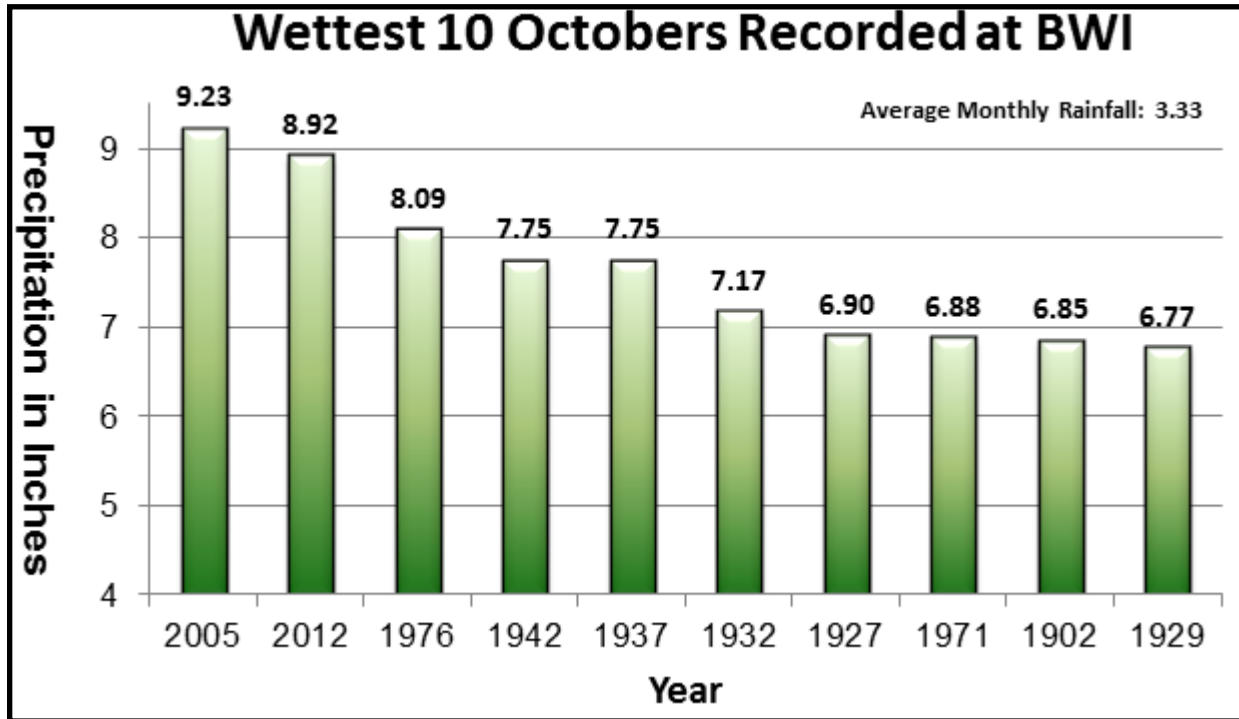


# PRESTO

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



## OCTOBER 2012: Above Average Temperatures; Wet Month Thanks to Super Storm Sandy



### October Highlights

- ✦ Above normal temperatures at DCA, BWI and IAD: +1.5°F at DCA, +2.2°F at BWI and +0.8°F at IAD
- ✦ BWI recorded 21 consecutive months of above normal readings, 12 at DCA
- ✦ First freeze of season on 13<sup>th</sup> at IAD, with record low of 30°F
- ✦ Post Tropical Hurricane Sandy resulted in major impacts to metro area from 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> and especially on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Many businesses, as well as Federal Government and schools close, up to 200,000 lost power (according to press reports); area deluged with 4"-7" rainfall and tropical storm force winds to 60 mph.
- ✦ Locations closer to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland measured greater rainfall and stronger wind gusts including 9.50" near Churchton, (Anne Arundel County), 8.51" near Bryans Road (Charles County) and 8.40" near Dundalk (Baltimore County)
- ✦ In Virginia, highest totals included Purcellville 7.89" (Loudoun County) and 6.25" near city of Fairfax (Fairfax County)
- ✦ Moderate flooding occurred on the Potomac and coastal flooding occurred near the Bay; numerous roads were flooded forcing road closures
- ✦ All three major airports broke rainfall records on the 29<sup>th</sup>: DCA, 3.85"; BWI, 5.51" (wettest October day on record) and IAD, 4.25"
- ✦ Baltimore's sea level pressure dropped to 964 millibars, lowest on record, while both DCA and IAD recorded its second lowest value and lowest since the March 13, 1993 "Storm of the Century"
- ✦ Strongest wind gusts were near the Bay including 79 mph near Highland Beach and 75 mph near Piney Point, MD. DCA measured 61 mph and BWI 60 mph
- ✦ Heavy snowfall across portions of West Virginia including 24.0" near Kitzmiller (Mineral County) and 22.3" in Bayard (Grant County)

## October 2012

**Temperatures:** The consecutive streak of above normal temperatures continued at the three major area airports reaching 21 months at BWI and 12 at DCA. Positive departures were +1.5°F at DCA, +2.2°F at BWI and +0.8°F at IAD. Maximum readings reached at or above 80°F from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and on the 24<sup>th</sup>. DCA's 84°F on the 24<sup>th</sup> equaled an all-time maximum for the date.

In sharp contrast, chilly conditions prevailed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with highs only in the 50s. BWI's high of 54°F on the 8<sup>th</sup> equaled a record low maximum for the date, while IAD set new record low maximum on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 52°F and on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 51°F. The season's first freeze occurred in some areas on the 13<sup>th</sup>, including at IAD, which dropped to 30°F, a record low for the date.

**Precipitation:** Well above normal rainfall engulfed the region in large part due to Post Tropical Hurricane Sandy: dubbed Super Storm Sandy. Monthly totals were 5.82" (+2.42") at DCA, 8.92" (+5.59") at BWI and 8.87" (+5.62") at IAD. Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, NJ, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, creating a devastating storm surge along with hurricane force wind gusts north of its center along the New Jersey, New York and southern New England coastlines. Locally, while the storm caused major impacts, conditions were less severe. The area was deluged with a general 4"-7" of rain and tropical storm force winds to 60 mph. Locations closer to Chesapeake Bay in Maryland received greater rainfall and stronger wind gusts. Total rainfall reached 9.50" near Churchton, (Anne Arundel County), 8.51" near Bryans Road (Charles County) and 8.40" near Dundalk (Baltimore County). In Virginia, highest totals included Purcellville 7.89" (Loudoun County) and 6.25" near Fairfax (Fairfax County). Numerous roads were flooded forcing road closures. Moderate flooding occurred on the Potomac and coastal flooding occurred near the Bay. All three major airports broke rainfall records on the 29<sup>th</sup>: DCA 3.85", BWI 5.51" (wettest October day on record) and 4.25" at IAD. Baltimore's sea level pressure dropped to 964 millibars, lowest on record; both DCA and IAD recorded their second lowest values: 969.5 mb at DCA, 971.5 mb at IAD, and their lowest pressure since the March 13, 1993, "Storm of the Century." The strongest wind gusts were near the Bay, including 79 mph near Highland Beach and 75 mph near Piney Point, MD. DCA measured 61 mph and BWI 60 mph. Meanwhile, temperatures were cold enough to result in heavy snowfall across portions of West Virginia, including 24.0" near Kitzmiller (Mineral County) and 22.3" in Bayard (Grant County).

A significant storm impacted the area at the beginning of the month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, heavy rainfall flooded numerous roads across the Maryland suburbs. Rainfall totals included 2.55" in Reisterstown (Baltimore County) with IAD setting a daily record of 2.35".

Two severe weather events also occurred in October. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1.0" hail struck Wolfsville, MD (Frederick County) and Kings Crossing, VA (Shenandoah County). Then on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, northern MD was impacted with severe weather including an EF-0 tornado near Jarrettsville (Harford County) with winds to 80 mph resulting in tree and minor property damage.

### October 2012 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmiT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
<b>National (DCA)</b>	68.9	53.0	61.0	59.5	+1.5	84/24	41/13	5.82	3.40	+2.42	28.82
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	67.3	49.3	58.3	56.1	+2.2	81/5,24	35/13	8.92	3.33	+5.59	33.60
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	66.8	46.7	56.8	56.0	+0.8	81/5,24	30/13	8.87	3.25	+5.62	31.63

**Looking Ahead to November:** DCA did not record 1.0" or greater of snowfall during the 2011-12 winter season. The last inch of snow at DCA was during *Commutemageddon* on January 26, 2011. The earliest snow (>1") in Washington, D.C., fell on October 30, 1925, (2.2") and October 20, 1940, (1.4"). The earliest measurable snow ever recorded at DCA fell on October 10, 1979, (0.3"). DCA recorded less than 1" of snow during the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons. The first inch has occurred at DCA on December 5th on 4 of the past 10 years.

#### Snow Season: First 1" or Greater of Snowfall at DCA

2011-2012	<i>Did Not Occur</i>	2006-2007	January 21
2010-2011	December 16	2005-2006	December 5
2009-2010	December 18	2004-2005	January 19
2008-2009	January 27	2003-2004	December 4
2007-2008	December 5	2002-2003	December 5