

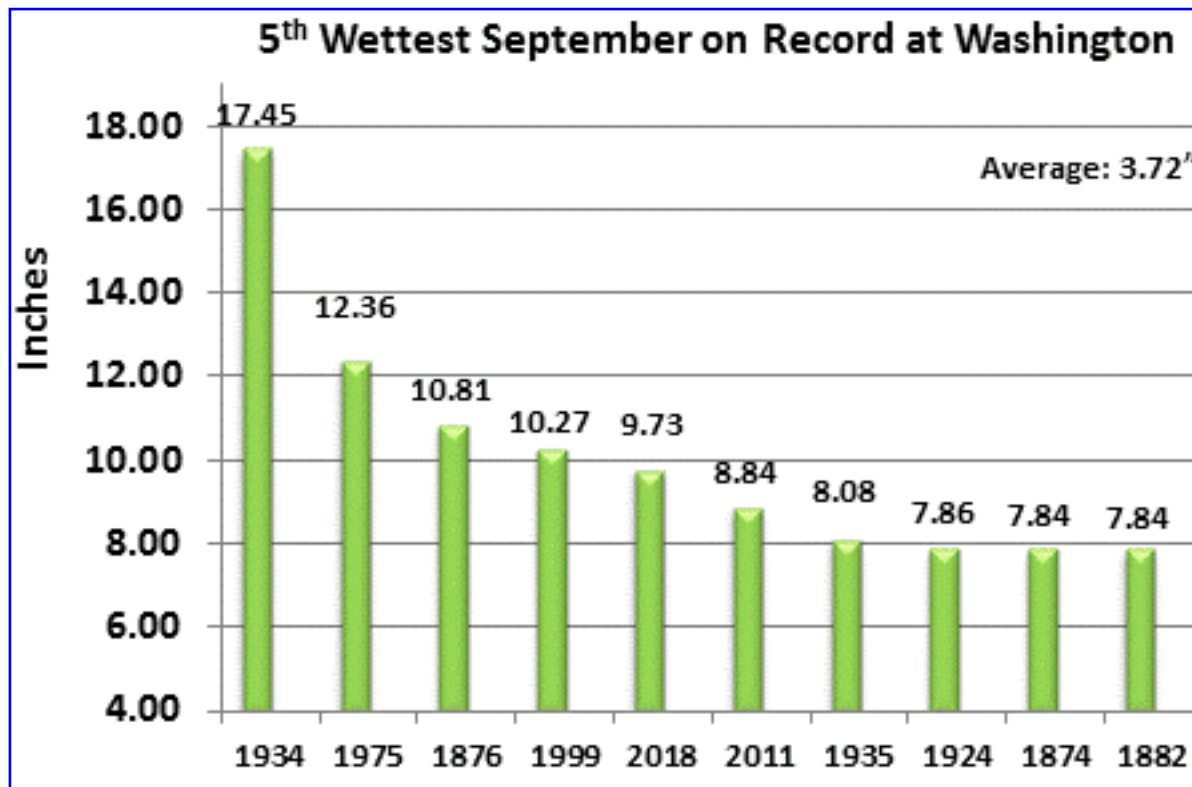


# PRESTO

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



## SEPTEMBER 2018: Excessively Wet With Above Normal Temperatures



### September Highlights

- Well above normal temperatures: +4.4°F at DCA, +5.2°F at BWI and +4.5°F at IAD: 5<sup>th</sup> warmest September on record in Washington, 10<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore (warmest since 1970) and 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest at IAD
- Season's final heat wave with highs at or above 90°F: 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at DCA; 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at BWI and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at IAD
- DCA marked 16 days with minimum readings at or above 70°F; IAD, 10 such days, BWI, 9
- Average monthly minimum readings set all-time records for September: DCA 69.1°F and IAD 65.4°F
- Sixth consecutive month with precipitation above normal at DCA, BWI and IAD
- Excessively wet month with over 9" of rain at DCA and BWI, resulting in the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest September on record in Washington, 6<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore and 8<sup>th</sup> at IAD. Rainfall totals through 9 months have exceeded the average annual total at the three airports
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, remnants from Tropical Storm Gordon resulted in a soaking rain and combined with gusty winds and saturated soils, toppled trees and power lines near Mitchellville (Prince Georges County), MD, and near Sterling Park (Loudoun County), VA. Highest totals included 4.40" near Sabillasville (Frederick County), MD, and 3.45" near Sherando (Augusta County), VA. Calendar day records were set at BWI, 2.23", DCA, 1.59" and IAD 1.40"
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, remnants from Hurricane Florence produced heavy rain, flooded roads, trapping several vehicles near Montpelier (Prince Georges County) and near Rosedale (Baltimore County), MD. A water rescue occurred on a bridge near Roseland (Nelson County), VA. Rainfall totaled 3.70" near Baltimore City and 3.26" near McLean (Fairfax County), VA; BWI set a daily record 2.22" on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## September 2018

**Temperatures:** Well above normal temperatures at the three major airports: DCA, +4.4°F; BWI, +5.2°F; and IAD, +4.5°F, making it the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest September in Washington, 10<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore (warmest since 1970) and 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest at IAD. The season's final heat wave occurred near the beginning of the month. DCA and BWI recorded 5 consecutive days with highs at or above 90°F and IAD, 4 such days. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, DCA's maximum reading of 95°F equaled a calendar day record and its minimum reading of 79°F broke a record for warmest minimum temperature for the date as well as equaling the all-time warmest minimum for September. The persistent cloud cover and humidity resulted in average monthly minimum readings setting all-time records for September: DCA 69.1°F and IAD 65.4°F; and tied for 5<sup>th</sup> warmest at BWI, 66.0°F. DCA's low temperature dropped below 60°F only on the 27<sup>th</sup> (59°F), while the minimum for the month was a warm 54°F at both BWI and IAD. IAD set or tied seven high minimum daily temperature records; DCA set or equaled records on 5 days. In contrast, daily low maximum readings were established at IAD on the 9<sup>th</sup> (64°F) and 10<sup>th</sup> (68°F).

**Precipitation:** For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month, precipitation was above normal and well above normal for the month: DCA, 9.73" (+6.01"), BWI, 9.19" (+5.16") and IAD, 7.36" (+3.44"). It was the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest September in Washington, 6<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore and 8<sup>th</sup> at IAD. It was the wettest month since June 2015 at DCA and BWI and since July 2017 at IAD. It was the wettest September since 1999 at DCA and since 2011 at BWI and IAD. Rainfall totals for 9 months have exceeded the average annual total at the three airports. BWI recorded 18 days with measurable rain including 2 days with more than 2" and 8 consecutive days with measurable rain (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>). DCA and IAD reported measurable rain on 16 days with DCA recording 1 day with over 2" and 2 days over 1". IAD measured 3 days with over 1" of rain.

The month featured some notable rainmakers. In the early morning hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> thunderstorms deluged Shenandoah (Page County), VA, with 4.10" flooding multiple roads and leading to a water rescue. Thunderstorms during the evening and overnight from the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> deluged some areas. Several vehicles were stranded by high water in D.C. and a vehicle was trapped in high water on the George Washington Parkway in Arlington, VA. Rainfall totaled 3.49" in Takoma Park (Montgomery County), MD, and 2.89" at DCA. The remnants from Tropical Storm Gordon quickly followed from late on the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> resulting in an all-day soaker. Gusty winds with saturated soils toppled trees and power lines near Mitchellville (Prince Georges County), MD, and near Sterling Park (Loudoun County), VA. Greatest amounts included 4.40" near Sabillasville (Frederick County), MD, and 3.45" near Sherando (Augusta County), VA. Calendar day records were set at the three airports: BWI, 2.23"; DCA, 1.59", IAD, 1.40".

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, thunderstorms dumped 2.80" near Potomac and 2.43" near Gaithersburg (Montgomery County). The remnants from Hurricane Florence produced copious rainfall from the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Flooded roads trapped several vehicles near Montpelier (Prince Georges County) and near Rosedale (Baltimore County). A water rescue occurred on a bridge near Roseland (Nelson County), VA. Rain totaled 3.70" near Baltimore City and 3.26" near McLean (Fairfax County), VA; BWI set a daily record 2.22" on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Another all-day soaker on the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought over an inch to many locations with greater amounts in portions of the Shenandoah with 2.58" near Christian (Augusta County), VA, flooding numerous roads across the county.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, damaging thunderstorm winds knocked down a tree near Marston (Frederick County), MD, and near Rixeyville (Culpeper County), VA. The month's final event occurred from the 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> with over an inch across the region and over 2" in some areas including 2.55" near Adamstown and Buckeystown (Frederick County) and 2.35" near Bluemont (Loudoun County). Some roads were flooded across Montgomery, Howard, Fairfax and Loudon counties.

### September 2018 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	81.6	69.1	75.5	71.1	+4.4	95/4	59/27	9.73	3.72	+6.01	49.83
Baltimore (BWI)	80.0	66.0	73.0	67.8	+5.2	95/6	54/30	9.19	4.03	+5.16	54.45
Dulles (IAD)	79.4	65.4	72.4	67.9	+4.5	94/4,6	54/30	7.36	3.92	+3.44	50.62

**Looking Ahead to October: The first freeze!** October traditionally marks the first freeze in suburban locations. When will the Washington/Baltimore area record its first freeze in 2018? Below is a list of the first 32°F or lower readings at DCA and IAD in the last 10 years.

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
2017	November 10	November 10	2012	November 26	October 13
2016	November 23	October 26	2011	December 10	October 30
2015	November 23	October 18	2010	November 29	November 1
2014	November 15	November 8	2009	December 6	November 6
2013	November 13	October 25	2008	November 18	October 20

*\* Latest first frost at DCA: 12/22/01; at IAD, 11/11/05*