

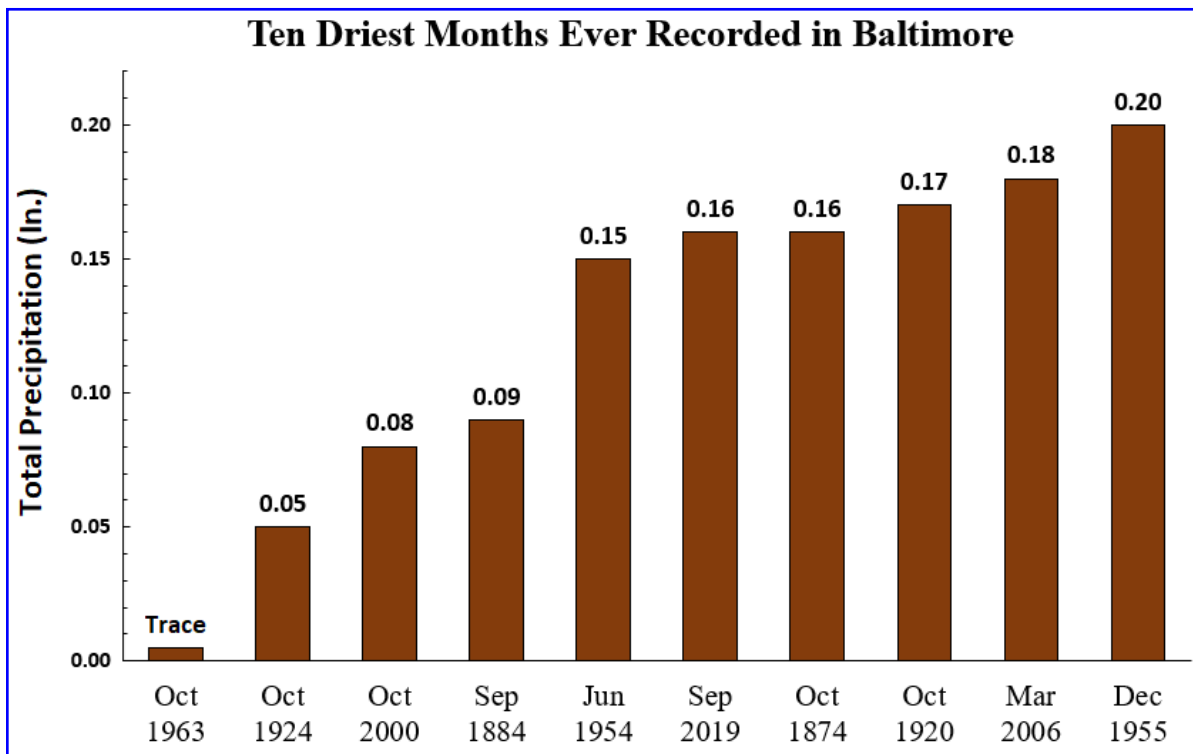


# PRESTO

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



## SEPTEMBER 2019: Exceptionally Hot and Dry, Numerous Records Set



### September Highlights

- ☀ Well above normal temperatures: +5.5°F at DCA, +6.0°F at BWI and +4.5°F at IAD
- ☀ Washington recorded its 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest September on record and warmest since 1980; Baltimore, 5<sup>th</sup> hottest and warmest since 1931; IAD, 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest and warmest since 2016
- ☀ BWI recorded 25 days with maximum temperatures at or above 80°F and 17 days at or above 85°F, both all-time records
- ☀ DCA reported 9 days with highs at or above 90°F, 8 such days at BWI and 7 at IAD
- ☀ Very dry with the following monthly totals: DCA, 0.25"; BWI: 0.16"; and IAD: 0.41"
- ☀ Washington marked its 4<sup>th</sup> driest September on record and driest since 2005. In Baltimore, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest and driest since 1884; IAD was 2<sup>nd</sup> driest and driest since 2005
- ☀ Washington observed its 10<sup>th</sup> driest month on record and driest since March 2006; Baltimore tied 6<sup>th</sup> driest and driest since October 2000 and IAD observed its 11<sup>th</sup> driest and driest since February 2009

## September 2019

**Temperatures:** The area observed well above normal temperatures: DCA, +5.5°F; BWI, +6.0°F, and IAD, +4.5°F. At Washington, the month was the 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest on record and warmest since 1980. In Baltimore, September was the 5<sup>th</sup> hottest and warmest since 1931. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest September on record at IAD. The above normal readings were consistent throughout the month. BWI recorded 25 days with maximum temperatures at or above 80°F and 17 days at or above 85°F, both all-time records. Additionally, DCA reported 9 days with highs at or above 90°F, BWI, 8 such days and IAD, 7. DCA marked a calendar day record on the 4<sup>th</sup> (96°F) and 12<sup>th</sup> (98°F). At BWI, the temperature soared on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 96°F, tying a record and on the 12<sup>th</sup> to 97°F, setting another new record. BWI's monthly maximum was even higher, 98°F on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but did not set a daily record. IAD equaled and broke numerous records: on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 95°F equaled a record; on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 94°F broke a record; and on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 86°F tied a record, and finally on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 89°F broke a record.

Additionally, IAD equaled two warm minimum temperature records at 68°F on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. DCA observed 12 days with minimum readings at or above 70°F. Still, there was a brief taste of fall in the air as minimum readings tumbled into the 40s on 3 days at IAD including a minimum of 45°F on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Precipitation:** Very dry conditions that developed in late August continued throughout September: DCA, 0.25" (-3.47"), BWI, 0.16" (-3.87") and IAD, 0.41" (-3.51"). By month's end, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>) showed the region had reached moderate drought conditions. Washington recorded its 4<sup>th</sup> driest September on record and driest since 2005. In Baltimore, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest September and driest since 1884 and at IAD it was also the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest September and driest since 2005. Washington observed its 10<sup>th</sup> driest month on record and driest since March 2006; equaled the 6<sup>th</sup> driest in Baltimore and driest since October 2000 and the 11<sup>th</sup> driest at IAD and driest since February 2009. DCA recorded 17 consecutive days (13<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) without measurable rainfall.

There were 3 days during which strong to severe thunderstorms occurred across the parts of the region. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, damaging winds blew down large trees near Woolsey (Prince William County), VA, and downed a tree across wires near Potomac Heights (Charles County), MD. Hail measured 0.88" in Middleburg (Loudoun County), VA, and penny size (0.75") in Woodbridge (Prince William County), VA. Rainfall was heavy in some areas with 1.76" in both Haymarket (Prince William County) and in Thurmont (Frederick County), MD.

Then on the 11<sup>th</sup> in Virginia, strong thunderstorm wind gusts took down multiple trees near Castleton (Rappahannock County) and trees and power lines were reported down near Hollymead (Albemarle County). Rainfall totaled 2.21" in Rixeyville (Culpeper County).

The final event occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> in Virginia resulting in downed trees near Sperryville (Rappahannock County) and Viewtown (Culpeper County).

### September 2019 Weather Statistics for the Washington/Baltimore Area

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (inches)			
	AvMx	AvMin	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	Min	Total	Nml	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	85.7	67.3	76.5	71.0	+5.5	98/12	55/20	0.25	3.72	-3.47	31.03
Baltimore (BWI)	85.5	62.1	73.8	67.8	+6.0	98/11	49/20	0.16	4.03	-3.87	27.25
Dulles (IAD)	84.3	60.6	72.5	68.0	+4.5	95/12	45/20	0.41	3.92	-3.51	30.25

**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
2018	Nov 11	Oct 22	2013	Nov 13	Oct 25
2017	Nov 10	Nov 10	2012	Nov 26	Oct 13
2016	Nov 23	Oct 26	2011	Dec 10	Oct 30
2015	Nov 23	Oct 18	2010	Nov 29	Nov 1
2014	Nov 15	Nov 8	2009	Dec 6	Nov 4

*Latest first freeze at DCA: 12/22/01; at IAD, 11/17/05*