

ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 1988: Even with this summer's record-tying heat (21 consecutive days of 90°F plus temperatures) and near-record warmth (59 [7] days of 90° [100°F] or more) at DCA, annual temperatures averaged BELOW NORMAL for the first time in 17 years. Annual temperature departures were -0.4°F, -0.1°F, and 0.0°F for Washington/National (DCA), Washington/Dulles (IAD), and Baltimore/Washington (BWI), respectively. All three airports experienced another subnormal precipitation year as BWI, DCA, and IAD recorded deficiencies of 9.54, 7.26, and 0.54 inches, respectively. Every station except Ft. Belvoir, VA (29.04") surpassed 30 inches of precipitation this year. Since 1980, precipitation has been below normal in 8 of 9 years at BWI and DCA and in 6 of 9 years at IAD, while DEFICITS have accumulated to 42.65 inches at BWI, 28.84 inches at DCA, and 24.50 inches at IAD.

ANNUAL 1988 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Precipitation (Inches)		
	AvgMax	AvgMin	AvgT	NmIT	DepNmIT	Total	Normal	DepNmI
National (DCA)	66.2	47.7	57.1	57.5	-0.4	31.74	39.00	-7.26
Baltimore (BWI)	65.3	44.6	55.1	55.1	0.0	32.30	41.84	-9.54
Dulles (IAD)	65.8	41.7	53.8	53.9	-0.1	39.81	40.35	-0.54
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	65.3	44.6	55.0	N/A	N/A	29.04	N/A	N/A
Andrews AFB (ADW)	64.8	45.5	55.0	N/A	N/A	35.70	N/A	N/A

(Note: N/A indicates Not Available)

DECEMBER 1988: Very dry weather during the first 20 days of December (only 0.08" at IAD) helped guarantee another month with below normal precipitation this year. Frigid arctic air settled over the region during mid-December, but mild conditions early and late in the month brought December temperatures close to normal. A strong cold front on the 28th produced hurricane-force winds at BWI (77 mph) and lesser gusts at DAA (61 mph), IAD (59 mph), ADW (56 mph), and DCA (54 mph).

DECEMBER 1988 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	46.8	30.2	38.7	38.9	-0.2	70/28	13/12	1.30	3.18	-1.88
Baltimore (BWI)	45.9	26.6	36.3	36.5	-0.2	69/28	9/13	0.97	3.40	-2.43
Dulles (IAD)	46.2	24.8	35.4	35.1	+0.3	68/28	7/13	0.92	3.29	-2.37
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	48.2	29.1	38.7	N/A	N/A	73/28	8/13	0.88	N/A	N/A
Andrews AFB (ADW)	46.8	29.7	38.1	N/A	N/A	70/28	11/13	0.88	N/A	N/A

(Note: N/A indicates Not Available)

CONJECTURE CORNER:

ODDS FAVOR A RELATIVELY DRY START FOR 1989. SINCE 1980, THE WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE AREAS HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED ANY SIGNIFICANTLY WETTER THAN NORMAL JANUARYS. THE LAST SUBSTANTIALLY WET JANUARY (MORE THAN 6" PRECIPITATION) OCCURRED IN 1979. NORMAL MONTHLY AMOUNTS ARE 2.76, 2.83, AND 3.00 INCHES AT DCA, IAD, AND BWI, RESPECTIVELY.