

NOVEMBER 1989: With subnormal monthly precipitation at 4 of the 5 Washington/Baltimore area stations, both this year's "soggy" spell and recent wet Novembers were temporarily halted. This November marked only the third month of 1989 with below normal precipitation at DCA, BWI, & ADW, and it also ceased a 7-year stretch of wetter than normal Novembers at National Airport and Andrews AFB. Similarly, a 6-year November streak ended at Dulles, while BWI recorded only its second November with subnormal precipitation since 1982. At Ft. Belvoir, however, the 3.21" (normal = 3.0") during the month increased its consecutive number of years with above normal November precipitation to 8. Late on Nov. 22 and early on Nov. 23, a developing storm system to the south of D.C. rapidly moved up the East Coast and dumped light to moderate snow on the area. Between 2 and 4 inches of snow were generally measured at the 5 airports. Locally, the Washington Forecast Office reported snow depths as great as 7" at Solomons, MD while Quantico, VA and Waldorf, MD measured 6". Further north, the intensified storm buried portions of Cape Cod with up to a foot and a half of snow.

For the first time since April, monthly temperatures at all 5 locations averaged at or below normal. This was also reflected on a daily basis as 18 of 30 days were colder than normal at IAD & BWI (17 of 30 at DCA). The negative departures, however, were kept within 2°F of normal due to a few brief mild episodes, particularly during the middle of the month. Highs soared into the mid-seventies on Nov. 14 & 15, but a cold front moving through the region early on the 16th triggered strong thunderstorms and gusty winds (46 mph at DCA) and quickly dropped temperatures into the thirties later that evening. Another cold front on the 20th brought little precipitation but even stronger winds as confirmed gusts hit 73 mph at Channel 9 in northwestern D.C. and 71 mph at the National Weather Service in Camp Springs, MD. All five airports recorded gusts in excess of 45 mph. There were numerous reports of downed power lines and tree and roof damage. On Friday, Nov. 24, with snow cover, clear skies, and light winds, the mercury plunged to 9°F at IAD, setting both a new daily and monthly minimum temperature record.

NOVEMBER 1989 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	Snow
National (DCA)	56.5	39.4	47.9	48.7	-0.8	76/14	23/24	2.37	2.82	-0.45	3.5
Baltimore (BWI)	54.5	34.5	44.5	46.3	-1.8	77/14	17/24	1.97	3.11	-1.14	3.8
Dulles (IAD)	55.3	31.5	43.4	44.8	-1.4	76/14	9/24	2.68	2.99	-0.31	2.4
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	58.3	36.3	47	47	0	78/14	15/24	3.21	3.0	+0.2	3.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	55.8	38.1	47	48	-1	75/14	20/24	1.75	3.3	-1.5	3.7

AUTUMN (September–November) 1989: Even with one of the driest Novembers in recent times, surplus rainfall during September and October, especially at DCA thanks to localized thunderstorms, pushed the autumn precipitation totals at all 5 locations to above normal levels. The heavy September and October rains at National greatly contributed to its fourth wettest autumn (Obs = 14.53" vs. Nml = 8.94") since 1936 (see front page). The other airports, however, recorded positive departures much closer to normal. With the exception of IAD, the other stations have already surpassed or are nearly at the 50" annual precipitation amount.

Autumn temperatures generally averaged near the long-term mean as departures were within 2°F of normal. While BWI observed slightly below normal seasonal temperatures, slightly milder than usual conditions were noted at the other locations. On a daily basis, however, temperatures were anything but normal as several brief warm and cold spells interspersed throughout the Fall created large fluctuations in the daily temperature departures. The year's hottest weather occurred at IAD & DCA (97°F and 96°F, respectively) on Sep. 10. Just a few months later, IAD set a November minimum temperature record by falling to 9°F on Nov. 24.

FALL 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Precipitation (In)			YTD Precip (In)	
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	Total	Norm	DepNm	Total	DepNm
National (DCA)	68.8	51.0	59.9	59.7	+0.2	14.53	8.94	+5.59	48.22	+12.40
Baltimore (BWI)	67.2	47.2	57.2	57.4	-0.2	10.51	9.68	+0.83	49.76	+11.32
Dulles (IAD)	68.4	44.4	56.4	55.8	+0.6	10.55	9.26	+1.29	42.62	+5.56
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	70.9	48.5	59.7	58	+2	13.32	10.0	+3.3	51.59	+13.2
Andrews AFB (ADW)	67.7	49.5	58.6	58	+1	12.35	10.2	+2.2	51.62	+12.5

LOOKING AHEAD - SNOWY SEASONS:

With the 1989–1990 snow season off to a fast start (DCA: Obs = 3.5", Nml = 0.7"), below is a summary of the all-time whitest winters (Dec.–Feb.) at the local airports.

- DCA all-time record (since 1888) 54.4" (1898–1899)
- DCA at current location (since 1944) 40.4" (1957–1958)
- BWI 51.8" (1963–1964)
- ADW 66.3" (1957–1958)
- IAD 44.6" (1963–1964)
- DAA (Not Available)