

OCTOBER 1989: Despite long stretches of dry weather (trace or no precipitation), especially at DCA (Oct. 3–16 & 21–29), much above normal precipitation fell across the entire region. Two significant rainfall events (Oct. 1–2 & 17–20) accounted for the majority of the monthly total (see front page). October continued this year's wet trend as eight of ten months have recorded greater than normal precipitation at ADW, BWI, & DCA, while seven of ten months have been wetter than usual at DAA. This was also the wettest October at DCA, ADW, & BWI since 1979, and the first October since 1985 with excess precipitation at DCA, IAD, DAA, & ADW, and since 1983 at BWI. On an annual basis, the normal yearly precipitation has already been observed at all stations through October with the exception of Dulles, which is only 0.41" short (Tot. = 39.94" vs. Nml = 40.35"). Wetter than normal years have been rather infrequent during the 1980's at DCA & BWI as only two years (1983 & 1989) have matched this criteria. With two months remaining in 1989, DCA only requires an additional 6.12" to equal 1972's total of 51.97", the wettest year since 1948 (see front cover).

Just like the last three months, October temperatures generally averaged near normal (within 2°F of normal), although all five airports reported slightly milder than usual conditions. Similar to September, there were large fluctuations in the daily temperature departures due to several brief warm and cool spells. Unlike the last two Octobers, the area did not experience record or near-record cold when the monthly temperatures averaged approximately 5°F below normal at DCA, IAD, & BWI. Although the first 11 days of the month were more than 4°F below normal, "Indian summer" weather (warm days, cool nights, and clear skies) occurred in the middle and towards the end of October, nudging monthly temperatures slightly above normal. Of the five locations, only Dulles observed temperatures at or below freezing (on Oct. 23 and 24), slightly after IAD's average freeze date. DCA's average date for first freezing temperature is Nov. 10. Dense fog shrouded parts of the Washington metropolitan area in the early mornings of Oct. 15 and 30 as visibilities dropped to near zero due to the combination of high humidities, light winds, and clear skies.

OCTOBER 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	70.4	50.5	60.4	59.3	+1.1	83/13*	38/21	5.48	2.90	+2.58
Baltimore (BWI)	69.5	46.7	58.1	56.9	+1.2	86/15	36/10*	4.90	3.11	+1.79
Dulles (IAD)	70.4	43.8	57.1	55.3	+1.8	88/15	31/24	4.73	3.01	+1.72
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	73.0	47.6	60.3	57	+3	87/15	37/10	4.80	3.4	+1.4
Andrews AFB (ADW)	69.1	49.0	59.0	58	+1	83/15	39/21	6.25	3.3	+3.0

Other dates of occurrence: *Oct. 16 *Oct. 21

ANOTHER NASTY NOVEMBER?:

CAN THE WET NOVEMBER STREAK BE BROKEN?

The last 7 Novembers have been wetter than normal at Washington/National. Additionally, Dulles has recorded surplus November precipitation since 1983, while above normal precipitation has occurred in 6 of the past 7 Novembers at BWI. In sharp contrast, less than 1/3" fell on BWI (0.31"), DCA (0.29"), and IAD (0.24") during November 1981.