

AUGUST 1990: While the 1980's recorded only one wetter than normal August at DCA, two at IAD, and none at BWI, this decade began with the wettest August in Washington since 1971 (see cover) and the fourth highest August rainfall total at Ft. Belvoir (records began in 1957). As has been the case most of the year, rainfall was widespread and frequent during the month. Each airport recorded at least two events of greater than one inch in a 24-hour period, with Ft. Belvoir measuring 2.76" between Aug. 9-10. Beginning on Monday, Aug. 20, a steady, widespread rain, more typical of late autumn or winter, fell, disrupting vacation plans and resulting in five consecutive cloudy days that equaled a similar August streak set in 1967. To the southeast of the D.C. area on Aug. 22, copious rains deluged the eastern Virginia counties of Northumberland, Lancaster, and Northampton with totals surpassing 10 inches at Dividing Creek, Nassawadox, Foxwell, and Ditchley.

For only the second month of 1990, temperatures averaged below the long-term mean at DCA, BWI, IAD, and ADW. The lack of prolonged heat waves during 1990 thankfully continued in August. The highest reading was only 93°F at DCA on Aug. 28, and there were only 3 days when the temperature exceeded 90°F. During the cloudy and wet week of Aug. 20, maximum temperatures remained near 70°F, an event which has occurred only one other time in August during the last 40 years.

AUGUST 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	84.2	68.8	76.5	77.6	-1.1	93/28	62/21	6.74	4.40	+2.34
Baltimore (BWI)	83.1	65.9	74.5	75.6	-1.1	91/28	60/2*	6.17	4.62	+1.55
Dulles (IAD)	83.4	64.0	73.7	74.3	-0.6	94/28	57/2^	5.56	4.16	+1.40
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	83.6	65.5	74.6	75	0	92/28	58/2~	8.37	4.4	+4.0
Andrews AFB (ADW)	82.2	65.7	74.0	75	-1	91/28	58/31	7.55	4.4	+3.2

Other dates of occurrence: *Aug. 31, ^Aug. 3 & 31, ~Aug. 3

SUMMER (JUNE-AUGUST) 1990: This Summer's precipitation was slightly above normal thanks mainly to August's surplus rainfall. June brought subnormal precipitation to much of the region except for heavy rains to the southeast of D.C., especially in Calvert County, MD (over 10"). Although June was relatively dry, most Saturdays and Sundays were not. A rare rain-free weekend (June 16-17) ended a stretch of 16 consecutive wet weekends (trace or more) at DCA. July rainfall was generally above normal, but amounts varied considerably. Again, all but one weekend had rain. August's frequent and heavy rains also kept all but one weekend wet. From February-August, 26 of 30 weekends have recorded some precipitation at DCA.

Seasonal temperatures averaged near normal thanks to a lack of prolonged heat waves and frequent and surplus rainfall. The longest string of 90°F+ days was only 5 (July 19-23), and there were several days with highs under 80°F. This Summer was quite similar to 1989's and very contrasting with 1988's. In 1990 at DCA, there were 22 days with highs 90-94°F [18 (1989), 31 (1988)], 3 days at 95-99°F [2 (1989), 17 (1988)], 1 day at or above 100°F [0 (1989), 7 (1988)], and 12 days below 80°F [15 (1989), 11 (1988)].

SUMMER (JUN-AUG) 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	85.6	68.2	76.9	77.0	-0.1	100/7-5	50/6-5	13.66	11.63	+2.03
Baltimore (BWI)	85.0	65.5	75.3	74.9	+0.4	101/7-9	49/6-5	14.40	12.27	+2.13
Dulles (IAD)	85.4	62.7	74.0	73.5	+0.5	99/7-5	45/6-5	12.73	12.14	+0.59
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	85.4	64.3	74.9	74	+1	101/7-5	48/6-1	14.20	11.9	+2.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	84.1	66.4	75.2	75	0	99/7-5	48/6-5	15.75	12.4	+3.4

LOOKING AHEAD: SINCE 1984, EITHER WARM/WET OR COOL/DRY

During the past 6 Septembers, Washington/National Airport has observed DRIER & COOLER than normal Septembers during EVEN-NUMBERED years and WETTER & WARMER than usual Septembers during ODD-NUMBERED years. While the alternating pattern continue in 1990?

Year	Total(In)	DepNm(In)	AvgT(F)	DepNm(F)
1989	6.68	+3.46	71.1	+0.3
1988	1.85	-1.37	68.9	-2.2
1987	5.11	+1.89	72.0	+0.9
1986	0.60	-2.62	70.9	-0.2
1985	6.67	+3.45	71.9	+0.8
1984	2.51	-0.71	68.3	-2.8