

FEBRUARY 1991: February continued the persistent warmth so prevalent throughout the Winter season of 1990–91. Only occasional and short-lived Arctic air masses were observed, and as a result, DCA recorded its eighth warmest February on record (BWI and IAD recorded their 5th and 3rd warmest respectively). It was also the fourth consecutive February with above normal temperatures at BWI and IAD (3rd at DCA), and included 17 days at or above 50°F at National. DCA observed back-to-back record highs on the 4th and 5th when the temperature hit 70°F both days. The low temperature for February and the Winter at DCA was a modest 17°F on the 16th. While measurable precipitation was recorded on nine days, amounts were light, with nearly all airports and observers recording an inch or less, making February 1990 the 5th driest on record (tied with 1918) at DCA and the 4th driest at both BWI and IAD. For many areas this was the driest month since September and also was the second consecutive February with below normal precipitation at DCA and BWI and the 5th consecutive at IAD. Monthly snowfall was exceptionally light with less than an inch reported at most locations on the evening of the 17th.

FEBRUARY 1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	52.4	33.5	43.0	37.5	+5.5	72/22	17/16	0.83	2.62	-1.79	0.3
Baltimore (BWI)	51.4	29.8	40.6	34.7	+5.9	73/5	16/16	0.73	2.98	-2.25	0.1
Dulles (IAD)	51.5	27.5	39.5	33.6	+5.9	73/5	13/1*	0.81	2.64	-1.83	0.1
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	54.2	31.1	42.7	36	+7	74/5	18/1*	0.99	3.0	-2.0	T
Andrews AFB (ADW)	51.0	29.9	40.5	36	+5	72/5	15/16	1.08	2.8	-1.7	T

Other dates of occurrence: * February 16th.

WINTER (DECEMBER–FEBRUARY) 1990–1991: The Winter season of 1990–1991 was the fifth consecutive winter with at or above normal temperatures at DCA, BWI, and IAD, and also the warmest Winter on record at BWI and IAD (fifth warmest at DCA) [see cover]. Temperatures were constantly above normal, with 44 days (49%) at or above 50°F, including 5 days at or above 70°F at DCA, as Arctic air outbreaks were passive and short-lived. Only three light to moderate snow events occurred, all within the relatively short time frame of late December thru mid-January. Precipitation for the Winter was slightly below normal, except somewhat drier south and east of the city, making the Winter of 1990–91 the 4th consecutive winter below normal at DCA, BWI, and IAD. Precipitation was above normal in December, but this was negated by a very dry February. Snowfall was more than 6 inches below normal at all five airports. Dulles received the greatest total with slightly more than 11 inches (normal: 19.2") while Ft. Belvoir recorded the least with just over 4 inches (normal: 17.9"). Snowfall totals at DCA and BWI were slightly more than 50% of the normal 14.3" and 16.8", respectively.

WINTER 1990–1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	50.6	33.4	42.0	37.2	+4.8	72/2–22	17/2–16	8.46	8.56	-0.10	8.1
Baltimore (BWI)	49.4	29.3	39.4	34.6	+4.8	73/2–5	12/1–23	9.13	9.38	-0.25	9.1
Dulles (IAD)	49.2	27.4	38.3	33.4	+4.9	73/2–5	9/1–22	8.48	8.76	-0.28	11.1
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	51.7	30.4	41.1	35	+6	74/2–5	12/1–23	6.73	9.1	-2.4	4.1
Andrews AFB (ADW)	49.1	29.4	39.3	36	+3	72/2–5	12/1–22*	6.70	9.3	-2.6	6.6

Other dates of occurrence: * January 26th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH: SIX IN A ROW?

With the last cooler than normal month being September 1990, DCA has recorded five successive warmer than normal months. The last time there were six consecutive months with above normal temperatures at DCA was June–November 1983. The most consecutive warmer than normal months at DCA was eleven: (June 1973–April 1974).