



PRESTO

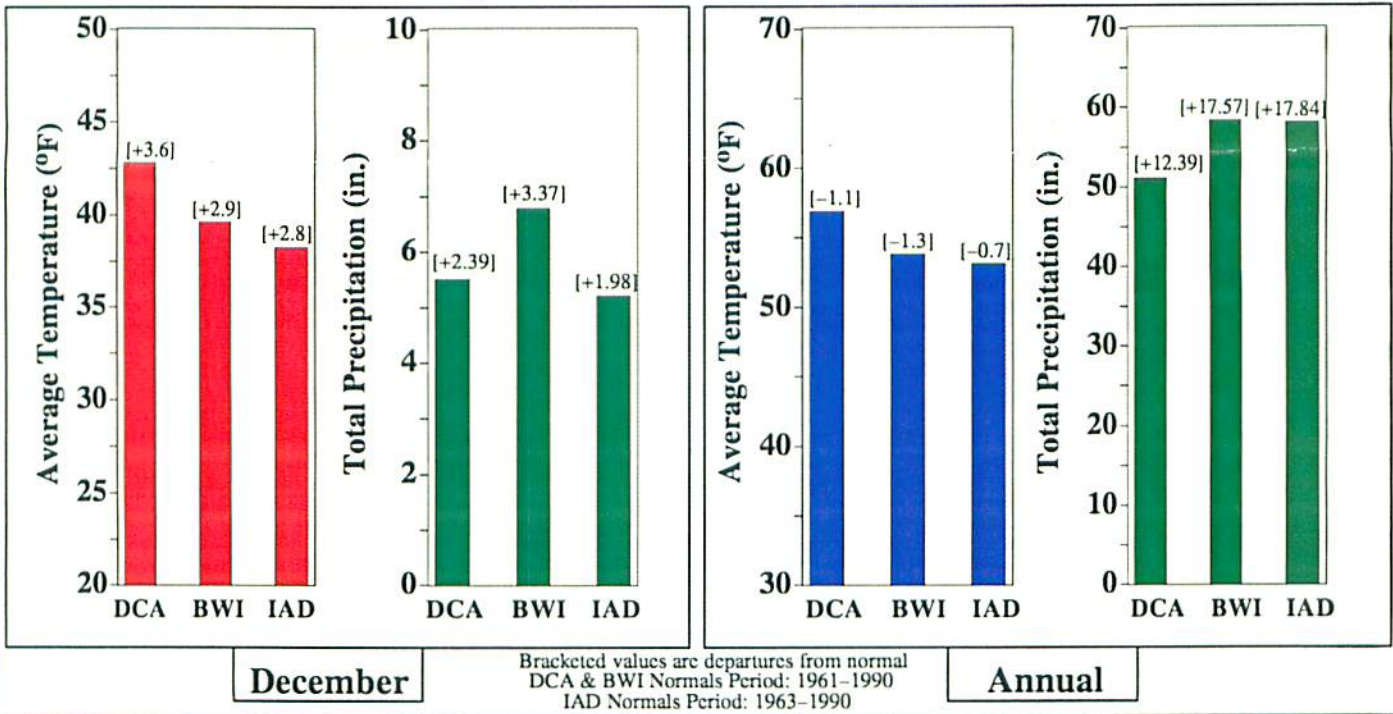


PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

DECEMBER 1996 & ANNUAL REVIEW

A WET AND MILD DECEMBER ENDS A COOL, EXCESSIVELY WET AND SNOWY YEAR IN THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

December and Annual Average Temperature and Total Precipitation at DCA, BWI & IAD



HIGHLIGHTS MONTHLY

- Warmer and wetter than normal conditions across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- First month with above normal temperatures since June at DCA and only the third such month in 1996;
- 20 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA, including 4 days with highs at or above 60°F;
- Only 8 days (23 in 1995) with lows of 32°F or lower at DCA, the fewest such December days since 1984;
- Second wettest December on record at BWI (6.78"), seventh at IAD (5.20") and eighth in Washington (5.51");
- Wettest December since 1969 at BWI, since 1983 at both DCA & IAD;
- 12th month of last 16 with above normal precipitation at DCA;
- 14 days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") at DCA, 17 at both BWI and IAD;
- Only 0.2" of snow at DCA, the seventh consecutive December with subnormal snowfall.

ANNUAL

- Cooler and wetter than normal conditions across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- Fifth coolest year (tied w/ 1966) on record at BWI (Avg. Temp.: 53.8°F), sixth at IAD (Avg. Temp.: 53.1°F) and the fourth coolest (tied w/ 1989) in the last 30 years at DCA (Avg. Temp.: 56.9°F) [see graph above];
- Only 21 days with 90°F+ highs at DCA, the fewest (tied with 1992) since 1979;
- No 90°F+ highs from July 18–August 21 (31 days) at DCA (climatologically the hottest time of the year in Washington);
- Second wettest year on record at both BWI and IAD and 5th at DCA (13th overall in Washington) [see graph above];
- Two major floods affected the area, one in January (heavy rain and snowmelt) the other in September (Fran's remnants);
- Remnants of three tropical systems (Bertha in July, Fran in September & Josephine in October) affected the local region during 1996, generating heavy rain, strong winds and some flooding across parts of the area;
- Snowiest calendar year on record at BWI (59.8"), IAD (58.4"), and DCA (44.4") ; third overall in Washington);
- The "Blizzard of 1996" produced the largest single-storm snowfall on record at IAD (24.5"), second at BWI (22.5"), and the fourth largest snowfall in Washington with 17.1" at DCA.

Andrew H. Horvitz, Office of Meteorology/NWS, (301) 713-1867

Joseph A. Harrison, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS, (301) 763-4670

(for more details turn over)