

**JANUARY 1998:** This month was similar to December 1997, with unusually mild conditions observed in the Washington/Baltimore area. Except for a brief period of Arctic air on December 31<sup>st</sup> and New Year's Day, temperatures were at or above normal on 29 of the last 30 days, resulting in monthly temperature departures exceeding +8°F at the three major airports and the warmest January in Washington since 1990 (second warmest on record at both BWI and IAD). In fact, monthly temperatures averaged more than 2°F above those reported in December, which also averaged above normal. Normally the coldest time of the year, there were only eight January days with lows of 32°F or lower at DCA, the fewest such days in more than 60 years. In addition, the first two months of Winter failed to produce a day with at or below freezing highs at any of the three major airports, the first such occurrence at DCA since December 1949-January 1950. Early in the month, an unprecedented mild spell enveloped the Washington/Baltimore area, producing a record eight consecutive days (2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>) with 60°F+ highs at DCA. Record daily highs were observed on four consecutive days at IAD, tied or established at BWI on three days, and once at DCA. The unseasonable warmth even prevailed at night as lows dropped only into the forties and fifties from the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, including a low of 57°F at DCA on the 8<sup>th</sup> (23°F above normal). In addition, lows on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (61°F and 62°F, respectively) at IAD, broke the previous record highs for that location. Somewhat cooler weather prevailed during the remainder of the month, but temperatures still remained above normal every day except the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Abnormally wet weather prevailed across the local area, but included very little snowfall. Monthly precipitation totals exceeding 5 inches were observed at all five airports. Both DAA and ADW recorded more than 6.5" of rain, with 6.67" and 7.28", respectively. Ironically, the first half of the month started quite dry with less than