

MAY 1989: Even though this May was characterized by record (BWI, DAA) or near-record (ADW, IAD, DCA) precipitation and subnormal temperatures (with the exception of DAA), most of the wet and cool weather occurred during the first 16 days of the month. For example at DCA, the May 1-16 temperature averaged 57.8°F, or 6.0°F below normal, and 5.81" of rain fell. In contrast, the last 15 days of May had an average temperature of 70.8°F, or 2.3°F above normal, and 1.96" of rain (most of this [1.59"] occurred on May 23). With May's excessive rainfall, the number of successive months with above normal precipitation reached 4, 4, and 3 at DCA, ADW, and DAA, respectively. On a daily basis, a string of 13 consecutive days with precipitation (May 5-17) at DCA was the longest such streak since mid-1968. May was also the second straight month with below normal temperatures at all the locations with the exception of Ft. Belvoir, the only station that has recorded highs in the nineties this year (on May 18, 25, 26, and 31).

MAY 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)	72.8	55.3	64.1	66.0	-1.9	87/31*	44/8*	7.77	3.48	+4.29
Baltimore (BWI)	71.5	52.3	61.9	63.4	-1.5	87/26	40/7 ^o	8.71	3.44	+5.27
Dulles (IAD)	72.5	49.9	61.2	62.4	-1.2	88/25	35/4	7.71	3.62	+4.09
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	77.0	56.0	66.5	64	+2.5	91/31 [#]	43/7 [#]	10.02	3.8	+6.2
Andrews AFB (ADW)	70.1	53.0	61.5	64	-2.5	85/26 ^{&}	40/7	10.61	4.0	+6.6

Note: Below symbols indicate other dates of occurrence:

* 5/26 (87°F) and 5/7 (44°F)

^o 5/4

[#] 5/18, 5/26 (91°F) and 5/4 (43°F)

[&] 5/18

SPRING (MARCH-MAY) 1989: This was the wettest spring since 1983 at DCA, BWI, and IAD. While DCA's 15.57" fell far short of the record wet spring of 1889 when 24.02" fell, BWI and IAD came close to record totals. The BWI all-time record spring precipitation occurred in 1983 (18.82") vs. 16.11" this year, while IAD's 14.42" was slightly short of its all-time record of 15.08" in 1973. More than 20" have fallen at both ADW and DAA, but historical spring precipitation comparisons are not currently available. Even though Spring temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal at all five stations, there were several cold and warm spells during March, April, and May that were more reminiscent of winter and summer.

SPRING 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Spring (March-May) Precipitation (In)			1989 Totals Precip (In)	
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	Total	Norml	DepNm	Total	DepNm
National (DCA)	64.2	46.2	55.2	56.2	-1.0	15.57	9.87	+5.70	20.86	+5.61
Baltimore (BWI)	62.5	42.8	52.7	53.6	-0.9	16.11	10.51	+5.60	22.54	+6.05
Dulles (IAD)	63.9	40.3	52.1	52.7	-0.6	14.42	10.19	+4.23	19.57	+3.91
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	65.6	43.7	54.6	54.3	+0.3	20.96	10.7	+10.3	26.05	+9.6
Andrews AFB (ADW)	62.4	44.3	53.4	54.7	-1.3	21.93	10.6	+11.3	27.89	+11.4

JUNE JINX?

FIVE IN A ROW?

THE LAST TIME THAT THERE WERE FIVE CONSECUTIVE WETTER THAN NORMAL MONTHS AT DCA OCCURRED FEBRUARY-JUNE 1983 (3.09", 4.84", 6.88", 4.62", 7.09").

WETTEST YEARS:

WITH A WET START TO 1989, HERE ARE THE ALL-TIME WETTEST YEARS:

DCA 61.33" (1889) ADW 62.05" (1979)

BWI 58.98" (1979) DAA 61.80" (1979)

IAD 59.05" (1972)

First full year of record keeping: DCA (1871), BWI (1951),

IAD (1963), ADW (1943), and DAA (1957)