

JULY 2001: For the second consecutive July, a persistent pattern of cool weather prevailed across the local area, yielding the fifth coolest back-to-back Julys ever recorded in Washington and the second coolest July on record at BWI (July 2000 was coolest). Monthly temperatures averaged more than 4°F below normal at both DCA and BWI. There were 26 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA. In addition, there were no prolonged periods of heat and/or humidity. In fact, there were only 7 days when the mercury exceeded 90°F at both DCA and BWI (5 at IAD) and no days with readings at or above 95°F at the three major airports. The longest period of 90°F+ readings occurred from the 23rd-25th, but just a few days later highs struggled to reach the upper sixties (69°F at DCA on the 29th). The month will be remembered for an abundance of sunny, warm days with comfortable levels of humidity. There were also many cool nights, especially in suburban locations, as lows dipped into the fifties. In fact, IAD recorded 14 days with lows in the fifties while BWI reported 11 such days.

Above normal rainfall was reported at 4 of the 5 local airports (DCA, BWI, IAD and ADW) with monthly precipitation totals exceeding four inches common across most of the area. Precipitation totals exceeding six inches were reported across portions of southern Maryland and at ADW (6.18"). There were numerous days with heavy showers and thunderstorms during the month. On the 1st, a powerful line of thunderstorms swept through the area knocking out power to more than 30,000 homes from Warrenton, VA to Bowie, MD. More storms battered the area on the 4th with up to two inches of rain recorded in Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax & Loudoun (IAD 1.87") counties in Virginia. Additional showers and thunderstorms from the 8th-10th often produced heavy rain, pushing precipitation totals during the first third of the month to more than three inches at some locations. On the 10th, strong thunderstorms produced damaging winds in Frederick, Carroll, and Baltimore counties in Maryland. After a one week respite, heavy showers affected the northern portions of the local area as BWI was soaked by 1.43" of rain on the 18th. On the 26th, the southern portion of the area received significant amounts of rainfall as DCA recorded 1.33" of rain while more than two inches fell on parts of Prince William County, VA and southern Maryland. An all-day, soaking rain on the 29th produced about another inch of rain at most locations and pushed monthly totals above 4 inches at many locations and above 10 inches for the first two months of summer.

JULY 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day			Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date	
National (DCA)	83.7	66.8	75.2	80.0	-4.8	93/24*	58/2#	4.79	3.80	+0.99	22.83	
Baltimore (BWI)	83.3	62.4	72.8	77.0	-4.2	92/10^	50/3	3.85	3.69	+0.16	23.95	
Dulles (IAD)	83.1	61.3	72.2	75.6	-3.4	93/24*	51/3	4.20	3.49	+0.71	25.20	
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	3.8	M	M	
Andrews AFB (ADW)	80.2	60.0	70.1	N/A	N/A	91/25	50/3	6.18	4.3	+1.8	28.15	

Other Occurrences: * July 25th; # July 3rd; ^ July 17th, 24th & 25th; M - denotes missing.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST: Abnormally Cool July = Cool August?

With another unusually cool July across the Washington/Baltimore area behind us, the question arises whether an abnormally cool July is typically followed by a cooler than normal August? Below is a list of the 15 coolest Julys on record in Washington and the corresponding August observed average temperature and departure from normal. [Normal August Temperature: 78.5°F]

Year	July Avg. Temp. (°F)	Dep. Nml. (°F)	August Avg. Temp. (°F)	Dep. Nml. (°F)
1891	72.0	-8.0	74.5	-4.0
1895	72.8	-7.2	77.2	-1.3
1888	73.6	-6.4	75.8	-2.7
1886	73.9	-6.1	73.1	-5.4
1871	74.0	-6.0	76.8	-1.7
1884	74.2	-5.8	74.2	-4.3
1918	74.4	-5.6	77.6	-0.9
1904	74.4	-5.6	72.3	-6.2
2000	74.6	-5.4	75.1	-3.4
1909	74.7	-5.3	73.0	-5.5
1920	75.0	-5.0	74.8	-3.7
1890	75.0	-5.0	73.6	-4.9
1924	75.0	-5.0	74.8	-3.7
1906	75.2	-4.8	76.4	-2.1
2001	75.2	-4.8	?	?

