

NOVEMBER 2001: Unseasonably warm and very dry weather highlighted the final month of meteorological Autumn across the Washington/Baltimore area. Monthly temperature departures reached or exceeded +5.0°F at both DCA and IAD and reached almost +4.0°F at BWI, yielding the warmest November on record in Washington and the 2nd and 4th warmest at IAD and BWI, respectively. There were 23 days with at or above-normal temperatures at DCA, including 9 days with highs at or above 70°F (readings more typical of late September and early October). There were no significant intrusions of cold Canadian air during the month. In fact, there were no days with a minimum temperature at or below freezing at DCA. Highs in the seventies were scattered throughout the month, including the last week when the high reached 71°F (18°F above normal) on the 30th at DCA. In addition, both DCA and IAD observed a record daily high on the 16th when the mercury topped out at 76°F and 74°F, respectively.

Very dry conditions which developed in September continued to intensify during November. Rainfall was sparse with monthly precipitation totals below an inch reported at most locations. In fact, it was the driest November since 1981 at the three major airports. In Montgomery County, Maryland some locations recorded monthly rainfall totals around two inches, due in large part to thunderstorms on the 25th that dumped well over an inch of rain and golf ball size hail on Germantown, MD. During the first 23 days of the month, less than 0.05 inches of precipitation fell at most locations, including the three major airports. In fact, until occasional rain fell on the local area on the weekend of the 24th-25th, less than 0.10" of rain had been recorded at many locations since mid-October. Between October 17th and November 19th (34 days), the three major airports recorded only 0.01" of precipitation. The extremely dry conditions abetted numerous forest fires across parts of the local region.

NOVEMBER 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNmI	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNmI	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	65.0	44.6	54.8	49.8	+5.0	79/2	33/12*	0.55	3.12	-2.57	28.46
Baltimore (BWI)	63.4	37.9	50.7	46.8	+3.9	78/2	23/12	1.01	3.32	-2.31	32.83
Dulles (IAD)	64.3	37.2	50.7	45.4	+5.3	80/2	22/13	0.82	3.30	-2.48	35.64
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	3.0	M	M
Andrews AFB (ADW)	65.0	40.3	52.7	N/A	N/A	79/2	23/21	0.68	3.3	-2.6	35.03

Other Occurrences: * November 21st;

AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER) 2001: Abnormally dry and warm weather highlighted Autumn across the Washington/Baltimore area. Seasonal precipitation totals below 4 inches were recorded at both DCA (2.65") and BWI (3.21), yielding the 3rd driest and driest Autumn on record, respectively. In addition, seasonal precipitation deficits of more than 6 inches were observed at DCA and BWI and over 4 inches at IAD. There were only 16 days with measurable precipitation and no daily precipitation totals at or above 0.50" at DCA. There was also a significant mid-season period (34 days; October 17-November 19) of dry weather. During this time, only 0.01" or rain was recorded at DCA, BWI and IAD. The season commenced with subnormal September precipitation across most of the local area. In fact, less than an 1.50" of rain fell at both DCA and BWI, with most of the monthly total falling during the latter third of the month. DCA reported its driest September since 1990. Of the three major airports, only IAD observed above-normal September precipitation due in large part to a daily record rainfall (2.17") on the 24th. On this same day, some of the strongest tornadoes to hit the region in more than 70 years caused extensive damage across parts of the Washington/Baltimore area. The strongest tornado (F3; winds up to 206 mph) battered College Park and Laurel, MD during the late afternoon. According to press reports, the tornado claimed the lives of two people, injured dozens more and caused tens of million dollars in damage, including more than \$10 million to the campus of the University of Maryland. It was the deadliest September tornado outbreak in Prince Georges County since 1880, according to press reports. Very dry conditions prevailed during October. Measurable precipitation fell on only four October days at both DCA & BWI and 3 days at IAD, yielding less than an inch of rainfall at both DCA & BWI and about 1.50" at IAD. The dry conditions became more pronounced during the second half of October as no measurable rainfall occurred after the 16th. Very dry weather continued into final month of the season with most locations recording less than an inch of rain. In fact, it was the driest November in 20 years at the three major airports. During the first 19 November days, only 0.01" was recorded at DCA, BWI and IAD.

Despite a rather cool start to Autumn, seasonal temperatures were slightly above-normal at most locations, due in large part to unusual warmth in November. Seasonal temperature departures of around a degree or more were reported at DCA and IAD. There were no significant periods of extreme cold. In fact, the mercury never reached the freezing mark at DCA. Both BWI and IAD observed their first freeze of the season on October 8th. Subnormal temperatures prevailed during September with monthly temperature departures between -1.7°F and -3.3°F observed at the three major airports. It was the 11th September out of the last 12 with subnormal temperatures and the coolest back-to-back (2000 & 2001) Septembers since 1962 & 1963 at DCA. Near-normal temperatures prevailed across the Washington/Baltimore area during October. Monthly temperature departures between -0.6°F and +0.7°F were reported at the three major airports. There were 18 October days with at or above normal temperatures as well as 18 days with highs at or above 70°F, including 6 days when highs topped 80°F at DCA. Abnormally warm weather prevailed during the first week of October as highs soared at or above 80°F from the 2nd-5th at DCA, 3rd-5th at IAD and on the 3rd and 4th at BWI and briefly again late (22nd-24th) in the month. On the 24th, all three major airports reported daily record highs as readings soared into eighties. In November record warmth enveloped the Washington area. The monthly departure reached +5°F at both DCA, yielding the warmest November ever recorded in Washington.

AUTUMN 2001 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Month-Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNmI	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNmI
National (DCA)	71.1	51.1	61.1	60.3	+0.8	87/9-4*	33/10-29#	2.65	9.45	-6.80
Baltimore (BWI)	69.5	45.0	57.3	57.3	0.0	85/9-10	23/11-12	3.21	9.71	-6.50
Dulles (IAD)	70.6	44.0	57.3	55.9	+1.4	85/9-4*	22/11-13	5.66	9.86	-4.20
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	M	M	M	10.0	M
Andrews AFB (ADW)	69.8	47.0	58.4	N/A	N/A	84/9-10@	23/11-21	2.73	10.2	-7.5

Other Occurrences: * September 9th; # November 12th & 21st; @ October 21st.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER: Subnormal December Snowfall Again?

Since 1983, there has only been one December (1989) with above normal snowfall at DCA. In 1991 and 1994, there was no snowfall recorded at DCA. Below is a list of December snowfalls totals from 1983-1999 at DCA [Normal December Snowfall at DCA: 3.1"].

Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)
2000	2.0	1995	1.3	1990	3.0	1985	0.7
1999	Trace	1994	0.0	1989	9.0	1984	0.3
1998	0.5	1993	2.6	1988	1.2	1983	Trace
1997	0.1	1992	1.0	1987	Trace		
1996	0.2	1991	0.0	1986	Trace		