

## OCTOBER 2007

**Temperature:** Unprecedented warm conditions prevailed across the Washington/Baltimore area resulting in the warmest October ever recorded in Washington and at IAD. Temperature departures were +8.2°F at DCA, +8.0°F at BWI (5<sup>th</sup> warmest) and +8.6°F at IAD. DCA's monthly average temperature of 67°F shattered the previous record from 1984 of 65.2°F. IAD's monthly mean of 63.6°F also broke the previous record from 1984 by 1.8°F. The month recorded the most 80°F or greater readings with 15 at DCA, 12 at IAD and 11 at BWI. Midsummer heat prevailed from the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> as highs soared at or above 90°F across the area including the three major airports. New maximum temperature records were established at DCA, BWI, and IAD as highs reached 94°F. IAD also set record highs on the 4<sup>th</sup> (88°F) and on the 18<sup>th</sup> (82°F).

A trend towards cooler conditions finally overspread the region during the months' final week as highs held in the 50s in some areas, including IAD, on the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Most suburban locations also recorded minimum readings in the 30s from the 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. The season's first freeze occurred at IAD on the 29<sup>th</sup>, with a low of 31°F.

**Precipitation:** Despite a very dry start, for the 3rd consecutive October, the area recorded above normal rainfall. No measurable rain was observed at DCA from September 15–October 18, setting a new record at 34 days. This streak broke the 1995 record by 1 day.

Toward the end of the month, the trend shifted to wet. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from over 6" at DCA and in locations east of the metro area to 3"- 4" north and west. DCA recorded 6.55", (+3.33" above normal), BWI, 5.85" (+2.69"); IAD 3.52" (0.15"). Rainfall on the 19<sup>th</sup> was locally heavy from scattered evening thunderstorms. Greatest amounts included 1.52" in Crofton, MD and 1.43" in Mt. Vernon, VA. A few days later, the entire region would receive a significant rainfall. The welcome precipitation was a steady 4-day soaking starting on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> and ending mid morning on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The rainfall was particularly heavy on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> through the night and into the early morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. IAD set a daily record of 1.16" on the 24<sup>th</sup>, while DCA recorded 1.5". On the 26<sup>th</sup>, BWI recorded 2.65"; DCA measured 2.49". Other sites recording large 4-day rainfall totals include Oxon Hill, MD, with 7.03"; Franconia, VA, with 6.74"; and Capitol Hill in D.C. with 6.63". The wet stretch of weather alleviated the severe drought conditions across the area; however, the drought caused the loss of up to 60 percent of some crops in Virginia and Maryland and led to a drought disaster declaration across Maryland as well as in 93 counties and 34 cities in Virginia, according to press reports. By months' end, annual precipitation deficits were approximately 5" at DCA and 6" at BWI but remain staggeringly large at IAD with nearly a 13" deficit for 2007.

### OCTOBER 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	76.4	57.7	67.0	58.8	8.2	94/9	41/29,30	6.55	3.22	3.33	28.19
Baltimore (BWI)	74.9	51.9	63.4	55.4	8.0	94/9	34/29,30	5.85	3.16	2.69	29.42
Dulles (IAD)	75.4	51.7	63.6	55.0	8.6	94/9	31/29	3.52	3.37	0.15	22.56

**Looking Ahead to November:** When will the first snow fall? In Washington, the largest single November snow event occurred in 1987 when 11.5" blanketed DCA. This event tied December 17, 1932, as the greatest single snowfall event during astronomical autumn in Washington. In the last 10 years, the first snow has fallen between early December and late January, except in 1997-98 when there was no snowfall of more than 1 inch. The earliest snows (>1") in Washington, D.C., fell on October 30, 1925, (2.2") and October 20, 1940, (1.4"). The earliest measurable snow ever recorded at DCA fell on October 10, 1979, (0.3"). DCA recorded no significant snowfall (total > 0.1") in the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons.

#### Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

2006-2007	January 21
2005-2006	December 5
2004-2005	January 19
2003-2004	December 4
2002-2003	December 5

#### Snow Season First 1" (or greater) Snowfall at DCA

2001-2002	January 19
2000-2001	December 19
1999-2000	January 20
1998-1999	January 8
1997-1998	(No 1" amount recorded)