

November 2008

Temperature: November readings were below normal at the three major airports for the first time since 2002. Negative departures were -2.1°F at DCA, -0.1°F at BWI and -1.0°F at IAD. The first half of the month featured above normal readings across the area. Highs reached 70°F or higher at many areas on the 1st, 7th and 15th including 74°F at all three major airports on the 1st and 75°F at IAD on the 15th.

A sharp change to much colder conditions occurred on the 16th when average daily temperatures fell below normal and stayed cold through months' end. Washington's average of 38.7°F equaled the 8th coldest second half of November since 1872. DCA recorded minimum readings at or below 32°F on 9 days, the most since 1996. Baltimore observed its 5th coldest second half of November since 1871, recording 11 days with at or subfreezing minimums. IAD reported its second coldest last half of the month since 1963 with 15 at or subfreezing minimums. Maximum readings held in the 30s throughout the region on the 22nd. November marked only the 2nd month in 2008 with subnormal monthly temperatures at DCA.

Precipitation: Most of the Washington-Baltimore area marked subnormal precipitation for the month with amounts generally between 2"-3". Area airport totals included 2.43" at DCA (-0.60"); 2.61" at BWI (-0.51") and 2.01" at IAD (-1.30"). Three events (13th, 15th and 30th) provided the majority of the months' rainfall with totals about .75" on the 13th and generally between .50"-.75" during the latter two systems. Some locations including DCA and BWI observed a brief thunderstorm during the early am hours on the 15th. Meanwhile, the first winter like conditions of the season followed a few days later as a period of light snowfall brought some area light accumulations on the 18th and 21st. Totals on the 18th included 0.5" in Monterey, VA (Highland County), and 0.4" in Manchester, MD (Carroll County). On the 21st, a period of light snow in Maryland totaled 1.3" in Millers (Carroll County), and 1.0" in Jacksonville (Baltimore County) and Thurmont (Frederick County).

Strong winds ushered in the change to cold conditions at mid month with gusts to 43 mph at IAD on the 15th; 41 mph at DCA, and 40 mph at BWI on the 16th.

NOVEMBER 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)				
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date	Snow
National (DCA)	53.2	40.0	46.6	48.7	-2.1	74/1,15	26/22	2.43	3.03	-0.60	43.52	T
Baltimore (BWI)	53.5	37.2	45.4	45.5	-0.1	74/1	21/24	2.61	3.12	-0.51	41.78	T
Dulles (IAD)	52.8	35.7	44.2	45.2	-1.0	75/15	18/23	2.01	3.31	-1.30	41.38	0.0

Autumn Temperatures: (September-November) Meteorological autumn featured near normal temperatures across the area. Positive departures were +0.4°F at DCA; and +0.6°F at BWI and IAD. September started off the season with well above normal temperatures. DCA recorded 6 days in September with highs at or above 90°F; September 4 equaled a record set in 1985 of 95°F. This was DCA's 5th warmest September since 1980. BWI and IAD observed four 90°F or higher days for the month when the area was impacted with hot conditions from the 2nd-5th as well as on the 13th-14th. Minimum temperatures were quite warm as well. DCA noted 9 days with lows at or above 70°F, including a minimum of 75°F on the 14th. The months' coolest temperatures occurred on the 25th when highs held in the 60s throughout the area. Many suburban locations observed lows in the 40s on the 21st including 46°F at IAD.

While significantly cooler than October 2007, monthly temperatures were slightly above normal across the Washington/Baltimore area. October marked the 16th out of the past 18 months with above normal readings at the three major airports. The majority of the first half of the month featured above normal readings including highs at or above 80°F from the 13th-16th at DCA and BWI. The pattern shifted dramatically by the 17th with subnormal readings on all but one day at DCA (25th) through month's end. November started warm but shifted strongly to cool mid-month (see monthly summary above.)

Autumn Precipitation: After a wet September, a return to drier conditions in October and November resulted in normal or near normal rainfall across the area: DCA, -0.93"; BWI, +0.84" and IAD exactly normal. September brought a contrast of very wet and very dry conditions. Despite a long dry period with less than .25" of rain falling between the 7th and 24th, the area recorded well above normal rainfall with monthly totals generally in the 6"-10" range. Most of the rain came from the remnants of Tropical Storm Hanna on September 5th-6th and a coastal storm from the 25th-28th.

In sharp contrast to the previous three wet Octobers, subnormal rainfall was recorded across the region for the month with amounts generally between 1"-2". The month featured a 23 day period (2nd-24th) with no measurable rainfall across many locations including the three major airports. It was the 3rd longest stretch of dry days in October at DCA, 4th longest at BWI and 2nd longest at IAD. The months' greatest rainfall occurred on the 25th when afternoon tropical downpours brought over an inch to some locations in Virginia. A coastal storm brought rain and high winds locally and the seasons' first snows to the mountains on the 27th-28th. Wind gusts reached 56 mph in Waynesboro, VA. Snowfall totals included 6.0" in Frostburg, MD. November brought slightly below normal precipitation and the season's first flurries or light snow to most of the area (see monthly summary above.)

AUTUMN 2008 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml
National (DCA)	67.5	52.0	59.8	59.4	+0.4	95/9-3,4	26/11-22	9.97	10.04	-0.93
Baltimore (BWI)	66.3	47.2	56.7	56.1	+0.6	93/9-3,4	21/11-24	11.10	10.26	+0.84
Dulles (IAD)	66.2	46.2	56.2	55.8	+0.6	93/9-4	18/11-23	10.50	10.50	0.00

Looking Ahead to December: How much snow? Four of past six Decembers have recorded above normal snowfall across the region. Here is a look at the past 10 years. Normal DCA December snowfall is 1.5 inches.

Year	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
December Snowfall	2.6"	Trace	4.8"	0.1"	6.2"	7.1"	0.0"	2.0"	Trace	0.5"