November 2009

Temperatures: The three major airports recorded well above normal temperatures: Positive departures were +3.5°F at DCA, +4.2°F at BWI, and +4.6°F at BWI. This year marked the sixth November in the past 7 with above normal readings at DCA, BWI and IAD. Relatively mild minimum readings contributed to the above normal temperatures. The warmer temperatures also reflected a lack of polar or arctic air as well as frequently wet conditions. IAD monthly low of 29°F was its warmest on record. BWI's observed in highest monthly minimum since 1985. DCA's minimum remained above freezing, the first such occurrence since 2004. DCA observed only 5 days with lows below 40°F. Meanwhile, highs soared to 70°F or greater on 4 days at DCA and 3 such days at BWI and IAD, including a reading of 75°F at IAD on the 8th. Unlike October, there were zero days with maximum temps below 50°F at the three major airports.

Precipitation: Continuing the trend from October, rainfall was frequent and plentiful with above normal totals throughout the Washington/Baltimore area. The immediate metro area generally observed 4"-5". Totals included DCA, 4.43" (+1.40"); BWI, 4.94" (+1.82"); and IAD, 3.71" (+0.40"). The month began wet with about .50" across the metro area and up to 1.0" recorded in Spotsylvania, VA, on the 1st. The month's heaviest rains occurred on the 11th-12th, part of a 4-day deluge with the greatest totals south of Washington. Two day totals included 7.10" in Great Mills, MD, (St. Mary's County), 4.18" in Prince Frederick (Calvert County), MD, and 4.04" in Waynesboro, VA; DCA measured 1.54". A second significant rain event occurred from the 23rd-24th when more than an inch fell in some areas, including 1.35" at BWI and 1.34" in South Gate, MD (Ann Arundel County).

The area also experienced some unusual late-season thunderstorms on the evening of the 19th. Rainfall from this event included 1.07" in Columbia (Howard County), MD; .81" in Mt. Vernon (Fairfax County), VA; and .78" at BWI.

NOVEMBER 2009 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

| Location | Station Temperatures (°F) | | | | Extreme/Day | | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | |
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Year to Date
National (DCA)	59.5	44.9	52.2	48.7	+3.5	74/8	35/7,29	4.43	3.03	+1.40	40.11
Baltimore (BWI)	58.4	40.9	49.7	45.5	+4.2	73/8	28/7	4.94	3.12	+1.82	47.51
Dulles (IAD)	59.7	40.0	49.8	45.2	+4.6	75/8	29/7	3.71	3.31	+0.40	42.64

Autumn Temperatures (September-November): Meteorological autumn was slightly warmer than normal. Average seasonal temperatures at DCA was 60.3°F (+0.9°F); BWI, 57.2°F (+1.1°F); and IAD, 68.2°F (+2.4°F). September and October featured near normal temperatures, while November brought well above normal readings (see monthly summary above). September marked the fourth month in 2009 with subnormal temperatures in Washington, the most in the first nine months of the calendar year since 2002. There were no late season heat waves; maximum readings held in the 80s across the region during the warmest days. Temperatures dipped into the 40s in some suburban locations on the 20th and on the final 2 days of the month at BWI and IAD.

October marked the fifth month this year with subnormal readings at DCA. The month was highlighted by chilly maximum temperatures during 4 days of rain from the 14th-18th when highs held in the upper 40s to low 50s, between 15°F-20°F below normal. DCA set a record for the coolest maximum temperature for the day on the 16th (45°F) and 17th (47°F). BWI's maximum temperature of 50°F or colder from the 14th-17th was its lowest since 1872, while IAD recorded its lowest maximum readings for the 15th-17th since the airport opened in 1962. Minimum temperatures, however, were more seasonable. IAD did not record a freezing temperature, its first such occurrence in October since 2005, and only its second such occurrence in the past 10 years. November was warmer than normal (see monthly summary above.)

Autumn Precipitation: Seasonal rainfall was also well above normal at DCA and IAD and slightly above normal at IAD. DCA reported 13.45" (+3.41") and BWI, 14.66" (-0.4.40"); and IAD, 11.24" (-0.74"). September started the season with near normal rainfall at DCA and IAD and well below normal precipitation at IAD. The entire region was impacted with two significant events in September: On September 11, a soaking rain brought up to 4.15" to northeast Maryland, leading to flooded roads. On September 26-27, the month's second major rain event again brought areas outside the immediate metro area the most precipitation, with up to 2.44" in Hightown, VA, (Highland County).

October precipitation was well above normal. Monthly totals were much greater in areas south and east of the metro area, with 8"-10" observed across portions of Ann Arundel County and southern Maryland. The three major airports recorded 5"-7". The month started quite dry with less than .25" of rainfall across the region during the first 14 days. Three significant storm systems then pushed totals well above normal. The first measurable snow of the season dusted portions of northern Maryland on the 18th with 0.5" on the ground in Freeland, MD (Baltimore County). Strong winds impacted the area on October 7 with gusts to 50 mph in Sterling, VA, and at BWI. November continued the wetter than normal trend at all three airports (see monthly summary above).

AUTUMN 2009 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)	67.8	52.7	60.3	59.4	+0.9	87/9-5, 9-23	35/11-7, 11-29	13.45	10.04	+3.41
Baltimore (BWI)	66.0	48.3	57.2	56.1	+1.1	85/9-5	28/11-7	14.66	10.26	+4.40
Dulles (IAD)	67.9	48.5	58.2	55.8	+2.4	89/23	29/11-7	11.24	10.50	+0.74

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".

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
December Snowfall	Trace	2.6"	Trace	4.8"	0.1"	6.2"	7.1"	0.0"	2.0"	Trace