

October 2009

Temperatures: Temperatures were near normal across the area with negative departures of -0.3°F at DCA, -0.1°F at BWI and a positive departure of +1.4°F at IAD. October marks 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 and while some frost was observed in suburban locations on the 19th and 20th, 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.

The month's warmest readings occurred on the 9th when highs soared to summerlike levels, reaching into the mid 80s, including 87°F at IAD. Though hot, the high did not break the record for that date.

Precipitation: Across the Washington/Baltimore area, precipitation was well above normal. Monthly totals were 5.71" at DCA (+2.49"); 6.24" (+3.08") at BWI; and 5.70" at IAD (+2.33"). 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. October 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 event, from the 14th-18th, provided totals generally from 2.5" to 3.5" across the metro area with heavier amounts south and east. California, MD (St. Mary's County) reported 4.53" and North Beach, MD (Calvert County) reported 4.12". The first measurable snowfall of the season was measured across portions of northern Maryland on the 18th with 0.5" observed in Freeland, 0.3" and in Parkton (Baltimore County) and 0.3" in Millers (Carroll County). On the 24th, heavy showers and thundershowers moved across the area during the afternoon bringing over an inch to many locations, including 1.99" in Warrenton, VA (Fauquier County), 1.83" in Fairfax, VA, and a daily record of 1.69" at IAD. The months' final significant event occurred on the 27th and 28th with a soaking rain. Two day totals included 2.26" in Selby-On-The-Bay, MD (Ann Arundel County), 2.08" in Waldorf, MD (Charles County), 2.01" at DCA, and 1.91" in Woodbridge, VA (Prince William County).

Strong winds impacted the area on the 7th with gusts to 50 mph in Sterling, VA (Loudoun County), and at BWI, Upper Marlboro (Prince Georges County) and Ijamsville (Frederick County), MD.

OCTOBER 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)	66.1	50.8	58.5	58.8	-0.3	85/9	39/18	5.71	3.22	+2.49	35.68
Baltimore (BWI)	64.4	46.2	55.3	55.4	-0.1	83/9	34/20	6.24	3.16	+3.08	42.57
Dulles (IAD)	66.1	46.6	56.4	55.0	+1.4	87/9	33/19	5.70	3.37	+2.33	38.93

Looking Ahead to November: While a few locations in northern Maryland received their first measurable snowfall in October, interest turns to when the metro area will receive the first inch or greater snowfall this winter season. In the last 10 years, the first snow has fallen between early December and late January. The earliest snow (>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 less than 1" of snowfall during the 1997-98 and 1972-73 seasons.

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

2008-2009	January 27
2007-2008	December 5
2006-2007	January 21
2005-2006	December 5
2004-2005	January 19

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

2003-2004	December 4
2002-2003	December 5
2001-2002	January 19
2000-2001	December 19
1999-2000	January 20