

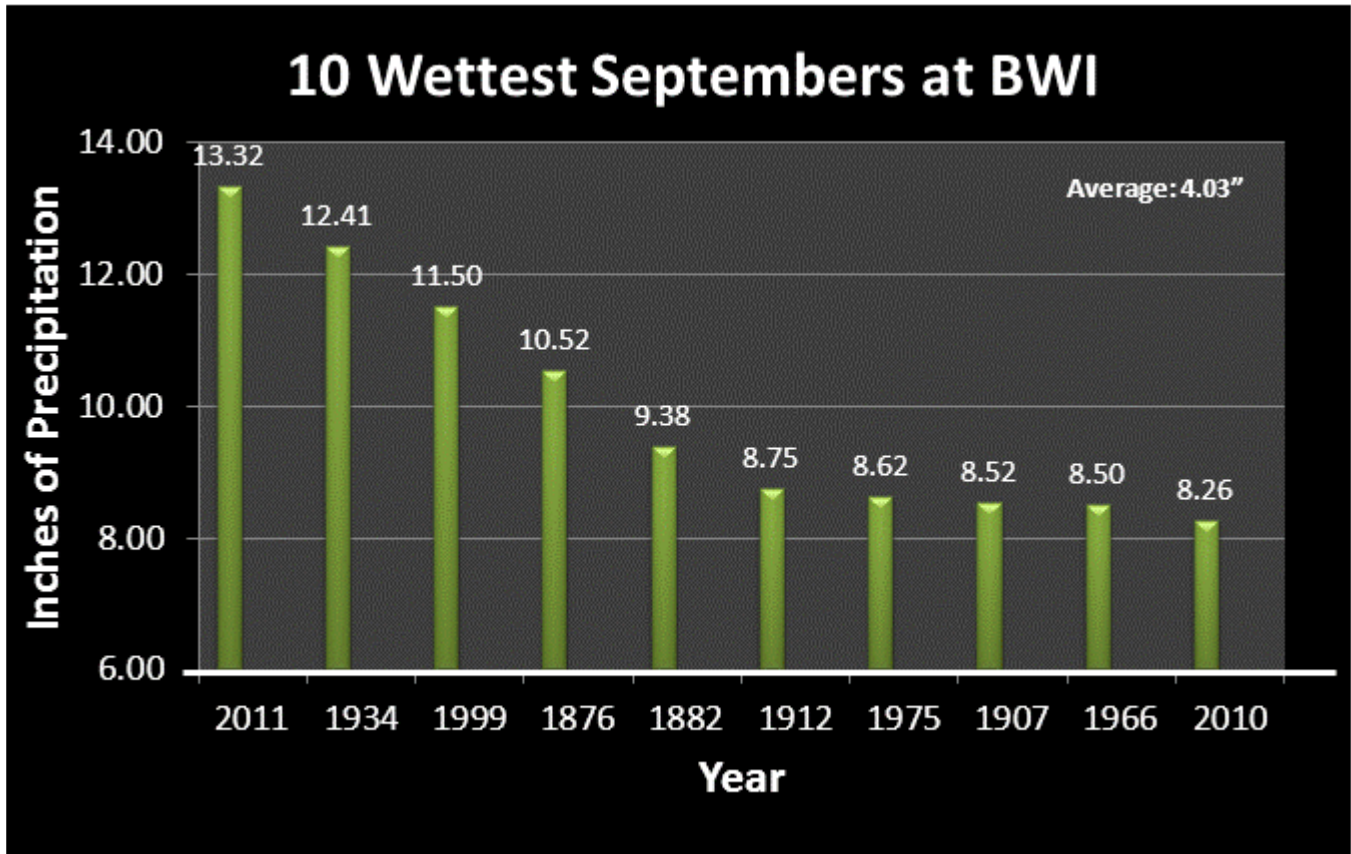


PRESTO

PREcipitation Summary and Temperature Observations
For the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Area



SEPTEMBER 2011: Wettest on Record at BWI; Wettest Since 1999 AT DCA and IAD



September Highlights

- ✦ Above normal temperatures at the three major airports for the 8th consecutive month at BWI and IAD and 6th consecutive month at DCA; departure at DCA, +0.3°F; BWI, +1.5°F; IAD, +1.2°F
- ✦ IAD's maximum reading of 64°F on 17th set record for coolest maximum reading on record; 62°F on 16th tied lowest maximum temperature for date
- ✦ Excessively wet September: 8.84" (+5.12") at DCA, 13.32" (+9.29") at BWI, and 7.93" (+4.01") at IAD
- ✦ Wettest September and 3rd wettest month on record at BWI; wettest September since 1999 at DCA and IAD and 5th wettest month on record at both locations
- ✦ Torrential rainfall drenched area from 5th-9th, largely from remnants of Tropical Storm Lee: 5"-8" total rainfall across most of the metro area with some locations recording more than a foot, including parts of Fairfax, VA; in Maryland, Baltimore County, MD, had close to a foot; significant flash flooding from excessive rainfall on saturated soils led to flooded roads, homes and businesses; four fatalities in area from record rainfall; about 100 residents had to leave their mobile home park in Prince William County, VA, due to flooding; closed parts of I-66 and the Capital Beltway
- ✦ August-September rainfall 23.70" at BWI, greatest 2 month total on record
- ✦ Only 2nd occurrence (first in 1905) on record with greater than 8" precipitation in Washington on consecutive months

September 2011

Temperatures: Monthly temperatures averaged slightly above normal with positive departures of +0.3°F at DCA, +1.5°F at BWI and +1.2°F at IAD. There were no periods of excessive heat and temperatures stayed below 90°F across the area. Maximum temperatures held in the 60s on 5 days at IAD, 4 days at DCA and 3 days at BWI. High humidity resulted in 5 days with minimums at or above 70°F at DCA. IAD's minimum of 69°F set a new record for Sep. 26.

Precipitation/Severe Weather: The area recorded several excessively wet days with some localities measuring unprecedented rainfall. Monthly totals included 8.84" (+5.12") at DCA, 13.32" (+9.29") at BWI and 7.93" (+4.01") at IAD. BWI observed its wettest September and its 3rd wettest month on record. It was the wettest September since 1999 at DCA and IAD and the 5th wettest month on record at both locations. The month featured a 5-day stretch (5th-9th) of exceptionally heavy rainfall. During the first 2 days, the rain was a steady soaking precipitation in most of the area. On the third and fourth days of the event, tropical downpours from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee fell across the area, resulting in record rainfall and extensive flooding in some areas. There were four fatalities locally, and about 100 people were left homeless from rising waters in a mobile home park in Prince William County, VA. Portions of Ellicott City were also evacuated due to rising waters. Rainfall storm totals in Virginia included 13.48" near Newington and 12.56" near Franconia (Fairfax County). In Maryland, storm totals included 11.65" in Parkville (Baltimore County) and 9.06" near Morningside (Prince Georges County). Most of the metro area was inundated by 5"-8" of rain. BWI's total of 8.11" was its third wettest 4-day total on record. IAD recorded more than an inch of rainfall each day from the 5th-8th, while DCA measured at least 0.90" daily during this period. The only previous occurrence of this much rain on consecutive days at both locations occurred Sep. 23-26, 1975.

The lengthy event also included isolated severe weather occurred across Southern Maryland, with EF-0 tornadoes observed near Wicomico (Charles County) and near Callaway in St. Mary's County. Peak winds reached 80 mph with tree and property damage reported. On the 11th and 12th, isolated severe weather occurred including 1.0" hail at BWI (11th) and thunderstorm wind damage on the 12th near Stanardsville, VA (Greene County).

Additional heavy rainfall occurred on the 21st near Frederick, MD, with 3.28", and near Purcellville, VA, (Loudoun County) where 1.21" fell. On the 23rd, heavy rainfall was concentrated across northeast Maryland with 2" to more than 4" falling in some locations. The greatest totals included 4.48" near Rossville (Baltimore County), 3.64" near Havre De Grace (Harford County) and a daily record of 3.19" at BWI. The month's final event occurred on the 27th-28th when severe thunderstorms moved across Charles County, MD, in the afternoon resulting in numerous downed trees. Flash flooding was reported near Potomac Creek in King George County, VA, while Odenton, MD (Anne Arundel County) measured 1.73".

September 2011 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)	77.6	64.9	71.3	71.0	+0.3	87/14	49/16	8.84	3.72	+5.12	36.14
Baltimore (BWI)	77.3	61.3	69.3	67.8	+1.5	88/14	45/16	13.32	4.03	+9.29	46.26
Dulles (IAD)	76.8	61.3	69.1	67.9	+1.2	88/4,14	42/16	7.93	3.92	+4.01	33.29

Looking Ahead to October: The first freeze! October traditionally marks the first freeze in suburban locations. When will the Washington/Baltimore area record its first freeze in 2011? Below is a list of the first 32°F or lower readings at DCA and IAD in the last 10 years.

Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading		Year	First 32°F (or lower) reading	
	DCA	IAD		DCA	IAD
2010	November 29	November 1	2005	November 17	November 11*
2009	December 6	November 6	2004	December 4	October 18
2008	November 18	October 20	2003	November 10	October 3
2007	November 24	October 29	2002	November 27	October 18
2006	November 4	October 15	2001	December 22*	October 9

*Latest date for first freeze ever recorded