

OCTOBER 1992: For the seventh month this year, temperatures averaged below normal throughout the region. Monthly departures were more than -3°F at four of the five airports, with 23 days with at or below normal daily average temperatures at DCA. The mercury topped 80°F only one day (the 15th) during the month at DCA, BWI, IAD, and ADW. In contrast, several clear, calm mornings produced readings in the twenties and thirties and the first freeze throughout the area, including the earliest freeze at DCA (32°F on the 20th) since 1972. A mid-month cool spell yielded highs only in the and fifties on the 17th–20th at DCA while clouds and rain kept temperatures below 50°F at BWI, IAD, and ADW on the 31st. In addition, the three major airports (DCA, BWI, and IAD) have recorded below normal average temperatures for the January–October period with 10-month departures of -1°F , -1.1°F and -0.5°F , respectively, the coolest such period since 1972 at DCA, 1982 (tie) at BWI, and 1984 at IAD.

Measurable precipitation fell on only six days in October, yet monthly rainfall totals were not significantly below normal. The bulk of the month's precipitation occurred on the 9th when heavy morning showers and evening thunderstorms provided 1–2 inches of rain throughout the area. Additional rain events included up to half an inch in portions of Prince Georges and Fairfax counties from brief thunderstorms on the evening of the 24th, and similar totals were recorded across the entire area when a general rain began on the afternoon of the 30th and continued into the 31st. A strong cold front on the 19th generated wind gusts to 40 mph, but little rainfall accompanied the system.

OCTOBER 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmiT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	64.8	47.1	56.0	59.3	-3.3	82/15	32/20	2.03	2.90	-0.87
Baltimore (BWI)	65.4	43.2	54.3	56.9	-2.6	85/15	28/20	2.73	3.11	-0.38
Dulles (IAD)	64.9	39.5	52.2	55.3	-3.1	85/15	25/20	2.81	3.01	-0.20
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	64.8	40.8	52.8	57	-4	79/15	25/20	1.64	3.4	-1.8
Andrews AFB (ADW)	63.9	43.4	53.7	58	-4	83/15	32/23	2.06	3.3	-1.2

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER: THE FIRST INCH OF SNOW AT DCA.

With all the airports recording their first freezes of the 1992–1993 season during October, the next logical question is when the first inch of snow will fall. The average date at DCA is approximately Dec. 15, but during the past 10 years, this date can greatly vary at National as shown below. The earliest significant snowfall ($>1''$) at Washington probably occurred during October 1925 ($2.2''$) and October 1940 ($1.5''$), while no significant snow occurred during the 1972–1973 season (total= $0.1''$) and 1975–1976 season (total= $2.2''$).

Winter Season

1991–1992
1990–1991
1989–1990
1988–1989
1987–1988
1986–1987
1985–1986
1984–1985
1983–1984
1982–1983

First 1" Snowfall

Jan. 25
Dec. 27
Nov. 22
Dec. 9
Nov. 11
Jan. 22
Dec. 20
Jan. 4
Jan. 11
Dec. 12