

**DECEMBER 1993:** The final month of 1993 was characterized by cold and wet weather across most of the Washington/Baltimore area. Two notable precipitation events occurred during December. First, torrential rains drenched the local area on the 4th and 5th with numerous locations receiving between two and three inches of precipitation. The heavy weekend rains came just a week after parts of the Washington/Baltimore observed record 24-hour precipitation amounts for the month of November (11/27th–28th). The back-to-back weekend rains resulted in numerous reports of urban and small stream flooding. The second noteworthy precipitation event occurred on the 28th and 29th when a storm system passed to the south of Washington. The storm system dumped snow across most of the local area, with the largest totals (6"–8") observed across Calvert County, MD and portions of the Eastern Shore. More wintry weather affected the region on the night of the 25th as a brief, but intense period of snow produced up to 2 inches in the northern and western suburbs. It was the first measurable snow on Christmas at DCA since 1970. Soaking rains on the 15th and 21st pushed monthly precipitation totals above 4 inches at some locations. In addition, the November–December period was the wettest such 2-month period since 1986 at both DCA and BWI and since 1983 at IAD.

Subnormal December temperatures were observed across the Washington/Baltimore area, marking the first such occurrence since 1989. After three weeks of relatively mild weather, Arctic air moved into the Washington/Baltimore area toward the end of the month, producing unusually frigid conditions. Subfreezing temperatures gripped the local area from the early morning hours of the 26th until the afternoon of the 31st, the longest stretch of subfreezing temperatures at DCA since December 1989. In addition, a daily record low of 1°F was observed at IAD on the 31st.

**DECEMBER 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	44.6	31.6	38.1	39.4	-1.3	62/3*	15/31	4.38	3.12	+1.26	2.6
Baltimore (BWI)	44.0	28.4	36.2	36.7	-0.5	61/3	9/31	4.45	3.41	+1.04	2.9
Dulles (IAD)	42.9	25.1	34.0	35.4	-1.4	59/3	1/31	3.78	3.22	+0.56	3.5
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	44.5	27.2	35.8	37	-1	61/3	3/31	4.80	3.3	+1.5	6.1
Andrew AFB (ADW)	43.2	27.6	35.4	38	-3	59/3#	4/31	2.87	3.4	-0.5	5.1

Other dates of occurrence: \* December 5th; # December 4th and 5th.

**ANNUAL 1993:** 1993 was a year marked by a number of extreme weather events across the local region. After a relatively tranquil January and February, the "Storm of the Century" pounded the the Washington/Baltimore area on March 13th, producing blizzard conditions and an all-time record low barometric pressure (28.54") at DCA. The storm dumped more than a foot of snow at some locations and strong wind gusts generated blowing and drifting snow and downed trees and power lines. Earlier in the month, up to three inches of rain and wind gusts up to 60 mph battered the local region. More than 8 inches of rain soaked several locations during March and the 6.82" that fell at DCA was the fourth largest March total on record. The Spring was unusually cold and wet. There were 58 days (63%) with at or below normal temperatures while seasonal precipitation surpluses exceeded 4 inches at all five airports. IAD observed the wettest and snowiest Spring on record. Severe weather erupted during April with four confirmed tornadoes in northern Virginia. Summer heat was slow to arrive in the local area. The first 90°F+ reading wasn't observed until June 9th at DCA, the latest such occurrence since 1983. However, July over compensated for the lack of hot weather. Numerous heat records were established, including the hottest month ever recorded in the Washington area. The average temperature for July was 83.1°F (Avg. max. temp.: 92.5°F). There were a record 16 consecutive July days with readings at or above 90°F, and a record-tying 24 days with 90°F+ readings at DCA. In addition, the mercury hit the century mark on four days, including three consecutive days (July 8–10). Despite a slow start, the intense July heat and a warm August generated the second warmest summer ever recorded at DCA while IAD observed its warmest summer ever. Summer rainfall was spotty. Seasonal deficits topped 4 inches at both DCA and BWI, and DCA recorded the driest summer since 1980. Tranquil weather prevailed for most of September and October. The first freezing reading of the Fall was reported at both IAD and DAA in October and eventually at the remaining airports in early November. On November 15th, the mercury soared to a record 83°F, the highest temperature ever recorded so late in a year. Heavy rains late in the month (27th–28th) produced a 24-hour precipitation record for the month of November at both DCA (4.03") and IAD (4.80"). A week later, another strong storm system generated torrential rains with up to 3 inches measured at some locations. These late-year rains and an unusually wet Spring contributed to above normal annual rainfall at four of the five airports while annual temperatures were close to normal.

**ANNUAL 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Month-Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	66.3	49.0	57.7	58.0	-0.3	100/7–8*	11/2–19	41.41	38.63	+2.78	13.3
Baltimore (BWI)	65.0	45.3	55.2	55.1	-0.1	100/7–8#	9/2–19+	42.50	40.76	+1.74	25.8
Dulles (IAD)	65.9	43.6	54.7	53.8	+0.9	100/7–8	-1/3–15	46.96	40.24	+6.72	31.0
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	65.9	44.7	55.3	55	0	99/7–7	3/12–31	51.27	41.7	+9.6	18.1
Andrew AFB (ADW)	64.9	45.4	55.2	56	-1	99/7–8	4/12–31	42.07	42.5	-0.4	25.6

Other dates of occurrence: \* July 9th, 10th, 28th; # July 9th; + December 31st.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 1994:** *Three consecutive cooler than normal years?*

Since 1973, there have not been three successive years with subnormal temperatures at DCA. In fact, there have only been two instances (1988 & 1989, 1992 & 1993) of back-to-back cooler than normal years. With both 1992 and 1993 recording below normal annual temperatures, will 1994 be cooler than normal and result in the first time since the early 1970's with three consecutive years with subnormal temperatures.