

JULY 1993: An unusually strong and unrelenting "Bermuda high" dominated much of the eastern U.S. during July, generating oppressive heat and humidity from the deep South to New England. Locally, the July heat produced the hottest month ever recorded at both DCA (83.1°F) and IAD (79.7°F). It was also the third time since 1980 that a new July temperature record was established at DCA. The July "heat-wave" began across the Washington/Baltimore area on the 3rd and persisted through the 18th. During this period, DCA observed a July record 16 consecutive days of 90°F+ readings, 8 consecutive days at or above 95°F [the most since 1987(8)], and three consecutive days when the high hit 100°F. The excessive heat also produced three daily record highs at DCA (8th, 28th, and 29th). On the 8th, the mercury at DCA reached 100°F, breaking a 103-year old record. Unusually warm nights accompanied the hot days, establishing several daily record high minimum temperatures (5th, 8th, 10th, and 12th). In fact, there were only 5 nights when lows fell below 70°F at DCA and one occasion (10th) when the mercury never dropped below 80°F. The combination of intense heat and high humidity generated dangerous heat indices across the local area with apparent temperatures exceeding 110°F at some locations. On the days when comfortable humidities did occur, temperatures still managed to reach 90°F or higher at DCA. Hot weather returned on and off again during the last third of the month with the fourth 100°F reading at DCA observed on the 28th. For the month, DCA observed 24 days with readings at or above 90°F+ highs, tying July 1987 for the most such such days in any month while BWI observed 17 and IAD 20. In addition, there were four days when the high reached the century mark at DCA, the most in any month since 1988 and the first 100°F reading since July 23, 1991.

Subnormal precipitation prevailed across most of the Washington/Baltimore area with three of the five airports reporting monthly deficits over 1.5 inches. DCA, BWI, and IAD have all recorded 3 consecutive months with below normal rainfall. DCA failed to record more than 0.50" during any rain event and observed a mere 1.36" for the month (eighth driest July on record and the second consecutive month with less than 2 inches of rain). The hot and dry weather further stressed local crops and lawns; however, conditions would have been significantly worse had not ample Spring precipitation fallen throughout the region, providing adequate subsoil moisture contents. Only a few locations received near normal rain in July, including portions of eastern Montgomery County (localized thunderstorms dumped nearly two inches of rain on the 3rd and the 5th) and portions of Prince William County (including DAA) as heavy showers produced over two inches on the 25th. The lack of significant rainfall during June and July has contributed to the driest start to a summer at DCA since 1966.

JULY 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	92.5	73.7	83.1	80.0	+3.1	100/8*	66/23+	1.36	3.80	-2.44
Baltimore (BWI)	90.7	69.6	80.2	77.0	+3.2	100/8#	59/23	1.71	3.69	-1.98
Dulles (IAD)	91.9	67.4	79.7	75.6	+4.1	100/8	55/24	2.06	3.49	-1.43
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	90.7	69.7	80.2	76	+4	99/7	60/24	3.41	3.8	-0.4
Andrews AFB (ADW)	90.3	69.9	80.1	77	+3	99/8	57/24	2.03	4.3	-2.3

Other dates of occurrence: * July 9th,10th, 28th; + July 24th; # July 9th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST: A Hot August?

After the hottest July on record at DCA, we can now focus on the final month of the Summer. With numerous temperature records established across much of the Washington/Baltimore area last month, the question arises whether a hot July portends a hot August. Below is a list of the ten warmest Julys in Washington and the corresponding August average monthly temperature. [August Normal Average Temperature: 78.5°F; Normals Period: 1961-1990]

Year	July Average Temperature(°F)	August Average Temperature(°F)
1993	83.1	?
1987	82.6	78.7
1980	82.3	82.8*
1955	82.1	78.3
1988	81.9	80.7
1991	81.4	80.0
1983	81.2	81.0
1986	81.1	74.6
1872	81.1	79.0
1949	81.0	77.6

* Hottest August on record at Washington.