

**DECEMBER 1994:** The abnormally warm and relatively dry weather that characterized November continued throughout the final month of 1994. Temperatures averaged more than 4°F above normal at DCA, BWI, and IAD, making this December the 7th warmest such month in Washington, 4th at BWI and 5th at IAD. There were 25 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA, including 4 days with highs at or above 60°F. With no intrusions of arctic air, lows remained above freezing on 22 days, and there was only one day at DCA when the high remained below 40°F. In addition, the monthly low of 28°F on the 30th and 31st at DCA was the highest extreme minimum temperature ever observed in any December at Washington since records began in 1871.

Precipitation was below normal for the third consecutive month at all 5 airports. A coastal storm generated 40 mph wind gusts on the 24th, but most locations received less than a quarter of an inch of rain. The warm weather also contributed to a snowless December across the local region.

**DECEMBER 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)				DepNm	Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT		MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	51.6	36.7	44.2	39.4	+4.8	71/5	28/30*	2.35	3.12	-0.77	0
Baltimore (BWI)	51.4	33.8	42.6	36.7	+5.9	68/5	21/31	1.98	3.41	-1.43	0
Dulles (IAD)	50.4	30.1	40.3	35.4	+4.9	68/7	16/31	2.42	3.22	-1.80	0
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	50.9	32.1	41.5	37	+5	69/5#	20/30*	2.05	3.3	-1.3	0
Andrew AFB (ADW)	51.4	33.2	42.3	38	+4	70/5	20/30	1.71	3.4	-1.7	0

Other dates of occurrence: \* December 31st; # December 7th.

**ANNUAL 1994:** The year commenced with cold and stormy weather (Jan-Mar), and ended with abnormal warmth and relatively dry conditions across the local region. January and February featured several ice storms that created dangerous driving conditions, coated trees and powerlines and caused extensive property damage (numerous downed trees and powerlines) across parts of the Northern Neck region of Virginia and in southern Maryland. Four significant ice storms (Jan. 17, Jan. 27-28, Feb. 8-9, and Feb. 10-11) highlighted the "Winter of Ice", with the latter storm generating all the aforementioned damage in northeastern Virginia and southern Maryland. The winter was punctuated by extreme cold, including 65 days with at or below freezing temperatures at DCA, the most since the winter of 1976-77. The peak of the cold occurred in January (the coldest month locally since December 1989) when lows plunged below 0°F across most of the Washington/Baltimore area. DCA recorded a low of -4°F on the January 19th, the lowest reading (tied with Jan. 21, 1985) since January 17, 1982. In addition, the high that day was only 8°F, equalling the lowest maximum temperature in Washington this century while both BWI and IAD observed record low maximum temperatures that same day with readings of 5°F and 6°F, respectively. Wet weather enveloped the local region during March with monthly precipitation totals exceeding 8 inches across most of the Washington/Baltimore area. It was the wettest March this century in Washington (8.45") and the wettest such month ever observed at BWI, DAA, and ADW. Spring temperatures averaged near normal with the second warmest April on record at DCA nearly offset by the second coolest May in 21 years at DCA. Unprecedented June heat and a warmer than normal July provided the hottest start to a summer ever recorded in the Washington/Baltimore area; however, significantly cooler than normal conditions in August prevented the Summer of '94 from being one of the hottest on record. There were 42 summer days with at or above 90°F readings at DCA, with 39 occurring by July 25th (a record for any June-July period). In addition, there were 14 consecutive June days with 90°F+ at DCA, including a high of 101°F on the 15th, the first June 100°F+ reading at that location since 1988. Severe weather occurred on July 27th as strong thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes across northeastern Virginia and central and southern Maryland and generated over 4 inches of rain in Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland. Autumn was highlighted by numerous sunny and pleasantly mild days and 66% of possible sunshine, but there were two notable exceptions. On September 23rd, a powerful coastal storm generated up to 3 inches of rain locally, and as much as six inches in Calvert County, MD. Another severe weather event on November 1st featured strong thunderstorms and hail across most of the local area and two tornadoes in downtown Baltimore that caused extensive damage. Unusual warmth in the final two months of 1994 significantly contributed to above normal annual temperatures across the local region. It was the fifth warmest November (Dep. Nml.: +3.5°F at DCA) and the seventh warmest December (Dep. Nml.: +4.8°F) on record at DCA. There were no intrusions of cold Arctic air, and snowfall was negligible during this two-month period. Annual precipitation was generally above normal throughout most of the region with only DCA and ADW recording slightly below normal amounts. A cooperative observer in Calvert County, MD recorded an annual total of 54.75", 17 inches more than DCA's annual total of 37.57".

**ANNUAL 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)				DepNm	Extreme/Month-Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT		MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	67.4	49.0	58.3	58.0	+0.3	101/6-15	-4/1-19	37.57	38.63	-1.06	10.6
Baltimore (BWI)	66.2	46.3	56.3	55.1	+1.2	101/6-15	-5/1-19	42.50	40.76	+1.74	14.7
Dulles (IAD)	66.6	43.6	55.1	53.8	+1.3	99/6-15	-7/1-21	44.26	40.24	+4.02	15.9
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	68.0	45.2	56.6	55	+2	98/6-15	-5/1-21	46.77	41.7	+5.1	12.5
Andrew AFB (ADW)	67.2	46.8	57.0	56	+1	98/7-8*	-4/1-19	39.91	42.5	-2.6	11.3

Other dates of occurrence: \* July 9th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 1995: Below normal snowfall again in '95?**

Despite last winters' numerous ice events, snowfall continued below normal for the sixth consecutive calendar year (January-December), the longest such period since 1968-1977. Listed below are the annual (January-December) snowfall totals since 1967 at DCA (Normal Snowfall: 18.2").

Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)	Year	Snowfall (In.)
1967	34.2	1974	5.8	1981	5.9	1988	14.7
1968	8.2	1975	13.1	1982	27.4	1989	17.0
1969	15.9	1976	3.2	1983	21.3	1990	5.8
1970	12.4	1977	10.0	1984	8.6	1991	5.1
1971	8.0	1978	25.5	1985	10.7	1992	7.6
1972	15.3	1979	34.9	1986	14.7	1993	13.3
1973	11.1	1980	20.1	1987	42.6	1994	10.6