

MARCH 1994: A relentless series of storms soaked the Washington/Baltimore area during the month, producing lengthy periods of precipitation and the wettest March this century in Washington. Measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 "") fell on more than 50% of the days (16) at DCA. The monthly precipitation total of 8.45" at DCA was the second largest March precipitation total since records began in Washington and is just a little over an inch shy of the Spring (March–May) normal. Elsewhere, BWI (8.64"), ADW (8.83"), and DAA (8.29") recorded the wettest March on record while IAD (6.71") observed the second wettest such month (surpassed only by 1993). The month's storminess commenced in much the style of the preceding Winter months with snow and ice blanketing the Washington/Baltimore area. DCA recorded just over 3 inches of snow during the first two days of March while some locations observed as much as 5 inches. The snow eventually changed to rain and was occasionally accompanied by thunder, lightning, and wind gusts up to 50 mph. Some minor urban and small stream flooding was reported. Wintry precipitation fell once again on the morning of the 18th with nearly an inch of snow recorded at DCA, pushing the monthly total to 4.0" (normal: 1.6"), the second consecutive March with above normal snowfall (the same at IAD where 7.9" of snow was observed). The culmination of the months' wetness occurred from the 26th–29th when a series of storms moved through the local area, dumping over 3 inches of rain at four of the five airports. The heavy rains generated minor flooding and thoroughly saturated the ground across the entire Washington/Baltimore region. It was the fifth consecutive month with more than four inches of rain at DCA (only the fourth such occurrence), and from November 1, 1993 through March 30, 1994, the airport has measured 26.07" of precipitation (liquid). It is also the wettest start to a year in Washington since 1891, with a 3–month total of 16.93" (44% of the annual normal). Meanwhile, some portions of Calvert County received more than 10 inches of rain during the month and have recorded more than 20 inches for the first three months of 1994.

March precipitation highlights consumed much of the weather highlights locally; however, cooler than normal conditions persisted across most of the local area and for the seventh consecutive month at DCA. There were 20 days (65%) with at or below normal temperatures at DCA. Generally, the subnormal temperatures were the result of extended periods of cloud cover and precipitation rather than Arctic air outbreaks so common during the Winter. A brief taste of early summer weather was felt across the entire Washington/Baltimore area on the 23rd and 24th as temperatures soared into the upper seventies and low eighties.

MARCH 1994 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)				Extreme/Day			Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Snow
National (DCA)	54.5	36.2	45.4	47.2	-1.8	83/23	24/17	8.45	3.17	+5.28	4.0
Baltimore (BWI)	52.4	33.5	43.0	44.1	-1.1	80/23	23/17	8.64	3.38	+5.26	3.9
Dulles (IAD)	53.3	32.1	42.7	43.2	-0.5	83/23	20/12	6.71	3.17	+3.54	7.9
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	54.6	32.5	43.6	44	0	85/23	22/12	8.29	3.7	+4.6	3.0
Andrew AFB (ADW)	52.6	34.0	43.3	45	-2	79/23	23/17	8.83	3.6	+5.2	2.2

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL: *Another wet month?*

As previously mentioned, the Washington area is off to one of the wettest starts since records began in 1871. The first three months of 1994 (16.93") have produced nearly 50% of the **annual** normal precipitation at DCA. In addition, DCA has observed a 3–month precipitation surplus of 8.33", pushing the 1994 January–March period to the third wettest such period ever recorded. Will April continue the string of wetter than normal months at DCA? Below is a list of the ten wettest January–April periods ever recorded in Washington along with the corresponding annual total. [January–April normal: 11.31" and Annual normal: 38.63"; Normals period: 1961–1990].

Year	Jan.–Apr. Total (In.)	Annual Total (In.)	Year	Jan.–Apr. Total (In.)	Annual Total (In.)
1891	22.41	52.95	1937	19.51	54.29
1884	21.53	49.96	1953	18.68	51.17
1889	19.85	61.33	1882	18.48	46.79
1892	19.70	42.34	1886	18.45	58.17
1903	19.60	43.55	1881	17.84	42.20