

JUNE 1997: For a third consecutive month, cooler than normal conditions enveloped the Washington/Baltimore area with monthly departures between -1.9°F and -2.5°F at the three major airports. The first 17 days were marked by at or below normal readings at DCA and included a daily record low maximum temperature on the 3rd (59°F). Readings more typical of early spring were observed on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th as highs nudged their way to only to the 50's and 60's. In addition, daily temperature departures between -9°F and -15°F were reported from the 2nd-8th at DCA. A dramatic temperature change occurred during the last third of the month as summerlike conditions finally settled across the Washington/Baltimore area. Readings soared above 90°F on nine consecutive days (20th-28th), including a high of 100°F on the 25th at DCA. This high on the 25th was a daily record at DCA and the warmest day in Washington since June 15, 1994. BWI also reported a daily record high on the 25th with a reading of 99°F. The heat was accompanied by oppressive humidity on a few of the days, producing apparent temperatures of about 105°F across much of the local area. The short-lived hot spell was not significant enough to overcome the unseasonably cool conditions earlier in the month and resulted in the coolest June in five years at DCA (12th coolest overall at the airport) and the sixth & seventh coolest on record at BWI and IAD, respectively.

Like both April and May, subnormal precipitation (between 2.5-3") once again prevailed across most of the Washington/Baltimore area. June totals were even lower in north-central Maryland (i.e. Frederick County), with some locations unofficially measuring between 1-1.5". Monthly precipitation deficits at the airports ranged from about 0.50" to slightly more than 1.5" at most of the airports. Only ADW recorded above normal precipitation with just over 4 inches. Most of the month's rain fell during the 1st-3rd as up to 2 inches soaked some areas. On the 13th, about one-third of an inch of precipitation fell at DCA and suburban locations to the south and west of Washington. On the 18th, strong thunderstorms rocked most of the Washington/Baltimore area, generating heavy rains (nearly 1" at IAD & ADW), frequent lightning and winds up to 80 mph. Some property damage was reported along with numerous power outages. Overall, there were 9 days with measurable precipitation at DCA, but only 2 days with amounts ≥ 0.50 ". For the January-June period of this year, below normal precipitation has been measured in most areas with 6-month deficits of nearly an inch at both DCA and BWI and almost 4 inches at IAD.

JUNE 1997 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	82.6	63.6	73.1	75.6	-2.5	100/25	50/8	2.94	3.38	-0.44	17.52
Baltimore (BWI)	82.0	58.1	70.0	72.5	-2.5	99/25	44/5	3.17	3.67	-0.50	19.32
Dulles (IAD)	80.8	57.4	69.1	71.0	-1.9	95/25	43/5*	2.36	3.92	-1.56	15.85
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	84.2	60.4	72.3	N/A	N/A	100/25	46/5*	2.63	3.7	-1.1	19.51
Andrews AFB (ADW)	80.9	59.8	70.4	N/A	N/A	96/26	47/5#	4.11	3.7	+0.4	18.32

Other Occurrences: * June 8th; # June 8th and 9th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY: Summer heat in Washington.

July marks the climatologically hottest month in the Washington/Baltimore area. With our first hot spell already behind us, our attention turns to the remainder of the Summer in Washington. Last year produced very little in the way of summer "heat waves" in Washington (only 17 days with 90°F+ readings the fewest since 1972). In addition, there were 35 consecutive summer days in 1996 when highs failed to reach 90°F during the climatologically hottest time of the year. In fact, the highest reading last year at all 3 major airports occurred in May. However, last year was more the exception than the rule. Below is a list of some of the more notable summer "heat" extremes that have occurred in Washington since records began in 1871.

<u>Hottest</u>	<u>Most 90°F+ readings</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
June: 1994 (Avg. Temp: 79.4°F) July: 1993* (Avg. Temp: 83.1°F) August: 1980 (Avg. Temp: 82.8°F) Summer: 1980 (Avg. Temp: 80.0°F)	June: 1994 & 1943 (17 days) July: 1993 & 1987 (24 days) August: 1980 (22 days) Summer: 1988 (55 days)	All-time Record High: 106°F (July 20, 1930 & August 6, 1918) Most 100°F + days: 11 (1930) (6 in July ; 5 in August)
* denotes hottest month ever recorded in Washington		