

NOVEMBER 1990: The warmer than normal trend which has prevailed throughout most of 1990 continued into November. Temperatures at DCA averaged 3.3°F above normal, marking its warmest November since 1985 and the sixth warmest on record (since 1871). This was greatly due to the unseasonably warm periods of Nov. 1-6 and 22-29 when temperatures at DCA respectively averaged over 8°F and 11°F above normal, and highs climbed into the sixties and seventies. Similar conditions occurred at the other locations, including 81°F at Dulles (Nov. 3) and Ft. Belvoir (Nov. 2). There were also four daily record highs at IAD (70°F/23rd, 75°F/26th, 71°F/28th, and 66°F/29th) and two at BWI (73°F/28th and 69°F/29th). Only 11 of 30 days were below normal at DCA as the frigid Arctic air generally remained in Canada. Only on the morning of the 19th did the low drop below freezing (29°F) at DCA where the first freeze is normally November 8. The 19th was also the coldest morning at the other four airports (BWI-27°F, IAD-20°F, ADW-25°F, DAA-24°F).

Precipitation was observed on numerous days during the month, but significant precipitation occurred only once (Nov. 9-10) when about two inches fell throughout most of the region. The lone exception was Calvert County MD, which only recorded about an inch. This was the second successive drier than normal November at DCA (first since 1980-1981) after seven consecutive wetter than normal Novembers. Unlike 1987 and 1989, no snow was observed throughout the region.

NOVEMBER 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	62.4	41.6	52.0	48.7	+3.3	79/3	29/19	2.17	2.82	-0.65
Baltimore (BWI)	61.2	37.6	49.4	46.3	+3.1	79/2	27/19	2.10	3.11	-1.01
Dulles (IAD)	62.5	34.7	48.6	44.8	+3.8	81/3	20/19	2.56	2.99	-0.43
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	63.3	36.8	49.1	47	+2	81/2	24/19	2.47	3.0	-0.5
Andrews AFB (ADW)	61.3	37.6	49.5	48	+2	78/3	25/19	1.72	3.3	-1.6

AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER) 1990: There was a significant contrast in precipitation totals throughout the region, a feature more typical of the summer. While Andrews was nearly five inches drier than normal, Dulles recorded an inch surplus. A large part of the anomaly was due to the heavy rains at IAD and DAA on October 22-23 when nearly 3 inches of rain fell at Dulles and over 4 inches inundated Fort Belvoir. Precipitation was well below normal during the month of September at all stations with departures of up to -3.1 inches at ADW where only 0.54 inches fell, making it the driest September since records began in 1943. October and November precipitation generally averaged below normal at most locations except for October's heavy rains at DCA, IAD and DAA. Only 5.74 inches of rain fell at BWI, producing the fifth driest autumn on record (since 1951) and the driest since 1978.

Despite a relatively cool start, Autumn 1990 averaged significantly warmer than normal at all five locations. Conditions during September were cooler than usual, with departures up to -4°F at ADW. October and November, however, were unseasonably warm as temperatures during both months averaged over 3°F above normal at DCA, BWI, IAD. In addition, the unusually mild Fall maintained 1990 as the warmest year on record (through November) at the three airports.

AUTUMN (SEP - NOV) 1990 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	71.0	51.8	61.4	59.7	+1.7	93/9-7	29/11-19	6.34	8.94	-2.60
Baltimore (BWI)	70.2	47.9	59.1	57.4	+1.7	89/9-7	27/11-19	5.74	9.68	-3.94
Dulles (IAD)	70.6	44.8	57.7	55.8	+1.9	92/9-7	20/11-19	10.58	9.26	+1.32
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	71.4	47.1	59.3	58	+1	94/9-7	24/11-19	10.25	10.0	+0.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	69.4	47.0	58.2	58	0	91/9-7	25/11-19	5.29	10.2	-4.9

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER: Will 1990 be the Warmest Year on Record?

If December temperatures average near normal at DCA, 1990 will become the warmest year on record, surpassing 1980. This year would also become the warmest year on record at both IAD and BWI. Temperatures at both of these airports can be well below normal for December and still produce the warmest year.

Current Warmest Year on Record at:					Jan-Nov 1990 Stats:	
Station	Year	AvgT	DepNmI	Records Began	AvgT	DepNmI
DCA	1980	59.5	+2.0	1871	61.4	+2.2
BWI	1975	56.6	+1.5	1951	59.1	+2.3
IAD	1973	55.2	+1.4	1963	58.3	+2.7

The lowest DEC'90 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE NEEDED to tie 1990 as the warmest year:

Station	AvgT	DepNmI
DCA	38.8	-0.1
BWI	28.7	-7.8
IAD	21.4	-13.7