

JULY 1992: July was the first time this calendar year as well as the first month since October 1991 with weather headlines that focused on precipitation rather than temperature. Rainfall totals rose to much above normal throughout the area, with all five airports recording more than four inches of precipitation. The last eleven days of the month were particularly wet across most of the region, however, quite dry conditions prevailed throughout the area from the second through the 20th. A series of intense thunderstorms on the 23rd and heavy overnight rains on the 24th generated two-day rainfall totals exceeding four inches across much of Prince William, Montgomery, Fairfax, and Calvert counties. These two rain events, coupled with strong thunderstorms on the first and last days of the month, produced some of the highest precipitation totals in nearly two years across parts of the Washington/Baltimore area, with isolated reports of localized low-level flooding and some wind damage. Most of this activity was the result of this region being trapped between contrasting air masses, with unseasonably cool weather to the north (Great Lakes and Northeast) and hot, humid conditions to the south (Southeast) during much of July.

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal across most of the area for the first time since February. Only ADW recorded cooler than normal conditions. In contrast, monthly departures reached +4°F at DAA which included 13 consecutive days (9th–21st) with highs at or above 90°F and a maximum temperature of 100°F on the 14th. The mid-month heat wave also produced 12 of 13 days with readings at or above 90°F at DCA. During this period, there were five days with readings at or exceeding 95°F at DCA, however, with only 15 days of 90°F or greater to date at DCA, an extremely warm August and September would be needed to reach the yearly normal of 37 days. In addition, this warm spell pales in comparison to previous years when readings frequently reached the century mark.

JULY 1992 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
National (DCA)	87.6	71.3	79.5	78.9	+0.6	99/14	64/5*	5.34	3.88	+1.46
Baltimore (BWI)	86.9	67.9	77.4	76.8	+0.6	98/14	59/8	5.07	3.89	+1.18
Dulles (IAD)	86.1	65.7	75.9	75.5	+0.4	96/14	54/7	7.23	3.75	+3.48
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	89.9	69.1	79.5	76	+4	100/14	60/7	4.52	3.8	+0.7
Andrews AFB(ADW)	85.3	67.3	76.3	77	-1	96/14	57/8	6.05	4.3	+1.7

Other dates of occurrence: July 7th;

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST: A warmer than normal August?

Since 1981 a coincidental, temperature pattern has occurred at DCA with two consecutive years observing below normal temperatures followed by two consecutive years of warmer than normal conditions. Since August 1991 was warmer than normal, the question arises: will August 1992 continue this coincidental pattern? Below is a list of the average August temperatures since 1981 at DCA and corresponding departure from normal. [Normal monthly average temperature at DCA: 77.6°F; Normals period: 1951–1980].

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Temperature(°F)</u>	<u>Departure from Normal(°F)</u>
1981	77.0	-0.6
1982	75.4	-2.2
1983	81.0	+3.4
1984	77.8	+0.2
1985	76.7	-0.9
1986	74.6	-3.0
1987	78.7	+1.1
1988	80.7	+3.1
1989	77.1	-0.5
1990	76.5	-1.1
1991	80.0	+2.4
1992	?	?