

**OCTOBER 1993:** Slightly cooler than normal conditions prevailed throughout the Washington/Baltimore area during October, marking the sixth month this year with subnormal temperatures at DCA. Monthly temperature departures below  $-1^{\circ}\text{F}$  were observed at four of the five airports and there were 19 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA. While no freeze was reported at either DCA, BWI, or ADW (unlike October 1992), frosts did occur at many suburban locations, including  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DAA on the 24th and two sub-freezing readings at Dulles on the 1st and 11th. There were periods of mild weather, with two days when the mercury hit  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$  at DCA; however, unusually cool weather accompanied the month's two major rain events (11th–12th and 30–31st). The high temperature at DCA on the 12th was  $59^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $11^{\circ}\text{F}$  below normal) and only  $48^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 31st ( $16^{\circ}\text{F}$  below normal). Temperatures for the first two Fall months are slightly below normal at DCA while the January–October period is near normal.

Near normal precipitation was reported across most of the local area, and ranged from a little more than an inch below normal at IAD to slightly above normal at BWI. After a relatively dry and tranquil first week, measurable precipitation fell on 11 of the last 23 days at DCA. Storm systems generated steady rains throughout the region on the 11th–12th and 30th–31st, with about an inch of rain measured at some locations and up to four inches of snow recorded in Garrett County, MD during the latter dates. Two late-season thunderstorms occurred on the 2nd and the 27th, with the latter storm producing pea-sized hail at some locations. Precipitation for the January–October period is near normal at DCA and above normal at both BWI and IAD.

**OCTOBER 1993 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:**

Station Location	Temperatures ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ )					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	66.9	49.2	58.1	59.7	-1.6	80/9*	40/11+	2.62	3.02	-0.40
Baltimore (BWI)	65.3	45.6	55.5	56.6	-1.1	80/9	37/1##	3.02	2.98	+0.04
Dulles (IAD)	66.1	42.3	54.2	55.1	-0.9	81/9	31/1#	2.15	3.20	-1.05
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	66.3	43.0	54.6	57	-2	79/9*	32/24	3.09	3.4	-0.3
Andrews AFB (ADW)	64.8	44.7	54.8	58	-3	79/9*	34/11@	3.15	3.3	-0.1

Other occurrences: \* October 21st; + October 24th; # October 11th; @ October 29th.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER:** *The first inch of snow at DCA?*

With some portions of the Washington/Baltimore area recording their first freeze of the 1993–1994 season during October, the next question is when the first inch of snow will fall. The date of this event can vary greatly at DCA and during the last ten years has occurred between mid-November and late January. The earliest ( $\geq 1''$ ) snows in Washington (city) occurred on October 30, 1925 (2.2'') and October 20, 1940 (1.4'') and the earliest measurable snow ever recorded at National Airport was October 10, 1979 (0.3''). No significant snow was observed during the 1972–1973 season (total=0.1'').

**Winter Season**

1992–1993  
1991–1992  
1990–1991  
1989–1990  
1988–1989  
1987–1988  
1986–1987  
1985–1986  
1984–1985  
1983–1984

**First 1'' (or greater) Snowfall**

December 10  
January 25  
December 27  
November 22  
December 9  
November 11  
January 22  
December 20  
January 4  
January 11