

BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

Somerset County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is the state's southernmost county. The Chesapeake Bay forms its western boundary, Virginia its southern. It is located approximately 100 miles from the Baltimore/Washington, Wilmington/Philadelphia, and Norfolk/Hampton Roads metropolitan areas.

Crisfield and Princess Anne are the major business and industrial centers of the county. Somerset's 450 businesses employ 4,130 workers, with approximately nine of these employing over 100. Major employers are Sysco Eastern Maryland, Handy International, Mountaire Farms, PNC, Perdue, Rubberset, Eastern Correctional Institute and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Somerset is a major seafood processor and poultry producer, and provides a rich agricultural harvest. Princess Anne is the county seat and the site of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, with undergraduate programs, as well as doctoral programs in marine, estuarine and environmental sciences.



The county has a 499-acre Enterprise Zone in the City of Crisfield, and a 1,297-acre Zone in the Town of Princess Anne. In addition, Somerset is participating in the One Maryland Program, which offers significant tax credits for capital investments that create jobs. The county's EDC is working on developing services in and around Princess Anne to assist the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and commercial interests in the waterfront of Crisfield.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Princess Anne:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	681	1,097
Baltimore, Maryland	114	184
Boston, Massachusetts	442	712
Chicago, Illinois	815	1,296
New York, New York	232	373
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	143	230
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	336	540
Richmond, Virginia	202	325
Washington, DC	126	203

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	43.4
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	11.6
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.4
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.4
Duration of Freeze-Free Period (days)	171
Land Area (square miles)	338.4
Water Area (square miles)	35.9
Shoreline (miles)	1,106
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 46

POPULATION^{2,4}

	Somerset County	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2000	24,747	155,934	5,296,486
2005	25,600	164,450	5,577,450
2010	26,550	173,200	5,779,400
2015	27,500	183,000	6,086,850
2020	28,300	192,000	6,339,300

*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

Selected municipalities population (2008): Crisfield 2,749; Princess Anne 3,015

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION² (2010 PROJECTION)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,270	4.8
5 - 19	5,000	18.8
20 - 44	9,700	36.5
45 - 64	6,900	26.0
65 and over	3,680	13.9
Total	26,550	100.0

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY^{3,4} (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2008 avg.):

Total civilian labor force	11,235
Employment	10,497
Unemployment	738
Unemployment rate	6.6%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2006-2008) 3,732 41.7%

Employment in selected occupations (2006-2008)

Management, professional and related	2,825	30.4%
Service	2,317	25.0%
Sales and office	1,991	21.5%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,078	11.6%

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{5,6} (2009)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	865
Sysco Eastern Maryland	Food products distribution	750
McCready Memorial Hosp.	Medical services	275
Rubberset	Paint brushes	160
Somerset Community Svcs.	Services for the disabled	150
Manokin Manor	Nursing care	140
Custom Pak	Produce packaging	132
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing & wholesale distribution	120
Three Lower Counties Community Services	Medical services	105
McDonald's	Restaurant	91
Food Lion	Groceries	75
Eastern Shore Drywall	Drywall, insulation contrs.	60
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	55
Handy International*	Seafood processing	50
Metompkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing distrib.	50
Mountaire Farms	Chicken hatchery	50
Hardee's	Restaurant	30
PNC Financial Svcs. Group	Banking services	30
U.S. Coast Guard**	Mariner assistance	26
Peaky's Restaurant	Restaurant	25
Evan's Boats	Boat building & repair	20
Pizza Hut	Restaurant	20
Riggin's Market	Groceries	20
Circle Inn	Restaurant	15
Greenlight Biofuels	Biodiesel processing	15

Excludes post offices, state and local governments; includes higher education

*Includes seasonal workers

**Federal and military facilities exclude contractors

EMPLOYMENT³ (2008, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Annual Avg. Employment	%	Average Weekly Wage
Federal government	61	0.9	\$791
State government	1,905	26.9	806
Local government	979	13.8	731
Private sector	4,130	58.4	634
Natural resources and mining	301	4.3	498
Construction	268	3.8	566
Manufacturing	414	5.9	730
Trade, transp. and utilities	1,252	17.7	844
Information	16	0.2	867
Financial activities	179	2.5	612
Prof. and business services	243	3.4	645
Educ. and health services	948	13.4	593
Leisure and hospitality	404	5.7	177
Other services	105	1.5	411
Total	7,075	100.0	695

HOURLY WAGE RATES³ (2009)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$25.00	\$17.50	\$30.75
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	14.50	10.50	17.50
Computer support specialists	19.00	13.75	23.50
Customer service representatives	14.25	10.00	16.75
Electrical engineers	35.75	25.25	38.25
Electronic engineering technicians	16.75	12.75	20.75
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.00	8.25	14.25
Industrial truck operators	14.25	10.50	19.75
Maintenance workers, machinery	16.50	12.75	18.25
Mixing and blending machine operators	14.50	11.25	17.00
Network administrators	29.50	22.75	39.50
Packaging and filling machine operators	13.50	10.00	17.25
Packers and packagers, hand	9.25	8.75	10.75
Secretaries	12.75	10.00	15.00
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.00	9.75	14.50
Team assemblers	10.25	8.500	12.00

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive on the Lower Eastern shore (Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{4,7}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2006-2008)

High School Graduate or higher	81.4%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	13.7%

Public Schools

Number: 4 Elementary; 4 Middle/Combined; (Sept. 2008)	1 High
Enrollment: 2,912 (Sept. 2008)	
Cost per pupil: \$13,950 (2007-2008)	
Students per teacher: 11.9 (Oct. 2008)	
High school career / tech enrollment: 161 (2009)	
High school graduates: 151 (June 2008)	

Private Schools

Number: 3 (Sept. 2008)

Higher Education (2008)	Enrollment	Degrees
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4-year institution

University of Maryland Eastern Shore	4,290	535
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Wor-Wic Community College in neighboring Wicomico County offers coursework throughout the Lower Eastern Shore.

TAX RATES⁸

	Somerset Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2010)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2010)	3.15%	2.0% - 6.25%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 6.25% on taxable income over \$1 million		
Sales & Use Tax (2010)	none	6.0%
Exempt – sales for resale; manufacturer's purchase of raw materials; manufacturing machinery and equipment; purchases of materials and equipment used in R&D and testing of finished products; purchases of computer programs for reproduction or incorporation into another computer program for resale		
Real Property Tax (FY 10)	\$0.90	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 10)	\$2.25	none
Rate per \$100 of depreciated value		
Exempt – manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory (Upon application to the county, a new or expanding firm may be eligible for a tax credit on manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies)		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Major Tax Credits Available		
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, One Maryland, R&D		

INCOME⁴ (2006-2008)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Somerset Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	29.3	15.1	23.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	29.3	19.9	24.8
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.4	18.5	18.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.7	14.5	12.5
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6.6	17.5	12.2
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.4	7.7	4.3
\$200,000 and over	1.2	6.9	4.2
Median household	\$41,920	\$70,005	\$52,175
Average household	\$52,394	\$90,234	\$71,128
Per capita	\$17,045	\$34,508	\$27,466
Total income (millions)	\$423	\$188,303	\$7,993,784

HOUSING^{2,9} (2008)

Median Selling Price

All arms-length transactions	(111 units)	\$138,500
All multiple-listed properties*	(96 units)	\$145,687

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁵

Princess Anne Industrial Park - Located within the incorporated city limits of the Town of Princess Anne, a 65-acre park divided into lots ranging from approximately three to six acres in size to give the flexibility to meet the varying needs of industry. A 50,000 sq. ft. flex building, which occupies approximately six acres of land is available. The park is conveniently accessible to U.S. Route 13 and to markets north and south and is accessible to rail which runs alongside of the park. Sites are level, cleared and ready for immediate construction. The park is currently being marketed both nationally and internationally.

Crisfield Industrial Park - A 50 acre Industrial park has also been proposed for the City of Crisfield. CDBG funding for infrastructure has been awarded to further pursue this endeavor.

Both Industrial Parks are located within a designated Enterprise Zone, which offers real property tax credits, income tax credits, enhanced job creation tax credits, and priority access to Maryland's financing programs. They are fully equipped with water, sewer, utilities and access roads.

Two Business Parks have been developed which offer both commercial and retail space. These units will be available for sale or lease.

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$2.50

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13

Rail: Norfolk Southern Railroad

Truck: 116 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Lower Eastern Shore

Water: Served by the Port of Baltimore, 50' channel; a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; six public terminals including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility; also served by Crisfield Harbor, 8'-10' channel

Air: Scheduled service available at Salisbury-Ocean City-Wicomico Regional Airport, 16 miles from Princess Anne; Crisfield Airport has one 2500' x 75' paved, lighted runway, and one 3350' x 100' grass runway; further improvements are currently planned and/or underway

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks and Recreation: Janes Island State Park; Somerset County Recreation & Parks received funding from DNR Open Space program to purchase 45 acres to be used for public playing fields, trails and an indoor recreation facility; organized recreational activities include football, baseball, basketball, softball, racquetball, swimming, dance, volleyball, weightlifting, soccer, biking, karate, yoga, aerobics and after school programs; an athletic center is also planned for Princess Anne in a cooperative effort between the town and UMES

Golf: Great Hope Golf Course, developed in 1995 as the county's first golf course, offers 18 holes on 213 acres

Water Activities: 11 county boat ramps; Somers Cove Marina, located in Crisfield, is a state-owned marina with over 455 slips; charter fishing boats and cruise boats departing the City of Crisfield are available

Attractions: Crisfield Historical Museum, Ward Brothers Homeplace, Teackle Mansion, Princess Anne Farmer's Market, many antique shops and historic buildings and sites

Events: Old Princess Anne Days, Princess Anne Street Fest, Christmas in Princess Anne, the Crisfield Hard Crab Derby, the Skipjack Race of Deal Island, Tawes Annual Crab & Clam Bake, Somerset County Fair, Colonial Christmas Candlelight Tour, Fairmount Academy 1800's Festival, Waterman's Folklife Festival, Pro-Am Fishing Tournament, Daffodil Show, Terrapin Sands Fish Fry, Native American Indian Festival and Powwow, Softshell Spring Fair, July 4th Festival, J. Millard Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast and Christmas in Crisfield

UTILITIES

Electricity: Delmarva Power, Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc., and A & N Electric Cooperative; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

Water: County systems in Crisfield (outside city limit), Princess Anne, Rumbley-Frenchtown, and Upper and Lower Fairmount; municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield

Sewer: County systems in Crisfield (outside city limit), Princess Anne, Smith Island, and Upper and Lower Fairmount; municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield

Telecommunications: Predominant local carrier is Verizon Maryland; fiber broadband availability through Maryland Broadband Cooperative; fiber optic cable extended from Wallops Island along U.S. Rt. 13

GOVERNMENT¹⁰

County Seat: Princess Anne

Government: Five commissioners elected by district for four-year terms; commissioner form of government limits county legislative power to areas authorized by the General Assembly C. Samuel Boston, County Administrator; 410.651.0320

Website: www.somersetmd.us

Delegation to Maryland General Assembly:

J. Lowell Stoltzfus, Senate Chair 410.841.3645

D. Page Elmore, House Chair 410.841.3433

U.S. Congressional Election District: 1st

Somerset County Economic Development Commission

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www.somersetcountyledc.org

Sources:

- 1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maryland State Office of Climatology; Maryland Geological Survey
- 2 Maryland Department of Planning
- 3 Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 4 U.S. Bureau of the Census
- 5 Somerset County Economic Development Commission
- 6 Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- 7 Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission
- 8 Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury
- 9 Maryland Association of Realtors
- 10 Maryland State Archives; Maryland Association of Counties