

BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

Somerset County on Maryland's Eastern Shore is bounded by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and Virginia to the south, and is the state's southernmost county. It is located approximately 100 miles from the Baltimore/Washington, Wilmington/Philadelphia, and Norfolk/Hampton Roads metro areas, and Crisfield and Princess Anne are the major business and industrial centers. Somerset's 450 businesses employ 3,870 workers; major employers include Sysco Eastern Maryland, Handy International, Mountaire Farms, PNC, Perdue, Rubberset, Eastern Correctional Inst. 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 home of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, which offers a doctoral program in marine, estuarine and environmental sciences.

The county has an Enterprise Zone in Crisfield, and one in Princess Anne. In addition, Somerset participates in the One



LOCATION

Driving distance from Princess Anne:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	681	1,097
Baltimore, Maryland	114	184
Boston, Massachusetts	442	712
Chicago, Illinois	805	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^{2,3}

	Somerset County Households	Somerset County Population	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2000	8,361	24,747	155,934	5,296,486
2005	8,650	25,550	164,450	5,572,400
2010	8,625			5,773,550
2015	9,125	27,050	180,500	6,038,450
2020	9,425	27,800	189,550	6,276,300

*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

Selected municipalities population (2009): Crisfield 2,720; Princess Anne 2,986

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2009)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,314	5.1
5 - 19	4,697	18.1
20 - 44	9,844	37.9
45 - 64	6,487	25.0
65 and over	3,617	13.9
Total	25,959	100.0
Median age		36.4 years

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY^{3,4,5} (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2010 avg.):	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	10,925	89,287
Employment	9,799	80,419
Unemployment	1,126	8,868
Unemployment rate	10.3%	9.9%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2007-2009)	Number	Percent
	4,181	44.7%

Employment in selected occupations (2007-2009)

Occupation	Number	Percent
Management, professional and related	3,003	30.8%
Service	2,144	22.0%
Sales and office	2,248	23.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,101	11.3%

* Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2010)

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	151
Somerset Community Svcs.	Services for the disabled	150
Manokin Manor	Nursing care	140
Custom Pak	Produce packaging	132
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing, distrib.	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
Northrop Grumman	Engineering services	25
Peaky's Restaurant	Restaurant	25
Atlantic Tractor	Farm & garden machinery	22
Evan's Boats	Boat building & repair	20

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

*Includes seasonal workers

**Federal and military facilities exclude contractors

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2009, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	15	61	0.9	\$817
State government	8	1,950	28.4	811
Local government	18	980	14.3	743
Private sector	449	3,868	56.4	644
Natl. resources and mining	13	342	5.0	506
Construction	71	236	3.4	594
Manufacturing	21	288	4.2	810
Trade, transp. and util.	119	1,185	17.3	851
Information	3	26	0.4	610
Financial activities	42	187	2.7	613
Prof. and business svcs.	54	181	2.6	760
Educ. and health services	52	911	13.3	602
Leisure and hospitality	41	404	5.9	185
Other services	33	108	1.6	427
Total	490	6,859	100.0	707

Includes civilian employment only

Businesses by Employment Size Class (2nd Q 2010)

No. of employees	0-9	10-49	50-99	100+
No. of businesses	350	68	7	4

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2010)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$26.50	\$19.25	\$32.75
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	15.25	11.25	18.25
Computer support specialists	19.75	15.25	23.25
Customer service representatives	14.50	9.75	18.75
Electrical/electronic equipment assemblers	11.25	9.25	13.50
Electronic engineering technicians	27.75	14.75	32.50
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.00	8.25	14.25
Industrial truck operators	15.00	10.75	21.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	13.25	9.25	16.75
Network administrators	30.25	24.00	38.75
Packaging and filling machine operators	14.00	10.00	17.50
Packers and packagers, hand	9.25	8.50	11.00
Secretaries	13.50	10.25	16.00
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.25	9.75	14.50
Team assemblers	10.25	8.75	12.00
Telemarketers	12.00	8.00	15.25

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^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2007-2009)

High school graduate or higher	82.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	13.7%

Public Schools

Number: 4 elementary; 4 middle/combined; 1 high
Enrollment: 2,898 (Sept. 2009)
Cost per pupil: \$14,240 (2008-2009)
Students per teacher: 12.4 (Oct. 2009)
High school career / tech enrollment: 165 (2010)
High school graduates: 181 (June 2009)

Private Schools

Number: 3 (Sept. 2009)

Higher Education (2009)	Enrollment	Degrees
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4-year institution

University of Maryland Eastern Shore	4,433	533
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Wor-Wic Community College in neighboring Wicomico County offers coursework throughout the Lower Eastern Shore.

TAX RATES⁹

	Somerset Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2011)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2011)	3.15%	2.0% - 5.5%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.5% on taxable income over \$500,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2011)	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 11)	\$0.8837	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 11)	\$2.20925	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		

INCOME³ (2007-2009)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Somerset Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	30.8	15.4	23.8
\$25,000 - \$49,999	30.2	19.9	24.9
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.0	18.3	18.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10.1	14.2	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6.5	17.3	12.1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	1.9	7.8	4.2
\$200,000 and over	1.5	7.0	4.1
Median household	\$40,977	\$69,695	\$51,369
Average household	\$51,804	\$90,500	\$70,404
Per capita	\$17,422	\$34,384	\$27,100
Total income (millions)	\$435	\$189,088	\$7,962,931

HOUSING^{2,3,10} (2009)

Total Units (2007-2009)	5,653 (72.4% owner occupied)	
Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions	83	\$149,995
All multiple-listed properties*	100	\$158,550

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

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. 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 - The creation of a 50-acre industrial park for the City of Crisfield began summer 2010. CDBG funding for infrastructure has been awarded to further pursue this endeavor. The City of Crisfield recently acquired the Carvel Hall property, consisting of 23 acres and a 70,000 sf building, for inclusion in the industrial park

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.

Princess Anne Village and Chase Plaza, both located along Rt. 13 in Princess Anne, offer both commercial and retail space. Units are available for sale or lease.

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$10,500	\$20,000	\$15,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$2.50

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13

Rail: Norfolk Southern Railway

Truck: 84 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; seven 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, weight lifting, 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, Crisfield Hard Crab Derby, 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 Heritage Festival and Pow-wow, Softshell Spring Fair, July 4th Festival, J. Millard Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast and Christmas in Crisfield

FEDERAL FUNDING³ (2009)

Direct Federal Expenditures or Obligations

	Total	Per Capita
Total	\$193,970,204	\$7,472
Defense	\$5,110,408	\$197
Non-defense	\$188,859,796	\$7,275

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

GOVERNMENT¹¹

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
Rex D. Simkins, President, Board of County Commissioners
410.651.0320

Cynthia R. Ward, County Administrator 410.651.0320

Website: www.somersetmd.us

County Delegation to Maryland General Assembly:

James N. Mathias, Jr., Senate Chair 410.841.3645

Charles J. Otto, House Chair 410.841.3433

U.S. Congressional Election District: 1st

Somerset County Economic Development Commission

Daniel Thompson, Executive Director

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www.somersetcountyedc.org

Sources:

- 1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Maryland State Office of Climatology (30-year averages); Maryland Geological Survey
- 2 Maryland Department of Planning
- 3 U.S. Bureau of the Census
- 4 Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Somerset County Economic Development Commission
- 7 Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- 8 Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission
- 9 Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury
- 10 Maryland Association of Realtors
- 11 Maryland State Archives