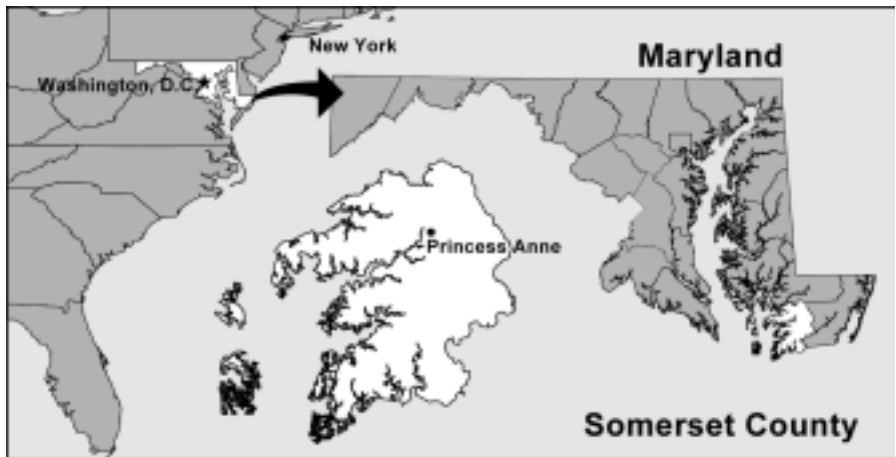


SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS



Somerset County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is the state's southernmost county. The Chesapeake Bay forms its western boundary, Virginia its southern. The county is located approximately 100 miles from the Baltimore/Washington, Wilmington/Philadelphia, as well as the Norfolk/Hampton Roads metropolitan areas. A water-oriented county, rural Somerset attracts fisherman, hunters, tourists and water sports enthusiasts.

Crisfield and Princess Anne are the two major business and industrial centers of the county. Somerset's 450 businesses employ 4,260 workers, with approximately ten of these employing over 100. Major employers are Sysco Eastern Maryland, McCreedy Memorial Hospital, 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 including soybeans, corn, tomatoes and wheat. Princess Anne is the county seat and the site of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, which offers undergraduate programs, as well as doctoral programs in marine, estuarine and environmental sciences.

The county has a 499-acre Enterprise Zone located within 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 developing services in and around Princess Anne to assist the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and commercial interests in the waterfront of Crisfield. Plans and studies are still moving forward for a marine/barge terminal and alternative energy projects (biomass, ethanol).

LOCATION

Driving distance from Princess Anne:

	(in miles)	(in kilometers)
Atlanta, GA	671	1,080
Baltimore, MD	117	188
Boston, MA	436	702
Chicago, IL	796	1,281
New York, NY	230	370
Philadelphia, PA	140	225
Pittsburgh, PA	338	544
Richmond, VA	200	322
Washington, DC	129	208

CLIMATE

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	171 days
Note: Temperature and precipitation data based on 30-year averages.	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maryland State Office of Climatology.	

POPULATION

	Somerset County	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
1990 Census	23,440	132,807	4,780,753
2000 Census	24,747	155,934	5,296,486
2005 Estimate	25,600	164,450	5,577,450
2010 Projection	26,550	173,200	5,779,400
2015 Projection	27,500	183,000	6,086,850

*Represents Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

Selected areas population (2000 Census): Crisfield, 2,723; Princess Anne, 2,313.

U.S. Bureau of the Census; Maryland Department of Planning.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

(2010 Projection)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,190	4.5
5 - 19	5,010	18.9
20 - 44	9,720	36.6
45 - 64	6,930	26.1
65 and over	3,690	13.9
Total	26,550	100.0

Note: Columns may not add due to rounding.

Maryland Department of Planning.

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY

(by place of residence) Somerset County

Civilian Labor Force (2007 annual averages):

Total civilian labor force	11,318
Employment	10,706
Unemployment	612
Unemployment rate	5.4%

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance.

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2000): 3,837 42.2%

Employment in selected occupations (2000):

Management, professional and related	2,321	24.8%
Service	1,983	21.2%
Sales and office	2,201	23.5%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,414	15.1%

U.S. Bureau of the Census.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	859
Sysco Eastern Maryland	Food products distribution	750
McCready Memorial Hosp.	Medical services	275
PNC Finan. Services Group	Banking services	250
Rubberset	Paint brushes	160
Somerset Community Serv.	Services for the disabled	150
Manokin Manor	Nursing care	140
Custom Pak	Produce packaging	132
So. Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing, distrib.	120
Three Lower Counties Community Services	Medical services	105
Food Lion	Groceries	75
Eastern Shore Drywall contractors	Drywall, insulation	60
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	55
Handy International*	Seafood processing	50
Metompkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing, distrib.	50
Mountaire Farms	Chicken hatchery	50
McDonald's	Restaurant	40
Peaky's Restaurant	Restaurant	25
U.S. Coast Guard**	Mariner assistance	22
Evan's Boats	Boat building and repair	20
Pizza Hut	Restaurant	20
Riggin's Grocery	Groceries	20
Greenlight Biofuels	Biodiesel processing	15

Note: Excludes post offices, state and local governments; includes public higher education institutions.

* Includes seasonal workers.

**Employee counts for federal and military facilities exclude contractors.

Somerset County Economic Development Commission; Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

EMPLOYMENT

(2007, by place of work)	Annual Average Employment	%	Average Weekly Wage
Federal government	62	0.9	\$789
State government	1,874	26.3	785
Local government	931	13.1	715
Private sector	4,257	59.8	618
Nat'l. resources and mining	309	4.3	516
Construction	329	4.6	636
Manufacturing	445	6.2	671
Trade, transp. and utilities	1,291	18.1	803
Information	18	0.3	809
Financial activities	212	3.0	540
Prof. and business services	228	3.2	601
Educ. and health services	917	12.9	591
Leisure and hospitality	416	5.8	179
Other services	92	1.3	460
Total	7,124	100.0	676

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance.

HOURLY WAGE RATES

(2008)	Median	Entry	Experienced
Selected Occupations:			
Accountants	\$25.00	\$17.25	\$33.75
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	14.25	10.25	17.00
Computer systems analysts	28.75	15.50	37.50
Customer service representatives	14.00	9.75	17.00
Electrical engineers	36.25	26.00	42.00
Electronic engineering technicians	17.25	13.00	22.50
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	10.75	8.00	12.25
Industrial truck operators	13.50	10.00	15.50
Machinists	11.75	10.25	15.50
Mixing and blending machine operators	14.50	10.50	17.50
Network administrators	28.50	20.75	39.50
Packaging and filling machine operators	14.75	10.75	18.25
Packers and packagers, hand	9.25	8.25	10.75
Secretaries	12.25	9.50	14.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.00	9.50	14.00
Team assemblers	11.25	8.50	13.00

Note: These wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive on the Lower Eastern Shore (Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties). Wages may vary by industry, employer, and locality.

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance.

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

EFFECTIVE BUYING INCOME

Distribution	2007 - Percent Households		
	Somerset County	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	37.8	17.8	26.8
\$25,000 - \$49,999	35.5	28.9	33.3
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.1	22.3	19.7
\$75,000 and over	10.6	31.0	20.2
Median Household	\$32,001	\$53,064	\$41,792
Average Household	\$41,673	\$68,575	\$54,936
Per Capita	\$14,261	\$25,880	\$20,717
Total EBI (Millions)	\$370	\$147,081	\$6,300,795

Note: Effective Buying Income is money income less personal tax and nontax payments. It is commonly known as "disposable income." Percentages may not add due to rounding.

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TAX RATES

	Somerset County	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2009) Base - Federal taxable income.	none	8.25%
Personal Income Tax (2009) Base - Federal adjusted gross income. *Graduated tax peaking at 5.5% on taxable income over \$500,000.	3.15%	2.0%-5.5%*
Sales and Use Tax (2009) 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.	none	6.0%
Real Property Tax (FY 2009) Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value. In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply.	\$0.94	\$0.112
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 2009) 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.	\$2.35	none
Major Tax Credits Available Enterprise Zone; Job Creation; One Maryland; Research and Development.		
Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury.		

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment - age 25 and over (2000):

High School Graduate or Higher	69.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11.6%

Public Schools

Number: 4 Elementary; 4 Middle/Combined; 1 High

Enrollment: 2,910 (Sept. 2007)

Cost per Pupil: \$12,117 (2006-2007)

Students per Teacher: 13.8 (Oct. 2007)

High School Career/Tech Enrollment: 197 (2008)

High School Graduates: 169 (June 2007)

Private Schools

Number: 2; **Enrollment:** 534 (Sept. 2007)

Higher Education

(2007)	Enrollment	Degrees
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4-Year Institution

University of Maryland Eastern Shore	4,086	507
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Wor-Wic Community College in neighboring Wicomico County offers coursework throughout the Lower Eastern Shore.

Maryland State Department of Education and Higher Education Commission; U.S. Bureau of the Census.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

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. Fully equipped with water, sewer, utilities and access roads, the industrial park's sites are level, cleared and ready for immediate construction. It can accommodate a flex building of 30,000 to 50,000 square feet on approximately six acres of land. 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. It is also in an Enterprise Zone, which offers real property tax credits, income tax credits, enhanced job creation tax credits, and priority access to Maryland's financing programs.

Chase Plaza - Located on Route 13 south of town, next to the Econo Lodge in Princess Anne, Chase Plaza Business Park is a six-phase project which will offer both commercial and retail space. Construction has already begun on a 10,000 square foot building. All units in the park will be for sale or lease.

Business Incubator

Applied Information Technology Research and Education Center, Princess Anne

Market Profile Data

Land - cost per acre	Low	High	Average
Industrial	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
Rental Rates - per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$2.50
Somerset County Economic Development Commission.			

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13.

Rail: Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Truck: 115 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, one 2500' x 75' paved, lighted runway; one 3350' x 100' grass runway; further improvements are currently planned and/or underway.

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 (peripheral area outside city limit), Princess Anne, Rumbley-Frenchtown, and Upper and Lower Fairmount. Municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield.

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

Telecommunications: Local Carriers - Verizon Maryland and other local provider(s) that offer service on proprietary or leased infrastructure. Long Distance Carriers - AT&T, Sprint, LCI International, Verizon and numerous additional carriers and resellers of WATS and MTS. Fiber broadband availability through Maryland Broadband Cooperative; fiber optic cable extended from Wallops Island along U.S. Rt. 13.

HOUSING

Median Selling Price:

All owner-occupied properties (FY 2008)	\$
All multiple-listed properties (2007)*	\$153,878

*Includes rental properties; excludes auctions and FSBO.

Sources: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation; Maryland Association of Realtors.

RECREATION and CULTURE

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

Organized recreational activities include football, baseball, basketball, softball, racquetball, swimming, dance, volleyball, weightlifting, soccer, biking, karate, yoga, aerobics and after school programs. 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. An athletic center is also planned for Princess Anne in a cooperative effort between the town and UMES.

Water activities, hunting, and golf are other recreational options, as is the natural beauty at Janes Island State Park. There are 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.

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-Arm Fishing Tournament, Daffodil Show, Terrapin Sands Fish Fry, Native American Indian Festival and Powwow, Softshell Spring Fair, July 4th Festival, J. M. Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast and Christmas in Crisfield are the county's annual events.

Visit the Crisfield Historical Museum, Ward Brothers Homeplace, Historic Teackle Mansion, Princess Anne Farmer's Market, many antique shops and historic buildings and sites.

GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat - Princess Anne

Government - Five commissioners elected by district for four-year terms.

Elevation - Sea level to 46 feet

Land Area - 338.4 square miles

Water Area - 35.9 square miles

Shoreline - 1,106 miles

Maryland State Archives; Maryland Geological Survey.



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Economic Development

Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

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Clarence T. Bishop, Deputy Secretary

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