

# 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. Crisfield and Princess Anne are the major municipalities. Somerset County's private sector industries generate \$492 million in economic output. Major employers include Sysco Eastern Maryland, Handy Intl., Mountaire Farms, Sherwin Williams/Rubberset, McCready Health, Eastern Correctional Institute and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

Somerset is a major seafood processor and poultry producer, with Princess Anne as the county seat and home to UMES. The county has two established Enterprise Zones (Crisfield and Princess Anne) and also participates in the One Maryland Program. Natural gas has been approved and will be coming to the county. Sixty-five acres of land along Rt. 13 has recently been



### 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 GEOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.8
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	8.0
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.5
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.0
Days Below Freezing	102.0
Land Area (square miles)	338.4
Water Area (square miles)	35.9
Shoreline (miles)	1,106
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 46

purchased with plans for mixed-use development consisting of a hotel, with retail/commercial pad sites.

The Economic Development Commission continues to assist in commercial/industrial development, and in attracting aerospace industry and broadband. Sage Policy Group has been hired to produce an Economic Development Strategy for the county, addressing employment growth, housing, downtown areas, industries of the future, tourism, and tax base.

### POPULATION<sup>2,3</sup>

	Somerset County		Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
	Households	Population		
2000	8,361	24,747	155,934	5,296,486
2010	8,788	26,470	176,657	5,773,552
2020**	9,150	26,750	186,050	6,141,900

\*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

\*\*Projections

Selected places population (2010): Princess Anne 3,290; Crisfield 2,726; Eden 823; Mount Vernon 779

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2018)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,248	4.9
5 - 19	4,419	17.2
20 - 44	9,340	36.4
45 - 64	6,316	24.6
65 and over	4,352	17.0
Total	25,675	100.0
Median age		37.4 years

# Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

## LABOR AVAILABILITY<sup>3,4,5</sup> (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2018 avg.)	Labor Mkt.	
	County	Area*
Total civilian labor force	9,353	85,919
Employment	8,709	80,549
Unemployment	644	5,370
Unemployment rate	6.9%	6.3%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2013-2017)	Number	Percent
	4,060	48.7%

Employment in selected occupations (2013-2017)		
Management, business, science and arts	2,487	28.9%
Service	2,256	26.3%
Sales and office	1,889	22.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,036	12.1%

\* Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2018-2019)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	855
Sysco Eastern Maryland	Food products distribution	450
Somerset Community Services	Services for the disabled	425
McCready Health	Medical services	300
Aurora Sr. Living of Manokin	Nursing care	175
Sherwin Williams / Rubberset	Paint brushes	150
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing, distribution	130
Three Lower Counties Community Services	Medical services	105
Metompkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing, distrib.	70
Eastern Shore Drywall	Drywall, insulation contract.	60
Mountaire Farms	Chicken hatchery	50
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	40
Northrop Grumman	Engineering services	35
Halal Poultry	Food processing	30
Handy International*	Seafood processing	30
Peacock's/Caesar's	Restaurants	30
PNC Financial Services Grp.	Banking services	30
Smith Island Baking	Cake manuf. and distribution	25
U.S. Coast Guard^	Mariner assistance	25

Excludes post offices, state and local governments, national retail and national foodservice

\* Includes seasonal workers

^ Employee counts for federal and military facilities exclude contractors to the extent possible; embedded contractors may be included

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2018, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	12	50	0.7	\$992
State government	10	1,821	27.0	1,024
Local government	20	947	14.1	892
Private sector	428	3,916	58.1	737
Natural resources and mining	21	153	2.3	745
Construction	64	333	4.9	745
Manufacturing	15	245	3.6	1,025
Trade, transportation and utilities	114	1,055	15.7	843
Information	5	19	0.3	517
Financial activities	29	191	2.8	729
Professional and business services	41	193	2.9	823
Education and health services	62	1,135	16.9	755
Leisure and hospitality	45	411	6.1	258
Other services	29	179	2.7	612
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>6,735</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>838</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2018)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$26.56	\$17.81	\$33.11
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	17.28	12.86	20.16
Computer user support specialists	21.70	12.22	27.21
Customer service representatives	15.54	11.14	17.36
Electrical engineers	39.19	33.55	50.49
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.87	10.64	14.61
Industrial truck operators	24.93	13.58	30.37
Inspectors, testers, sorters	16.09	12.40	26.37
Machinists	21.67	11.87	19.26
Maintenance and repair workers, general	16.59	11.84	20.50
Network administrators	38.82	25.78	56.32
Packaging and filling machine operators	13.86	12.23	14.58
Packers and packagers, hand	10.14	9.67	11.61
Secretaries	16.88	11.87	19.26
Shipping/receiving clerks	14.37	11.84	16.15
Team assemblers	11.63	10.27	15.42

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

# Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES<sup>3,8</sup>

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2013-2017)

High school graduate or higher	81.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	14.4%

### Public Schools

Number: 4 elementary; 2 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 2,930 (Sept. 2018)
Cost per pupil: \$16,563 (2017-2018)
Students per teacher: 12.4 (Oct. 2018)
High school career / tech enrollment: 261 (2017)
High school graduates: 153 (July 2018)

### Nonpublic Schools

Number: 1 (Sept. 2018)
------------------------

Higher Education (2018)	Enrollment	Degrees
4-year institution		
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	3,193	634

Wor-Wic Community College in neighboring Wicomico County offers coursework throughout the Lower Eastern Shore.

## TAX RATES<sup>9</sup>

	Somerset Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2019)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2019)</b>	3.20%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000		
<b>Sales &amp; Use Tax (2019)</b>	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		
<b>Real Property Tax (FY 20)</b>	\$1.00	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
<b>Business Personal Property Tax (FY 20)</b>	\$2.50	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; municipal exemptions may be available		

### Major Tax Credits Available

One Maryland, Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders (Tier I), R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Arts & Entertainment District

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2013-2017)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Somerset Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	32.8	14.2	21.3
\$25,000 - \$49,999	25.8	17.1	22.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.4	16.5	17.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.7	13.1	12.3
\$100,000 - \$149,999	9.0	18.7	14.1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	3.1	9.7	5.8
\$200,000 and over	1.1	10.7	6.3
Median household	\$39,239	\$78,916	\$57,652
Average household	\$53,494	\$103,845	\$81,283
Per capita	\$18,395	\$39,070	\$31,177
Total income (millions)	\$447	\$226,495	\$9,658,475

## HOUSING<sup>3,10</sup>

Occupied Units (2013-2017) 8,362 (64.6% owner occupied)

### Housing Transactions (2018)\*

Units sold	377
Median selling price	\$117,833

\*All multiple listed properties; excludes auctions and FSBO

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY<sup>6</sup>

**Princess Anne Industrial Park** - Located within the incorporated city limits of the town of Princess Anne is a 65-acre park divided into lots, ranging from approximately three to six acres in size. The park is conveniently accessible to U.S. Route 13 and to markets north and south with accessible rail alongside the park. Sites are level, cleared and ready for immediate construction.

**Crisfield Industrial Park** - 50-acre industrial park in the city of Crisfield.

Both industrial parks are located within a designated Enterprise Zone. The parks are fully equipped with water, sewer, utilities and access roads.

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

Market Profile Data (2018)	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$10,500	\$30,000	\$25,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$2.50

# Brief Economic Facts // SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** U.S. 13

**Rail:** Norfolk Southern Railway

**Truck:** More than 70 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 and 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 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 Farmers Market, many antique shops and historic buildings and sites

**Arts & Entertainment District:** Crisfield

**Events:** 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, Fairmount Academy 1800s Festival, Waterman's Folklife Festival, Softshell Spring Fair, J. Millard Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast, Summer on Somerset, Wheels on the Waterfront, Strawberry Festival, Freedom Fest, Dock Day on the Bay, Midnight Muskrat Drop, and Christmas in Crisfield

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** Delmarva Power, Choptank Electric Cooperative, 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

## GOVERNMENT<sup>11</sup>

**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  
Craig N. Mathies, Sr., President, Board of County Commissioners 410.651.0320

Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator 410.651.0320

**Website:** [www.somersetmd.us](http://www.somersetmd.us)

**Somerset County Economic Development Commission**

Daniel Thompson, Executive Director

11916 Somerset Avenue, Suite 202

Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Telephone: 410.651.0500

Email: [edc@somersetmd.us](mailto:edc@somersetmd.us)

[www.somersetcountyledc.org](http://www.somersetcountyledc.org)

### Sources:

- 1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey
- 2 Maryland Department of Planning
- 3 U.S. Bureau of the Census
- 4 Maryland Department of Labor, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Somerset County Economic Development Commission
- 7 Maryland Department of Commerce
- 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