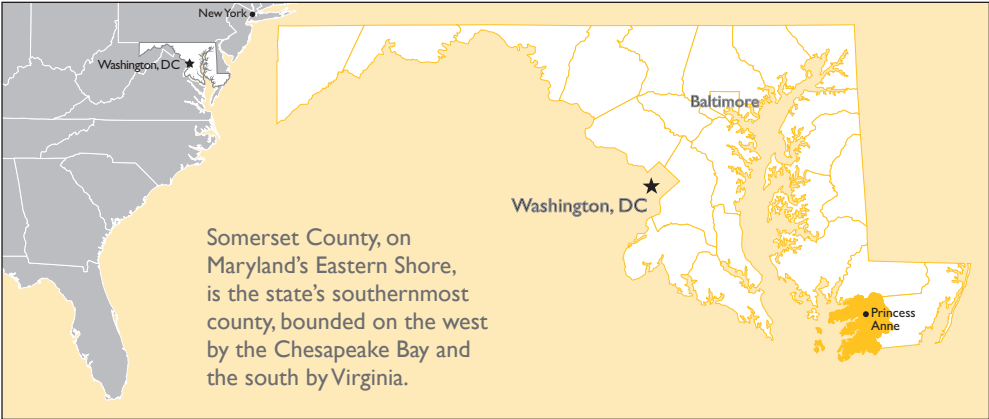


# Brief Economic Facts

## 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 \$523 million in economic output.

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 is now available in the north end of Somerset County and the expansion of broadband is currently underway. The construction of the Royal Farms in Somerset Crossing along Rt. 13 has been completed with future plans for mixed-use development consisting of a hotel, with retail/commercial pad sites. Somerset County is working with 5 other counties across



the state exploring a passenger ferry in Crisfield. The Tri-County area which consists of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties were awarded \$3.3 million dollars each in funding and a portion of Somerset County's funds were used to purchase the former Wal-Mart property on Revell's Neck Road for a future Industrial Park. After site preparation and extension of service the total project investment would be between \$10 and \$50 million.

### 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        |
| Pittsburg, 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               |
| Summer Temperature (°F)       | 74.5            |
| Winter Temperature (°F)       | 38              |
| Days Below Freezing           | 102             |
| Land Area (square miles)      | 338.4           |
| Water area (square miles)     | 35.9            |
| Shoreline (miles)             | 1,106           |
| Elevation (ft)                | sea level to 46 |

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

|        | Somerset County Households | Somerset County Population | Lower Eastern Shore* | Maryland  |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 2010   | 18,025                     | 26,470                     | 197,980              | 5,773,552 |
| 2020   | 18,750                     | 25,760                     | 235,623              | 6,055,802 |
| 2030** | 21,025                     | 27,450                     | 261,360              | 6,254,500 |

\*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties  
\*\*Projections  
Selected places population (2020): Princess Anne 3,428; Crisfield 2,448; Eden 846; Mount Vernon 1,016

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2023)

| Age         | Number | Percent    |
|-------------|--------|------------|
| Under 5yrs  | 1,148  | 4.7%       |
| 5 - 19 yrs  | 4338   | 17.6%      |
| 20 - 44 yrs | 9039   | 36.6%      |
| 45 -64 yrs  | 5882   | 23.8%      |
| 65 and over | 4,278  | 17.3%      |
| Total       | 24,685 | 100.0%     |
| Median Age  |        | 38.1 Years |

# Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

| Civilian Labor Force (2023 avg.)                           | County          | Labor Mkt. Area* |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Total civilian labor force</b>                          | <b>9,215</b>    | <b>230,339</b>   |
| <b>Employment</b>                                          | <b>8,924</b>    | <b>224,820</b>   |
| <b>Unemployment</b>                                        | <b>291</b>      | <b>5,519</b>     |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b>                                   | <b>3.2%</b>     | <b>2.4%</b>      |
| Residents commuting outside the county to work (2019-2023) | Number<br>3,629 | Percent<br>38.6% |

### Employment in selected occupations (2019-2023)

|                                         |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Management, business, science and arts  | 2,640 | 28.6% |
| Service                                 | 2,109 | 22.9% |
| Sales and office                        | 1,949 | 21.1% |
| Production, transp. and material moving | 1,423 | 15.4% |

\*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2023-2024)

| Employer                                    | Product/Service                             | Employment |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) | Higher education                            | 889        |
| Sysco Eastern Maryland                      | Food products distribution                  | 390        |
| Tidal Health                                | Medical services                            | 200        |
| Sherwin Williams / Rubberset                | Paint brushes                               | 220        |
| Aurora Senior Living of Manokin             | Nursing care                                | 175        |
| Somerset Community Services                 | Services for persons with disabilities      | 360        |
| Chesapeake Health Care                      | Medical services                            | 206        |
| Food Lion                                   | Groceries                                   | 101        |
| Southern Connection Seafood*                | Seafood processing & wholesale distribution | 100        |
| Ihasn Farms/ HFC                            | Poultry Processing                          | 81         |
| Handy International*                        | Seafood processing                          | 70         |
| Peraton                                     | Space and Missile Defense                   | 70         |
| Eastern Shore Drywall                       | Drywall & insulation contractors            | 60         |
| Mountaire Farms                             | Chicken egg hatchery                        | 62         |
| McDonald's / Baxter Enterprises             | Restaurants                                 | 50         |
| Metompkin Bay Oyster*                       | Seafood processing & wholesale distribution | 60         |
| PNC Financial Services Group                | Banking services                            | 15         |
| Baxter Enterprises                          | Restaurant                                  | 39         |
| Tidewater Express                           | Trucking services                           | 36         |
| Hardee's                                    | Restaurant                                  | 35         |
| Millenium Microwave Corporation             | Electronic Sub System Manufacturing         | 25         |
| Process Integration                         | System Integration MFG                      | 25         |

Excludes post offices, state and local governments, national retail and national foodservice; includes higher education\*

\*Includes seasonal workers

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2023)

| Industry                             | Estab-lishments | Annual Avg. Empl. | Empl. % | Avg. Wkly. Wage |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <b>Federal Government</b>            | 12              | 49                | 0.7%    | \$1,175         |
| <b>State Government</b>              | 9               | 1,864             | 28.2%   | 1,386           |
| <b>Local Government</b>              | 19              | 1,040             | 15.7%   | 1,077           |
| <b>Private Sector</b>                | 405             | 3,654             | 55.3%   | 922             |
| Natural resources and mining         | 20              | 117               | 1.8%    | 1,018           |
| Construction                         | 56              | 252               | 3.8%    | 1,050           |
| Manufacturing                        | 19              | 509               | 7.7%    | 1,009           |
| Trade, Transportation, and utilities | 103             | 1,082             | 16.4%   | 966             |
| Information                          | 4               | 29                | 0.4%    | 1,815           |
| Financial activities                 | 33              | 126               | 1.9%    | 959             |
| Professional and business services   | 48              | 323               | 4.9%    | 1,128           |
| Education and health services        | 56              | 787               | 11.9%   | 822             |
| Leisure and hospitality              | 36              | 260               | 3.9%    | 424             |
| Other Services                       | 32              | 170               | 2.6%    | 788             |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 444             | 6,606             | 100.0%  | 1,079           |

Includes civilian employment only

\*Confidential

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2023)

| Selected Occupations              | Median  | Entry   | Skilled |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Accountants and Auditors          | \$33.73 | \$23.82 | \$41.64 |
| Assemblers and Fabricators        | \$17.52 | \$14.18 | \$21.35 |
| Bookkeeping Clerks                | \$22.15 | \$16.57 | \$25.37 |
| Network Support Specialists       | \$32.29 | \$23.61 | \$39.54 |
| Computer Systems Analysts         | \$43.25 | \$31.15 | \$51.41 |
| Computer User Support Specialists | \$24.95 | \$19.27 | \$29.78 |
| Customer Service Representatives  | \$17.81 | \$14.31 | \$21.30 |
| Industrial Truck Operators        | \$19.92 | \$16.33 | \$25.23 |
| Information Security Analysts     | \$51.66 | \$34.47 | \$60.84 |
| Inspectors, Testers, Sorters      | \$21.80 | \$15.67 | \$28.11 |
| Laborers and Freight, Hand        | \$16.34 | \$14.23 | \$20.80 |
| Machinists                        | \$19.07 | \$17.94 | \$22.75 |
| Mechanical Engineers              | \$34.84 | \$25.66 | \$50.47 |
| Packaging Operators and Tenders   | \$22.30 | \$15.27 | \$27.00 |
| Packers and Packers, Hand         | \$14.59 | \$13.58 | \$16.81 |
| Secretaries and Admin Assistants  | \$19.64 | \$16.10 | \$23.22 |
| Shipping, Receiving Clerks        | \$17.08 | \$14.56 | \$21.36 |
| Stockers and Order Fillers        | \$17.88 | \$14.94 | \$18.99 |

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 (2019-2023) |       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| High school graduate or higher                     | 85.0% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                        | 17.1% |

| Public Schools                                     |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|
| Number: 4 elementary; 2 middle/comb, career/tech I |  |
| Enrollment: 2,894                                  |  |
| Cost per pupil: \$24,560                           |  |
| Students per teacher: 11.1                         |  |
| High school career / tech enrollment: 316          |  |
| High school graduates: 138                         |  |
| Nonpublic Schools Number: 2                        |  |

| Higher Education (2023)              | Enrollment | Degrees |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 4-year institutions                  |            |         |
| University of Maryland Eastern Shore | 2,519      | 512     |

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Somerset<br>County | Maryland  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Corporate Income Tax (2024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | none               | 8.25%     |
| Base – federal taxable income                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |           |
| Personal Income Tax (2024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    | 2.0-5.75% |
| Base – federal adjusted gross income                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                    |           |
| *Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                    |           |
| Sales & Use Tax (2024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 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 (2024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | \$1.0000           | \$0.1120  |
| Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |           |
| In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                    |           |
| Business Personal Prop. Tax (2024)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | \$2.50             | none      |
| Rate per \$100 of depreciated value                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                    |           |
| Exempt – manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies; manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may also apply; municipal exemptions may be available                                                                                |                    |           |

| Major Tax Credits Available                                                                                                       |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, New Jobs, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District |  |

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2019-2023)

| Distribution            | Percent Households |           |              |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
|                         | Somerset Co.       | Maryland  | U.S.         |
| Under \$25,000          | 28.9               | 11.3      | 15.0         |
| \$25,000 - \$49,999     | 17.9               | 12.7      | 17.3         |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999     | 19.7               | 13.2      | 15.7         |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999     | 11.0               | 12.0      | 12.7         |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999   | 12.3               | 19.3      | 17.4         |
| \$150,000 - \$199,999   | 6.8                | 12.4      | 9.3          |
| \$200,000 and over      | 3.3                | 19.2      | 12.6         |
| Median household        | \$52,462           | \$101,652 | \$78,538     |
| Average household       | \$68,629           | \$133,800 | \$110,491    |
| Per Capita              | \$26,031           | \$51,689  | \$43,289     |
| Total income (millions) | \$569              | \$313,026 | \$14,085,709 |

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

|                                                        |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Occupied Units 2019-2023 10,938 (67.5% owner occupied) |           |
| Housing Transactions                                   |           |
| Units Sold                                             | 262       |
| Median Selling Price                                   | \$174,900 |

\*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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

# 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

**Natural Gas:** Chesapeake Utilities and Eastern Shore Natural Gas

**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

**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 Charles Laird, 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

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Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

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

Sources:

1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey

2 American Community Survey

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; Maryland Association of Counties