

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 business and industrial centers. Somerset's 430 businesses employ 3,600 workers; major employers include Sysco Eastern Maryland, Handy International, Mountaire Farms, PNC, 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 home of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, which offers a doctoral program in marine, estuarine and environmental sciences. The county has Enterprise Zones in Crisfield and Princess Anne. In addition, Somerset participates



in the One Maryland Program, which offers significant tax credits for capital investments that create jobs. Plans for a hotel conference center are moving forward along with the future development of an industrial park in the city of Crisfield. The Economic Development Commission is working to assist in the commercial development of the Crisfield waterfront and to attract aerospace industry, natural gas, wind, solar and broadband to the county.

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		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**	9,075	27,750	193,050	6,224,550

*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

**Projections

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

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION³ (2010)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,277	4.8
5 - 19	4,979	18.8
20 - 44	9,634	36.4
45 - 64	6,920	26.1
65 and over	3,660	13.8
Total	26,470	100.0
Median age		36.5 years

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2013 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	10,661	92,163
Employment	9,605	83,610
Unemployment	1,056	8,553
Unemployment rate	9.9%	9.3%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2010-2012)	Number	Percent
	3,502	42.5%

Employment in selected occupations (2010-2012)	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	2,187	26.4%
Service	2,022	24.4%
Sales and office	2,219	26.8%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,082	13.1%

* Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2013)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	1,004
Sysco Eastern Maryland	Food products distribution	550
Somerset Community Svcs.	Services for the disabled	405
McCready Memorial Hosp.	Medical services	255
Aurora Sr. Living of Manokin	Nursing care	175
Rubberset	Paint brushes	149
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing, distribution	120
Three Lower Counties Community Services	Medical services	105
McDonald's	Restaurants	91
Austin Cox Mechanical	Plumbing, HVAC contractor	85
Food Lion	Groceries	75
Mountaire Farms	Chicken hatchery	61
Eastern Shore Drywall	Drywall, insulation contract.	60
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	55
Handy International*	Seafood processing	50
Metompinkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing, distrib.	50
Northrop Grumman	Engineering services	50
Hardee's	Restaurant	30
U.S. Coast Guard**	Mariner assistance	26
Peaky's Restaurant	Restaurant	25
Atlantic Tractor	Farm and garden machinery	22
Evan's Boats	Boat building and repair	20
Pizza Hut	Restaurant	20

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

*Includes seasonal workers

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

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2013, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	12	45	0.7	\$900
State government	11	2,047	30.9	876
Local government	20	926	14.0	781
Private sector	434	3,597	54.4	684
Natural resources and mining	15	205	3.1	674
Construction	67	243	3.7	667
Manufacturing	16	179	2.7	1,155
Trade, transportation and utilities	119	1,025	15.5	833
Information	6	23	0.3	635
Financial activities	29	178	2.7	639
Professional and business services	51	235	3.6	750
Education and health services	52	1,069	16.2	634
Leisure and hospitality	46	367	5.5	229
Other services	33	73	1.1	444
Total	477	6,615	100.0	758

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2014)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$25.25	\$16.00	\$33.00
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	15.25	11.75	18.25
Computer support specialists	18.75	13.00	24.00
Customer service representatives	13.00	10.00	16.50
Electrical/electronic equipment assemblers	9.50	8.25	12.00
Electronics engineering technicians	32.50	17.75	38.00
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.00	9.00	14.00
Industrial truck operators	13.25	9.00	15.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	17.00	12.75	23.00
Network administrators	30.00	16.75	37.50
Packaging and filling machine operators	9.00	8.00	11.50
Packers and packagers, hand	9.25	8.25	10.25
Secretaries	14.75	10.50	17.75
Shipping/receiving clerks	13.50	9.50	15.75
Team assemblers	12.25	9.00	15.00
Telemarketers	9.25	8.25	11.25

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 (2010-2012)

High school graduate or higher	78.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	15.1%

Public Schools

Number: 4 elementary; 4 middle/combined; 1 high
Enrollment: 2,945 (Sept. 2013)
Cost per pupil: \$14,022 (2011-2012)
Students per teacher: 12.7 (Oct. 2013)
High school career / tech enrollment: 196 (2013)
High school graduates: 175 (July 2013)

Nonpublic Schools

Number: 3 (Sept. 2013)

Higher Education (2013)	Enrollment	Degrees
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4-year institution

University of Maryland Eastern Shore	4,220	665
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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 (2014)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2014)	3.15%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2014)	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 15)	\$0.915	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 15)	\$2.2875	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, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment		

INCOME³ (2010-2012)

Distribution	Percent Households		U.S.
	Somerset Co.	Maryland	
Under \$25,000	34.1	16.1	24.1
\$25,000 - \$49,999	25.5	18.4	24.2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.4	17.6	18.1
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.5	13.3	11.9
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6.6	17.9	12.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.3	8.4	4.6
\$200,000 and over	0.7	8.3	4.5
Median household	\$37,733	\$71,707	\$51,771
Average household	\$49,260	\$93,415	\$71,579
Per capita	\$16,009	\$35,328	\$27,385
Total income (millions)	\$417	\$200,010	\$8,248,889

HOUSING^{2,3,10}

Occupied Units (2010-2012) 8,470 (68.9% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2012)	58	\$151,000
All multiple-listed properties (2012)*	114	\$109,346

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

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, 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 with accessible rail alongside the park. Sites are level, cleared and ready for immediate construction. The park is currently being marketed both nationally and internationally.

Crisfield Industrial Park - 50-acre industrial park in the city of Crisfield; federal funding for infrastructure has been awarded to further pursue this endeavor. The city 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. 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	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$10,500	\$30,000	\$25,000
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: 68 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, 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 Farmers 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 1800s Festival, Waterman's Folklife Festival, Pro-Am Fishing Tournament, Daffodil Show, Terrapin Sands Fish Fry, Native American Indian Heritage 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

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

Ralph D. Taylor, 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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Email: edc@somersetmd.us

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