

Brief Economic Facts

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Garrett County is a progressive community that welcomes business. The westernmost county in Maryland, Garrett offers a central location to local major markets, interstates, available community-owned business parks, one of Maryland's best K-12 school systems, a variety of housing options, and an excellent workforce.

The Department of Economic Development works to attract, retain, and expand businesses to the area. The county's workforce, location, and affordable community-owned business parks have attracted some of the best businesses that Maryland has to offer. Garrett is an attractive location for manufacturing, distribution, back office, call center, energy, agricultural, and recreation firms.

The county public school system consistently ranks as one of Maryland's best. The STEM curriculum in both the public schools and Garrett College prepares graduates for career achievement and skilled local jobs. The Garrett County Scholarship Program puts post-secondary education within reach of area high school



LOCATION

Driving distance from Oakland:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	620	998
Baltimore, Maryland	181	292
Chicago, Illinois	541	870
Columbus, Ohio	227	365
New York, New York	343	553
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	268	431
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	92	148
Richmond, Virginia	220	355
Washington, DC	159	256

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.6
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	92.0
Summer Temperature (°F)	67.5
Winter Temperature (°F)	28.3
Days Below Freezing	137.6
Land Area (square miles)	656.8
Water Area (square miles)	7.6
Elevation (feet)	960 to 3,360

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Garrett County Households	Garrett County Population	Western Maryland*	Maryland
2000	11,476	29,846	236,699	5,296,486
2010	12,057	30,097	252,614	5,773,552
2020**	12,383	30,300	261,250	6,141,900

*Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2010): Mountain Lake Park 2,092; Oakland 1,925; Grantsville 766; Loch Lynn Heights 552; Finzel 547

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2016)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,460	5.0
5 - 19	4,746	16.1
20 - 44	8,256	28.1
45 - 64	8,721	29.6
65 and over	6,242	21.2
Total	29,425	100.0
Median age		45.6 years

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

Civilian Labor Force (2016 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	15,533	97,162
Employment	14,678	91,007
Unemployment	855	6,155
Unemployment rate	5.5%	6.3%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2012-2016)	Number	Percent
	3,405	24.7%

Employment in selected occupations (2012-2016)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,475	32.0%
Service	2,665	19.0%
Sales and office	2,908	20.8%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,786	12.8%

* Garrett and Allegany counties, MD, Preston Co., WV and Somerset Co., PA

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2017)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Garrett Regional Medical Center	Medical services	455
Beitzel/Pillar	Industrial construction/mining support technologies	310
Garrett College	Higher education	225
EPT Ski Properties / Wisp Resort*	Four-season resort	220
Goodwill Retirement Community	Nursing care	190
ClosetMaid	Storage, shelving products	180
First United	Banking, insurance services	180
Garrett County Community Action Committee	Social advocacy	180
Arrowhead	Cinema, deli, restaurant	155
Appalachian Parent Assoc.	Services for the disabled	150
Pine Lodge Steakhouse/Smiley's Funzone	Restaurants	150
Dennett Road Manor	Nursing care	145
Railey Mtn. Lake Vacations	Real estate management	130
Oakland Nurs. & Rehab. Ctr.	Nursing care	115
Garrett Container Systems	Alum. shipping containers	110
Wood Products	Hardwood lumber	100
Total Biz Fulfillment	Order fulfillment	95
Phenix Technologies	High voltage testing equip.	95
Savage Services	Freight trucking	80
GCC Technologies	Technology services	75

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

* Employment increases to 600 during winter ski season

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2016, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	14	65	0.6	\$1,043
State government	6	242	2.1	827
Local government	46	1,354	11.6	779
Private sector	856	10,053	85.8	608
Natural resources and mining	36	364	3.1	1,147
Construction	1,668	922	7.9	763
Manufacturing	46	986	8.4	718
Trade, transportation and utilities	211	2,552	21.8	557
Information	13	179	1.5	568
Financial activities	56	492	4.2	607
Professional and business services	1,025	782	6.7	748
Education and health services	72	1,759	15.0	673
Leisure and hospitality	94	1,694	14.5	299
Other services	60	324	2.8	570
Total	922	11,714	100.0	634

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2016)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$27.35	\$19.40	\$35.56
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	16.86	11.08	20.47
Computer systems analysts	39.43	25.72	47.60
Customer service representatives	13.63	10.33	16.26
Electrical engineers	42.79	27.92	51.50
Electronics engineering technicians	26.88	20.95	33.49
Extruding and forming machine operators	9.70	8.96	14.56
Freight, stock and material movers hand	14.27	10.48	16.97
Industrial truck operators	17.89	13.20	21.71
Inspectors, testers, sorters	15.51	12.26	20.61
Machinists	21.75	16.18	24.97
Maintenance workers, machinery	20.29	15.06	23.60
Network support specialists	20.89	12.86	29.88
Secretaries	16.72	11.18	19.71
Shipping/receiving clerks	16.63	11.66	19.83
Team assemblers	13.18	10.27	15.37

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive in Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2012-2016)

High school graduate or higher	88.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	19.2%

Public Schools

Number: 7 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 2 high
Enrollment: 3,811 (Sept. 2017)
Cost per pupil: \$14,834 (2014-2015)
Students per teacher: 12.9 (Oct. 2016)
High school career / tech enrollment: 985 (2017)
High school graduates: 275 (July 2016)

Nonpublic Schools

Number: 8 (Sept. 2016)

Higher Education	Enrollment ('17)	Degrees ('16)
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2-year institution

Garrett College	673	150
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Frostburg State University, a University System of Maryland institution with an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of over 5,300 students, is located in adjacent Allegany County.

TAX RATES⁹

	Garrett Co.	Maryland
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Corporate Income Tax (2018)

Base – federal taxable income	none	8.25%
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Personal Income Tax (2018)

Base – federal adjusted gross income	2.65%	2.0%-5.75%*
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*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000

Sales & Use Tax (2018)

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%
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Real Property Tax (FY 18)

Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value	\$0.99	\$0.112
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In an incorporated area, the county rate may vary and a municipal rate will also apply

Business Personal Property Tax (FY 18)

No county personal property tax on ordinary business property	none	none
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\$2.475/\$100 applicable to operating property of utilities and non-utility electric generators

In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply; municipal exemptions may be available

Major Tax Credits Available

Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Arts & Entertainment District, Garrett County Business Real Property Tax Credit, Garrett County GIEC Real Property Tax Credit

INCOME³ (2012-2016)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Garrett Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	26.1	14.9	22.3
\$25,000 - \$49,999	28.0	17.6	23.1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.5	16.9	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.6	13.3	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	11.5	18.4	13.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.6	9.2	5.4
\$200,000 and over	2.6	9.7	5.7
Median household	\$46,277	\$76,067	\$55,322
Average household	\$61,003	\$100,071	\$77,866
Per capita	\$25,096	\$37,756	\$29,829
Total income (millions)	\$710	\$217,904	\$9,166,046

HOUSING^{2,3,10}

Occupied Units (2012-2016)	11,644 (77.5% owner occupied)
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Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2016)	430	\$226,250
All multiple-listed properties (2017)*	496	\$264,979

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Six industrial/business parks, with access to major highways and underlying infrastructure in place, are strategically located throughout Garrett County. Acreage is still available in the 240-acre **Keysers Ridge Business Park** off I-68, and the 135-acre **McHenry Business Park**, a technology-based business park located adjacent to the Garrett County Airport. One lot (4.2 acres) is still available in the **Southern Garrett Business & Technology Park** located along MD Route 135 in Oakland.

Located on the Garrett College campus, the **Garrett Information Enterprise Center** offers incubator and coworking space to new and expanding technology-based businesses and is the perfect environment for facilitating the successful development of technology-intensive companies.

Business Incubator

Garrett Information Enterprise Center, McHenry

Market Profile Data (2017)	Low	High	Average
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Land – cost per acre

Industrial	\$16,000	\$50,000	\$30,000
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Rental Rates – per square foot

Warehouse / Industrial	\$3.25	\$10.00	\$8.00
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Flex / R&D / Technology	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$14.00
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TRANSPORTATION

Highways: MD Routes 135 and 495; U.S. Routes 40, 50 and 219; Interstate-68; easy access to Interstates 70, 79 and 81

Rail: CSX Transportation

Truck: 131 local and long-distance trucking establishments in Western Maryland; major companies include Pitt Ohio Express, Overnite Transportation Company, Larry Wagner Trucking, Jones Trucking, Marple Trucking, and R&R Trucking

Water: Served by the Port of Baltimore, a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; closest Atlantic port to major midwestern population and manufacturing centers; port for Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise Lines; seven public terminals, including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility and the Cruise Maryland Terminal; 190 miles from Oakland

Air: Charter service at Garrett County Airport near Deep Creek Lake; runway open 24/7; 5000' runway with parallel taxiway; new terminal building is handicap-accessible and includes a pilots' lounge, snack room, and lobby area; scheduled services at Morgantown, West Virginia (40 miles from Oakland) and Pittsburgh International Airport (100 miles from Oakland)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks: Big Run State Park, Casselman River Bridge State Park, Deep Creek Lake State Park, Garrett State Forest, Herrington Manor State Park, Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area, New Germany State Park, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Savage River State Forest, Swallow Falls State Park

Recreation and Leisure: Agri-tourism, boating, sailing, water skiing, snow tubing, hunting, swimming, golfing, camping, snowmobiling, dog sledding/carting, carriage/sleigh rides

Sports and Athletics: Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fly fishing, kayaking, caving, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, tennis

Attractions: Adventure Sports Center, Deep Creek Lake, Mountain Fresh Farmers' Markets, Wisp Resort & Mountain Coaster, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Oakland's B & O Railroad Station, new St. John's Rock Off-road Vehicle Trail and Campground

Arts & Entertainment Districts: Grantsville, Oakland

Events: Autumn Glory Festival, McHenry Highland Festival, Art & Wine Festival, Garrett County Agricultural Fair, Yough River Festival, Chautauqua, Little Yough Summer Festival, Garrett Lakes Arts Festival Annual Performing Arts Series

UTILITIES

Electricity: Potomac Edison and Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC); customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

Gas: Natural gas is supplied by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.; customers may choose their gas supplier

Water: Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville and Oakland; county maintains water systems in many other towns/areas

Sewer: Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville, Loch Lynn Heights, Mt. Lake Park and Oakland; county maintains systems in many other towns/areas

Telecommunications: Verizon Maryland is the largest landline provider offering services such as local, Frame Relay, SMDS, ISDN, and DSL (in some areas); AT&T and US Cellular are the largest mobile wireless providers; Comcast, Shentel, ProCom, QCol, and NeuBeam provide broadband internet and VoIP service

GOVERNMENT¹¹

County Seat: Oakland

Government: Three commissioners elected for four-year terms; commissioner form of government limits county legislative power to areas authorized by the General Assembly
Paul C. Edwards, Chair, Board of County Commissioners
301.334.8970

Kevin G. Null, County Administrator 301.334.8970

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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, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Garrett County Department of Economic Development
- 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