

# Brief Economic Facts

## HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Howard County is one of the nation's premier communities, centrally located between two of the largest metropolitan areas, Washington D.C. and Baltimore. With over 310,000 residents and one of the nation's most educated workforces, the county is nationally recognized as one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. It is at the center of the growing cyber security industry due to proximity to Fort George Meade, U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency. The county is also home to major



research institutions such as Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and companies like W.R. Grace, Accuvant Federal Solutions, Tenable Network Security, and The Coastal Companies.

Howard County offers a blend of pastoral farms, historic towns, suburban communities, urban amenities and diversity. The county is also widely recognized for its friendly business climate. Corporate citizens range from defense contractors and biotech companies to information technology, telecom, multi-national corporations, wholesale distributors, 3D printing

and additive manufacturing. Howard County's 9,800 businesses employ 147,400 workers. Major private sector employers include Dreyer's Ice Cream, Leidos, Lorien Health Systems, Northrop Grumman, and Verizon Wireless. Business parks are strategically located along the I-95 corridor and provide easy access to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Port of Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Baltimore. Howard County is also home to the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship, one of the state's leading incubators.

### LOCATION

Driving distance from Ellicott City:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	648	1,043
Baltimore, Maryland	11	18
Boston, Massachusetts	408	656
Chicago, Illinois	678	1,091
New York, New York	197	317
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	108	173
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	215	345
Richmond, Virginia	136	218
Washington, DC	31	49

### CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.5
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	20.6
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.2
Winter Temperature (°F)	35.0
Days Below Freezing	106.3
Land Area (square miles)	251.0
Water Area (square miles)	2.5
Elevation (feet)	20 to 873 (average 300 to 700)

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

	Howard County Households	Howard County Population	Baltimore Metro*	Maryland
2000	90,043	247,842	2,552,994	5,296,486
2010	104,749	287,085	2,710,489	5,773,552
2020**	123,325	332,250	2,881,500	6,224,550

\*Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne's counties

\*\*Projections

Selected places population (2010); Columbia 99,615; Ellicott City 65,834; Scaggsville 24,333; Ilchester 23,476; Elkridge 15,593; Savage 7,054

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2015)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	18,704	6.0
5 - 19	65,180	20.8
20 - 44	100,964	32.2
45 - 64	88,886	28.4
65 and over	39,680	12.7
Total	313,414	100.0
Median age		38.6 years

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

Civilian Labor Force (2015 avg.)	Labor Mkt.	
	County	Area*
Total civilian labor force	175,167	2,349,124
Employment	168,295	2,229,896
Unemployment	6,872	119,228
Unemployment rate	3.9%	5.1%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2010-2014)	Number	Percent
	94,889	59.7%

### Employment in selected occupations (2010-2014)

Occupation	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	96,754	60.2%
Service	17,435	10.8%
Sales and office	32,118	20.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	7,100	4.4%

\* Howard, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery and Prince George's, counties and Baltimore City

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2015)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory	R&D systems engineering	5,000
Lorien Health Systems	Nursing care	2,000
Howard County Gen. Hosp.	Medical services	1,827
Howard Community Coll.	Higher education	1,438
Verizon	Telecommunications	1,346
Leidos	Engineering services	1,195
MICROS Systems	HQ / software devt.	1,052
Coastal Sunbelt Produce	Produce processing	1,050
Giant Food	Groceries	1,050
Wells Fargo	Securities administration	842
Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream	Frozen desserts	735
Wegmans Food Markets	Groceries	700
Sysco Food Services	Food products distribution	680
Maxim Healthcare Services	Medical staffing, wellness services	675
The Columbia Association	Nonprofit civic org.	601
Northrop Grumman	Engineering services	525
Ascend One	HQ / consumer debt mgmt.	511
Enterprise Community Partners	HQ / community development	505
Quality Software Services	Healthcare informatics	500
Target	Consumer goods	500
W. R. Grace & Co.	HQ / chemical R&D	500
Walmart	Consumer goods	500
Humanim	Services for the disabled	458
McDonald's	Restaurants	450

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

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2015, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	27	626	0.4	\$1,561
State government	14	1,850	1.1	1,035
Local government	96	14,723	8.9	1,083
Private sector	9,796	147,400	89.6	1,245
Natural resources and mining	24	300	0.2	743
Construction	879	10,257	6.2	1,259
Manufacturing	226	7,680	4.7	1,392
Trade, transportation and utilities	1,819	33,957	20.6	1,078
Information	156	3,353	2.0	1,812
Financial activities	937	9,456	5.7	1,624
Professional and business services	2,924	44,218	26.9	1,704
Education and health services	1,221	18,514	11.2	931
Leisure and hospitality	742	15,150	9.2	386
Other services	865	4,515	2.7	719
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,933</b>	<b>164,599</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,229</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2015)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$33.50	\$23.25	\$42.25
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	21.50	15.00	25.75
Computer systems analysts	46.50	28.75	59.75
Computer user support specialists	22.50	19.00	30.50
Customer service representatives	18.25	12.50	24.00
Electrical engineers	40.25	29.25	50.00
Electronics engineering technicians	25.00	17.75	29.00
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	14.00	9.75	17.25
Industrial truck operators	18.25	12.25	22.00
Inspectors, testers, sorters	23.75	15.50	28.00
Machinists	22.75	17.50	26.25
Network administrators	46.25	31.75	57.25
Packaging and filling machine operators	16.75	11.50	22.50
Secretaries	17.75	11.50	21.00
Shipping/receiving clerks	18.00	12.00	20.50
Team assemblers	13.00	9.50	16.25
Telemarketers	20.50	9.50	22.25

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive in Carroll and Howard counties and may vary by industry, employer and locality

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

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2010-2014)

High school graduate or higher	95.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	60.4%

### Public Schools

Number: 41 elementary; 20 middle/combined; 12 high
Enrollment: 54,870 (Sept. 2015)
Cost per pupil: \$15,058 (2013-2014)
Students per teacher: 13.2 (Oct. 2015)
High school career / tech enrollment: 5,088 (2015)
High school graduates: 3,980 (July 2015)

### Nonpublic Schools

Number: 87 (Sept. 2015)
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Higher Education (2015)	Enrollment	Degrees
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### 2-year institution

Howard Community College	9,935	1,165
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### 4-year institutions

Lincoln College of Technology	555	63
Maryland University of Integrative Health	1,077	173

Other universities offering programs in the county include: Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, University of Phoenix, and University of Maryland University College.

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

	Howard Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2016)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2016)</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 (2016)</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 17)</b>	\$1.014	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
No municipal taxes		
<b>Business Personal Property Tax (FY 17)</b>	\$2.535	none
Rate per \$100 of depreciated value		
Exempt – manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies; manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory		

### Major Tax Credits Available

Job Creation, R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2010-2014)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Howard Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	7.5	15.4	23.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	11.0	17.9	23.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13.2	17.2	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.0	13.4	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	22.4	18.1	13.0
\$150,000 - \$199,999	14.6	8.9	5.1
\$200,000 and over	18.3	9.1	5.0
Median household	\$110,133	\$74,149	\$53,482
Average household	\$132,666	\$97,135	\$74,596
Per capita	\$48,243	\$36,670	\$28,555
Total income (millions)	\$14,264	\$209,422	\$8,668,940

## HOUSING<sup>2,3,10</sup>

Occupied Units (2010-2014) 107,516 (73.3% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions (2015)	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions	4,297	\$432,376
All multiple-listed properties*	3,927	\$395,074

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

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

**Downtown Columbia**, recently completed projects include: the Metropolitan, the Columbia Mall expansion, Ten Three Seventy building, lakefront restaurants, and Whole Foods/Haven on the Lake building. The approved plan for the Crescent neighborhood includes 313,500 sf of retail, 1.475 million sf of office, 225,000 sf of cultural space, 250 hotel rooms and 2,300 residential units on 37 acres. The first stage of development includes two office buildings totaling 333,500 sf and 20,000 sf of terraced amenity space, as well as a parking deck. Costello Construction's new building, Little Patuxent Square, will feature 160 luxury apartment units and 135,000 sf of office space.

**Maple Lawn**, a 506-acre mixed-use development, offers more than 1.3 million sf of office space, 180,000 sf of neighborhood oriented retail, and more than 1,300 residential units. The business district features numerous Class A office buildings centrally located between Washington and Baltimore at the intersection of U.S. Route 29 and MD Route 216.

### Business Incubator

Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship, Columbia

Market Profile Data (2015)	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$200,000
Office	\$400,000	\$600,000	\$500,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$4.50	\$6.75	\$5.74
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$5.75	\$26.00	\$12.93
Class A Office	\$15.00	\$32.00	\$26.05

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** I-70, I-95, U.S. 1, U.S. 29, U.S. 40, MD 32, MD 100 and MD 175

**Public Transit:** Four MARC commuter train stations on Camden line between Baltimore and Washington; MTA bus service to Baltimore and Washington; regional and local public and private bus service within the county

**Rail:** CSX Transportation; Amtrak passenger service along northeast/southeast corridor available nearby (20-minute drive to Baltimore station)

**Truck:** 98 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located in the county

**Water:** 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; one of only three ports on the East Coast able to accommodate super post-Panamax ships

**Air:** Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), 10 miles east of Howard County, provides service with 36 passenger and cargo carriers, longest runway 10500'; over 660 avg. daily passenger flights and 10 cargo flights; Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports are 30 and 50 miles to the south; together with BWI, they provide over 15,000 commercial flights weekly

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

**Parks:** County parks offer trails for biking, horseback riding, skating, hiking, bird watching and nature walks; nearby Patapsco State Park and Patuxent River State Park provide for camping, canoeing and fishing; 5,300 acres of permanent open space, 93 miles of pathways, more than 170 tot lots, 5 lakes and several parks are located in Columbia

**Recreation:** Facilities managed by the Columbia Association include an art center, teen center, three fitness clubs, indoor ice rink, two golf courses, roller rink, three outdoor tennis clubs, 22 outdoor pools, mini water park and swim center

**Golf:** Seven world-class golf courses with 162 holes

**Attractions:** Sightseeing and antique shopping at the renovated mill towns of Savage Mill and Ellicott City; B&O Railroad Station Museum and Firehouse Museum in Ellicott City; Howard County Center for the Arts; African Art Museum of Maryland; Robinson Nature Center; numerous farms offering visitors and residents a taste of Howard County's agricultural heritage

**Events:** Concerts at the 14,200 seat Merriweather Post Pavilion; performances at local dinner theaters and colleges

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** BGE (Baltimore Gas and Electric), and Allegheny Power System; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

**Gas:** Natural gas supplied by BGE; customers may choose their gas supplier

**Water:** Howard County distributes water purchased from Baltimore City and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

**Sewer:** Baltimore City system and Savage Treatment Plant (Howard County facility for the Patuxent drainage area)

**Telecommunications:** Primary local carrier is Verizon Maryland; Verizon and other major telecommunications providers offer state-of-the-art services to businesses in Howard County

## GOVERNMENT<sup>11</sup>

**County Seat:** Ellicott City

**Government:** County executive and five member county council elected for four-year terms; charter form of government allows for the separation of the executive from the legislative branch; lawmaking powers are vested in an elected legislative body

Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive 410.313.3932

Calvin B. Ball, Chair, County Council 410.313.2001

**Website:** [www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov)

**County Bond Rating:** AAA (S&P); Aaa (Moody's); AAA (Fitch)

**Howard County Economic Development Authority**

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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 Howard County Economic Development Authority
- 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