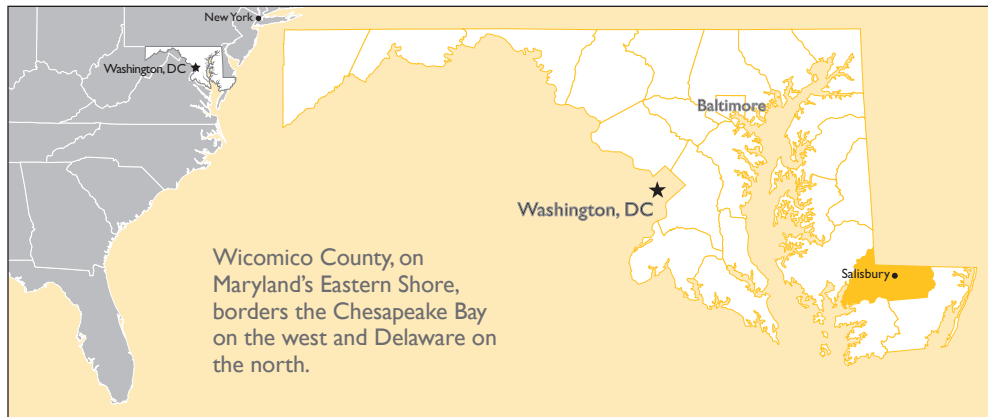


# Brief Economic Facts

## WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

With its strategic location along the East Coast and situated at the crossroads of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, Wicomico County serves as a hub for commerce, industry, health care, education and transportation. Situated halfway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, cultural, recreational and civic amenities add to the lure of Wicomico, offering citizens a lifestyle second to none.

Wicomico is the number two agricultural producing county in Maryland, and ranks third in broiler chicken production. Popular crops include corn, soybeans, wheat and vegetables. In addition to agriculture and poultry, health care, educational sectors and a diverse industrial base offer stability and a firm foundation for Wicomico's economy. Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceuticals recently announced the addition of 200 new jobs associated with the expansion of its Salisbury headquarters and manufacturing facility.



### LOCATION

Driving distance from Salisbury:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	692	1,114
Baltimore, Maryland	102	165
Boston, Massachusetts	430	692
Chicago, Illinois	793	1,276
New York, New York	219	353
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	131	210
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	324	521
Richmond, Virginia	212	341
Washington, DC	114	183

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

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	45.2
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	6.0
Summer Temperature (°F)	76.1
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.7
Days Below Freezing	76.0
Land Area (square miles)	379.1
Water Area (square miles)	14.4
Shoreline (miles)	361
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 73

Wicomico's 2,500 businesses employ 37,100 workers; over 45 of these businesses have 100 or more workers. Major employers are Chesapeake Shipbuilding, Delmarva Power, Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceuticals, K&L Microwave, MaTech, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Perdue Farms, Salisbury University and Tishcon.

Wicomico County has a 5,223-acre State Enterprise Zones in Salisbury and a 129-acre zone in Fruitland.

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

	Wicomico County		Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
	Households	Population		
2000	32,218	84,644	155,934	5,296,486
2010	37,220	98,733	176,657	5,773,552
2020**	41,725	109,200	193,050	6,224,550

\*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

\*\*Projections

Selected places population (2010): Salisbury 30,343; Fruitland 4,866; Delmar 3,003; Pittsville 1,417; Hebron 1,084

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2016)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	6,155	6.0
5 - 19	21,646	21.1
20 - 44	33,866	33.0
45 - 64	25,421	24.8
65 and over	15,489	15.1
Total	102,577	100.0
Median age		35.7 years

# Brief Economic Facts // WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2016 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	50,653	185,332
Employment	47,621	175,000
Unemployment	3,032	10,332
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.6%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2011-2015)	Number	Percent
	11,599	24.7%

Employment in selected occupations (2011-2015)	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	16,173	33.7%
Service	9,963	20.8%
Sales and office	11,522	24.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	5,873	12.2%

\*Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester counties, MD and Sussex County, DE

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2016)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Peninsula Regional Medical Center	Medical services	2,900
Salisbury University	Higher education	1,790
Perdue Farms	HQ / poultry processing	1,500
Wor-Wic Community College	Higher education	450
Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceutical	Generic pharmaceuticals	340
Genesis HealthCare / Salisbury Rehabilitation and Nursing Center	Nursing care	340
Delmarva Power	Energy products and services	300
K&L Microwave	Electronics assembly	265
Dove Pointe	Services for the disabled	250
SHORE UP!	Social services	250
Three Lower Counties	Social services	250
BBSI	Staffing services	250
Piedmont / American Airlines	HQ / airline	220
Pepsi-Cola Bottling	Beverages	200
Delaware Elevator	HQ / elevator installation	170
Verizon	Telecommunications	160
MaTech	Precision machining	150

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

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2016, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	27	280	0.6	\$1,219
State government	13	2,710	6.0	853
Local government	48	4,944	11.0	780
Private sector	2,505	37,099	82.4	807
Natural resources and mining	27	275	0.6	655
Construction	262	2,000	4.4	894
Manufacturing	99	3,014	6.7	854
Trade, transportation and utilities	621	9,651	21.4	712
Information	22	473	1.1	1,146
Financial activities	244	1,811	4.0	967
Professional and business services	430	4,285	9.5	1,222
Education and health services	318	9,175	20.4	950
Leisure and hospitality	242	4,701	10.4	299
Other services	240	1,714	3.8	517
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>45,033</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>810</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2016)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$28.95	\$20.83	\$35.95
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	16.08	11.17	19.34
Computer user support specialists	20.27	13.18	24.62
Customer service representatives	13.62	9.98	17.80
Electronics engineering technicians	23.60	17.53	31.06
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	13.26	9.86	17.50
Industrial truck operators	15.19	13.07	18.47
Inspectors, testers, sorters	13.65	9.48	18.14
Maintenance and repair workers, general	14.58	10.36	19.07
Network administrators	34.63	26.79	39.85
Packaging and filling machine operators	13.33	11.79	14.70
Packers and packagers, hand	9.77	8.80	10.66
Secretaries	15.56	11.19	18.28
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.87	10.36	14.63
Team assemblers	14.06	10.81	17.39
Telemarketers	14.59	12.10	21.59

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 // WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2011-2015)

High school graduate or higher	87.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.5%

### Public Schools

Number: 15 elementary; 5 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 14,889 (Sept. 2016)
Cost per pupil: \$13,094 (2014-2015)
Students per teacher: 13.1 (Oct. 2016)
High school career / tech enrollment: 1,103 (2016)
High school graduates: 860 (July 2016)

### Nonpublic Schools

Number: 16 (Sept. 2016)
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Higher Education (2016)	Enrollment	Degrees
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### 2-year institution

Wor-Wic Community College	3,098	404
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### 4-year institution

Salisbury University	8,748	2,311
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The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is located in neighboring Somerset County, and the recently accredited University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science is based in Dorchester County.

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

	Wicomico Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2017)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2017)</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 (2017)</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 18)</b>	\$0.9398	\$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 18)</b>	\$2.1715	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 will also apply; municipal exemptions may be available		
<b>Major Tax Credits Available</b>		
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Arts & Entertainment District		

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2011-2015)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Wicomico Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	23.7	15.3	23.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	23.8	17.9	23.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.8	17.1	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.3	13.4	12.1
\$100,000 - \$149,999	13.1	18.2	13.1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	4.1	9.0	5.1
\$200,000 and over	3.2	9.2	5.3
Median household	\$52,278	\$74,551	\$53,889
Average household	\$69,010	\$97,801	\$75,558
Per capita	\$26,241	\$36,897	\$28,930
Total income (millions)	\$2,553	\$211,875	\$8,834,710

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

Occupied Units (2011-2015) 36,989 (62.3% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2015)	820	\$160,000
All multiple-listed properties (2016)*	1,020	\$140,596

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

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

Industrial sites in the county range from one to 300 acres.

**Northwood Industrial Park** in the Salisbury area has a total of 350 acres with 50 acres available.

**Air Business Center (ABC)** has sites with direct runway access for air-related business uses. Long-term land leases are available.

**Fruitland Industrial Park** has a total of 110 acres with municipal services and rail access.

**Westwood Commerce Park**, at the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and the Salisbury Bypass, offers 260 acres served by Salisbury city water and sewer, as well as natural gas and high-speed voice and data lines.

**Salisbury Airport Incubator** provides below market lease rates with flexible terms to technology-oriented firms.

### Business Incubator

Salisbury Airport Incubator, Salisbury

Market Profile Data (2016)	Low	High	Average
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### Land – cost per acre

Industrial	\$17,000	\$125,000	\$40,000
Office	\$22,000	\$250,000	\$60,000

### Rental Rates – per square foot

Warehouse / Industrial	\$2.00	\$7.00	\$4.50
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$5.00	\$14.00	\$9.50
Class A Office	\$6.50	\$15.00	\$11.00

# Brief Economic Facts // WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** U.S. 13 and U.S. 50

**Rail:** Norfolk Southern Railway

**Truck:** 66 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Lower Eastern Shore

**Water:** Wicomico River, 14 ft. channel at Salisbury; Port of Salisbury is the second largest in Maryland; also 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

**Air:** The Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, 4.5 miles east of Salisbury, offers runway lengths of 5000' and 6400', a full instrument landing service (ILS), aviation fuel, charter service, and an industrial park with runway access; commercial passenger service provided by USAirways Express to Philadelphia and Charlotte; airport is home to numerous corporate clients, a small business incubator and a FedEx distribution center; UPS has a regional distribution center in Salisbury

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

**Parks and Recreation:** Five state parks provide camping and natural beauty; other activities include swimming, fishing—including deep sea fishing—boating, golfing, skeet, trap and silhouette shooting, hiking, biking, canoeing, bird watching, and country and yacht club activities

**Sports:** Collegiate athletic events, tennis and professional golf tournaments; horse racing (trotting) at Ocean Downs; a Hunt Club/Pony Club; Wicomico County is home to the Delmarva Shorebirds, a Class A minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles

**Cultural:** Summer band, big band, and rock music concerts; national country western shows; the Salisbury Symphony; dinner theater plays; a Council of Arts serves the area, as does the largest civic center on the Delmarva Peninsula

**Arts & Entertainment District:** Salisbury

**Attractions:** Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, antique auto clubs and shows, and a first-class zoo

**Events:** Salisbury Festival, Pork in the Park, Autumn Wine Festival, Good Beer Festival celebrating craft beers, World Wildfowl Carving Show, and tours of historic homes

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** Delmarva Power and Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

**Gas:** Natural gas supplied by Chesapeake Utilities Corporation; customers may choose their gas supplier

**Water:** Municipal systems in Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, Pittsville, Salisbury, Sharptown and Willards

**Sewer:** Municipal systems in Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, Pittsville, Salisbury, Sharptown, Willards and Air Business Center

**Telecommunications:** Predominant local carrier - Verizon Maryland; long distance carriers - AT&T, Verizon, Sprint Nextel and others; AT&T, Verizon and Sprint Nextel PoPs are located in Salisbury

## GOVERNMENT<sup>11</sup>

**County Seat:** Salisbury

**Government:** County executive; seven council members (two elected at large and five from districts) 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

Robert L. Culver, Jr., County Executive 410.548.4801

John T. Cannon, President, County Council 410.548.4696

**Website:** [www.wicomicocounty.org](http://www.wicomicocounty.org)

**County Bond Rating:** AA+ (S&P); Aa2 (Moody's); AA (Fitch)

**Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Inc.**

David Ryan, Executive Director

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[www.swed.org](http://www.swed.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, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Inc.
- 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