

Maryland GDP by County, 2012 - 2015

County GDP data

For the first time, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has released prototype annual gross domestic product (GDP) data for every county in the U.S. for 2012 to 2015.¹ GDP is a measure of the market value of the goods and services produced in an area. BEA has produced GDP data at the state level since 1963 and for metropolitan areas since 2001. The county-level data offer opportunities for a deeper understanding of regional economic growth, size and scale, industrial composition, and other relevant analyses of local economic conditions. The current county-level data release provides statistics on categories for private goods-producing industries, private services-providing industries, and government and government enterprises. The data offer an opportunity to look into the economy of Maryland's counties for the first time, and to better understand the level and type of economic activity compared to other counties across the nation.

County GDP highlights

Maryland's largest county by GDP is Montgomery County, whose economy in 2015 amounted to over \$91.7 billion, or 25% of the State's total GDP. Montgomery's GDP is larger than the combined economies of the State's eighteen smallest counties and is the 31st largest among all 3,100 counties in the U.S. Baltimore County's GDP is second with \$49.4 billion, followed by Anne Arundel (\$44.2 billion) and Baltimore city (\$44.3 billion). As expected, counties with smallest economies are in Eastern Shore—of which Kent had the smallest GDP in 2015, amounting to \$722 million or about 0.2% of State's total GDP.

County GDP, 2015

County	GDP (\$, thousands)	Share of Maryland total
Maryland total	367,276,300	100%
Montgomery	91,701,930	25.0%
Baltimore	49,403,216	13.5%
Baltimore city	44,334,370	12.1%
Anne Arundel	44,269,812	12.1%
Prince George's	38,782,144	10.6%
Howard	23,643,566	6.4%
Frederick	13,041,702	3.6%
Harford	11,219,132	3.1%
Washington	7,803,358	2.1%
St. Mary's	6,727,895	1.8%
Carroll	\$5,361,162	1.5%
Charles	5,097,204	1.4%
Calvert	4,953,533	1.3%
Wicomico	4,472,605	1.2%
Cecil	3,507,348	1.0%

¹ Prototype Gross Domestic Product by County, 2012-2015, <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gdp-county>

County	GDP (\$, thousands)	Share of Maryland total
Allegany	2,335,707	0.6%
Worcester	2,321,014	0.6%
Talbot	2,180,842	0.6%
Queen Anne's	1,427,735	0.4%
Garrett	1,164,797	0.3%
Dorchester	1,075,926	0.3%
Caroline	978,973	0.3%
Somerset	749,854	0.2%
Kent	722,927	0.2%

Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

GDP per capita

GDP per capita is another common indicator used to compare economic conditions between jurisdictions and provides a general measure of average standards of living. In Maryland, Montgomery County has the highest GDP per capita of \$88,515 or 144% of State's per capita of \$61,331. Other counties with higher per capita GDP than the State average include Anne Arundel (\$78,768), Howard (\$75,769), and Baltimore city (\$71,890). On the other end, Somerset County has the lowest per capita GDP of \$29,177 or 48% of the State average, followed by Queen Anne's with \$29,347, and Allegany with \$31,948 or 52% of the State average.

County GDP per capita, 2015

	GDP per capita (\$)	Percent of Maryland Average
Maryland	61,331	100%
Allegany	31,948	52%
Anne Arundel	78,768	128%
Baltimore	59,597	97%
Baltimore city	71,890	117%
Calvert	54,645	89%
Caroline	29,756	49%
Carroll	31,997	52%
Cecil	34,251	56%
Charles	32,758	53%
Dorchester	33,362	54%
Frederick	53,101	87%
Garrett	39,351	64%
Harford	44,769	73%
Howard	75,769	124%
Kent	36,884	60%
Montgomery	88,515	144%
Prince George's	42,813	70%
Queen Anne's	29,347	48%
Somerset	29,177	48%

	GDP per capita (\$)	Percent of Maryland Average
St. Mary's	59,963	98%
Talbot	58,001	95%
Washington	52,022	85%
Wicomico	43,871	72%
Worcester	45,442	73%

Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

County GDP share by sector

Howard, Calvert, Talbot and Washington counties have the highest share of GDP in private industries. Maryland on average has 79.1% private sector GDP and 20.9% GDP from government and government enterprises. Dorchester County has the largest share of GDP from the goods-producing private sector, followed by Cecil, Caroline and Kent. The counties with the largest share of government GDP are St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Somerset and Prince George's. The BEA's measure of Government GDP includes federal, state, and local governments, including government enterprises such as the Postal service.

County GDP percent share by sector

	Private Goods producing	Private Service providing	Government	All Industries
Maryland	10.1%	69.0%	20.9%	100.0%
Howard	10.3%	82.4%	7.3%	100.0%
Calvert	7.9%	84.4%	7.8%	100.0%
Talbot	10.8%	81.2%	7.9%	100.0%
Washington	19.7%	70.8%	9.5%	100.0%
Garrett	19.3%	69.8%	10.8%	100.0%
Kent	24.0%	64.9%	11.1%	100.0%
Carroll	18.8%	68.7%	12.5%	100.0%
Worcester	10.5%	76.1%	13.4%	100.0%
Caroline	28.0%	58.4%	13.6%	100.0%
Wicomico	21.4%	65.0%	13.6%	100.0%
Baltimore	10.9%	75.1%	14.0%	100.0%
Queen Anne's	20.2%	65.1%	14.7%	100.0%
Frederick	17.4%	66.8%	15.7%	100.0%
Baltimore city	7.0%	75.7%	17.3%	100.0%
Montgomery	6.7%	75.2%	18.1%	100.0%
Dorchester	37.0%	44.5%	18.5%	100.0%
Cecil	30.8%	50.1%	19.0%	100.0%
Allegany	15.0%	62.5%	22.6%	100.0%
Charles	8.4%	67.6%	24.0%	100.0%
Harford	14.7%	52.4%	32.9%	100.0%
Prince George's	9.7%	56.3%	34.0%	100.0%
Somerset	16.8%	48.8%	34.3%	100.0%

	Private Goods producing	Private Service providing	Government	All Industries
Anne Arundel	9.6%	55.4%	35.0%	100.0%
St. Mary's	3.8%	49.9%	46.2%	100.0%

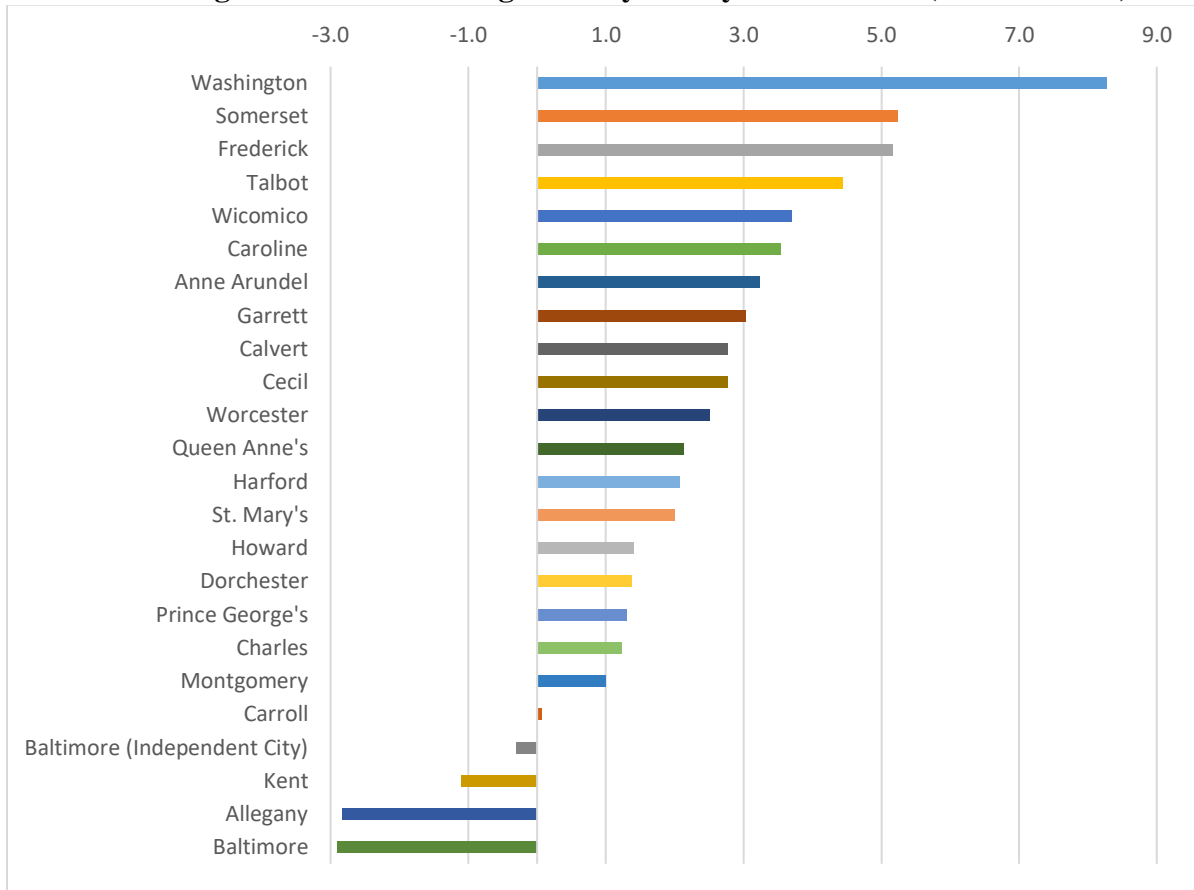
Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

GDP Growth

Annual real GDP growth for all counties grew by an annual average of 2.1% between from 2012 to 2015. The largest growth was in Washington County which grew an average of 8.3% per year during the period. The county's annual growth doubled between 2013 and 2014, from 5.1% to 10.7%. The growth resumed at 9% in 2015, an indication that the region was going through a three-year long economic expansion. Somerset County was second in growth rate during the three-year period.

Unlike Washington County, however, Somerset posed strong real GDP growth in 2013 (9.5%) and to a lesser degree in 2014 (7.8%), but then in 2015 the growth was negative at -1.6%. It is difficult to see what happened in 2015, especially that real GDP growth data for either private goods or services is not available for the county in 2015. Frederick County had a high performing economy during the period, growing on average 5.2%, with the largest annual growth coming in 2014 at 7.0%. Besides Somerset, three other Eastern Shore counties also grew at impressive rates during 2012-2015: Talbot at 4.4%, Wicomico at 3.7%, and Caroline at 3.5%. On the other end, the slowest-growing counties were: Baltimore (-2.9%), Allegany (-2.8%), Kent (-1.1%), and Baltimore City (-0.3%).

Average Annual real GDP growth by county: 2012—2015 (All industries)

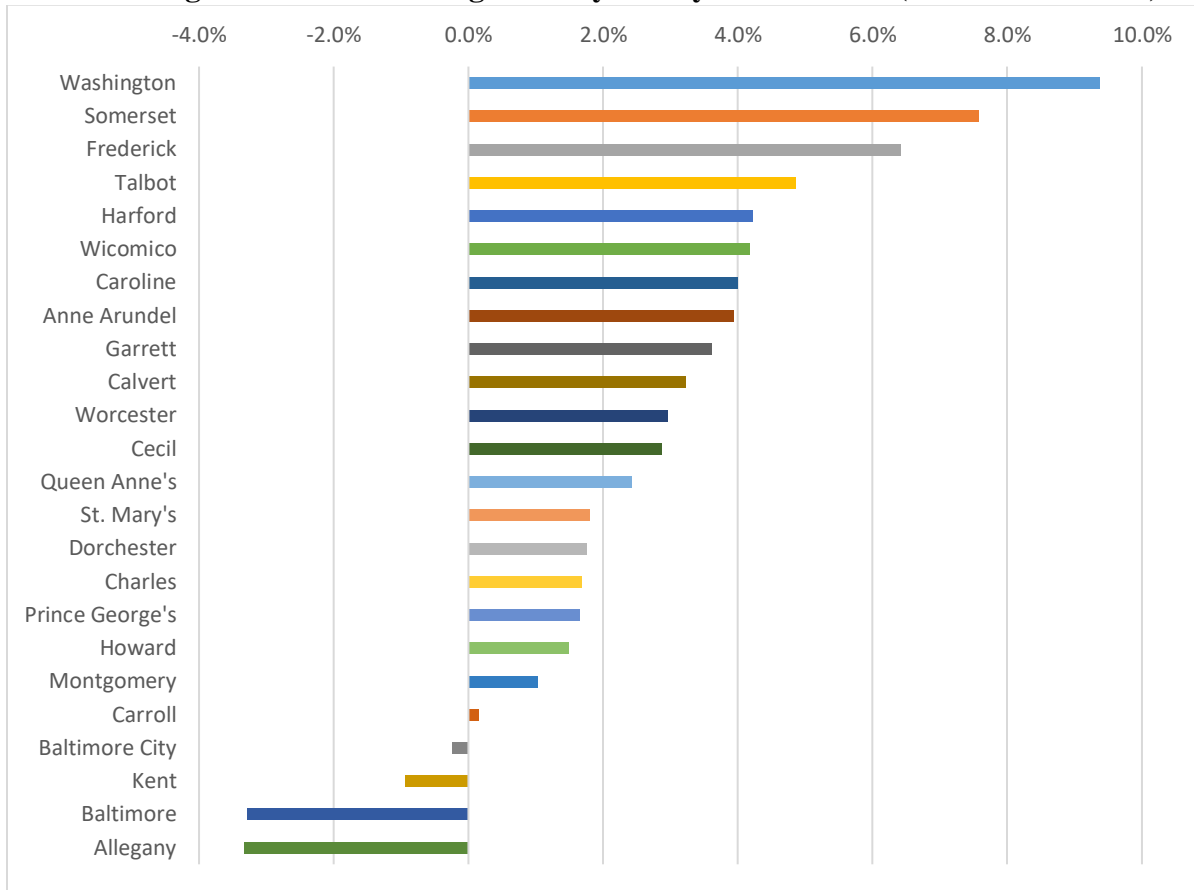


Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

Real GDP growth in private industries

With respect to combined growth in private industries (Goods-producing and Services-providing), average annual real GDP growth for all counties was 2.6%, compared to 2.1% for all industries. With one or two exceptions, the same counties that led the overall growth rate in all industries, also had a similar growth scale in private industries. Washington County had the highest average annual growth of 9.4% during 2012-2015, followed by Somerset with 7.6%, Frederick, 6.4% and Talbot with 4.9%. On the other end, Allegany and Baltimore counties had the slowest growth rates of -3.3% during the three-year period.

Average Annual real GDP growth by county: 2012—2015 (Private industries)



Source: U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

Next Steps

The next release of County GDP data is scheduled for December 12, 2019 and will include Local Area Gross Domestic Product through 2018. In the meantime, BEA is requesting feedback and comments on these prototype statistics to assist in improving their quality, reliability and usefulness. After receiving feedback on these statistics, BEA will finalize its plan for producing county GDP annually.