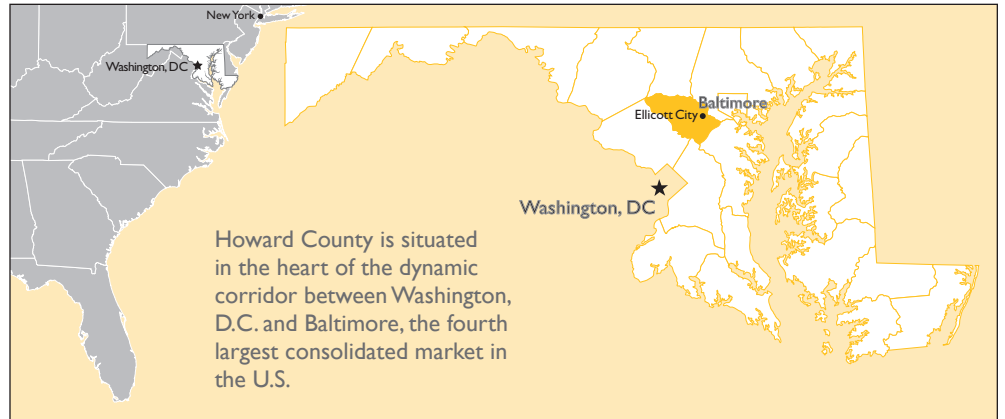


Brief Economic Facts

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 330,000 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, Merkle, Tenable Network Security, Medstar, and Maxim Healthcare Services.

Howard County's strategic location, strong employment base, enviable quality of life, and superior suburban setting position it as an excellent place to live and do business. The county's private sector industries generate \$28.3 billion in economic output. Corporate citizens range from health care organizations and biotech companies to information



technology, telecom, foreign-owned corporations, wholesale distributors, and additive manufacturers. Recent new and expanding businesses in the county include Cavalier Logistics, Amazon, FLIR, and KBR. 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 Innovation Center, one of the state's leading business incubators and innovation hubs.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Ellicott City:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	648	1043
Baltimore, Maryland	11	18
Boston, Massachusetts	408	656
Chicago, Illinois	678	1091
New York, New York	197	317
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	108	173
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	215	345
Richmond, Virginia	136	218
Washington, DC	31	49

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.5
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	20.6
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.2
Winter Temperature (°F)	35
Days Below Freezing	106.3
Land Area (square miles)	251
Water area (square miles)	2.5
Elevation (ft)	20 to 873 (average 300 to 700)

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Howard County Households	Howard County Population	Baltimore Metro*	Maryland
2010	104,750	287,085	2,594,194	5,773,552
2020	116,950	328,200	2,749,022	6,055,802
2030**	129,475	353,580	2,788,480	6,254,500

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

**Projections

Selected places population (2020); Columbia 104,681; Ellicott City 75,947; Scaggsville 9,217; Ilchester 26,824; Elkridge 25,171; Savage 7,542

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2024)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	17,958	5.3%
5 - 19 yrs	69,679	20.7%
20 - 44 yrs	107,815	32.1%
45 -64 yrs	89,601	26.6%
65 and over	51,275	15.2%
Total	336,328	100.0%
Median Age		39.8

Brief Economic Facts HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2024 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	183,066	1,469,863
Employment	178,267	1,424,805
Unemployment	4,799	41,046
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.8%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2020-2024)	Number	Percent
	77,892	44.4%

Employment in selected occupations (2020-2024)		
Management, business, science and arts	117,035	66.6%
Service	18,512	10.5%
Sales and office	23,595	13.4%
Production, transp. And material moving	9,540	5.4%

*Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2023-2024)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory	R&D systems engineering	8,000
Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center	Medical services	1,800
Verizon	Telecommunications	1,700
FreshPoint Sysco (was Coastal Sunbelt Produce)	Food products distribution	1,565
Howard Community College	Higher Education	1,400
The Columbia Association*	Non-profit Civic Organization	1,200
Lorien Health Systems	Nursing care	1,190
Giant Food	Groceries	1,170
Nestle Dreyer's Ice Cream	Frozen desserts	890
Wells Fargo	Financial services	810
Maxim Healthcare Services	HQ/Medical staffing, wellness	650
Oracle	Software development	650
W.R. Grace & Co.	HQ/Chemical R&D	600
Magellan Health Services	Behavioral health care management	590
Lower, LLC (lower.com)	Financial Transactions Processing, Reserve, and Clearinghouse Activities	550
Enterprise Community Partners	HQ/Community development	505
Fei.com	HQ/Custom Computer Programming Services	500
Tenable Network Security	HQ/Software development/Cyber	500

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

*Includes full- and part-time employment; additional 700 seasonal employment

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2024)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	52	2,184	1.3%	2,630
State Government	13	ND	ND	ND
Local Government	102	ND	ND	ND
Private Sector	11,175	154,553	89.1%	1,678
Natural resources and mining	42	343	0.2%	951
Construction	824	ND	ND	1,784
Manufacturing	248	6,904	4.0%	1,702
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	1,751	34,240	19.7%	1,389
Information	341	ND	ND	ND
Financial activities	998	8,133	4.7%	2,194
Professional and business services	3,573	48,060	27.7%	2,311
Education and health services	1,562	21,836	12.6%	1,174
Leisure and hospitality	847	15,992	9.2%	553
Other Services	972	ND	ND	ND
Total	11,342	173,483	100.0%	1,672

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2024)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants and Auditors	\$39.03	\$30.20	\$54.71
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$19.06	\$17.28	\$25.80
Bookkeeping Clerks	\$23.37	\$20.00	\$30.61
Computer Hardware Engineers	\$62.84	\$39.49	\$80.70
Network Support Specialists	\$46.00	\$32.19	\$75.28
Computer Systems Analysts	\$53.89	\$37.11	\$72.99
Computer User Support Specialists	\$26.06	\$22.62	\$39.45
Customer Service Representatives	\$18.91	\$16.12	\$24.60
Electrical Engineers	\$57.12	\$38.84	\$65.27
Electronics Engineers, not Computer	\$57.27	\$44.96	\$75.77
Industrial Truck Operators	\$19.18	\$18.72	\$25.57
Information Security Analysts	\$66.49	\$48.93	\$89.11
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	\$23.32	\$18.90	\$36.66
Laborers and Freight, Hand	\$16.94	\$15.92	\$21.97
Machinists	\$28.74	\$23.55	\$33.05
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	\$26.43	\$19.20	\$31.63
Mechanical Engineers	\$50.17	\$37.47	\$63.21
Packaging Operators and Tenders	\$17.33	\$17.31	\$23.47
Packers and Packagers, Hand	\$15.71	\$15.54	\$19.22
Secretaries and Admin Assistants	\$22.52	\$18.39	\$31.07
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	\$18.77	\$17.12	\$25.02
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$17.07	\$15.40	\$20.19

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

Brief Economic Facts HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2020-2024)

High school graduate or higher	95.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	64.5%

Public Schools

Number: 42 elementary; 20 middle; 13 high
Enrollment: 57,031
Cost per pupil: \$20,086
Students per teacher: 13.5
High school career / tech enrollment: 8,336
High school graduates: 4,377

Nonpublic Schools Number: 92

Higher Education (2025)

	Enrollment	Degrees
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2-year institution

Howard Community College	8,868	1,341
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4-year institutions

Maryland University of Integrative Health	0	195
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Other universities offering programs in the county include: Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, University of Phoenix, and University of Maryland Global Campus.

TAX RATES⁹

	Howard County	Maryland
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Corporate Income Tax

Base – federal taxable income

Howard County	none	8.25%
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Personal Income Tax

Base – federal adjusted gross income

*Graduated rate peaking at 6.65% on taxable income over \$1,300,000

Howard County	3.20%	2.0-6.5%
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Sales & Use Tax

Howard County: none
 Maryland: 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

Howard County	\$1.044	\$0.1120
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Real Property Tax

Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value

In addition to this rate, there are some miscellaneous taxes and/ or special taxing areas in the county; in an incorporated area, a municipal rate may also apply

Howard County	\$2.6100	none
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Business Personal Prop. Tax

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 may also apply; municipal exemptions may be available

Major Tax Credits Available

Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, New Jobs, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District

INCOME³ (2020-2024)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Howard Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	6.0	11.1	14.7
\$25,000 - \$49,999	7.6	12.4	16.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	8.6	12.8	15.5
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9.4	11.9	12.6
\$100,000 - \$149,999	18.4	18.9	17.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	15.2	12.5	9.6
\$200,000 and over	34.7	20.3	13.4
Median household	\$149,763	\$103,678	\$80,734
Average household	\$184,243	\$136,642	\$113,530
Per Capita	\$99,767	\$79,259	\$73,204
Total income (millions)	\$22,305	\$322,875	\$14,671,198

HOUSING^{3,10}

Occupied Units 2020-2024 121,065 (71.5% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions (2025)

Units Sold	3,398
Median Selling Price	\$619,995

*All multiple listed properties excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Downtown Columbia - Recently completed projects include: luxury apartments, office space, and restaurants near the mall and Merriweather Post Pavilion, a premier family-friendly entertainment venue, and a live music venue on the Lakefront. Planned 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. Little Patuxent Square features 160 luxury apartment units and 135,000 sf of office space.

Maple Lawn - 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.

Route 1 Corridor - 11-mile industrial corridor, home to 2,500 businesses and more than 50,000 employees.

Business Incubator - Maryland Innovation Center

Market Profile Data (2024)	Low	High	Average
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Class A Office	\$17.50	\$36.00	\$23.81
Industrial	\$5.00	\$19.50	\$13.54
Flex	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$13.69

Brief Economic Facts // HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

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

Mass 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: More than 100 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 four ports on the East Coast able to accommodate Neo-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'; 660 average 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 nationally renowned 19,300 seat Merriweather Post Pavilion; performances at local dinner theaters, live music venues 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 carriers are Verizon Maryland and Comcast; these and other major telecommunications providers offer state-of-the-art services to businesses in Howard County

GOVERNMENT

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

Calvin B. Ball, County Executive 410.313.2013

Deb Jung Chair, County Council 410.313.2001

Website: www.howardcountymd.gov

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

Howard County Economic Development Authority

Jennifer Jones, CEO

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www.hceda.org

Sources:

1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey

2 American Community Survey

3 U.S. Bureau of the Census

4 Maryland Department of Labor, 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