

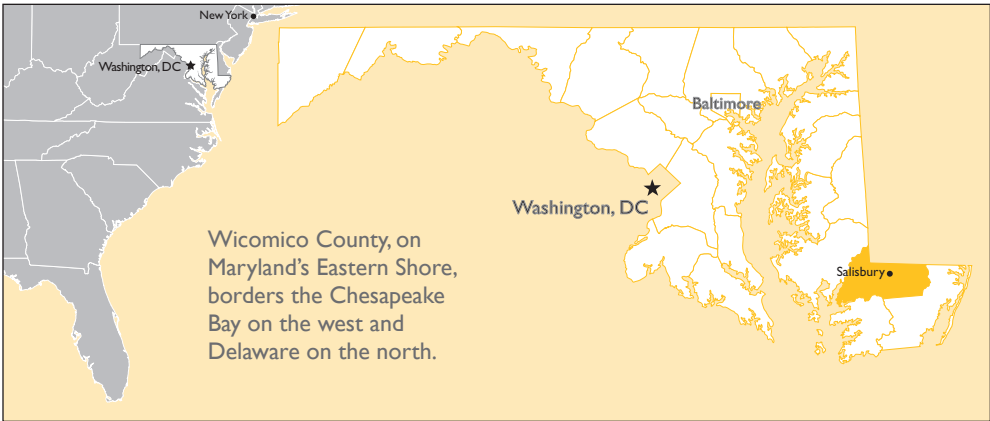
# Brief Economic Facts

## 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 one agricultural producing county in Maryland, and ranks fourth 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. Chesapeake Shipbuilding recently announced the addition of 100 new jobs associated with the expansion of its Salisbury shipyard.

Wicomico County's private sector industries generate \$4.7



billion in economic output. Major employers are Chesapeake Shipbuilding, Delmarva Power, Piedmont Airlines, K&L Microwave, Tidal Health, Perdue Farms, Salisbury University and Tishcon.

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

### 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
Pittsburg, 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
Summer Temperature (°F)	76.1
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.7
Days Below Freezing	76
Land Area (square miles)	379.1
Water area (square miles)	14.4
Shoreline (miles)	361
Elevation (ft)	sea level to 73

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

	Wicomico County Households	Wicomico County Population	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2010	37,225	98,733	197,980	5,773,552
2020	39,075	103,990	213,699	6,055,802
2030**	43,925	111,220	223,470	6,254,500

\*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties  
\*\*Projections  
Selected places population (2020): Salisbury 33,050; Fruitland 5,534; Delmar 3,891; Pittsville 1,618; Hebron 1,099

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2023)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	6,261	6.0%
5 - 19 yrs	21,840	21.0%
20 - 44 yrs	34,262	32.9%
45 - 64 yrs	24,886	23.9%
65 and over	16,868	16.2%
Total	104,117	100.0%
Median Age		36.2Years

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

Civilian Labor Force (2023 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	52,107	230,339
Employment	50,783	224,820
Unemployment	1,324	5,519
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.4%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2019-2023)	Number 8,499	Percent 16.8%

### Employment in selected occupations (2019-2023)

Management, business, science and arts	18,241	35.4%
Service	11,172	21.7%
Sales and office	10,186	19.8%
Production, transp. and material moving	7,387	14.3%

\*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2023-2024)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Tidal Health	Medical services	3300
Salisbury University	Higher education	1800
Perdue Farms	HQ / poultry processing	1600
Walmart / Sam's Club	Consumer goods	850
Wor-Wic Community College	Higher education	400
Food Lion	Groceries	379
Genesis HealthCare / Salisbury Rehabilitation and Nursing Center	Nursing care	340
SHORE UP!	Community development & social services	300
Delmarva Power	Energy products & services	300
Pohanka of Salisbury	Car dealers	270
Bosco's	Consumer goods	253
K&L Microwave	Electronics assembly	250
Dove Pointe	Services for persons with disabilities	250
Piedmont Airlines / American Airlines	HQ / airline	250
Three Lower Counties Community	Social Services	246
Credit Plus	Credit reporting services	220
Deer's Head Hospital Center	Medical services	211
Harkins Concrete Construction	Construction	200
Tishcon	Vitamins	180

Excludes post offices, state and local governments, national retail and national foodservice

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2023)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	27	283	0.6%	\$1,333
State Government	13	2,621	5.8%	1,118
Local Government	47	5,269	11.6%	989
Private Sector	2,493	37,335	82.0%	1,049
Natural resources and mining	31	299	0.7%	1,071
Construction	261	2,317	5.1%	1,148
Manufacturing	86	2,867	6.3%	1,034
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	567	9,408	20.7%	932
Information	27	368	0.8%	1,244
Financial activities	275	1,437	3.2%	1,213
Professional and business services	425	4,266	9.4%	1,561
Education and health services	354	9,856	21.7%	1,245
Leisure and hospitality	232	5,071	11.1%	423
Other Services	235	1,447	3.2%	803
Total	2,580	45,508	100.0%	1,047

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2023)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants and Auditors	\$33.73	\$23.82	\$41.64
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$17.52	\$14.18	\$21.35
Bookkeeping Clerks	\$22.15	\$16.57	\$25.37
Network Support Specialists	\$32.29	\$23.61	\$39.54
Computer Systems Analysts	\$43.25	\$31.15	\$51.41
Computer User Support Specialists	\$24.95	\$19.27	\$29.78
Customer Service Representatives	\$17.81	\$14.31	\$21.30
Industrial Truck Operators	\$19.92	\$16.33	\$25.23
Information Security Analysts	\$51.66	\$34.47	\$60.84
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	\$21.80	\$15.67	\$28.11
Laborers and Freight, Hand	\$16.34	\$14.23	\$20.80
Machinists	\$19.07	\$17.94	\$22.75
Mechanical Engineers	\$34.84	\$25.66	\$50.47
Packaging Operators and Tenders	\$22.30	\$15.27	\$27.00
Packers and Packagers, Hand	\$14.59	\$13.58	\$16.81
Secretaries and Admin Assistants	\$19.64	\$16.10	\$23.22
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	\$17.08	\$14.56	\$21.36
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$17.88	\$14.94	\$18.99
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	\$16.43	\$13.65	\$19.27
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$15.11	\$12.83	\$17.22

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

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

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2019-2023)

High school graduate or higher	89.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	29.1%

### Public Schools

Number: 16 elementary; 5 middle/comb.; 3 high, 1 career/tech
Enrollment: 15,086
Cost per pupil: \$18,871
Students per teacher: 12.5
High school career / tech enrollment: 1,732
High school graduates: 931

### Nonpublic Schools Number: 16

Higher Education (2023)	Enrollment	Degrees
2-year institution		
Wor-Wic Community College	2,438	529
4-year institutions		
Salisbury University	7,123	2,200

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 County	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2024)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2024)</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 (2024)</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 (2024)</b>	\$0.8855	\$0.1120
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		
<b>Business Personal Prop. Tax (2024)</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 may also apply; municipal exemptions may be available		
<b>Major Tax Credits Available</b>		
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, New Jobs, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District		

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2019-2023)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Wicomico County	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	14.2	11.3	15.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	18.7	12.7	17.3
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.5	13.2	15.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	14.7	12.0	12.7
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17.5	19.3	17.4
\$150,000 - \$199,999	8.1	12.4	9.3
\$200,000 and over	8.3	19.2	12.6
Median household	\$72,861	\$101,652	\$78,538
Average household	\$95,675	\$133,800	\$110,491
Per Capita	\$36,856	\$51,689	\$43,289
Total income (millions)	\$3,830	\$313,026	\$14,085,709

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

Occupied Units 2019-2023 43,708 (59.7% owner occupied)

### Housing Transactions (2023)

Units Sold	1,059
Median Selling Price	\$250,500

\*All multiple listed properties 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.

Market Profile Data (2023)	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$35,000	\$125,000	\$60,000
Office	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$70,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$5	\$7	\$6
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$8	\$14	\$11
Class A Office	\$9	\$15	\$11

# Brief Economic Facts WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** U.S. 13 and U.S. 50 Rail: Norfolk Southern Railway

**Truck:** More than 70 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 American Airlines to Philadelphia and Charlotte; airport is home to numerous corporate clients, 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 PoPs are located in Salisbury

## GOVERNMENT

**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

Julie Giordano, 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)

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### 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 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