

Brief Economic Facts

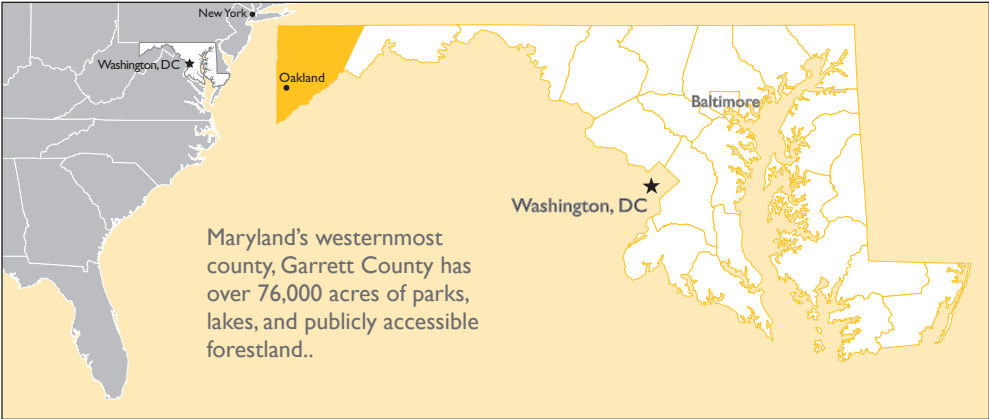
GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

The westernmost county in Maryland, Garrett County welcomes business and offers a central location to local major markets, a general aviation airport, available county-owned business parks, a variety of housing options, and an excellent workforce.

A U.S. Small Business Administration designated HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone), Garrett County is an attractive location for manufacturing, distribution, back office, energy, agricultural, call center, and recreation firms.

The Department of Business Development works to attract, retain, and expand businesses, and the county has attracted some of the best businesses Maryland has to offer, including Beitzel Corporation, Pillar Innovations, Phenix Technologies, Total Biz Fulfillment, Simon Pearce, and Garrett Container Systems. Three of these businesses completed expansions in 2024, and one has an expansion currently underway.

The county has a consistently outstanding K-12 public school



system. The STEM curriculum in both the public schools and Garrett College prepares graduates for career achievement and skilled local jobs. The Garrett County Scholarship Program puts post-secondary education within reach of area high school students and their families and provides an opportunity for all students to achieve higher education credentials.

The county's private sector industries generate \$1.2 billion in economic output.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Oakland:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	648	1,043
Baltimore, Maryland	188	303
Boston, Massachusetts	576	927
Chicago, Illinois	579	932
New York, New York	356	573
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	284	457
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	100	161
Richmond, Virginia	230	370
Washington, DC	173	278

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	48
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	110
Summer Temperature (°F)	72.7
Winter Temperature (°F)	34.1
Days Below Freezing	130
Land Area (square miles)	656.8
Water area (square miles)	8.6
Elevation (ft)	960 to 3,360

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Garrett County Households	Garrett County Population	Western Maryland*	Maryland
2010	12,050	29,582	235,750	5,773,552
2020	12,057	30,097	234,060	6,177,224
2030**	14,750	34,550	223,470	6,254,500

*Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties
**Projections
Selected places population (2020): Mountain Lake Park 2,118; Oakland 1,817; Grantsville 948; Loch Lynn Heights 495; Friendsville 437.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2024)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	1,338	4.7%
5 - 19 yrs	4,349	15.2%
20 - 44 yrs	7,779	27.2%
45 -64 yrs	8,224	28.7%
65 and over	6,925	24.2%
Total	28,615	100.0%
Median Age		48.3

Brief Economic Facts GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2024 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	13,668	109,145
Employment	13,194	105,241
Unemployment	474	3,904
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2020-2024)	Number 2,653	Percent 20.2%

Employment in selected occupations (2020-2024)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,806	35.8%
Service	2,397	17.8%
Sales and office	2,760	20.6%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,922	14.3%

*Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties

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

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Garrett Regional Medical Center	Medical services	512
Beitzel/Pillar	Industrial construction/mining support technologies	338
EPT Ski Properties / Wisp Resort	Four-season resort	200
Walmart	Retail Trade	192
First United Corporation	Banking, insurance services	192
Goodwill Retirement Community	Nursing care	190
Garrett College	Higher education	185
Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.	Social advocacy	168
Arrowhead	Cinema, deli, restaurant	156
Dennett Road Manor, Inc.	Nursing care	150
Total Biz Fulfillment	Order fulfillment	145
Lowes	Home Improvement	118
Garrett Container Systems, Inc.	Alum. Shipping containers	116
Phenix Technologies, Inc.	High voltage testing equip.	114
MD Energy Resources, LLC/ Casselman Coal	Underground coal mining	113
Appalachian Parent Assoc.	Services for the disabled	110

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

*Employment figures rise during winter ski season

#Employment figures rise from August-February to accommodate Christmas season

+Employment figures rise when the nursing semester starts with more adjunct faculty added

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2024)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	12	66	0.5%	1,206
State Government	7	265	2.2%	1,218
Local Government	45	1,349	11.1%	988
Private Sector	1,104	10,482	86.2%	917
Natural resources and mining	37	383	3.1%	1,562
Construction	186	285	2.3%	1,122
Manufacturing	45	710	5.8%	947
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	238	2,575	21.2%	830
Information	17	126	1.0%	1,154
Financial activities	70	373	3.1%	990
Professional and business services	221	1,161	9.5%	1,178
Education and health services	89	1,629	13.4%	992
Leisure and hospitality	118	1,869	15.4%	515
Other Services	83	456	3.7%	874
Total	1,168	12,162	100.0%	933

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2024)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants and Auditors	\$34.43	\$34.43	\$44.55
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$22.72	\$22.72	\$26.70
Biological Technicians	\$26.30	\$26.30	\$27.54
Bookkeeping Clerks	\$22.88	\$22.88	\$26.83
Network Support Specialists	\$35.90	\$35.90	\$49.16
Computer Systems Analysts	\$48.88	\$48.88	\$56.28
Computer User Support Specialists	\$23.93	\$23.93	\$30.10
Customer Service Representatives	\$17.61	\$17.61	\$21.83
Electrical Engineers	\$48.56	\$48.56	\$56.37
Industrial Truck Operators	\$19.60	\$19.60	\$22.91
Information Security Analysts	\$55.65	\$55.65	\$71.45
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	\$24.36	\$24.36	\$29.10
Laborers and Freight, Hand	\$18.75	\$18.75	\$20.93
Machinists	\$27.43	\$27.43	\$32.47
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	\$28.43	\$28.43	\$30.58
Mechanical Engineers	\$48.95	\$48.95	\$58.68
Packaging Operators and Tenders	\$17.79	\$17.79	\$20.86
Packers and Packagers, Hand	\$17.13	\$17.13	\$18.64
Secretaries and Admin Assistants	\$21.36	\$21.36	\$25.33
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	\$21.99	\$21.99	\$23.29
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$17.49	\$17.49	\$19.19

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive in Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

Brief Economic Facts GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2020-2024)	
High school graduate or higher	90.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.9%

Public Schools	
Number: 4 elementary; 7 middle/comb.	
Enrollment: 3,335	
Cost per pupil: \$18,575	
Students per teacher: 11.6	
High school career / tech enrollment: 963	
High school graduates: 238	

Nonpublic Schools Number: 4		
Higher Education (2025)	Enrollment	Degrees
2-year institution		
Garrett College	737	126

Frostburg State University, a University System of Maryland institution with an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of over 5,200 students, is located in adjacent Allegany County.

TAX RATES⁹

	Garrett County	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax	2.65%	2.0-6.5%
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 6.5% on taxable income over \$1,300,000		
Sales & Use Tax	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		
Real Property Tax	\$1.056	\$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		
Business Personal Prop. Tax	none	none
Rate per \$100 of depreciated value		
No county personal property tax on ordinary business property		
\$2.64/\$100 applicable to operating property of utilities and nonutility electric generators In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply; municipal exemptions may be available		

Major Tax Credits Available	
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, New Jobs, Biotechnology, Garrett County Business Property Tax Credit and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District	

INCOME³ (2020-2024)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Garrett Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	16.8	11.1	14.7
\$25,000 - \$49,999	20.4	12.4	16.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.5	12.8	15.5
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.5	11.9	12.6
\$100,000 - \$149,999	16.2	18.9	17.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	6.4	12.5	9.6
\$200,000 and over	9.3	20.3	13.4
Median household	\$67,688	\$103,678	\$80,734
Average household	\$97,358	\$136,642	\$113,530
Per Capita	\$62,692	\$79,259	\$73,204
Total income (millions)	\$1,225	\$322,875	\$14,671,198

HOUSING^{3,10}

Occupied Units (2020-2024)	12,578 (79.7% owner occupied)
Housing Transactions (2025)	
Units Sold	471
Median Selling Price	\$435,000

*All multiple listed properties excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Six industrial/business parks, with access to major highways and underlying infrastructure in place, are strategically located throughout Garrett County. Acreage is still available in the 240-acre **Keyzers Ridge Business Park** off I-68, and the 135-acre **McHenry Business Park** located adjacent to the Garrett County Airport. Additional property for sale along Francis Sanders Drive located along MD Route 135 in Mtn. Lake Park. Located on the Garrett College campus, the **Garrett Information Enterprise Center** offers incubator and coworking space to new and expanding technology-based businesses and is the perfect environment for facilitating the successful development of technology-intensive companies.

Brief Economic Facts GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: MD Routes 135 and 495; U.S. Routes 40, 50 and 219; Interstate-68; easy access to Interstates 70, 79 and 81

Rail: CSX Transportation

Truck: 130 local and long-distance trucking establishments in Western Maryland; major companies include Pitt Ohio Express, Overnite Transportation Company, Larry Wagner Trucking, Jones Trucking, Marple Trucking, and R&R Trucking

Water: Served by the Port of Baltimore, a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; closest Atlantic port to major midwestern population and manufacturing centers; port for Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise Lines; seven public terminals, including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility and the Cruise Maryland Terminal; 190 miles from Oakland

Air: Charter service at Garrett County Airport near Deep Creek Lake; runway open 24/7; 5000' runway with parallel taxiway; new terminal building is handicap-accessible and includes a pilots' lounge, snack room, and lobby area; scheduled services at Morgantown, West Virginia (40 miles from Oakland) and Pittsburgh International Airport (100 miles from Oakland)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks: Big Run State Park, Casselman River Bridge State Park, Deep Creek Lake State Park, Garrett State Forest, Herrington Manor State Park, Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area, New Germany State Park, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Savage River State Forest, Swallow Falls State Park, Wolf Den Run State Park.

Recreation and Leisure: Agri-tourism, boating, sailing, water skiing, snow tubing, hunting, swimming, golfing, camping, snowmobiling, dog sledding/carting, carriage/sleigh rides.

Sports and Athletics: Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fly fishing, kayaking, caving, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, tennis.

Attractions: Adventure Sports Center International, Deep Creek Lake, Mountain Fresh Farmers' Markets, Wisp Resort & Mountain Coaster, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Oakland's B & O Railroad Station, St. John's Rock Off-road Vehicle Trail and Campground.

Arts & Entertainment Districts: Grantsville and Oakland

Events: Autumn Glory Festival, Celtic Festival, Deep Creek Art & Wine Festival, Garrett County Agricultural Fair, Victorian Chautauqua, Little Yough Summer Festival, Stage WEST Arts' Collective Annual Performing Arts Series, Oakland WinterFest, National Road Festival, Dubs at the Lake, Festival of Trees, Big Funky Blues Festival, Subaru WinterFest, Fire on the Mountain Fireworks Display, Big Funky Blues Fest.

UTILITIES

Electricity: Potomac Edison and Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC); customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier.

Gas: Natural gas is supplied by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.; customers may choose their gas supplier.

Water: Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville and Oakland; county maintains water systems in many other towns/areas

Sewer: Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville, Loch Lynn Heights, Mt. Lake Park and Oakland; county maintains systems in many other towns/areas.

Telecommunications: Verizon Maryland is the largest landline provider offering services such as local, Frame Relay, SMDS, ISDN, and DSL (in some areas); AT&T and US Cellular are the largest mobile wireless providers; Comcast, Shentel, ProCom, QCol, NeuBeam, and Starlink provide broadband internet and VoIP service.

GOVERNMENT

County Seat: Oakland

Government: Three commissioners elected for four-year terms; commissioner form of government limits county legislative power to areas authorized by the General Assembly
Paul C. Edwards, Chair, Board of County Commissioners
301.334.8970

Kevin G. Null, County Administrator 301.334.8970

Website: www.garrettcounty.org

Garrett County Department of Business Development

Kim E. Durst, Manager of Business Development

203 S. Fourth St., Room 208

Oakland, Maryland 21550

Telephone: 301.344.1921

<https://businessgarrett.county.org>

Sources:

- 1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey
- 2 U.S. Bureau of the Census
- 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 Garrett County Department of Business Development
- 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