



Transportation

While small in stature geographically, Maryland plays a formidable role in transportation throughout the eastern United States. As a result of its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, the nation's capital and the major distribution routes along the East Coast, Maryland's transportation infrastructure is a key to the region's economic vitality and quality of life.

Maryland's economic engines are its world-class, multi-modal transportation facilities.

- The Port of Baltimore provides a location with connections to six interstate highways, including the East Coast's major thoroughfare, the I-95 system, and two Class I rail lines.
- A major airport, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI), features an international terminal serving as Maryland's other gateway to the world.
- Public transit and highway networks connect commuters and visitors to major job centers with safety and efficiency.

Highways

Maryland roadways

- A safe, efficient system of interstate, primary, and secondary arteries.
- Well-maintained interstates with easy access to significant markets north, south, and west.
- Interstate 95, the East Coast's primary north-south route, bisects Maryland in close proximity to the Port of Baltimore, BWI Airport, and many of the region's commercial centers.
- Interstate 81, which intersects Interstate 70 near Hagerstown in Western Maryland, provides an alternative route for north-south travelers.
- Interstate 68 extends from Interstate 70, offering an alternative route to the Midwest.
- U.S. Route 50 links Maryland's Eastern Shore to the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area.
- U.S. Route 13 extends from Philadelphia to Fayetteville, NC, through Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Comparative Truck Distances
Baltimore – The Shortest Distance to the Interior U.S.

	To Baltimore		To Philadelphia		To New York		To Norfolk	
From	Miles	Km.	Miles	Km.	Miles	Km.	Miles	Km.
Buffalo	347	558	356	573	372	599	544	875
Chicago	673	1,083	741	1,192	801	1,289	835	1,344
Cincinnati	497	800	566	911	657	1,057	598	962
Cleveland	350	563	418	673	475	764	513	826
Columbus	391	629	460	740	551	887	535	861
Detroit	503	809	571	919	631	1,015	665	1,070
Indianapolis	561	903	630	1,014	721	1,160	699	1,125
Louisville	598	962	667	1,073	758	1,220	641	1,032
Pittsburgh	224	360	292	470	386	621	386	621
St. Louis	795	1,279	864	1,390	955	1,537	900	1,448
Toronto	461	741	461	741	474	763	646	1,039

Source: Maryland Port Administration.

Trucking

Trucking serves every community in Maryland. More than 1,700 truck transportation companies are located in Maryland. Trucks move 96 percent of the manufactured freight moving in and out of Maryland each year, as well as most of the goods moving through the Port of Baltimore. Every business day, trucks transport 162,440 tons of essential goods such as clothing, electronics, farm supplies, and household necessities. Trucks also play an important role in local drayage for shipments ultimately moved by rail.

From central Maryland, businesses are within overnight reach of one-third of the nation's population and industrial base. In addition to the usual dry freight, container, flatbed, and LTL carriers, specialized carriers are readily available, such as structural steel, heavy machinery, commodities in bulk (both liquid and dry), and refrigerated or other temperature-controlled cargoes.

Ports

The Port of Baltimore

From an ideal inland location to a transportation network that flows into America's heartland, the Port of Baltimore combines all the necessary physical advantages – along with an experienced, skilled labor force and a committed, supportive private sector – to service the world's needs.

The Port of Baltimore is closer to the Midwest than any other Atlantic seaport. It prides itself on being one of the safest and most secure ports in the world. It is one of the leading ports in the U.S. for automobiles and roll on/roll off (Ro/Ro) cargoes, offering specialized Ro/Ro services. The Port also has extremely modern container facilities as well as special break bulk facilities for steel, pulp, paper, ore and coal. Baltimore's main shipping channel reaches a depth of 50 feet (15.2 meters), accommodating the largest vessels, with a channel 800 feet wide.

The Port of Baltimore consists of state-owned marine terminals managed by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) and privately owned marine terminals. Approximately 78% of all general cargo tons move through the MPA's public terminals, while the private terminals handled most of the Port's bulk commodities.

The Port of Baltimore is ranked as the 10th largest port in the USA in terms of foreign cargo tonnage and 11th largest in terms of dollar value.

The Port is a magnet for intermodal cargo as the closest East Coast port to America's industrial center. CSX Intermodal and Norfolk Southern both maintain intermodal facilities that connect Baltimore with key U.S. markets. Every Port of Baltimore marine terminal is within one traffic light of an interchange connecting to I-95 and I-70, the north-south and east-west cargo thoroughways to the important Midwest and East Coast consumer markets. The Port is also just a short distance from I-83 and an easy connection to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Within an overnight drive of Baltimore, businesses connect with one-third of the nation's population and manufacturing base.

Baltimore is one of ports on the East Coast capable of handling ships carrying 14,000 TEU's or larger. On average 40 containers are moved an hour, with more than 60% of the cargo handled at the public terminals being containerized. Through a public-private partnership with Ports America Chesapeake, Seagirt Marine Terminal is home to a 50 foot deep berth, with 11 cranes, four of which are Neo-Panamax cranes with a reach of 22 containers across.

The Howard Street Tunnel Project, scheduled for completion in 2027, will involve the reconstruction of the tunnel in Baltimore, along with 21 other locations in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. This upgrade will increase vertical clearance, allowing double-stacked container trains to access the Port of Baltimore. Once finished, the project will provide the East Coast with uninterrupted double-stack train capacity from Maine to Florida. In addition,

Other notable facts about the Port of Baltimore include:

- In 2024, foreign commerce totaled 45.9 million tons of cargo valued at \$62.2 billion, accounting for 17.6% of the Mid-Atlantic market share.

- In 2024, the Port of Baltimore handled 848,628 tons of roll on/roll off farm and construction machinery, which again was number one among all U.S. ports.
- The Port handled the total of 741,215 TEUs of containers and 749,799 auto units.

For further information about the Port of Baltimore contact the Maryland Port Administration at (410) 385-4444, toll-free at (800) 638-7519, or at www.mpa.maryland.gov.

The Port of Salisbury

- Second largest port in Maryland
- 150 foot wide channel, 14 feet deep
- Just over one million tons transported annually consisting of petroleum, grain, and building aggregates
- More information about the port is available online at salisbury.md/port-of-salisbury-study.

Air

With three major airports in the Baltimore-Washington region, Maryland offers a wide range of options for the air traveler. Travelers can choose to fly into Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), or Reagan National Airport (DCA) or Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), both in Northern Virginia. Philadelphia International Airport, in addition, is less than an hour from communities in northeast Maryland. BWI and Dulles are full-service international airports while Reagan National mainly serves the eastern United States and Canada. Two regional airports in Maryland offer scheduled service, and numerous general aviation airports blanket the state.

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport – BWI (bwiairport.com)

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport is located in Anne Arundel County, about ten miles from downtown Baltimore and 30 miles north of Washington, D.C. BWI offers travelers connections via Amtrak to other business centers along the U.S. East Coast.

In 2024, just over 27 million commercial passengers flew through BWI Marshall Airport. Southwest currently handles 70.19 percent of the passengers in and out of BWI, followed by Spirit at 8% and Delta at 6.9%. Nonstop service is offered to 75 U.S. destinations and 17 international destinations.

Some BWI highlights include:

- Over 650 domestic and international flight operations daily
- 36 airlines including commuter, charter, and cargo airlines
- Accommodates more than one-third of the passenger traffic in the Washington-Baltimore metro area.
- Handled 525 million pounds of air freight and mail in 2024.
- Offers 24-hour air-cargo services with 395,000 square feet (~36,700 square meters) of cargo warehouse space, including cold storage space with direct ramp access and a 17-acre (7 hectare) air cargo ramp.
- Cargo services include a Foreign-Trade Zone, convenient customs clearance, international banking, more than 100 freight forwarding and handling firms, and five scheduled cargo airlines.

Travel from BWI to other East Coast locations is facilitated by the following:

- Passenger rail with easy access Amtrak trains operating between Washington, D.C. and New York City.
- A commuter rail system (MARC) with trains serving BWI Airport.
- Light rail service from BWI Airport offering access to downtown Baltimore, Camden Yards, Penn Station, and employment centers in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties.
- An interstate highway link, I-195, connecting the airport to I-95.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport – DCA (flyreagan.com)

Sitting along the Potomac River, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport offers easy access to the nation's capital and the surrounding suburbs of Maryland and Virginia. Reagan National is also conveniently located on Washington's Metrorail system.

Commercial airlines flew 26.29 million passengers in and out of this historic airport in 2024. Serving as a "short-haul" facility, Reagan National primarily serves East Coast routes no further than 1,250 miles from Washington D.C. Nine cities are served beyond this perimeter with daily nonstop flights: Denver, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, and San Juan (PR). Eight passenger airlines serve the airport. Nonstop service is currently available to over 100 destinations, including service to select Caribbean and Canadian cities.

Washington Dulles International Airport – IAD (flydulles.com)

Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) operates 24 hours a day, with nonstop service to 95 domestic and 61 international destinations. Over 45 passenger airlines serve the airport. In 2024 the airport flew 27.25 million passengers.

Washington Dulles is situated in Fairfax and Loudon counties in Virginia, approximately 26 miles west of downtown Washington, D.C. The 16-mile Dulles Airport Access Road provides two dedicated lanes in each direction and a direct connection to I-66 and the Capital Beltway (I-495). Dulles is serviced by bus and the newly completed Silver Line of the Washington Metro.

Other Maryland airports offering scheduled air service include:

Hagerstown Regional Airport - HGR (www.flyhagerstown.com)

One of the oldest continuously operating U.S. airports, offering scheduled passenger, freight, and express service; 3,165 and 7,000 foot runways. Passenger airlines Allegiant Air serves HGR. A branch campus of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics is located at the airport.

Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport – SBY (www.flysbyairport.com)

Served by American Airlines; 5,000 and 6,400 foot runways, full instrument landing system, A&E repair, aviation fuel, and avionic repair. Several air freight companies have facilities at the airport including Federal Express, and UPS has a regional facility in Salisbury. American Airlines operates several flights a day from the airport.

Regional Airports

Maryland offers several regional airports with runways exceeding 5,000 feet that can handle corporate jets and planes, and numerous other airports with smaller runways that accommodate general aviation.

**Maryland Regional Airports
with 5,000 ft.+ Runways**

Airport Name (ID) / Web site	City / County	Annual Operations (2023)	Longest Runway (feet)
Carroll County Regional Airport (DMW) www.carrollcountyaairport.com	Westminster / Carroll	56,210	5,100
Easton Airport/Newnam Field (ESN) eastonairport.com	Easton / Talbot	58,717	5,500
Frederick Municipal Airport (FDK) cityoffrederick.com/152/Frederick-Municipal-Airport	Frederick / Frederick	99,591	5,220
Garrett County Airport (2G4) www.garrettcountry.org/airport-2g4	Oakland / Garrett	15,250	5,000
Greater Cumberland Regional Airport (CBE)	Cumberland / Allegany	14,235	5,047

Airport Name (ID) / Web site	City / County	Annual Operations (2023)	Longest Runway (feet)
www.cbeairport.com			
Martin State Airport (MTN) www.martinstateairport.com	Middle River / Baltimore	94,535	6,997

Source: Economic Impact of Public-Use Airports in Maryland, September 2024.

Rail

Maryland's freight rail system uses the latest equipment and technology to meet shipper demands for fast, efficient rail service to all U.S. interior points, Canada, and Mexico. Long haul freight services are provided by two primary Class I rail carriers, CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern. These two carriers also connect with Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways, which serve Canada and extreme northern points. A wide array of rail services is provided through the Port of Baltimore to firms using the Port, including intermodal U.S. inland locations. Packaged goods and bulk rail commodity transfers between truck, rail, and extensive automobile loading and distribution operations exist statewide. In addition to Class I rail carriers, Maryland has a connecting network of shortline railroads that provide service from Western Maryland to the Delmarva Peninsula.

Routes and Operations in Maryland

CSX Transportation – CSXT (www.csx.com)

- CSXT offers service between the Northeast and most major markets in the South and Ohio Valley.
- CSXT also serves commuter and rail passengers in Maryland. Both MARC and Amtrak trains travel on CSXT's tracks.

Norfolk Southern Railway – NSRR (www.nscorp.com/content/nscorp/en/ship-with-norfolk-southern.html)

- NSRR has trackage rights over Amtrak's Northeast Corridor from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. and provides service between Hagerstown and Harrisburg, Harrisburg and Perryville, and the Delmarva Route from Wilmington to Pocomoke City.

Canton Railroad – CTN (www.cantonrr.com)

- Canton connects to Norfolk Southern and CSX and provides access to the Port of Baltimore.

Delmarva Central Railroad – DCR (carloadexpress.com/railroads/delmarva-central-railroad)

- Operates in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.
- DCR Interchanges with Norfolk Southern as well as several shortlines on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Maryland & Delaware Railroad – MDDE (www.mdde.com)

- A Class III shortline, MDDE connects to the Norfolk Southern Delmarva line at three points in Delaware.
- Each of these three lines extends to serve communities such as Berlin, Centreville, Cambridge, Federalsburg, Hurlock, Massey and Snow Hill.

Maryland Midland Railway – MMID

(www.gwrr.com/operations/railroads/north_america/maryland_midland)

- A shortline railroad serving communities in Carroll and Frederick counties and is an interline carrier with CSX. In 2008 Maryland Midland was acquired by Genesee & Wyoming.

Tradepoint Rail - TPR

(www.tradepointrail.com)

- Formerly the Patapsco & Back Rivers Railroad, and located in East Baltimore and Baltimore County on the former Sparrows Point steel mill site, the railroad is part of the Tradepoint Atlantic redevelopment and connects with CSX and Norfolk Southern.

Mass Transit

Maryland has been a pioneer in developing intermodal passenger transportation links. Integrated rail and bus systems in and throughout the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas provide excellent access to downtown business districts and suburban centers, with direct connections to inter-city rail and airports. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the country, operating buses, light rail, subway, commuter rail, and a comprehensive paratransit system - MobilityLink. (mta.maryland.gov)

MTA BaltimoreLink Bus Service (www.mta.maryland.gov/baltimorelink-basics)

- The network provides 12 high-frequency color-coded CityLink routes that interconnect with LocalLink buses as well as other transit modes including Metro Subway, Light Rail, MARC Train, Commuter Bus and Amtrak.
- Over 35 commuter bus routes connect suburban and exurban areas of the state to downtown Baltimore, as well as Washington D.C. and its inner suburbs.

MTA Light RailLink (mta.maryland.gov/light-rail)

- Thirty route miles of light rail serve 33 station stops in metropolitan Baltimore.
- Extends from BWI Airport in the south to employment centers in Timonium and Hunt Valley north of Baltimore City.

MTA Metro SubwayLink (mta.maryland.gov/metro-subway)

- Underground subway service in the Baltimore area spans 15.4 miles from Owings Mills to Johns Hopkins Hospital and serves 14 stations.
- In 2025 78 new Hitachi rail cars will begin service as part of a \$400 million investment in maintenance and system upgrades.

Charm City Circulator (transportation.baltimorecity.gov/charm-city-circulator)

- The Circulator provides free bus service seven days a week on four routes connecting downtown Baltimore with Amtrak, MARC, Light Rail, Metro Subway, and less expensive parking on the fringes of downtown. The system's hybrid buses limit air pollution.
- Free Harbor Connector water taxi service is available on weekdays.

MARC Train (mta.maryland.gov/marc-train)

- MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) train service provides residents in central Maryland with weekday commuter rail options. MARC also provides limited service on weekends.
- Brunswick Line connects Frederick, MD and Martinsburg, WV to Union Station in Washington, D.C.
- Penn Line connects Perryville in northeast Maryland to Baltimore's Penn Station and Union Station in Washington, D.C. The Penn Line also runs on the weekends.
- Camden Line connects Baltimore's Camden Station to Union Station in Washington, D.C.

Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (www.wmata.com)

- WMATA provides Metrorail and Metrobus service to the District of Columbia, portions of Northern Virginia and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.
- Metrorail operates six lines with 98 stations (26 in Maryland) covering 128 miles of track. Two Maryland counties, Montgomery and Prince George's, are in its transit zone.
- The Purple Line is a light rail line that will extend from New Carrollton in Prince George's County to Silver Spring and Bethesda in Montgomery County. Five of the twenty-one stations will be located directly on or around the UMD campus. The Purple Line is scheduled to begin carrying passengers in December 2027.

- Metrobus operates more than 1,500 buses over 245 routes on 159 lines, approximately one-third of which are in Maryland. A vast majority of buses are hybrid electric or fueled by CNG.

Amtrak (www.amtrak.com)

- Maryland's central location in the Mid-Atlantic corridor allows for easy access to East Coast cities via Amtrak.
- From Baltimore, travelers can choose from over 8 high-speed Acela Express trains and more than 20 other train options to New York City.
- Passengers can reach Philadelphia in one hour, New York in just over two hours, or the Boston area in six hours.
- Other Amtrak stops in Maryland include BWI Airport and New Carrollton near Washington, D.C.