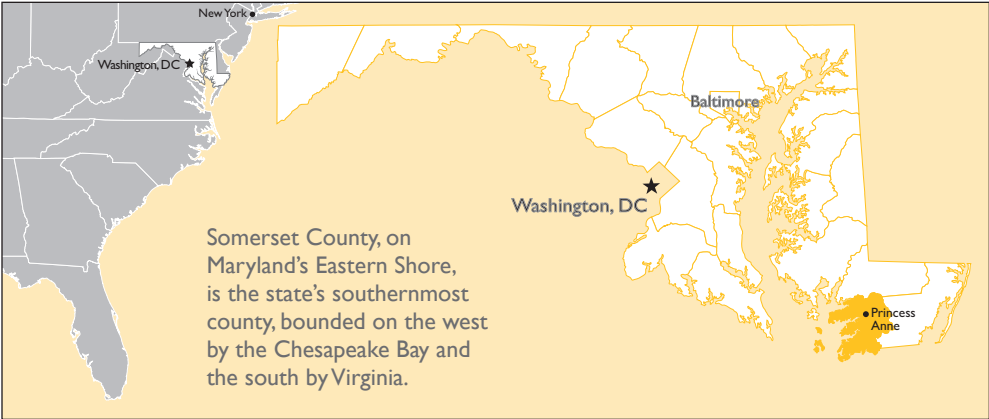


Brief Economic Facts

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

Somerset County on Maryland's Eastern Shore is bounded by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and Virginia to the south, and is the state's southernmost county. Crisfield and Princess Anne are the major municipalities. Somerset County's private sector industries generate \$668 million in economic output.

Somerset is a major seafood processor and poultry producer, with Princess Anne as the county seat and home to UMES. The county has two established Enterprise Zones (Crisfield and Princess Anne) and also participates in the One Maryland Program. Natural Gas is now available in the north end of Somerset County and the expansion of broadband is currently underway. Several new businesses have opened to include an Auto Zone, Wendy's, "Happi Daze" dispensary in Somerset County. Future plans for mixed-use development consisting of a hotel, with retail/commercial pad sites, stand-alone Popeye's as well as a WAWA convenience store have been submitted. In the Princess Anne Industrial Park, Krato's has taken over the 55,000 sq. ft. facility that formerly housed Peraton, both of which are Aerospace Companies. In the City of Crisfield, several City owned properties on W. Main Street were sold to Tidal Health that plan to build a new elevated urgent care medical facility. Also, a new Indian Cuisine Restaurant has opened, and plans are moving forward with the construction of brand-new hangars at the Crisfield / Somerset County Airport.



Somerset County is working with 5 other counties across the state exploring a passenger ferry in Crisfield. The Tri-County area which consists of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties were awarded \$3.3 million dollars each in funding and a portion of Somerset County's funds were used to purchase the former Wal-Mart property on Revell's Neck Road for a future Industrial Park. The site has been divided into 22 lots with access to water, sewer, fiber, natural gas and highway access. After site preparation and extension of service the total project investment would be between \$10 and \$50 million.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Princess Anne:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	681	1,097
Baltimore, Maryland	114	184
Boston, Massachusetts	442	712
Chicago, Illinois	805	1,296
New York, New York	232	373
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	143	230
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	336	540
Richmond, Virginia	202	325
Washington, DC	126	203

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.8
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	8
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.5
Winter Temperature (°F)	38
Days Below Freezing	102
Land Area (square miles)	338.4
Water area (square miles)	35.9
Shoreline (miles)	1,106
Elevation (ft)	sea level to 46

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Somerset County Households	Somerset County Population	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2010	18,025	26,470	197,980	5,773,552
2020	18,750	25,760	235,623	6,055,802
2030**	21,025	27,450	261,360	6,254,500

*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
**Projections
Selected places population (2020): Princess Anne 3,428; Crisfield 2,448; Eden 846; Mount Vernon 1,016

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2024)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	1,153	4.6%
5 - 19 yrs	4452	17.9%
20 - 44 yrs	9096	36.6%
45 -64 yrs	5702	23.0%
65 and over	4,419	17.8%
Total	24,822	100.0%
Median Age		38.1

Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2024 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	9,877	229,220
Employment	9,490	221,559
Unemployment	387	7,661
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.3%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2020-2024)	Number 4,023	Percent 45.8%

Employment in selected occupations (2020-2024)		
Management, business, science and arts	2,497	27.8%
Service	1,733	19.3%
Sales and office	2,243	25.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,455	16.2%

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

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

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	889
Sysco Eastern Maryland	Food products distribution	390
Tidal Health	Medical services	200
Sherwin Williams / Rubberset	Paint brushes	220
Aurora Senior Living of Manokin	Nursing care	175
Somerset Community Services	Services for persons with disabilities	360
Chesapeake Health Care	Medical services	206
Food Lion	Groceries	101
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing & wholesale distribution	100
Ihasn Farms/ HFC	Poultry Processing	81
Handy International*	Seafood processing	70
Krato's	Space and Missile Defense	70
Eastern Shore Drywall	Drywall & insulation contractors	60
Mountaire Farms	Chicken egg hatchery	62
McDonald's / Baxter Enterprises	Restaurants	50
Metompinkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing & wholesale distribution	60
PNC Financial Services Group	Banking services	15
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	36
Hardee's	Restaurant	35
Millenium Microwave Corporation	Electronic Sub System Manufacturing	25
Process Integration	System Integration MFG	25

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

*Includes seasonal workers

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2024)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	12	49	0.7%	1,246
State Government	8	1,973	28.3%	1,487
Local Government	17	1,069	15.4%	1,083
Private Sector	415	3,873	55.6%	939
Natural resources and mining	21	126	1.8%	1,160
Construction	53	284	4.1%	1,030
Manufacturing	20	493	7.1%	1,060
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	13	444	6.4%	1,488
Information	5	33	0.5%	1,670
Financial activities	15	86	1.2%	1,097
Professional and business services	36	ND	ND	ND
Education and health services	6	17	0.2%	707
Leisure and hospitality	6	27	0.4%	602
Other Services	26	164	2.4%	896
Total	452	6,963	100.0%	1,119

Includes civilian employment only

*Confidential

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2024)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants and Auditors	\$36.32	\$25.59	\$44.44
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$17.48	\$15.35	\$21.95
Bookkeeping Clerks	\$23.05	\$18.66	\$27.15
Network Support Specialists	\$33.14	\$24.56	\$42.08
Computer Systems Analysts	\$42.37	\$26.80	\$51.89
Computer User Support Specialists	\$26.40	\$20.95	\$32.25
Customer Service Representatives	\$18.74	\$15.48	\$22.24
Industrial Truck Operators	\$20.84	\$17.52	\$26.12
Information Security Analysts	\$49.17	\$32.11	\$63.31
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	\$20.66	\$16.36	\$27.69
Laborers and Freight, Hand	\$17.94	\$15.27	\$22.34
Machinists	\$20.11	\$18.86	\$24.36
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	\$28.93	\$22.48	\$30.81
Packaging Operators and Tenders	\$21.24	\$16.68	\$27.86
Packers and Packagers, Hand	\$15.97	\$15.00	\$17.93
Secretaries and Admin Assistants	\$21.33	\$16.98	\$25.53
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	\$18.00	\$15.79	\$23.08
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$18.25	\$15.90	\$19.47

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

Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2020-2024)	
High school graduate or higher	86.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	19.4%

Public Schools	
Number: 4 elementary; 3 middle/comb, career/tech I	
Enrollment: 2,849	
Cost per pupil: \$23,094	
Students per teacher: 12.2	
High school career / tech enrollment: 316	
High school graduates: 152	

Nonpublic Schools Number: 2			
Higher Education (2025)	Enrollment	Degrees	
4-year institutions			
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	3,371	387	

TAX RATES⁹

	Somerset County	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax		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	\$1.0000	\$0.1120
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Business Personal Prop. Tax	\$2.50	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		

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		
	Somerset Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	25.1	11.1	14.7
\$25,000 - \$49,999	15.7	12.4	16.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.9	12.8	15.5
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.2	11.9	12.6
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17.1	18.9	17.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	7.2	12.5	9.6
\$200,000 and over	3.9	20.3	13.4
Median household	\$64,943	\$103,678	\$80,734
Average household	\$74,802	\$136,642	\$113,530
Per Capita	\$41,421	\$79,259	\$73,204
Total income (millions)	\$624	\$322,875	\$14,671,198

HOUSING^{3,10}

Occupied Units 2020-2024 8,348 (73.1% owner occupied)	
Housing Transactions (2025)	
Units Sold	251
Median Selling Price	\$220,000

*All multiple listed properties excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Somerset County Industrial Park - LA 153-acre site located on Revell's Neck Road. The property has been divided into 22 lots with access to water, sewer, fiber, natural gas and highway access Princess Anne Village and Chase Plaza, located along Rt. 13 in Princess Anne, offer both commercial and retail space. Units are available for sale or lease

Brief Economic Facts SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13 Rail: Norfolk Southern Railway

Truck: More than 70 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Lower Eastern Shore

Water: 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; also served by Crisfield Harbor, 8'-10' channel

Air: Scheduled service available at Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, 16 miles from Princess Anne; Crisfield Airport has one 2500' x 75' paved, lighted runway, and one 3350' x 100' grass runway; further improvements are currently planned and/or underway

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks and Recreation: Janes Island State Park; Somerset County Recreation and Parks received funding from DNR Open Space program to purchase 45 acres to be used for public playing fields, trails and an indoor recreation facility; organized recreational activities include football, baseball, basketball, softball, racquetball, swimming, dance, volleyball, weight lifting, soccer, biking, karate, yoga, aerobics and after-school programs; an athletic center is also planned for Princess Anne in a cooperative effort between the town and UMES

Golf: Great Hope Golf Course offers 18 holes on 213 acres

Water Activities: 11 county boat ramps; Somers Cove Marina, located in Crisfield, is a state-owned marina with over 455 slips; charter fishing boats and cruise boats departing the City of Crisfield are available

Attractions: Crisfield Historical Museum, Ward Brothers Homeplace, Teackle Mansion, Princess Anne Farmers Market, many antique shops and historic buildings and sites

Arts & Entertainment District: Crisfield

Events: Princess Anne Street Fest, Christmas in Princess Anne, Crisfield Hard Crab Derby, Skipjack Race of Deal Island, Tawes Annual Crab & Clam Bake, Somerset County Fair, Fairmount Academy 1800s Festival, Waterman's Folklife Festival, Softshell Spring Fair, J. Millard Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast, Summer on Somerset, Wheels on the Waterfront, Strawberry Festival, Freedom Fest, Dock Day on the Bay, Midnight Muskrat Drop, and Christmas in Crisfield

UTILITIES

Electricity: Delmarva Power, Choptank Electric Cooperative, and A & N Electric Cooperative; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

Natural Gas: Chesapeake Utilities and Eastern Shore Natural Gas

Water: County systems in Crisfield (outside city limit), Princess Anne, Rumbley-Frenchtown, and Upper and Lower Fairmount; municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield

Sewer: County systems in Crisfield (outside city limit), Princess Anne, Smith Island, and Upper and Lower Fairmount; municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield

Telecommunications: Predominant local carrier is Verizon Maryland; fiber broadband availability through Maryland Broadband Cooperative; fiber optic cable extended from Wallops Island along U.S. Rt. 13

GOVERNMENT

County Seat: Princess Anne

Government: Five commissioners elected by district for four year terms; commissioner form of government limits county legislative power to areas authorized by the General Assembly Charles Laird, Sr., President, Board of County Commissioners 410.651.0320

Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator 410.651.0320

Website: www.somersetmd.us

Somerset County Economic Development Commission

Daniel Thompson, Executive Director

11916 Somerset Avenue, Suite 202

Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Telephone: 410.651.0500

Email: dthompson@somersetmd.us

www.somersetcountyedc.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 Somerset County Economic Development Commission
- 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