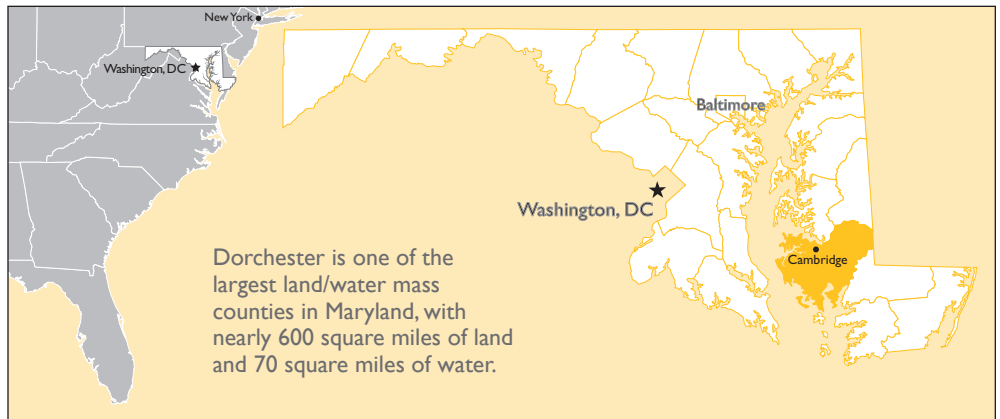


# Brief Economic Facts

## DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Dorchester County boasts more than 1,500 miles of beautiful shoreline and is one of Maryland's largest counties with nearly 600 square miles of land and 70 of water. Its close proximity to Baltimore and Washington attracts large and small businesses and entrepreneurs due to cost advantages, business assets, and unique quality of life. With 690 businesses employing 8,900 workers, the county continues to diversify its industry mix. Dorchester County is ideally situated on the central Atlantic seaboard, allowing overnight truck access to one-third of the U.S. population. New York, Philadelphia and Richmond are within an approximate 200 mile radius.

The Dorchester Regional Technology Park, serving the county and the region, is the home of the new Eastern Shore Innovation Center incubator. The park is complete with water, sewer and fiber connected to the Maryland Broadband Cooperative fiber



optic backbone, and is located adjacent to the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport. The park is in one of the county's two State Enterprise Zones, with the other zone in Hurlock. As a federally designated HUBZone, a Dorchester County location provides federal contracting opportunities for qualified small businesses located in the zone. Amick Farm's recent expansion resulted in a capital investment of \$13.5 million and 50 additional jobs.

### LOCATION

Driving distance from Cambridge:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	703	1,131
Baltimore, Maryland	75	121
Boston, Massachusetts	424	683
Chicago, Illinois	760	1,222
New York, New York	213	343
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	125	201
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	296	477
Richmond, Virginia	184	296
Washington, DC	87	139

### CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.1
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	5.5
Summer Temperature (°F)	77.2
Winter Temperature (°F)	39.1
Days Below Freezing	70.7
Land Area (square miles)	593.2
Water Area (square miles)	67.8
Shoreline (miles)	1,539
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 57

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

	Dorchester County Households	Dorchester County Population	Upper Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2000	12,706	30,674	199,406	5,296,486
2010	13,522	32,618	224,771	5,773,552
2020**	14,725	34,800	241,700	6,224,550

\*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot counties

\*\*Projections

Selected places population (2010): Cambridge 12,326; Hurlock 2,092; Algonquin 1,241

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2016)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,874	5.8
5 - 19	5,593	17.3
20 - 44	8,861	27.5
45 - 64	9,274	28.7
65 and over	6,656	20.6
Total	32,258	100.0
Median age		44.4 years

# Brief Economic Facts // DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2016 avg.)	Labor Mkt.	
	County	Area*
Total civilian labor force	15,870	203,690
Employment	14,914	193,708
Unemployment	956	9,982
Unemployment rate	6.0%	4.9%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2011-2015)	Number	Percent
	5,589	37.2%

Employment in selected occupations (2011-2015)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,816	31.4%
Service	3,176	20.7%
Sales and office	3,401	22.2%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,229	14.5%

\* Dorchester, Caroline, Talbot and Wicomico counties, MD and Sussex County, DE

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2016)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Amick Farms	Poultry processing	1,050
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort	Resort, golf and conference center	315
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester	Medical services	275
Cambridge International	Metal mesh belt, wire cloth	225
Delmarva Community Services	Vocational services	205
Protenergy Natural Foods	Food processing	185
Signature HealthCARE at Mallard Bay	Nursing care	170
Bloch & Guggenheimer	Food processing	155
Horn Point Laboratory	Fisheries research	155
Genesis HealthCare / Chesapeake Woods Center	Nursing care	145
Dorchester Family YMCA	Recreation and sports ctr.	120
Interstate Container	Corrugated boxes	120
LWRC International	Military firearms	105
Warwick Manor Behavioral Health	Medical services	105
Valley Proteins	Poultry processing	100
Koski Enterprises	Warehousing and transport.	95
Win Transport	Temp.-controlled transport	85
Egide USA	Electronic packaging prods.	75
The Mushroom Company	Mushroom processing	75
John W. Tieder	Electrical contractor	70

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

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2016, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	19	178	1.6	\$1,337
State government	8	803	7.1	974
Local government	23	1,319	11.7	860
Private sector	691	8,931	79.5	695
Natural resources and mining	24	264	2.4	832
Construction	82	478	4.3	762
Manufacturing	39	2,225	19.8	793
Trade, transportation and utilities	185	1,929	17.2	626
Information	10	119	1.1	526
Financial activities	59	314	2.8	810
Professional and business services	83	603	5.4	990
Education and health services	64	1,375	12.2	791
Leisure and hospitality	77	1,360	12.1	393
Other services	68	264	2.4	434
<b>Total</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>11,231</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>744</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2016)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$29.77	\$18.91	\$38.46
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	18.35	13.11	22.60
Computer systems analysts	39.98	28.98	51.58
Computer user support specialists	21.27	14.64	23.65
Customer service representatives	11.96	9.14	15.07
Electrical engineers	33.65	26.83	42.01
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	12.73	10.02	16.09
Industrial truck operators	18.10	14.34	21.15
Inspectors, testers, sorters	11.80	10.31	16.54
Machinists	18.90	13.47	24.32
Maintenance and repair workers, general	17.21	11.74	21.18
Network administrators	34.96	20.12	54.75
Packaging/filling machine operators	13.86	10.50	15.35
Packers and packagers, hand	10.18	9.07	11.53
Secretaries	17.11	11.74	19.86
Shipping/receiving clerks	16.43	11.95	18.11
Team assemblers	11.10	9.42	14.16

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive on the Upper Eastern Shore (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

# Brief Economic Facts // DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2011-2015)

High school graduate or higher	85.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	20.2%

### Public Schools

Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 4,816 (Sept. 2016)
Cost per pupil: \$13,962 (2014-2015)
Students per teacher: 12.4 (Oct. 2016)
High school career / tech enrollment: 447 (2016)
High school graduates: 265 (July 2016)

### Nonpublic Schools Number: 6 (Sept. 2016)

Higher Education (2016)	Enrollment	Degrees
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#### 2-year institution

Chesapeake College*	2,118	237
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#### 4-year institution

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**	NA	NA
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Several major universities are located in the region, including Salisbury University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Washington College.

\* Located in nearby Queen Anne's County; coursework is offered in Dorchester County at the Chesapeake College Cambridge Center as well as other locations in the region

\*\* Accredited in March 2016; offers joint graduate programs with other USM institutions including the System-wide programs in Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences, in which UMCES has a leading role.

## TAX RATES<sup>9</sup>

	Dorchester Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2017)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2017)</b>	2.62%	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 (2017)</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 (FY 18)</b>	\$0.974	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, the county rate may vary and a municipal rate will also apply		
<b>Business Personal Property Tax (FY 18)</b>	none	none
No county personal property tax on ordinary business property \$2.44/\$100 applicable to utility operating property only		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply; municipal exemptions may be available		
<b>Major Tax Credits Available</b>		
One Maryland, Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders (Tier I), R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District		

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2011-2015)

Distribution	Dorchester Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	25.5	15.3	23.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	26.4	17.9	23.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.4	17.1	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.2	13.4	12.1
\$100,000 - \$149,999	12.1	18.2	13.1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.9	9.0	5.1
\$200,000 and over	2.5	9.2	5.3
Median household	\$47,093	\$74,551	\$53,889
Average household	\$65,761	\$97,801	\$75,558
Per capita	\$27,870	\$36,897	\$28,930
Total income (millions)	\$872	\$211,875	\$8,834,710

## HOUSING<sup>2,3,10</sup>

Occupied Units (2011-2015) 13,265 (65.6% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2015)	162	\$175,000
All multiple-listed properties (2016)*	459	\$139,516

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY<sup>6</sup>

Dorchester County offers a variety of industrial and office properties for businesses. Two industrial parks with easy access to U.S. Routes 50 and 13 are within State Enterprise Zones and located in Cambridge and Hurlock. Water and sewer services are available to sites in both parks.

The 113-acre **Dorchester Regional Technology Park** is completed and building lots are available for sale. The park is served with water, sewer and fiber infrastructure, and offers excellent startup, relocation and expansion opportunities to technology, R&D, and innovative manufacturing companies.

### Business Incubator

Eastern Shore Innovation Center, Cambridge  
Tech entrepreneurs have found a new home at the Eastern Shore's first purpose-built incubator, and the first building in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park.

Market Profile Data (2016)	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$16,500	\$70,000	\$35,000
Office	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$40,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$6.00	\$3.75
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$4.50	\$7.50	\$6.00
Class A Office	\$10.00	\$28.50	\$14.00

# Brief Economic Facts // DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** U.S. 50

**Mass Transit:** Delmarva Community Transit (DCT), a fixed route service, is a collaborative effort between several regional transit organizations; special services are available for persons unable to use the regional fixed routes

**Rail:** Maryland & Delaware Railroad Company with access to Norfolk Southern

**Truck:** 102 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Upper Eastern Shore

**Water:** Port of Baltimore, 50' channel, 74 miles northwest of Cambridge; a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; seven public terminals including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility

**Air:** The Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport runway is currently 4476' with plans to expand to 5400'; airport is outside of the restricted zones, resulting in shorter waits for landings and take-offs; charter service is offered at Easton Airport, 15 miles north of Cambridge; commuter service is available at Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, 35 miles east of Cambridge

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

**Parks and Recreation:** Wildlife refuge areas include Taylor's Island, LeCompte, and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuges; 16 community parks provide recreational opportunities; facilities include Hurlock Athletic Complex, Glasgow Street Athletic Complex/Tennis Courts, and the Dorchester County Pool, largest outdoor public pool on Maryland's Eastern Shore; fishing, boating, sailing, swimming, picnicking, hunting, cycling, canoeing and golfing are recreational pursuits in the county

**Attractions:** Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge; Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway; Harriet Tubman Visitor Center; Heritage Museums & Gardens of Dorchester; Dorchester Center for the Arts; Richardson Maritime Museum and the Ruark Boatworks in Cambridge; Historic High Street in Cambridge; Old Trinity Church; Spocott Windmill; East New Market National Register Historic District; Handsell (historic home) and Native American Longhouse; Historic Vienna (on the banks of the Nanticoke River)

**Arts & Entertainment District:** Cambridge

**Events:** National Outdoor Show, Everything Oyster, Cambridge Beer Festival, Choptank River Swim Fest, St. Paul's Flower Show & Fair, Grape Blossom Festival, Antique Aircraft Fly-in, Hoopers Island Fishing Tournament, Cambridge Classic Powerboat Regattas, GrooveFest: Blues Brews & BBQ, Cambridge Power Boat Challenge, Seafood Feast-I-Val, Dorchester Showcase, Grand National Waterfowl Hunt, Annual Native American Festival, Taste of Cambridge, Great Tomato Festival, Hurlock Fall Festival, Hot Sauce and Oyster Festival, Belgian Beer Festival, Cambridge Schooner Tall Ship Rendezvous, Nanticoke River Jamboree, IRONMAN Maryland

## UTILITIES

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

**Gas:** Natural gas is supplied to Cambridge by Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Cambridge Gas Co. Division); customers may choose their gas supplier

**Water and Sewer:** Municipal systems in Cambridge, East New Market, Hurlock, Secretary, and Vienna

**Telecommunications:** Local carriers – Verizon Maryland and other local providers that offer service on proprietary or leased infrastructure; Fiber optic broadband capabilities – Bay Country Communications (cable television, internet), Comcast (phone, internet, cable television), Verizon (phone, internet, television); Long distance carriers – AT&T, Sprint, Verizon and others

## GOVERNMENT<sup>11</sup>

**County Seat:** Cambridge

**Government:** Five council members 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  
Richard C. (Ricky) Travers, President, County Council  
410.228.1700

Jeremy D. Goldman, County Manager 410.228.1700

**Website:** [www.choosedorchester.org](http://www.choosedorchester.org)

**County Bond Rating:** A+ (S&P); Aa3 (Moody's)

**Dorchester County Economic Development Office**

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[www.choosedorchester.org](http://www.choosedorchester.org)

Sources:

- 1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey
- 2 Maryland Department of Planning
- 3 U.S. Bureau of the Census
- 4 Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Dorchester County Economic Development Office
- 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