

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 740 businesses employing approximately 8,500 workers, the county continues to diversify its industry mix as demonstrated by the recent completion of infrastructure development in the new 113-acre Dorchester Regional Technology Park, serving the county and region. Complete with water, sewer and fiber and located across from the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport, the park is in one of the county's two State Enterprise Zones. Also in Enterprise Zones are Hurlock Industrial Park located in the north of the county, and Chesapeake Industrial Park in Cambridge.

As a federally designated HUB Zone, a Dorchester County



location offers businesses easy access to unique federal procurement opportunities. Traditional and innovative manufacturing, services including IT, tourism and agriculture/aquaculture are the primary employment sectors. Key employers include: Amick Farms, Cambridge International, Bloch & Guggenheimer, Protenergy Natural Foods, LWRC International, Egide USA, Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Interstate Container and John W. Tieder.

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 GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	45.2
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	13.7
Summer Temperature (°F)	76.8
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.7
Duration of Freeze-Free Period (days)	206
Land Area (square miles)	593.2
Water Area (square miles)	67.8
Shoreline (miles)	1,539
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 57

POPULATION^{2,3}

	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	35,000	252,500	6,216,150

*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot counties

**Projections

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

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION³ (2010)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	2,037	6.2
5 - 19	5,792	17.8
20 - 44	9,212	28.2
45 - 64	9,806	30.1
65 and over	5,771	17.7
Total	32,618	100.0
Median age		43.3 years

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2012 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	16,945	198,203
Employment	15,166	182,510
Unemployment	1,779	15,693
Unemployment rate	10.5%	7.9%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2009-2011)	Number	Percent
	4,854	34.5%

Employment in selected occupations (2009-2011)	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	3,843	26.6%
Service	2,689	18.6%
Sales and office	3,349	23.2%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,606	18.0%

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

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2012)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Amick Farms	Poultry processing	975
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort*	Resort, golf and conference center	585
Shore Health System	Medical services	385
Cambridge International	Metal mesh, wire cloth	278
Delmarva Comm. Services	Vocational services	249
Walmart	Consumer goods	230
Signature HealthCARE at Mallard Bay	Nursing care	175
Adventist Behavioral Health Syst. Eastern Shore	Medical services	150
Bloch & Guggenheimer	Food processing	112
Genesis HealthCare / Chesapeake Woods Center	Nursing care	100
John W. Tieder	Electrical contractor	100
Warwick Manor Behavioral Health	Medical services	100
Horn Point Laboratory	Fisheries research	98
Interstate Container	Corrugated boxes	97
Suicide Bridge Restaurant	Restaurant	92
Protenergy Natural Foods	Food processing	80
Air Liquide America	Calgaz, specialty gases	70
Kool Ice & Seafood	Seafood processing	70
Egide USA	Electronic packaging prods.	68
LWRC International	Military firearms	67
Perdue Farms	Grain, oil seeds, hatchery	65
The Mushroom Company	Mushroom processing	65

Excludes post offices, state and local governments

* Employment increases to 700 in the summer

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2012, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	22	197	1.8	\$1,148
State government	9	798	7.4	892
Local government	25	1,315	12.1	796
Private sector	743	8,538	78.7	631
Natural resources and mining	25	290	2.7	847
Construction	90	365	3.4	727
Manufacturing	40	2,070	19.1	750
Trade, transportation and utilities	209	1,932	17.8	538
Information	9	53	0.5	518
Financial activities	62	301	2.8	792
Professional and business services	89	501	4.6	905
Education and health services	70	1,517	14.0	655
Leisure and hospitality	72	1,158	10.7	393
Other services	77	351	3.2	334
Total	799	10,848	100.0	680

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2012)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$29.00	\$19.50	\$37.75
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	16.75	12.00	19.25
Computer support specialists	18.00	12.00	22.00
Computer systems analysts	40.00	19.00	45.25
Customer service representatives	13.75	8.75	17.50
Electronic engineering technicians	32.25	28.75	36.25
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	12.25	8.50	14.25
Industrial truck operators	14.25	10.50	16.75
Inspectors, testers, sorters	15.00	10.75	18.50
Machinists	22.00	16.00	30.00
Maintenance workers, machinery	15.50	11.25	18.75
Mixing and blending machine operators	16.00	10.75	17.75
Network administrators	33.50	24.75	39.00
Packers and packagers, hand	10.25	8.50	11.50
Secretaries	15.75	11.50	18.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	13.50	9.50	15.75
Team assemblers	14.00	10.50	17.25

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

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2009-2011)

High school graduate or higher	82.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	17.8%

Public Schools

Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 4,718 (Sept. 2012)
Cost per pupil: \$12,523 (2010-2011)
Students per teacher: 12.2 (Oct. 2012)
High school career / tech enrollment: 382 (2012)
High school graduates: 310 (July 2012)

Private Schools

Number: 7 (Sept. 2012)

Higher Education (2012)	Enrollment	Degrees
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2-year institution

Chesapeake College*	2,660	272
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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

TAX RATES⁹

	Dorchester Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2013)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2013)	2.62%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2013)	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 (FY 14)	\$0.976	\$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		
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 14)	\$2.44	none
Rate per \$100 of depreciated value		
Exempt – manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies; manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory		
Partially exempt – all other business personal property is 80% exempt (being phased out at 10% per year)		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Major Tax Credits Available		
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, One Maryland, R&D		

INCOME³ (2009-2011)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Dorchester Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	26.2	15.9	24.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	26.7	18.7	24.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.8	17.8	18.3
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.2	13.5	12.0
\$100,000 - \$149,999	10.4	17.8	12.3
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.6	8.3	4.5
\$200,000 and over	2.0	8.0	4.3
Median household	\$46,239	\$71,294	\$51,484
Average household	\$59,701	\$92,929	\$70,909
Per capita	\$25,317	\$35,193	\$27,158
Total income (millions)	\$806	\$198,061	\$8,149,680

HOUSING^{2,3,10}

Occupied Units (2009-2011)	13,498 (68.9% owner occupied)
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Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2011)	112	\$158,510
All multiple-listed properties (2012)*	282	\$121,000

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Dorchester County offers a variety of industrial and office property 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 Maryland & Delaware Railroad line serves the **Chesapeake Industrial Park** in Cambridge.

The new **Dorchester Regional Technology Park**, a 113-acre business and 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.

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$16,500	\$70,000	\$35,000
Office	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$40,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
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

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: 109 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 4,476 feet with plans to expand to 5,400 feet; 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: Meredith House; Neild Museum and Brannock Maritime Museum in Cambridge; Historic High Street in Cambridge; Old Trinity Church; Dorchester Heritage Museum and Spocott Windmill; East New Market is an Historic District on the National Register; Vienna, which contains many historic homes, was once a port of entry for the State of Maryland

Events: National Outdoor Show, Flower Show & Fair, Spocott Windmill Day, Antique Aircraft Fly-in, Hoopers Island Fishing Tournament, sailing regattas, classic power boat regattas, Cambridge Summer Send-Off Weekend, Cambridge Power Boat Challenge, Seafood Feast-I-Val, Dorchester Showcase, Grand National Waterfowl Hunt, Bay Country Festival, Secretary Community Day, Choptank River Antiques Show at Sailwinds, Annual Native American Festival and Hurlock Fall Festival

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

GOVERNMENT¹¹

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

Jay L. Newcomb, President, County Council 410.228.1700

M. Jane Baynard, County Manager 410.228.1700

Website: www.choosedorchester.org

County Delegation to Maryland General Assembly:

Richard F. Colburn, Senate Chair 410.841.3590

Adelaide C. Eckardt, House Chair 410.841.3343

U.S. Congressional Election District: 1st

County Bond Rating: A (S&P); A2 (Moody's)

Dorchester County Economic Development Office

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Sources:

1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Maryland State Office of Climatology (30-year averages); 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 Business and Economic Development

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