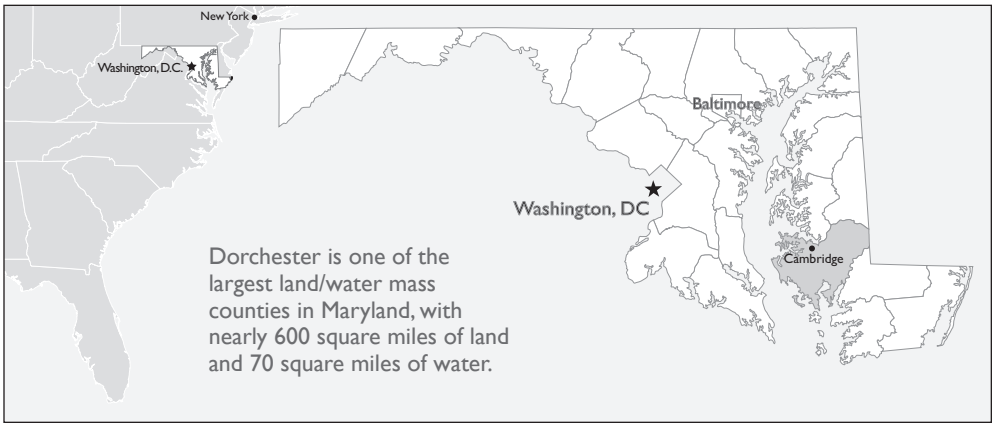
BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Dorchester County boasts more than 1,500 miles of beautiful shoreline. It is one of the largest land/water mass counties in Maryland, with nearly 600 square miles of land and 70 square miles of water. Its close proximity to Baltimore and Washington has attracted larger business entities and entrepreneurs due to the county's many business assets, cost advantages and quality of life. Dorchester County is home to 740 businesses which employ approximately 8,890 workers.



The county continues to diversify industry sectors as demonstrated by the development of a 113-acre Business and Technology Park that will serve the county and region. The park is located adjacent to the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport.

The county has two State Enterprise Zones: Hurlock Industrial Park, and the Chesapeake Industrial Park located in the City of Cambridge (the county seat). Dorchester County is also a federally designated HUB Zone. Manufacturing, services, tourism and agriculture are the primary employment sectors. Key employers include: Amick Farms, Cambridge International, Bloch & Guggenheimer, Foodswing, 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 GEOGRAPHY[1]

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	13,425**	32,618	224,771	5,773,552
2020**	15,125	35,700	261,100	6,276,300

*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot counties

**Projections

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

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION[2,3] (2009)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,965	6.1
5 - 19	5,641	17.6
20 - 44	9,189	28.7
45 - 64	9,306	29.0
65 and over	5,942	18.5
Total	32,043	100.0
Median age		43.3 years

DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY[3,4,5] (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2010 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	16,512	102,011
Employment	14,748	92,839
Unemployment	1,764	9,172
Unemployment rate	10.7%	9.0%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2007-2009)	Number 5,196	Percent 35.4%
Employment in selected occupations (2007-2009)		
Management, professional and related	4,098	27.1%
Service	2,454	16.2%
Sales and office	4,011	26.5%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,283	15.1%

* Dorchester, Wicomico, Talbot and Caroline counties

MAJOR EMPLOYERS[6,7] (2010)

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
Delmarva Community Services	Vocational and day habilitation services	350
Cambridge International	Conveyor belts	278
Walmart	Consumer goods	230
Mallard Bay Care Center	Nursing care	175
Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health Syst. Eastern Shore	Medical services	150
Bloch & Guggenheimer	Food processing	112
Chesapeake Woods Center	Nursing care	100
John W. Tieder	Electrical contractor	100
Horn Point Laboratory	Fisheries research	98
Interstate Container	Corrugated boxes	97
Suicide Bridge Restaurant	Restaurant	92
Foodswing	Food processing	89
Air Liquide America	Calgaz, specialty gases	70
Kool Ice & Seafood	Seafood processing	70
CAMTEC	Medical equipment	68
Egide USA	Electronic packaging products.	68
LWRC International	Military firearms	67
Perdue Farms	Grain, oil seeds, hatchery	65
The Mushroom Company	Mushroom processing	65
Super Fresh	Groceries	60

Excludes post offices, state and local governments; includes higher education
* Employment increases to 700 in the summer

EMPLOYMENT[4] (2009, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Establishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	21	155	1.4	$940
State government	8	760	6.8	881
Local government	25	1,376	12.3	816
Private sector	744	8,888	79.5	603
Natl. resources and mining	27	304	2.7	635
Construction	102	487	4.4	677
Manufacturing	42	2,275	20.4	685
Trade, transp. and util.	212	1,850	16.5	543
Information	8	70	0.6	530
Financial activities	59	334	3.0	771
Prof. and business svcs.	87	457	4.1	608
Educ. and health services	66	1,491	13.3	767
Leisure and hospitality	72	1,278	11.4	334
Other services	69	342	3.1	391
Total	798	11,179	100.0	653

Includes civilian employment only

Businesses by Employment Size Class (2nd Q 2010)

No. of employees	0-9	10-49	50-99	100-249	250+
No. of businesses	559	140	24	6	3

HOURLY WAGE RATES[4] (2010)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	$30.25	$21.00	$36.50
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	16.50	11.75	19.25
Computer support specialists	18.75	14.00	24.25
Computer systems analysts	38.75	24.75	46.75
Customer service representatives	13.50	10.25	16.75
Electronic engineering technicians	25.00	18.00	29.25
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	12.00	9.00	13.50
Industrial truck operators	14.25	12.00	15.00
Inspectors, testers, sorters	18.25	12.25	21.75
Machinists	16.00	11.25	18.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	18.25	14.50	21.00
Mixing and blending machine operators	16.25	11.75	19.50
Network administrators	35.00	24.50	40.25
Packers and packagers, hand	9.50	7.75	10.75
Secretaries	13.75	10.25	15.75
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.00	10.00	14.50
Team assemblers	11.50	9.50	14.00

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 (2007-2009)

High school graduate or higher	82.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	16.3%

Public Schools

- Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 3 high
- Enrollment: 4,628 (Sept. 2009)
- Cost per pupil: $12,564 (2008-2009)
- Students per teacher: 12.8 (June 2009)
- High school career / tech enrollment: 413 (2010)
- High school graduates: 319 (June 2009)

Private Schools

- Number: 8 (Sept. 2009)

Higher Education (2009)	Enrollment	Degrees
2-year institution		
Chesapeake College*	2,856	247

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 RATES[9]

	Dorchester Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2011)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2011)	2.62%	2.0% - 5.5%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income *Graduated rate peaking at 5.5% on taxable income over $500,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2011)	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 11)	$0.896	$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 11)	$2.24	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 50% exempt In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		

Major Tax Credits Available

Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, One Maryland, R&D

INCOME[3] (2007-2009)

Distribution	Percent Households Dorchester Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under $25,000	25.2	15.4	23.8
$25,000 - $49,999	28.4	19.9	24.9
$50,000 - $74,999	18.3	18.3	18.7
$75,000 - $99,999	13.9	14.2	12.2
$100,000 - $149,999	9.4	17.3	12.1
$150,000 - $199,999	2.8	7.8	4.2
$200,000 and over	1.9	7.0	4.1
Median household	$45,880	$69,695	$51,369
Average household	$60,197	$90,500	$70,404
Per capita	$26,052	$34,384	$27,100
Total income (millions)	$817	$189,088	$7,962,931

HOUSING[2,3,10]

Occupied Units (2007-2009) 13,567 (72.7% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions (2009)	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions	201	$158,000
All multiple-listed properties*	242	$150,000

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY[6]

Dorchester County offers a variety of industrial and office property for businesses. Two industrial parks are located in Cambridge and Hurlock, with easy access to U.S. Routes 50 and 13. Water and sewer service is available to sites in both parks, and the two parks are also located in State Enterprise Zones. The Maryland & Delaware Railroad line serves the **Chesapeake Industrial Park** in Cambridge.

A new 113-acre **Business and Technology Park** is currently under construction in Cambridge; lots will be available summer 2011.

The new tech park will be served with water, sewer and fiber, and will offer excellent startup, relocation and expansion opportunities to high tech, R&D, and innovative manufacturing operations, as the county continues to diversify its industry mix.

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	$30,000	$60,000	$35,000
Office	$20,000	$60,000	$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	$25.00	$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: 116 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

FEDERAL FUNDING[3] (2009)

Direct Federal Expenditures or Obligations

	Total	Per Capita
Total	$285,305,793	$8,904
Defense	$11,814,037	$369
Non-defense	$273,491,756	$8,535

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)

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 Nextel, Verizon and others

GOVERNMENT[11]

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