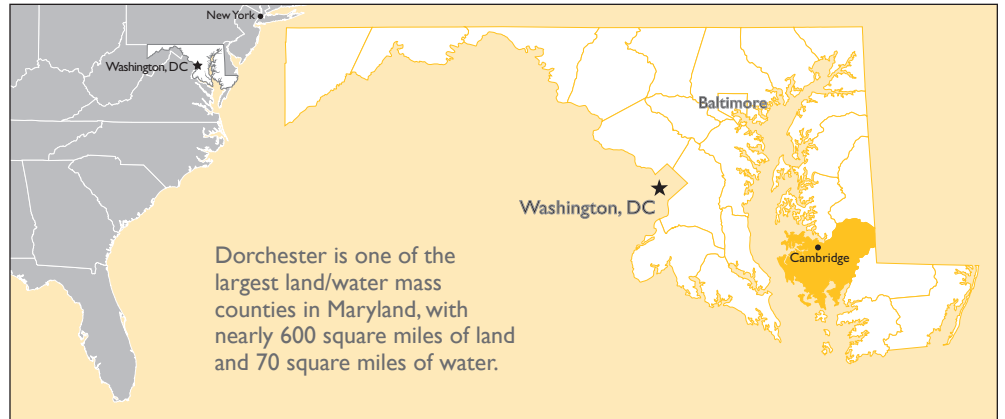


# Brief Economic Facts

## DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Dorchester County is located in close proximity to metropolitan Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, and is ideally situated on the central Atlantic seaboard allowing easy access to over one-fifth of the U.S. population residing in the New York to Richmond mega market. The county's private sector industries generate \$877 million in economic output.

The Dorchester Regional Technology Park, serving the county and region, is home to the Eastern Shore Innovation Center incubator which is open to startups and offers several amenities including a wet lab. The park is in one of the county's two State Enterprise Zones. Dorchester has a new Opportunity Zone and is a federally designated HUBZone. Several businesses in the county continue to expand including Protenergy, Aledak Metalworks, and Hoppers Island Oyster. New businesses include Rise Up Coffee, Cultra, Cambridge Marketplace Retail and Professional Center and many more. Over the past five years capital



investment into the community has exceeded \$150 million.

Dorchester County is home to industrious, innovative and creative individuals, and boasts attractive and affordable housing options from waterfront estates to rural developments and city condos, townhouses and apartments. Local amenities include shops, restaurants, parks, marinas, and public entertainment venues within walking or biking distance.

### 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		Upper Eastern Shore*	Maryland
	Households	Population		
2000	12,706	30,674	199,406	5,296,486
2010	13,522	32,618	224,771	5,773,552
2020**	14,374	34,300	232,700	6,141,900

\*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> (2018)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,748	5.5
5 - 19	5,547	17.3
20 - 44	8,776	27.4
45 - 64	9,016	28.2
65 and over	6,911	21.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,998</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Median age		44.8 years

# Brief Economic Facts DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Civilian Labor Force (2018 avg.)		
Total civilian labor force	15,347	209,404
Employment	14,548	200,557
Unemployment	799	8,847
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.2%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2013-2017)	Number	Percent
	6,096	41.1%

Employment in selected occupations (2013-2017)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,843	31.8%
Service	3,053	20.0%
Sales and office	3,573	23.4%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,220	14.6%

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

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2018-2019)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Amick Farms	Poultry processing	1,200
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort	Resort, golf and conference center	315
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Dorchester	Medical services	275
Rexnord	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
UMCES Horn Point Laboratory	Fisheries research	155
Genesis HealthCare / Chesapeake Woods Center	Nursing care	145
Dorchester Family YMCA	Recreation and sports ctr.	120
DS Smith	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> (2018, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	19	174	1.6	\$1,410
State government	8	833	7.7	1,016
Local government	23	1,293	11.9	885
Private sector	665	8,568	78.8	716
Natural resources and mining	20	167	1.5	719
Construction	83	474	4.4	796
Manufacturing	35	2,504	23.0	837
Trade, transportation and utilities	177	1,907	17.5	652
Information	8	130	1.2	500
Financial activities	56	272	2.5	900
Professional and business services	78	361	3.3	835
Education and health services	61	1,212	11.2	834
Leisure and hospitality	75	1,254	11.5	426
Other services	68	286	2.6	495
<b>Total</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>10,868</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2018)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$30.57	\$20.32	\$38.80
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	19.53	13.72	22.63
Computer systems analysts	33.28	23.97	41.65
Computer user support specialists	20.33	12.39	24.08
Customer service representatives	15.65	11.78	19.60
Electrical engineers	42.01	25.26	54.61
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	13.31	10.56	16.94
Industrial truck operators	17.52	13.75	20.86
Inspectors, testers, sorters	14.62	10.75	20.70
Machinists	27.33	17.97	38.43
Maintenance and repair workers, general	18.54	13.68	22.66
Network administrators	38.45	26.66	50.69
Packaging/filling machine operators	15.15	10.97	17.00
Packers and packagers, hand	11.86	10.42	14.20
Secretaries	17.54	11.91	20.50
Shipping/receiving clerks	16.75	12.11	19.00
Team assemblers	14.10	10.97	17.03

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 (2013-2017)

High school graduate or higher	85.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	20.1%

### Public Schools

Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 4,785 (Sept. 2018)
Cost per pupil: \$14,700 (2017-2018)
Students per teacher: 12.5 (Oct. 2018)
High school career / tech enrollment: 574 (2017)
High school graduates: 261 (July 2018)

### Nonpublic Schools Number: 6 (Sept. 2018)

Higher Education (2018)	Enrollment	Degrees
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#### 2-year institution

Chesapeake College*	2,081	266
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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 program in Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences, in which UMCES has a leading role.

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

	Dorchester Co.	Maryland
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<b>Corporate Income Tax (2019)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		

<b>Personal Income Tax (2019)</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 (2019)</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 20)</b>	\$1.00	\$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 20)</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		

### Major Tax Credits Available

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> (2013-2017)

Distribution	Dorchester Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	24.9	14.2	21.3
\$25,000 - \$49,999	24.8	17.1	22.5
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.0	16.5	17.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.8	13.1	12.3
\$100,000 - \$149,999	12.5	18.7	14.1
\$150,000 - \$199,999	3.2	9.7	5.8
\$200,000 and over	2.9	10.7	6.3
Median household	\$50,532	\$78,916	\$57,652
Average household	\$69,144	\$103,845	\$81,283
Per capita	\$28,911	\$39,070	\$31,177
Total income (millions)	\$895	\$226,495	\$9,658,475

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

Occupied Units (2013-2017)	12,940 (65.8% owner occupied)
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### Housing Transactions (2018)\*

Units sold	413
Median selling price	\$169,719

\*All multiple listed properties; 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 home at the Eastern Shore's first purpose-built incubator, and the first building in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park.

Market Profile Data (2018)	Low	High	Average
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### 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

# 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:** More than 100 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; Chesapeake Mural Trail; 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, 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

William V. Nichols, President, County Council 410.228.1700  
Keith Adkins, 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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### 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, 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