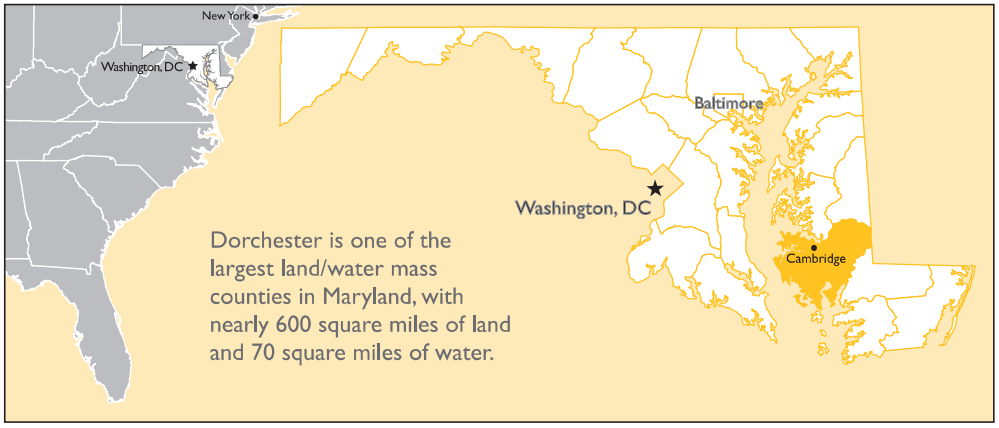
Brief Economic Facts

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 $1.4 billion in economic output.



The **Dorchester Regional Technology Park**, serving the county and region, is home to the Eastern Shore Innovation Center (ESIC) 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 an Opportunity Zone and is a federally designated HUBZone. Several businesses in the county continue to expand including Protenergy, Day Star Manufacturing, and Ice Lab LLC. In addition, there are new, early-stage companies located within ESIC, includiing Beat the Rush Delivery, Bridging the Gap Gaming, Maritimatix, Scosa Marketing, and SunX Analytical. Over the past several years capital investment into the community has exceeded $1.35M.

Dorchester County is home to industrious, innovative and creative individuals, and boasts attractive and affordable housing options including 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
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	296	477
Richmond, Virginia	184	296
Washington, DC	87	139

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY[1]

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.1
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	5.5
Summer Temperature (°F)	77.2
Winter Temperatire (°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 (ft)	sea level to 57

POPULATION[2,3]

	Dorchester County Households	Dorchester County Population	Upper Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2010	13,525	32,618	197,980	5,773,552
2020	13,300	31,853	213,699	6,055,802
2030**	14,750	34,550	223,470	6,254,500

*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2020): Cambridge 13,096; Hurlock 2,066; Algonquin 1,110

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION[2,3] (2022)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	1,752	5.8%
5 - 19 yrs	5,768	20.4%
20 - 44 yrs	9,033	32.2%
45 -64 yrs	8,859	28.8%
65 and over	7,145	12.9%
Total	32,486	100.0%
Median Age		43.8Years

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

Civilian Labor Force (2022 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	15,983	227,346
Employment	15,408	219,082
Unemployment	575	8,264
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2018-2022)		Percent 35.6%
Employment in selected occupations (2018-2022)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,871	32.5%
Service	3,520	23.5%
Sales and office	2,881	19.2%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,065	13.8%

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

MAJOR EMPLOYERS[6,7] (2022-2023)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Amick Farms	Poultry Processing	1600
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort	Resort, Golf & Conference Center	400
Protenergy Natural Foods	Food Manufacturer	265
Eastern Shore Hospital Center	Health care	253
B&G Foods	Food Manufacturer	238
Preston Autoplex	Car Dealership	200
Univ. of Maryland Horn Point Laboratory	Wetlands and Estuaries Research	175
Walmart SUpercenter - Cambridge	Consumer Goods	150
Signature Healthcare at Mallard Bay	Skilled Nursing Care Facility	150
Darling Ingredients	Animal By-Products Producer	145
LP Cambridge	Inpatient Nursing and Rehabilitative Services	140
DS Smith	Sustainable Packaging Solutions	136
Culta	Canabis Cultivator/ Extractor	112
The Mushroom Company	Food Processing	108
Egide USA	Hermetic Packaging Solutions	85
LWRC	Firearms Manufacturer	76
Genesis HealthCare / Chesapeake Woods Center	Skilled Nursing Care Facility	75

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

EMPLOYMENT[4] (2022)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	21	189	1.6%	$1,700
State Government	8	794	6.6%	1,263
Local Government	22	1,241	10.3%	1,098
Private Sector	703	9,855	81.6%	889
Natural resources and mining	22	140	1.2%	886
Construction	87	508	4.2%	967
Manufacturing	38	2,538	21.0%	1,009
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	162	1,901	15.7%	822
Information	9	192	1.6%	629
Financial activities	68	331	2.7%	1,081
Professional and business services	101	715	5.9%	978
Education and health services	76	2,052	17.0%	1,022
Leisure and hospitality	72	1,233	10.2%	467
Other Services	69	246	2.0%	702
Total	753	12,078	100.0%	948

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES[4] (2022)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants and Auditors	$36.77	$24.77	$46.63
Assemblers and Fabricators	$18.80	$14.50	$21.80
Bookkeeping Clerks	$21.87	$16.32	$25.64
Network Support Specialists	$36.51	$26.98	$43.91
Computer Systems Analysts	$46.88	$28.02	$56.02
Computer User Support Specialists	$24.77	$18.68	$29.40
Customer Service Representatives	$18.04	$13.90	$21.52
Industrial Truck Operators	$17.76	$14.02	$20.38
Information Security Analysts	52.48	37.48	71.11
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters	$18.56	$15.60	$22.52
Laborers and Freight, Hand	$16.05	$14.24	$19.00
Machinists	$24.41	$20.13	$29.21
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	$22.50	$17.32	$28.80
Mechanical Engineers	$36.38	$27.55	$41.82
Packaging Operators and Tenders	$15.22	$13.09	$17.16
Packers and Packagers, Hand	$14.67	$13.11	$17.19
Secretaries and Admin Assistants	$19.39	$15.16	$23.52
Shipping, Receiving Clerks	$18.47	$14.69	$21.59
Stockers and Order Fillers	$16.00	$12.97	$17.47
Stock clerks and order fillers	$13.64	$11.77	$16.01

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

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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES[3,8]

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2018-2022)

High school graduate or higher	87.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	19.2%

Public Schools

- Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/comb.; 2 high; career/tech 1
- Enrollment: 4,523
- Cost per pupil: $20,036
- Students per teacher: 15.3
- High school career / tech enrollment: 750
- High school graduates: 290

Nonpublic Schools Number: 5

Higher Education (2022)	Enrollment	Degrees
2-year institution		
Chesapeake College*	1,794	231
4-year institutions		
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**	NA	NA

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-EstuarineEnvironmental Sciences, in which UMCES has a leading role

TAX RATES[9]

	Dorchester County	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2023)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2023)	3.20%	2.0-5.75%
Base – federal adjusted gross income *Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over $300,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2023)	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 (2023)	$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 (2023)	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

Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, New Jobs, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, A&E District

INCOME[3] (2018-2022)

	Percent Households		
Distribution	Dorchester County.	Maryland	U.S.
Under $25,000	19.8	11.6	15.7
$25,000 - $49,999	24.2	13.3	18.1
$50,000 - $74,999	16.9	13.6	16.1
$75,000 - $99,999	12	12.3	12.8
$100,000 - $149,999	14.4	19.3	17.1
$150,000 - $199,999	7	12.1	8.8
$200,000 and over	5.7	17.9	11.4
Median household	$57,490	$98,461	$75,149
Average household	$80,396	$129,642	$105,833
Per Capita	$33,950	$49,865	$41,261
Total income (millions)	$1,063	$300,526	$13,307,055

HOUSING[3,10]

Occupied Units (2018-2022) 13,216 (68.4% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions

Units Sold	606
Median Selling Price	$254,000

*All multiple listed properties excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY[6]

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 (ESIC), 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 (2022)	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	$35,000	$70,000	$35,000
Office	$20,000	$150,000	$40,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	$1.50	$8.00	$3.75
Flex / R&D / Technology	$4.50	$7.50	$6.00
Class A Office	$14.00	$30.00	$21.00

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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: There are 39 miles of freight railroad track in Dorchester and neighboring county, managed by the Maryland Delaware Railroad, which connects with Norfolk Southern, to service the Mid Shore Region. The Maryland Delaware Railroad is in process of upgrading tracks from Hurlock (Dorchester County) to Seaford Delaware, and has an active campaign to grow freight business on the Eastern Shore.

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 Downtown 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).

Events: Oyster & Ice Festival, 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

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

George Pfeffer, President, County Council 410.228.1700

Acting County Manager 410.228.1700

Website: www.choosedorchester.org

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

Dorchester County Economic Development Department

Susan Banks, Director

104 Tech Park Drive

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Telephone: 410.228.0155

Email: info@choosedorchester

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, 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