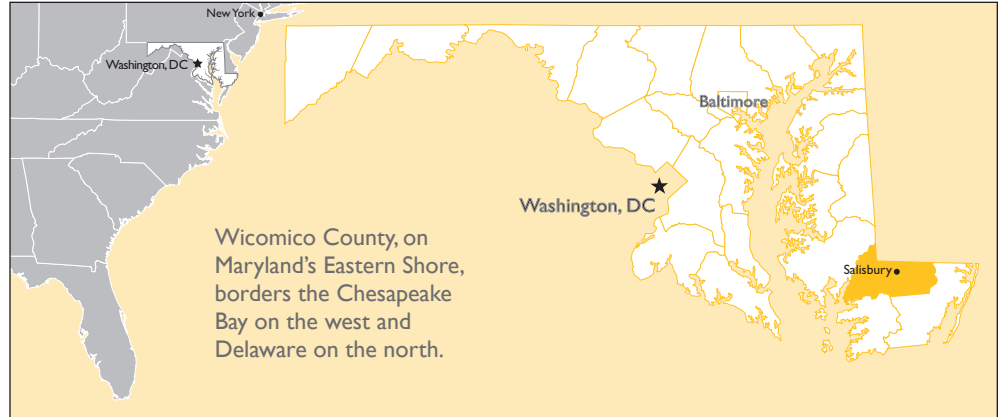


Brief Economic Facts

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

With its strategic location along the East Coast and situated at the crossroads of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, Wicomico County serves as a hub for commerce, industry, health care, education and transportation. Situated halfway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, cultural, recreational and civic amenities add to the lure of Wicomico, offering citizens a lifestyle second to none.

Wicomico is the number one agricultural producing county in Maryland, and ranks fourth in broiler chicken production. Popular crops include corn, soybeans, wheat and vegetables. In addition to agriculture and poultry, health care, educational sectors, and a diverse industrial base offer stability and a firm foundation for Wicomico's economy. Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceuticals recently announced the addition of 200 new jobs associated with the expansion of its Salisbury headquarters and manufacturing facility.



Wicomico County's private sector industries generate \$5.1 billion in economic output. Major employers are Chesapeake Shipbuilding, Delmarva Power, Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceuticals, K&L Microwave, Tidal Health, Perdue Farms, Salisbury University and Tishcon.

Wicomico County has a 5,223-acre State Enterprise Zone in Salisbury and a 129-acre zone in Fruitland.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Salisbury:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	692	1,114
Baltimore, Maryland	102	165
Boston, Massachusetts	430	692
Chicago, Illinois	793	1,276
New York, New York	219	353
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	131	210
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	324	521
Richmond, Virginia	212	341
Washington, DC	114	183

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	45.2
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	6
Summer Temperature (°F)	76.1
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.7
Days Below Freezing	76
Land Area (square miles)	379.1
Water area (square miles)	14.4
Shoreline (miles)	361
Elevation (ft)	sea level to 73

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Wicomico County Households	Wicomico County Population	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2010	37,225	98,733	197,980	5,773,552
2020	39,075	103,990	213,699	6,055,802
2030**	43,925	111,220	223,470	6,254,500

*Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2020): Salisbury 33,050; Fruitland 5,534; Delmar 3,891; Pittsville 1,618; Hebron 1,099

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2021)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5yrs	6,139	5.9%
5 - 19 yrs	21,975	21.3%
20 - 44 yrs	33,655	32.6%
45 - 64 yrs	25,246	24.5%
65 and over	16,208	15.7%
Total	103,223	100.0%
Median Age		36 Years

Brief Economic Facts WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Civilian Labor Force (2022 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	51,069	227,346
Employment	49,104	219,082
Unemployment	1,965	8,264
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.6%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2017-2021)	Percent
	16.6%

Employment in selected occupations (2017-2021)		
Management, business, science and arts	16,932	33.9%
Service	11,069	22.2%
Sales and office	10,682	21.4%
Production, transp. and material moving	6,528	13.1%

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

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2021-2022)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Tidal Health	Medical services	3300
Salisbury University	Higher education	1800
Perdue Farms	HQ / poultry processing	1600
Walmart / Sam's Club	Consumer goods	850
Wor-Wic Community College	Higher education	700
Food Lion	Groceries	379
Genesis HealthCare / Salisbury Rehabilitation and Nursing Center	Nursing care	340
SHORE UP!	Community development & social services	300
Delmarva Power	Energy products & services	300
K&L Microwave	Electronics assembly	290
Pohanka of Salisbury	Car dealers	270
Boscov's	Consumer goods	253
Dove Pointe	Services for persons with disabilities	250
Piedmont Airlines / American Airlines	HQ / airline	250
Jubilant Cadista Pharmaceuticals	Generic pharmaceutical preparations	250
Three Lower Counties Community	Social Services	246
Credit Plus	Credit reporting services	220
Deer's Head Hospital Center	Medical services	211
Harkins Concrete Construction	Construction	200
Tishcon	Vitamins	180

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

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2022)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Empl. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal Government	28	294	0.7%	\$1,285
State Government	13	2,596	5.7%	1,048
Local Government	47	4,987	11.0%	960
Private Sector	2,502	37,346	82.6%	1,000
Natural resources and mining	28	280	0.6%	1,025
Construction	270	2,007	4.4%	1,129
Manufacturing	91	2,995	6.6%	989
Trade, Transportation, and utilities	556	9,657	21.4%	932
Information	28	403	0.9%	1,173
Financial activities	283	1,465	3.2%	1,229
Professional and business services	445	4,259	9.4%	1,377
Education and health services	332	9,588	21.2%	1,211
Leisure and hospitality	235	5,101	11.3%	384
Other Services	234	1,592	3.5%	717
Total	2,590	45,223	100.0%	1,001

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2021)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Skilled
Accountants	\$30.60	\$21.63	\$40.57
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$14.24	\$12.02	\$18.04
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	\$18.48	\$14.57	\$23.03
Computer hardware engineers	\$43.52	\$27.60	\$49.56
Computer user support specialists	\$23.16	\$17.56	\$28.21
Customer service representatives	\$14.66	\$12.71	\$18.92
Electrical engineers	\$38.96	\$31.85	\$55.23
Freight, stock and material movers	\$14.29	\$12.29	\$17.29
Industrial truck operators	\$17.48	\$14.28	\$21.31
Information security analyst	\$43.13	\$29.72	\$62.84
Inspectors, testers, sorters	\$18.04	\$13.56	\$23.38
Machinists	\$23.54	\$16.39	\$26.93
Maintenance workers, machinery	\$18.10	\$13.39	\$24.77
Network support specialists	\$37.18	\$27.29	\$49.23
Packaging/filling machine operators	\$14.24	\$11.80	\$16.86
Packers and packagers hand	\$12.86	\$11.76	\$14.86
Secretaries	\$17.87	\$13.60	\$21.41
Shipping/receiving clerks	\$14.41	\$12.73	\$18.48
Stock clerks and order fillers	\$14.29	\$11.95	\$16.03

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive on the Lower Eastern Shore (Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

Brief Economic Facts WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2017-2021)

High school graduate or higher	87.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.8%

Public Schools

Number: 16 elementary; 5 middle/comb.; 3 high
Enrollment: 14,900
Cost per pupil: \$17,365
Students per teacher: 14.8
High school career / tech enrollment: 1,732
High school graduates: 975

Nonpublic Schools Number: 15

Higher Education (2020)

	Enrollment	Degrees
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2-year institution

Wor-Wic Community College	2,705	529
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4-year institutions

Salisbury University	8,124	2,200
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The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is located in neighboring Somerset County, and the recently accredited University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science is based in Dorchester County.

TAX RATES⁹

	Wicomico County	Maryland
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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) \$0.9070 \$0.1120

Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value

In addition to this rate, there are some miscellaneous taxes and/ or special taxing areas in the county; in an incorporated area, a municipal rate may also apply

Business Personal Prop. Tax (2023) \$2.1715 none

Rate per \$100 of depreciated value

Exempt – manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies; manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may 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

INCOME³ (2017-2021)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Wicomico County	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	18.2%	12.3%	17.2%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	21.5%	14.6%	19.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.3%	14.7%	16.8%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.3%	12.6%	12.8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	16%	19.4%	16.3%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	6.9%	11.5%	7.8%
\$200,000 and over	4.8%	15%	9.5%
Median household	\$63,610	\$91,431	\$69,021
Average household	\$81,907	\$120,234	\$97,196
Per Capita	\$31,487	\$45,915	\$37,638
Total income (millions)	\$3,231	\$275,849	\$12,053,372

HOUSING^{3,10}

Occupied Units 2017-2021 39,452 (58.4% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions

Units Sold	1,306
Median Selling Price	\$245,000

*All multiple listed properties excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Industrial sites in the county range from one to 300 acres.

Northwood Industrial Park in the Salisbury area has a total of 350 acres with 50 acres available.

Air Business Center (ABC) has sites with direct runway access for air-related business uses. Long-term land leases are available.

Fruitland Industrial Park has a total of 110 acres with municipal services and rail access.

Westwood Commerce Park, at the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and the Salisbury Bypass, offers 260 acres served by Salisbury city water and sewer, as well as natural gas and high speed voice and data lines.

Market Profile Data (2019)	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$17,000	\$125,000	\$40,000
Office	\$22,000	\$250,000	\$60,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$2.00	\$7.00	\$4.50
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$5.00	\$14.00	\$9.50
Class A Office	\$6.50	\$15.00	\$11.00

Brief Economic Facts // WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13 and U.S. 50 Rail: Norfolk Southern Railway

Truck: More than 70 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Lower Eastern Shore

Water: Wicomico River, 14 ft. channel at Salisbury; Port of Salisbury is the second largest in Maryland; also served by the Port of Baltimore, 50' channel; a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; seven public terminals including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility

Air: The Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, 4.5 miles east of Salisbury, offers runway lengths of 5000' and 6400', a full instrument landing service (ILS), aviation fuel, charter service, and an industrial park with runway access; commercial passenger service provided by American Airlines to Philadelphia and Charlotte; airport is home to numerous corporate clients, a small business incubator and a FedEx distribution center; UPS has a regional distribution center in Salisbury

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks and Recreation: Five state parks provide camping and natural beauty; other activities include swimming, fishing—including deep sea fishing—boating, golfing, skeet, trap and silhouette shooting, hiking, biking, canoeing, bird watching, and country and yacht club activities.

Sports: Collegiate athletic events, tennis and professional golf tournaments; horse racing (trotting) at Ocean Downs; a Hunt Club/Pony Club; Wicomico County is home to the Delmarva Shorebirds, a Class A minor league affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles.

Cultural: Summer band, big band, and rock music concerts; national country western shows; the Salisbury Symphony; dinner theater plays; a Council of Arts serves the area, as does the largest civic center on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Arts & Entertainment District: Salisbury.

Attractions: Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, antique auto clubs and shows, and a first-class zoo.

Events: Salisbury Festival, Pork in the Park, Autumn Wine Festival, Good Beer Festival celebrating craft beers, World Wildfowl Carving Show, and tours of historic homes.

UTILITIES

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

Gas: Natural gas supplied by Chesapeake Utilities Corporation; customers may choose their gas supplier

Water: Municipal systems in Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, Pittsville, Salisbury, Sharptown and Willards

Sewer: Municipal systems in Delmar, Fruitland, Hebron, Pittsville, Salisbury, Sharptown, Willards and Air Business Center

Telecommunications: Predominant local carrier - Verizon Maryland; long distance carriers - AT&T, Verizon, Sprint Nextel and others; AT&T, Verizon and Sprint PoPs are located in Salisbury

GOVERNMENT

County Seat: Salisbury

Government: County executive; seven council members (two elected at large and five from districts) 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

Julie Giordano, County Executive 410.548.4801

John T. Cannon President, County Council 410.548.4696

Website: www.wicomicocounty.org

County Bond Rating: AA+ (S&P); Aa2 (Moody's); AA (Fitch)

Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Inc.

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www.swed.org

Sources:

1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1981-2010 normals); Maryland Geological Survey

2 American Community Survey

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 Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Inc.

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