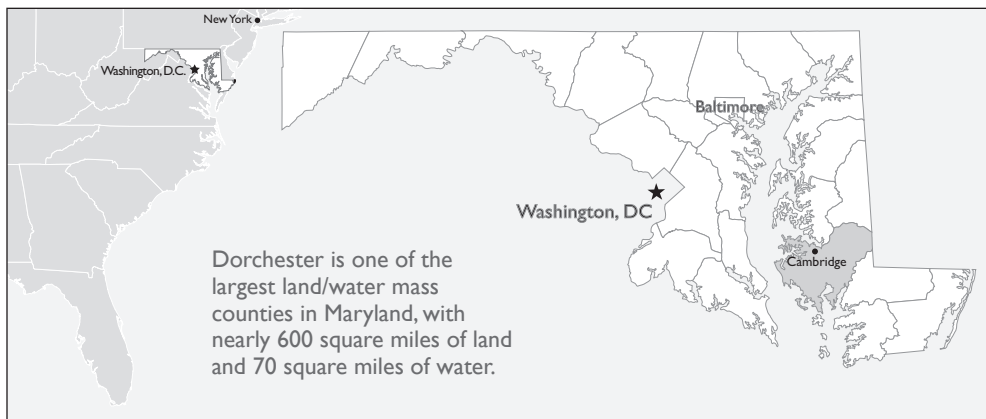


# BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

## DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Dorchester County boasts more than 1,500 miles of beautiful shoreline. It is one of the largest 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 large and small businesses 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 8,940 workers.

The county continues to diversify its industry sector mix as demonstrated by the recent development of the Dorchester Regional Technology Park, a 113-acre park that will serve the county and region. The new park, complete with water, sewer and fiber infrastructure, is located adjacent to the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport, within one of the county's two State Enterprise Zones. Hurlock Industrial Park to the north and Chesapeake Industrial Park in Cambridge



are also in Enterprise Zones. 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, 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 GEOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2,3</sup>

	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**	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<sup>3</sup> (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<sup>3,4,5</sup> (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2011 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	16,963	196,780
Employment	15,213	180,599
Unemployment	1,750	16,181
Unemployment rate	10.3%	8.2%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2008-2010)	Number	Percent
	5,286	36.8%

### Employment in selected occupations (2008-2010)

Occupation	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	4,016	27.3%
Service	2,458	16.7%
Sales and office	3,767	25.6%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,627	17.8%

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

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2011)

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 Svcs.	Vocational, social services	350
Cambridge International	Metal mesh and wire cloth	278
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
Horn Point Laboratory	Fisheries research	98
Interstate Container	Corrugated boxes	97
Suicide Bridge Restaurant	Restaurant	92
Air Liquide America	Calgaz, specialty gases	70
Kool Ice & Seafood	Seafood processing	70
CAMTEC	Medical equipment	68
Egide USA	Electronic packaging prods.	68
LWRC International	Military firearms	67
Perdue Farms	Grain, oil seeds, hatchery	65
The Mushroom Company	Mushroom processing	65
Fresh & Green's	Groceries	60
JCR Enterprises	Poultry processing	60

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

\* Employment increases to 700 in the summer

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2010, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	22	211	1.9	\$1,053
State government	8	779	6.9	862
Local government	25	1,342	11.9	797
Private sector	741	8,939	79.3	604
Natural resources and mining	26	304	2.7	678
Construction	95	427	3.8	710
Manufacturing	42	2,502	22.2	698
Trade, transportation and utilities	215	1,847	16.4	545
Information	9	67	0.6	581
Financial activities	58	339	3.0	852
Professional and business services	87	336	3.0	723
Education and health services	67	1,522	13.5	665
Leisure and hospitality	71	1,239	11.0	347
Other services	71	356	3.2	355
<b>Total</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>653</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2011)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$30.50	\$22.25	\$37.75
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	15.75	11.75	18.50
Computer support specialists	18.25	11.50	23.50
Computer systems analysts	41.25	30.00	47.50
Customer service representatives	14.00	10.75	17.75
Electronic engineering technicians	27.25	20.75	30.75
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.75	8.25	14.00
Industrial truck operators	14.75	12.00	16.25
Inspectors, testers, sorters	15.25	10.75	19.00
Machinists	19.00	12.50	21.50
Maintenance workers, machinery	18.00	11.00	20.00
Mixing and blending machine operators	15.25	11.50	17.75
Network administrators	32.75	23.75	37.00
Packers and packagers, hand	9.25	8.25	10.75
Secretaries	14.00	10.50	16.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.25	10.00	14.75
Team assemblers	12.50	9.50	15.00

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<sup>3,8</sup>

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2008-2010)

High school graduate or higher	82.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	17.3%

### Public Schools

Number: 6 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 3 high
Enrollment: 4,647 (Sept. 2010)
Cost per pupil: \$12,336 (2009-2010)
Students per teacher: 12.1 (Oct. 2010)
High school career / tech enrollment: 659 (2011)
High school graduates: 309 (June 2010)

### Private Schools

Number: 6 (Sept. 2010)
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Higher Education (2010)	Enrollment	Degrees
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### 2-year institution

Chesapeake College*	2,956	230
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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 RATES<sup>9</sup>

	Dorchester Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2012)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2012)</b>	2.62%	2.0% - 5.5%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.5% on taxable income over \$500,000		
<b>Sales &amp; Use Tax (2012)</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 12)</b>	\$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		
<b>Business Personal Property Tax (FY 12)</b>	\$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 60% 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

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2008-2010)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Dorchester Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	24.9	15.6	24.0
\$25,000 - \$49,999	26.8	19.5	24.8
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20.1	18.2	18.5
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.0	13.9	12.1
\$100,000 - \$149,999	10.1	17.6	12.2
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.9	8.0	4.3
\$200,000 and over	2.2	7.2	4.1
Median household	\$46,710	\$70,017	\$51,222
Average household	\$61,047	\$90,800	\$70,116
Per capita	\$25,106	\$34,469	\$26,942
Total income (millions)	\$819	\$192,747	\$8,035,025

## HOUSING<sup>2,3,10</sup>

Occupied Units (2008-2010) 13,411 (70.8% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions (2010)	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions	NA	NA
All multiple-listed properties*	262	\$139,950

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY<sup>6</sup>

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, and also within State Enterprise Zones, are 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
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$16,500	\$70,000	\$35,000
Office	\$20,000	\$150,000	\$40,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
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

## FEDERAL FUNDING<sup>3</sup> (2010)

### Direct Federal Expenditures or Obligations

	Total	Per Capita
<b>Total</b>	\$508,427,645	\$15,587
Defense	\$120,694,115	\$3,700
Non-defense	\$387,733,530	\$11,887

## 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 Nextel, 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

Jay L. Newcomb, President, County Council 410.228.1700

M. Jane Baynard, County Manager 410.228.1700

**Website:** [www.choosedorchester.org](http://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**

Keasha Haythe, CEcD, Director

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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