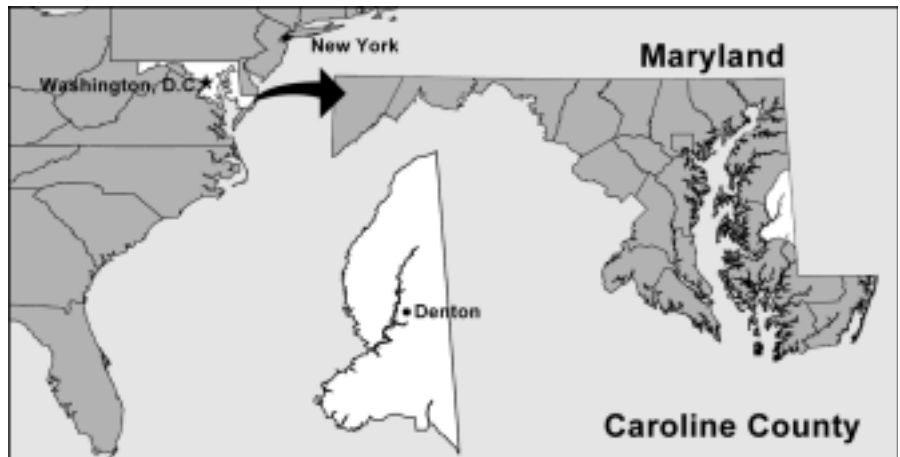


CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS



Caroline County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is located midway between Maryland's northern and southern borders and shares its eastern border with Delaware. The county is rural in character. Farming is a major economic pursuit, consisting primarily of poultry, grain and vegetable crops. Major business centers are the towns of Denton (the county seat) and Federalsburg, with three industrial parks located in or near these towns. The Mid-Shore Regional Business & Technology Park will be completed in the spring of 2008.

Caroline's 700 businesses employ 7,200 workers; an estimated nine of these businesses have 100 or more workers. Manufacturing accounts for about 16 percent of total employment. Major employers include Hanover Foods, Maryland Plastics, Pillsbury, Solo Cup, Tri-Gas & Oil and Unisite Design.

Caroline County is participating in the One Maryland Program, which offers significant tax credits for capital investments that create jobs.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Denton:

	(in miles)	(in kilometers)
Atlanta, GA	686	1,104
Baltimore, MD	61	98
Boston, MA	392	631
Chicago, IL	739	1,189
New York, NY	185	298
Philadelphia, PA	95	153
Pittsburgh, PA	283	455
Richmond, VA	172	277
Washington, DC	72	116

CLIMATE

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	43.2
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	18.5
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.9
Winter Temperature (°F)	36.7
Duration of Freeze-Free Period	187 days

Note: Temperature and precipitation data based on 30-year averages.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maryland State Office of Climatology.

POPULATION

	Caroline County	Upper Eastern Shore*	Maryland
1990 Census	27,035	177,009	4,780,753
2000 Census	29,772	199,406	5,296,486
2005 Estimate	31,600	215,150	5,589,800
2010 Projection	34,200	233,000	5,897,600
2015 Projection	37,300	253,975	6,176,075

*Represents Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot Counties.

Selected areas population (2000 Census): Denton, 2,960; Federalsburg, 2,620; Greensboro, 1,632; Ridgely, 1,352.

U.S. Bureau of the Census; Maryland Department of Planning.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

(2010 Projection)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	2,390	7.0
5 - 19	6,870	20.1
20 - 44	10,580	30.9
45 - 64	9,660	28.3
65 and over	4,690	13.7
Total	34,200	100.0

Note: Columns may not add due to rounding.

Maryland Department of Planning.

CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY

(by place of residence) **Caroline County**

Civilian Labor Force (2006 annual averages):

Total civilian labor force	16,309
Employment	15,601
Unemployment	708
Unemployment rate	4.3%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2000):

7,874 55.9%

Employment in selected occupations (2000):

Management, professional and related	3,539	24.8%
Service	2,078	14.5%
Sales and office	3,515	24.6%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,622	18.3%

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance; U.S. Bureau of the Census.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Solo Cup	Paper and plastic cups	750
Benedictine School for Exceptional Children	Private school for special education	300
Maryland Plastics	Plastic tableware	200
Tri-Gas & Oil	Appliances, gas, fuel oil	160
Burriss Retail Logistics	Refrigerated trucking	130
Ruxton Health of Denton	Medical services	120
Choptank Electric Coop.	Electric utility cooperative	110
Hanover Foods	Frozen foods distribution	110
Caroline Nursing Home	Nursing care	105
Unisite Design	Outdoor metal furniture	95
Boaters World Discount Marine Center	Marine products distribution	90
H&M Bay	Refrigerated trucking	90
Food Lion	Groceries	85
Pillsbury	Bread products	80
Yale Sportswear	Active wear	75
Caroline Center	Services for the disabled	70
McDonald's	Restaurants	60
Preston Automotive Grp.	Car dealers	60
Sisk Fulfillment	Marketing services	60
Medifast	Dietary health products	40
Benmatt Industries	Frames and castings	30
Xpert Xpress	Express delivery service	30
M&M Refrigeration	Cooling equipment	25
Mulholland Harper	Plastic and metal signs	25
Tanglewood Conservatories	Wood and glass conservatories	25

Note: Excludes post offices, state and local governments; includes public higher education institutions.

Caroline Economic Development Corporation; Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

EMPLOYMENT

(2006, by place of work)	Annual Average Employment	%	Average Weekly Wage
Industry			
Federal government	85	1.0	\$752
State government	181	2.1	694
Local government	1,254	14.4	714
Private sector	7,168	82.5	553
Nat'l. resources and mining	193	2.2	415
Construction	811	9.3	628
Manufacturing	1,369	15.8	625
Trade, transp. and utilities	2,239	25.8	603
Information	10	0.1	710
Financial activities	317	3.6	557
Prof. and business services	315	3.6	542
Educ. and health services	1,191	13.7	509
Leisure and hospitality	531	6.1	218
Other services	192	2.2	462
Total	8,688	100.0	581

Note: Percentages may not add due to rounding.

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance.

HOURLY WAGE RATES

(2007)	Median	Experi-Entry	enced
Selected Occupations:			
Accountants	\$22.50	\$14.75	\$28.00
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	14.75	10.50	17.50
Computer support specialists	19.25	14.25	24.50
Customer service representatives	13.00	9.75	16.00
Electronic engineering technicians	20.75	15.25	24.00
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	9.25	7.00	12.00
Industrial truck operators	12.50	10.00	14.25
Inspectors, testers, sorters	12.75	9.50	15.75
Machinists	19.50	13.50	21.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	15.25	11.75	17.00
Mixing and blending machine operators	13.00	10.75	14.50
Network administrators	28.75	23.50	34.25
Packers and packagers, hand	10.00	7.75	11.25
Secretaries	13.00	9.50	15.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	13.00	8.25	15.50
Team assemblers	11.25	8.50	12.75

Note: These 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). Wages may vary by industry, employer, and locality.

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance.

CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

PERSONAL INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income - 2005

Caroline County	\$26,409
Maryland	\$41,972
U.S.	\$34,471

Total Personal Income (millions) - 2005

Caroline County	\$840
Maryland	\$234,609
U.S.	\$10,220,942

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

TAX RATES

	Caroline County	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2008) Base - Federal taxable income.	none	8.25%
Personal Income Tax (2008) Base - Federal adjusted gross income. *Graduated tax peaking at 5.5% on taxable income over \$500,000.	2.63%	2.0%-5.5%*
Sales and Use Tax (2008) 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.	none	6.0%
Real Property Tax (FY 2008) Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value. In an incorporated area, the county rate will vary and a municipal rate will also apply. Upon application to the county, a manufacturer engaged in new construction may be eligible for a five-year tax abatement on real property.	\$0.87	\$0.112
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 2008) 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.	\$2.18	none
Major Tax Credits Available Job Creation; Research and Development.		
Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury.		

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment - age 25 and over (2000):

High School Graduate or Higher	75.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12.1%

Public Schools

Number: 5 Elementary; 2 Middle; 3 High

Enrollment: 5,611 (Sept. 2006)

Cost per Pupil: \$9,035 (2005-2006)

Students per Teacher: 14.5 (Oct. 2006)

High School Career/Tech Enrollment: 598 (2007)

High School Graduates: 391 (June 2006)

Private Schools

Number: 5; **Enrollment:** 399 (Sept. 2006)

Higher Education

(2006)	Enrollment	Degrees
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2-Year Institution

Chesapeake College*	2,579	194
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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 adjacent Queen Anne's County. Coursework is offered at the Caroline Career and Technology Center and other locations in the region.

Maryland State Department of Education and Higher Education Commission; U.S. Bureau of the Census.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

The Federalsburg Industrial Park totals 250 acres and the Caroline Industrial Park totals 100 acres in Federalsburg. Five sites totaling 25 acres are available for sale at \$35,000 per acre. All sites have electricity, municipal water, sewer, paved streets, fire and municipal police protection. Rail-served sites are available. Natural gas is accessible.

The Denton Industrial Park totals 120 acres in Denton. Three prepared sites ranging from 2.5 to 5 acres are available at \$35,000 per acre with electricity, municipal water, sewer, paved streets, fire and municipal police protection.

The Greensboro Industrial Park in Greensboro will build to suit and has available lease spaces ranging in size from 2,500 square feet to 15,000 square feet.

A variety of buildings ranging from 3,500 square feet to 90,000 square feet are available in the county. Manufacturing facilities include the Paul Wise Building (18,000 square feet in Denton) and the Mulholland-Harper Building (90,000 square feet in Denton).

Construction of the Mid-Shore Regional Business and Technology Park in Ridgely will be completed in the spring of 2008. Phase I has 22 acres of fully-developed lots which have in-place amenities that include parking lots and sidewalks. The projected price is expected to be approximately \$100,000 per acre. The Ridgely Air Park is adjacent to the new park (3,500 foot paved runway being lengthened to 5,000 feet).

CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: Maryland arteries connect with U.S. 50, U.S. 301, and U.S. 13.

Rail: The town of Federalsburg is served by Maryland-Delaware Railroad Company with access to Norfolk Southern.

Truck: 23 motor freight common carriers serve the county.

Water: Region served by the Port of Baltimore, 50' channel; a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; six public terminals including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (60 miles from Denton).

Air: Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) is 60 miles (70 minutes) from Denton. Charter services are available at Easton (15 miles from Denton) and Ridgely Airpark (five miles from Denton). Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport is 78 miles (90 minutes) and Dulles International near Washington, D.C. is 103 miles (2 hours).

UTILITIES

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

Gas: Natural gas is available in Federalsburg from Chesapeake Utilities Corporation.

Water: Municipal systems in Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Preston, and Ridgely.

Sewer: Municipal systems in Denton, Federalsburg, Greensboro, Preston, and Ridgely.

Telecommunications: Local Carriers - Verizon Maryland and other local provider(s) that offer service on proprietary or leased infrastructure. Long Distance Carriers - AT&T, Sprint, Verizon and numerous additional carriers and resellers of WATS and MTS. Comcast offers high-speed internet.

HOUSING

Median Selling Price:

All owner-occupied properties (FY 2007)	\$275,000
All multiple-listed properties (2006)*	\$231,000

*Includes rental properties; excludes auctions and FSBO.

Sources: Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation; Maryland Association of Realtors.

RECREATION and CULTURE

Residents and visitors enjoy outdoor activities such as canoeing, golfing, shooting, biking, hiking, bird watching, hang gliding, horseback riding, ballooning, camping, boating, fishing and hunting.

Caroline has over 8,000 acres of public parks, nature preserves, and wildlife sanctuaries, including Tuckahoe State Park (3,800 acres) and Atkins Arboretum (500 acres). Several private parks also offer camping, swimming, fishing and boat rentals. Municipal parks in seven towns offer field sports.

Heritage facilities and sites include the Museum of Rural Life, Old Harford Town Maritime Center and the Mason-Dixon Line Crownstone. Trails include the Underground Railroad Trail, Civil War Trail, Tuckahoe and Choptank Rivers Water Trail, Tuckahoe Farmland Bike Trail, and Marshyhope River Hiker-Biker Trail.

The Caroline Country Club has a mature 18-hole golf course. The new Upland Golf Course offers championship-level golfing.

The county is dotted with many quaint, small and historic towns such as Denton, the county seat. Accommodations include six bed and breakfasts, five campgrounds, and a new 60-room Best Western Hotel.

GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat - Denton

Government - Three commissioners elected at large for four-year terms; home rule system.

Bond Rating - A (S&P); A2 (Moody's)

Elevation - Sea level to 79 feet

Land Area - 320.8 square miles

Water Area - 3.6 square miles

Shoreline - 120 miles

Maryland State Archives; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Geological Survey.



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
David W. Edgerley, Secretary
Clarence T. Bishop, Deputy Secretary

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS:

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