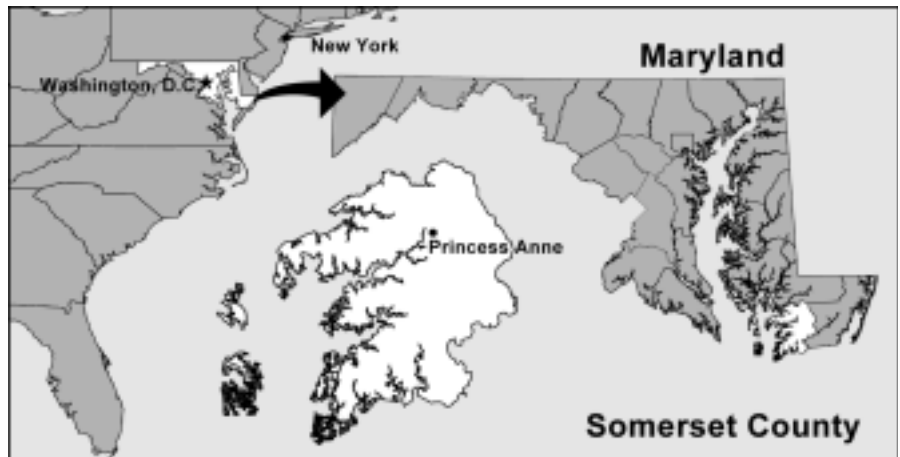


SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS



Somerset County, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is the state's southernmost county. The Chesapeake Bay forms its western boundary, Virginia its southern. The county is located approximately 100 miles from the Baltimore/Washington, Wilmington/Philadelphia, as well as the Norfolk/Hampton Roads metropolitan areas. A water-oriented county, rural Somerset attracts fisherman, hunters, tourists and water sports enthusiasts.

Crisfield and Princess Anne are the two major business and industrial centers of the county. Major employers are Lankford-Sysco Food Services, McCready Memorial Hospital, Handy International, Mountaire Farms, PNC, Perdue, Rubberset, Eastern Correctional Institute and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Somerset is a major seafood processor and poultry producer, and provides a rich agricultural harvest including soybeans, corn, tomatoes and wheat. Princess Anne is the county seat and the site of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, with undergraduate programs, including doctoral programs in marine, estuarine and environmental sciences.

The county has a 499-acre Enterprise Zone located within the City of Crisfield, and a 1,297-acre Zone in the Town of Princess Anne. In addition, Somerset is participating in the One Maryland Program, which offers significant tax credits for capital investments that create jobs. The county's EDC is developing services in and around Princess Anne to assist the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and commercial interests in the waterfront of Crisfield. Plans and studies are still moving forward for a passenger ferry service, a hotel conference center, and developing industrial projects such as a Wal-Mart distribution center, biodiesel facility, Oddi Atlantic manufacturing plant and a proposed ethanol plant.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Princess Anne:

	(in miles)	(in kilometers)
Atlanta, GA	671	1,080
Baltimore, MD	117	188
Boston, MA	436	702
Chicago, IL	796	1,281
New York, NY	230	370
Philadelphia, PA	140	225
Pittsburgh, PA	338	544
Richmond, VA	200	322
Washington, DC	129	208

CLIMATE

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	43.4
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	11.6
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.4
Winter Temperature (°F)	38.4
Duration of Freeze-Free Period	171 days
Note: Temperature and precipitation data based on 30-year averages.	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Maryland State Office of Climatology.	

POPULATION

	Somerset County	Lower Eastern Shore*	Maryland
1990 Census	23,440	132,807	4,780,753
2000 Census	24,747	155,934	5,296,486
2005 Estimate	25,700	164,150	5,589,800
2010 Projection	27,150	174,100	5,897,600
2015 Projection	28,100	183,750	6,176,075

*Represents Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

Selected areas population (2000 Census): Crisfield, 2,723; Princess Anne, 2,313.

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

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

(2010 Projection)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,220	4.5
5 - 19	5,080	18.7
20 - 44	9,890	36.4
45 - 64	7,160	26.4
65 and over	3,820	14.1
Total	27,150	100.0

Note: Columns may not add due to rounding.

Maryland Department of Planning.

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY

(by place of residence) Somerset County

Civilian Labor Force (2006 annual averages):

Total civilian labor force	11,702
Employment	11,065
Unemployment	637
Unemployment rate	5.4%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2000):

3,837 42.2%

Employment in selected occupations (2000):

Management, professional and related	2,321	24.8%
Service	1,983	21.2%
Sales and office	2,201	23.5%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,414	15.1%

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
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)	Higher education	950
Lankford-Sysco Food Serv.	Food products distribution	750
McCready Memorial Hosp.	Medical services	275
PNC Finan. Services Group	Banking services	250
Manokin Manor	Nursing care	165
Rubberset	Paint brushes	160
Somerset Community Serv.	Services for the disabled	150
Custom Pak	Produce packaging	132
Southern Connection Seafood*	Seafood processing and distribution	120
Three Lower Counties Community Services	Medical services	105
Austin Cox Mechanical	Plumbing and HVAC contr.	85
Food Lion	Groceries	75
Oddi Atlantic	Commercial printing	65
Tidewater Express	Trucking services	55
Handy International*	Seafood processing	50
Metompkin Bay Oyster*	Seafood processing and distribution	50
Mountaire Farms	Chicken hatchery	50
McDonald's	Restaurant	40
Captain's Galley	Restaurant	30
Peaky's Restaurant	Restaurant	25
U.S. Coast Guard**	Mariner assistance	22
Evan's Boats	Boat building and repair	20

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

* Includes seasonal workers.

**Employee counts for federal and military facilities exclude contractors.

Somerset County Economic Development Commission; Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

EMPLOYMENT

(2006, by place of work)	Annual Average Employment	%	Average Weekly Wage
Federal government	69	1.0	\$679
State government	1,980	27.4	735
Local government	885	12.3	686
Private sector	4,287	59.4	566
Nat'l. resources and mining	373	5.2	493
Construction	319	4.4	583
Manufacturing	397	5.5	596
Trade, transp. and utilities	1,319	18.3	764
Information	18	0.2	798
Financial activities	242	3.4	479
Prof. and business services	201	2.8	578
Educ. and health services	861	11.9	514
Leisure and hospitality	463	6.4	180
Other services	94	1.3	422
Total	7,221	100.0	628

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	Entry	Experienced
Selected Occupations:			
Accountants	\$22.50	\$17.00	\$34.50
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	14.00	10.25	16.50
Computer systems analysts	30.75	17.75	37.50
Customer service representatives	13.50	9.25	16.50
Electrical engineers	36.00	27.25	43.00
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	10.25	7.75	12.00
Industrial truck operators	12.00	9.75	14.00
Machinists	15.75	12.50	19.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	15.75	9.25	17.25
Mixing and blending machine operators	14.50	10.50	17.50
Network administrators	22.00	16.75	27.25
Packaging and filling machine operators	11.00	7.50	13.50
Packers and packagers, hand	7.25	6.75	9.25
Secretaries	12.75	9.75	14.75
Shipping/receiving clerks	11.75	9.25	14.25
Team assemblers	11.50	8.25	15.25

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

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

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

PERSONAL INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income - 2005

Somerset County	\$23,125
Maryland	\$41,972
U.S.	\$34,471

Total Personal Income (millions) - 2005

Somerset County	\$594
Maryland	\$234,609
U.S.	\$10,220,942

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

TAX RATES

	Somerset 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.	3.15%	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, a municipal rate will also apply.	\$0.94	\$0.112
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 2008) Rate per \$100 of depreciated value. Exempt - manufacturing, R&D, and warehousing inventory. (Upon application to the county, a new or expanding firm may be eligible for a tax credit on manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies). In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply.	\$2.35	none
Major Tax Credits Available Enterprise Zone; Job Creation; One Maryland; 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	69.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11.6%

Public Schools

Number: 4 Elementary; 4 Middle/Combined; 1 High

Enrollment: 2,941 (Sept. 2006)

Cost per Pupil: \$11,308 (2005-2006)

Students per Teacher: 12.4 (Oct. 2006)

High School Career/Tech Enrollment: 291 (2007)

High School Graduates: 153 (June 2006)

Private Schools

Number: 2; **Enrollment:** 536 (Sept. 2006)

Higher Education

(2006)	Enrollment	Degrees
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4-Year Institution

University of Maryland Eastern Shore	4,130	545
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Wor-Wic Community College in neighboring Wicomico County offers coursework throughout the Lower Eastern Shore.

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

BUSINESS/INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Princess Anne Industrial Park - Located within the incorporated city limits of the Town of Princess Anne, a 65-acre park divided into lots ranging from approximately three to six acres in size to give the flexibility to meet the varying needs of industry. Fully equipped with water, sewer, utilities and access roads, the industrial park's sites are level, cleared and ready for immediate construction. It can accommodate a flex building of 30,000 to 50,000 square feet on approximately six acres of land. The park is conveniently accessible to U.S. Route 13 and to markets north and south and is accessible to rail which runs alongside of the park. It is also in an Enterprise Zone, which offers real property tax credits, income tax credits, enhanced job creation tax credits, and priority access to Maryland's financing programs.

Chase Plaza - Located on Route 13 south of town, next to the Econo Lodge in Princess Anne, Chase Plaza business park is a six-phase project which will offer both commercial and retail space. Construction has already begun on a 10,000 square foot building. All units in the park will be for sale or lease.

Business Incubator

Applied Information Technology Research and Education Center, Princess Anne

Market Profile Data

Land - cost per acre	Low	High	Average
Industrial	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
Rental Rates - per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$1.50	\$3.25	\$2.50
Somerset County Economic Development Commission.			

SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 13.

Rail: Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Truck: 19 motor freight common carriers serve the county.

Water: 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. Also served by Crisfield Harbor, 8'-10' channel.

Air: Scheduled service available at Salisbury-Ocean City-Wicomico Regional Airport, 16 miles from Princess Anne. Crisfield Airport, one 2500' x 75' paved, lighted runway; one 3350' x 100' grass runway; further improvements are currently planned and/or underway.

UTILITIES

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

Water: County systems in Crisfield (peripheral area outside city limit), Princess Anne, Rumbley-Frenchtown, and Upper and Lower Fairmount. Municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield.

Sewer: County systems in Crisfield (peripheral area outside city limit), Princess Anne, Smith Island, and Upper and Lower Fairmount. Municipal system serves city limits of Crisfield.

Telecommunications: Local Carriers - Verizon Maryland and other local provider(s) that offer service on proprietary or leased infrastructure. Long Distance Carriers - AT&T, Sprint, LCI International, Verizon and numerous additional carriers and resellers of WATS and MTS. Fiber broadband availability through Maryland Broadband Cooperative.

HOUSING

Median Selling Price:

All owner-occupied properties (FY 2007)	\$159,900
All multiple-listed properties (2006)*	\$176,571

*Includes rental properties; excludes auctions and FSBO.

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

RECREATION and CULTURE

Great Hope Golf Course, developed in 1995 as the county's first golf course, offers 18 holes on 213 acres.

Organized recreational activities include football, baseball, basketball, softball, racquetball, swimming, dance, volleyball, weightlifting, soccer, biking, karate, yoga, aerobics and after school programs. Somerset County Recreation & Parks received funding from DNR Open Space program to purchase 45 acres to be used for public playing fields, trails and an indoor recreation facility. An athletic center is also planned for Princess Anne in a cooperative effort between the town and UMES.

Water activities, hunting, and golf are other recreational options, as is the natural beauty at Janes Island State Park. There are 11 county boat ramps. Somers Cove Marina, located in Crisfield, is a state-owned marina with over 455 slips. Charter fishing boats and cruise boats departing the City of Crisfield are available.

Old Princess Anne Days, Princess Anne Street Fest, Christmas in Princess Anne, the Crisfield Hard Crab Derby, the Skipjack Race of Deal Island, Tawes Annual Crab & Clam Bake, Somerset County Fair, Colonial Christmas Candlelight Tour, Fairmount Academy 1800's Festival, Waterman's Folklife Festival, Pro-Am Fishing Tournament, Daffodil Show, Terrapin Sands Fish Fry, Native American Indian Festival and Powwow, Softshell Spring Fair, July 4th Festival, J. M. Tawes Oyster and Bull Roast and Christmas in Crisfield are the county's annual events.

Visit the Crisfield Historical Museum, Ward Brothers Homeplace, Historic Teackle Mansion, Princess Anne Farmer's Market, many antique shops and historic buildings and sites.

GENERAL INFORMATION

County Seat - Princess Anne

Government - Five commissioners elected by district for four-year terms.

Elevation - Sea level to 46 feet

Land Area - 338.4 square miles

Water Area - 35.9 square miles

Shoreline - 1,106 miles

Maryland State Archives; Maryland Geological Survey.



Department of Business & Economic Development

Martin O'Malley, Governor

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