

Brief Economic Facts

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Howard County is one of the nation's premier communities, centrally located between two of the largest metropolitan areas, Washington D.C. and Baltimore. With over 317,000 residents and one of the nation's most educated workforces, the county is nationally recognized as one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. It is at the center of the growing cyber security industry due to proximity to Fort George Meade, U.S. Cyber Command and National Security Agency. The county is also home to major research institutions such as Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and companies like W.R. Grace, Merkle, Tenable Network Security, Medstar, and Maxim Healthcare Services.

Howard County offers a blend of pastoral farms, historic towns, suburban communities, urban amenities and diversity. The county is also widely recognized for its friendly business climate. Corporate citizens range from defense contractors and biotech companies to information technology, telecom, multi-national corporations, wholesale distributors, 3D printing and additive



manufacturing. Howard County's more than 10,000 businesses and government agencies employ 168,000 workers. Major private sector employers include Dreyer's Ice Cream, Leidos, Lorien Health Systems, Coastal Sunbelt Produce, and Verizon Wireless. Business parks are strategically located along the I-95 corridor and provide easy access to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, Port of Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Baltimore. Howard County is also home to the Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship, one of the state's leading incubators.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Ellicott City:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	648	1,043
Baltimore, Maryland	11	18
Boston, Massachusetts	408	656
Chicago, Illinois	678	1,091
New York, New York	197	317
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	108	173
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	215	345
Richmond, Virginia	136	218
Washington, DC	31	49

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.5
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	20.6
Summer Temperature (°F)	74.2
Winter Temperature (°F)	35.0
Days Below Freezing	106.3
Land Area (square miles)	251.0
Water Area (square miles)	2.5
Elevation (feet)	20 to 873 (average 300 to 700)

POPULATION^{2,3}

	Howard County Households	Howard County Population	Baltimore Metro*	Maryland
2000	90,043	247,842	2,552,994	5,296,486
2010	104,750	287,085	2,710,489	5,773,552
2020**	124,642	336,900	2,851,100	6,141,900

*Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne's counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2010); Columbia 99,615; Ellicott City 65,834; Scaggsville 24,333; Ilchester 23,476; Elkridge 15,593; Savage 7,054

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION^{2,3} (2016)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	19,016	6.0
5 - 19	66,155	20.9
20 - 44	101,504	32.0
45 - 64	88,963	28.0
65 and over	41,595	13.1
Total	317,233	100.0
Median age		38.6 years

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

Civilian Labor Force (2016 avg.)	Labor Mkt.	
	County	Area*
Total civilian labor force	178,637	2,366,174
Employment	172,946	2,267,501
Unemployment	5,691	98,673
Unemployment rate	3.2%	4.2%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2012-2016)	Number	Percent
	95,865	58.4%

Employment in selected occupations (2012-2016)		
Management, business, science and arts	100,219	60.5%
Service	18,749	11.3%
Sales and office	31,510	19.0%
Production, transp. and material moving	8,168	4.9%

* Howard, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery and Prince George's, counties and Baltimore City

MAJOR EMPLOYERS^{6,7} (2017)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory	R&D systems engineering	5,545
Howard County General Hospital	Medical services	1,765
Verizon	Telecommunications	1,700
Howard Community College	Higher education	1,410
Lorien Health Systems	Nursing care	1,190
The Columbia Association*	Nonprofit civic org.	1,180
Coastal Sunbelt Produce	Produce processing	1,050
Wells Fargo	Securities administration	840
Oracle / Micros	HQ / software development	810
Leidos	Engineering services	760
Nestle Dreyer's Ice Cream	Frozen desserts	735
Sysco Food Services	Food products distribution	680
Maxim Healthcare Services	Medical staffing, wellness services	675
Ascend One	HQ / consumer debt mgmt.	510
Enterprise Community Partners	HQ / community development	505
QSSI	Healthcare informatics	500
W. R. Grace & Co.	HQ / chemical R&D	500
Humanim	Services for the disabled	460
Northrop Grumman	Engineering services	395
Cisco / Sourcefire	Information technology	350

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

* Includes full- and part-time employment; additional 700 seasonal employment

EMPLOYMENT⁴ (2016, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	26	637	0.4	\$1,519
State government	14	1,790	1.1	1,056
Local government	97	14,429	8.6	1,089
Private sector	9,936	151,053	90.0	1,263
Natural resources and mining	26	315	0.2	802
Construction	881	11,445	6.8	1,311
Manufacturing	214	7,813	4.7	1,440
Trade, transportation and utilities	1,821	34,954	20.8	1,085
Information	151	3,270	1.9	1,787
Financial activities	971	9,832	5.9	1,660
Professional and business services	2,974	45,558	27.1	1,712
Education and health services	1,256	18,179	10.8	918
Leisure and hospitality	757	15,256	9.1	401
Other services	884	4,431	2.6	741
Total	10,073	167,909	100.0	1,246

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES⁴ (2016)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$34.83	\$24.56	\$44.78
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	21.30	15.23	25.48
Computer systems analysts	46.88	29.21	62.10
Computer user support specialists	26.40	19.50	31.65
Customer service representatives	18.52	12.78	23.15
Electrical engineers	42.85	32.78	52.43
Electronics engineering technicians	25.06	17.99	32.59
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	14.46	10.07	17.84
Industrial truck operators	19.38	13.91	23.04
Inspectors, testers, sorters	22.75	14.32	28.29
Machinists	25.65	20.61	28.79
Network administrators	50.85	35.80	64.50
Packaging and filling machine operators	14.97	12.12	21.73
Secretaries	17.74	11.68	21.77
Shipping/receiving clerks	16.12	11.93	19.48
Team assemblers	11.37	9.12	14.64
Telemarketers	14.12	9.76	20.31

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive in Carroll and Howard counties and may vary by industry, employer and locality

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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2012-2016)

High school graduate or higher	95.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	61.0%

Public Schools

Number: 41 elementary; 20 middle/combined; 12 high
Enrollment: 56,784 (Sept. 2017)
Cost per pupil: \$15,397 (2014-2015)
Students per teacher: 13.3 (Oct. 2016)
High school career / tech enrollment: 5,615 (2017)
High school graduates: 4,054 (July 2016)

Nonpublic Schools

Number: 86 (Sept. 2016)

Higher Education	Enrollment ('17)	Degrees ('16)
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2-year institution

Howard Community College	9,723	1,168
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4-year institutions

Lincoln College of Technology	459	86
Maryland University of Integrative Health	1,183	215

Other universities offering programs in the county include: Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, University of Phoenix, and University of Maryland University College.

TAX RATES⁹

	Howard Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2018)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		

Personal Income Tax (2018)	3.20%	2.0%-5.75%*
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Base – federal adjusted gross income

*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000

Sales & Use Tax (2018)	none	6.0%
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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 (FY 18)	\$1.014	\$0.112
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Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value

No municipal taxes

Business Personal Property Tax (FY 18)	\$2.535	none
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Rate per \$100 of depreciated value

Exempt – manufacturing and R&D machinery, equipment, materials and supplies; manufacturing, R&D and warehousing inventory

Major Tax Credits Available

Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders, R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Brownfield Enterprise Zone, Rt. 1 Improvement, Commercial & Industrial Property

INCOME³ (2012-2016)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Howard Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	7.7	14.9	22.3
\$25,000 - \$49,999	9.6	17.6	23.1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.8	16.9	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.7	13.3	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	23.1	18.4	13.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	14.8	9.2	5.4
\$200,000 and over	19.4	9.7	5.7
Median household	\$113,800	\$76,067	\$55,322
Average household	\$137,054	\$100,071	\$77,866
Per capita	\$49,667	\$37,756	\$29,829
Total income (millions)	\$15,058	\$217,904	\$9,166,046

HOUSING^{2,3,10}

Occupied Units (2012-2016)	109,872 (73.4% owner occupied)
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Housing Transactions	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions (2016)	4,686	\$424,000
All multiple-listed properties (2017)*	4,383	\$403,323

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY⁶

Downtown Columbia, recently completed projects include: the Metropolitan, the Columbia Mall expansion, Little Patuxent Square, lakefront restaurants, and Whole Foods/Haven on the Lake building. The approved plan for the Crescent neighborhood includes 313,500 sf of retail, 1.475 million sf of office, 225,000 sf of cultural space, 250 hotel rooms and 2,300 residential units on 37 acres. The first stage of development includes two office buildings totaling 333,500 sf and 20,000 sf of terraced amenity space, as well as a parking deck. Costello Construction's new building, Little Patuxent Square, features 160 luxury apartment units and 135,000 sf of office space.

Maple Lawn, a 506-acre mixed-use development, offers more than 1.3 million sf of office space, 180,000 sf of neighborhood oriented retail, and more than 1,300 residential units. The business district features numerous Class A office buildings centrally located between Washington and Baltimore at the intersection of U.S. Route 29 and MD Route 216.

Business Incubator

Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship, Columbia

Market Profile Data (2017)	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$200,000
Office	\$400,000	\$600,000	\$500,000

Rental Rates – per square foot

Warehouse / Industrial	\$4.25	\$7.95	\$6.35
Flex / R&D / Technology	NA	NA	\$12.38
Class A Office	\$19.91	\$36.00	\$26.77

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TRANSPORTATION

Highways: I-70, I-95, U.S. 1, U.S. 29, U.S. 40, MD 32, MD 100 and MD 175

Public Transit: Four MARC commuter train stations on Camden line between Baltimore and Washington; MTA bus service to Baltimore and Washington; regional and local public and private bus service within the county

Rail: CSX Transportation; Amtrak passenger service along northeast/southeast corridor available nearby (20-minute drive to Baltimore station)

Truck: 100 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located in the county

Water: 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; one of only four ports on the East Coast able to accommodate Neo-Panamax ships

Air: Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), 10 miles east of Howard County, provides service with 36 passenger and cargo carriers, longest runway 10500'; 660 average daily passenger flights and 10 cargo flights; Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports are 30 and 50 miles to the south; together with BWI, they provide over 15,000 commercial flights weekly

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks: County parks offer trails for biking, horseback riding, skating, hiking, bird watching and nature walks; nearby Patapsco State Park and Patuxent River State Park provide for camping, canoeing and fishing; 5,300 acres of permanent open space, 93 miles of pathways, more than 170 tot lots, 5 lakes and several parks are located in Columbia

Recreation: Facilities managed by the Columbia Association include an art center, teen center, three fitness clubs, indoor ice rink, two golf courses, roller rink, three outdoor tennis clubs, 22 outdoor pools, mini water park and swim center

Golf: Seven world-class golf courses with 162 holes

Attractions: Sightseeing and antique shopping at the renovated mill towns of Savage Mill and Ellicott City; B&O Railroad Station Museum and Firehouse Museum in Ellicott City; Howard County Center for the Arts; African Art Museum of Maryland; Robinson Nature Center; numerous farms offering visitors and residents a taste of Howard County's agricultural heritage

Events: Concerts at the 14,200 seat Merriweather Post Pavilion; performances at local dinner theaters and colleges

UTILITIES

Electricity: BGE (Baltimore Gas and Electric), and Allegheny Power System; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

Gas: Natural gas supplied by BGE; customers may choose their gas supplier

Water: Howard County distributes water purchased from Baltimore City and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Sewer: Baltimore City system and Savage Treatment Plant (Howard County facility for the Patuxent drainage area)

Telecommunications: Primary local carrier is Verizon Maryland; Verizon and other major telecommunications providers offer state-of-the-art services to businesses in Howard County

GOVERNMENT¹¹

County Seat: Ellicott City

Government: County executive and five member county council 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

Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive 410.313.3932

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chair, County Council 410.313.2001

Website: www.howardcountymd.gov

County Bond Rating: AAA (S&P); Aaa (Moody's); AAA (Fitch)

Howard County Economic Development Authority

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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, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Howard County Economic Development Authority, Costar
- 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