

# Brief Economic Facts

## FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Frederick County is Maryland's largest county in size—663 square miles. The City of Frederick, the county seat, is intersected by five interstate and national highways that provide easy access to Baltimore (46 miles), Washington, D.C. (44 miles), Gettysburg, Pa. (32 miles), Harpers Ferry, W.Va. (21 miles), and Leesburg, Va. (25 miles). It is home to the 5,700-acre Catoctin Mountain Park, site of the Camp David Presidential Retreat. Frederick County is also Maryland's largest dairy producer, and has the second largest concentration of biotech companies in the state, with over 80 biotech firms calling the county home.



Frederick County's 6,200 businesses employ 80,300 workers; nearly 120 of these businesses have 100 or more workers. Major employers include AstraZeneca, Fannie Mae, Leidos Biomedical Research, Lonza, State Farm Insurance and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Recent expansions include AstraZeneca with 300 jobs

and \$200 million investment. The National Cancer Institute and Leidos recently completed the Frederick National Laboratory, with 330,000 sf of office and state-of-the-art lab space for cancer and AIDS research. In addition, expansion at Fort Detrick includes \$71 million in current construction creating over 300 jobs through 2019. Fort Detrick is home to the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, as well as most of the nation's biological defense programs.

### LOCATION

Driving distance from Frederick:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	635	1,021
Baltimore, Maryland	46	75
Boston, Massachusetts	443	713
Chicago, Illinois	637	1,025
New York, New York	232	373
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	143	229
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	179	288
Richmond, Virginia	145	233
Washington, DC	44	71

### CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	43.6
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	26.3
Summer Temperature (°F)	73.4
Winter Temperature (°F)	33.6
Days Below Freezing	106.1
Land Area (square miles)	662.7
Water Area (square miles)	4.6
Elevation (feet)	200 to 1,895

### POPULATION<sup>2,3</sup>

	Frederick County Households	Frederick County Population	Maryland part of Washington DC metro*	Maryland
2000	70,060	195,277	2,065,242	5,296,486
2010	84,800	233,385	2,303,870	5,773,552
2020**	97,975	265,650	2,517,100	6,224,550

\*Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties

\*\*Projections

Selected places population (2010): Frederick 65,239; Ballenger Creek 18,274; Urbana 9,175; Linganore 8,543; Thurmont 6,170; Brunswick 5,870; Walkersville 5,800; Spring Ridge 5,795

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2,3</sup> (2014)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	14,530	6.0
5 - 19	50,345	20.7
20 - 44	77,234	31.7
45 - 64	70,091	28.8
65 and over	31,475	12.9
Total	243,675	100.0
Median age		39.0 years

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## LABOR AVAILABILITY<sup>3,4,5</sup> (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2015 avg. - prelim.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	129,338	752,364
Employment	123,404	720,202
Unemployment	5,934	32,162
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.3%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2010-2014)	Number	Percent
	52,828	42.7%

### Employment in selected occupations (2010-2014)

Occupation	Number	Percent
Management, business, science and arts	58,359	46.5%
Service	19,426	15.5%
Sales and office	28,417	22.6%
Production, transp. and material moving	8,219	6.6%

\* Frederick, Montgomery and Washington counties

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>6,7</sup> (2015)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Fort Detrick*	Military installation	6,400
Leidos Biomedical Research	Medical research	2,700
Frederick Memorial Healthcare System	Medical services	2,232
Wells Fargo Home Mortg.	Mortgage services	1,742
Frederick Comm. College	Higher education	1,124
State Farm Insurance	Insurance	832
Walmart / Sam's Club	Consumer goods	814
UnitedHealthcare	Health insurance	635
AstraZeneca	Biopharmaceuticals	630
Lonza Walkersville	Biological media	524
Mount St. Mary's University	Higher education	500
McDonald's	Restaurants	499
Giant Food	Groceries	490
Way Station	Medical services	480
Costco Wholesale	Consumer goods distribution and retailing	452
Life Technologies	Biological products	450
NVR	Home builder	450
Hood College	Higher education	427
Wegmans Food Markets	Groceries	400
Plamondon Companies	Hotels, restaurants mgmt.	400
YMCA of Frederick County	Recreation and sports ctr.	395
Stulz Air Technology Sysys.	Air conditioning systems	388
Weis Markets	Groceries	363

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

\* Employee counts for federal and military facilities exclude contractors to the extent possible; embedded contractors may be included; includes employees at Frederick National Lab

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2014, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	59	3,690	3.9	\$1,611
State government	9	769	0.8	919
Local government	81	10,528	11.1	946
Private sector	6,193	80,265	84.3	900
Natural resources and mining	61	592	0.6	665
Construction	934	8,660	9.1	1,064
Manufacturing	175	5,053	5.3	1,185
Trade, transportation and utilities	1,130	16,373	17.2	676
Information	80	1,156	1.2	1,278
Financial activities	607	6,439	6.8	1,347
Professional and business services	1,407	14,638	15.4	1,278
Education and health services	716	13,149	13.8	823
Leisure and hospitality	543	10,926	11.5	329
Other services	539	3,279	3.4	689
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>95,252</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>933</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2015)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$35.00	\$24.75	\$45.00
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	19.25	14.00	23.00
Computer network support specialists	21.75	16.75	31.75
Computer systems analysts	44.00	29.75	54.75
Customer service representatives	15.75	10.00	18.50
Electronics engineers	44.25	32.00	55.75
Electronics engineering technicians	32.25	22.25	38.50
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	11.75	8.50	14.25
Industrial truck operators	17.25	14.50	19.25
Inspectors, testers, sorters	19.75	15.50	23.50
Machinists	24.75	16.75	28.00
Maintenance and repair workers	20.25	12.25	25.75
Packers and packagers, hand	10.00	8.25	12.75
Secretaries	17.50	11.75	20.75
Shipping/receiving clerks	15.75	10.50	18.75
Telemarketers	9.75	8.50	17.50

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

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## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES<sup>3,8</sup>

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2010-2014)

High school graduate or higher	91.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	38.8%

### Public Schools

Number: 36 elementary; 13 middle; 11 high
Enrollment: 40,655 (Sept. 2015)
Cost per pupil: \$12,268 (2012-2013)
Students per teacher: 15.2 (Oct. 2014)
High school career / tech enrollment: 5,534 (2015)
High school graduates: 3,024 (July 2014)

### Nonpublic Schools

Number: 54 (Sept. 2015)
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Higher Education	Enrollment ('15)	Degrees ('14)
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### 2-year institution

Frederick Community College	6,197	847
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### 4-year institutions

Hood College	2,288	583
Mount St. Mary's University	2,257	551

Several major universities are within an easy commute of the county.

## TAX RATES<sup>9</sup>

	Frederick Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2016)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2016)</b>	2.96%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000		
<b>Sales &amp; Use Tax (2016)</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 16)</b>	\$1.06	\$0.112
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, the county rate may vary and a municipal rate will also apply		
<b>Business Personal Property Tax (FY 16)</b>	none	none
No county personal property tax on ordinary business property		
\$2.34/\$100 applicable to utility operating property only		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply; municipal exemptions may be available		
<b>Major Tax Credits Available</b>		
Job Creation, R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Arts & Entertainment District		

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2010-2014)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Frederick Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	11.1	15.4	23.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	16.1	17.9	23.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17.1	17.2	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	14.1	13.4	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	21.9	18.1	13.0
\$150,000 - \$199,999	10.9	8.9	5.1
\$200,000 and over	8.8	9.1	5.0
Median household	\$84,480	\$74,149	\$53,482
Average household	\$100,723	\$97,135	\$74,596
Per capita	\$37,254	\$36,670	\$28,555
Total income (millions)	\$8,789	\$209,422	\$8,668,940

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

<b>Occupied Units (2010-2014)</b>	87,259 (74.4% owner occupied)		
<b>Housing Transactions (2014)</b>	Units	Median Selling Price	
All arms-length transactions	3,134	\$300,350	
All multiple-listed properties*	3,236	\$265,000	

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

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

Frederick County's site availabilities include upscale research and development, office and industrial campuses with in-place amenities. Over 30 industrial and office parks have available sites ranging from one to 200 acres with easy access to a vast transportation network. The inventory of available office, flex and industrial space totals over 3 million square feet.

Frederick County Office of Economic Development uses a comprehensive site database, CoStar Property, to assist businesses in the site selection process. The following are selected business parks in the Frederick area: 270 Technology Park, Ballenger Creek Center, Center at Monocacy, Frederick Airport Park, Jefferson Tech Park, Intercoastal Industrial Center, Knowledge Farms, Omega Center, Riverside Industrial Park, Riverside Tech Park, Stanford Industrial Park, Urbana Office & Research Center, Wedgewood Business Park, Westview South and Westview Corporate Campus. These locations offer outstanding opportunities for information technology, bioscience or manufacturing operations.

### Business Incubator

Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI), Frederick

Market Profile Data (2015)	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$15,000	\$400,000	\$140,000
Office	\$40,000	\$700,000	\$370,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$4.00	\$10.50	\$6.50
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$5.00	\$18.00	\$10.00
Class A Office	\$12.00	\$36.00	\$18.00

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** I-70, I-270, U.S. 15, U.S. 40 and U.S. 340

**Mass Transit:** MARC (commuter rail) service to Washington, D.C. and Amtrak; public bus transportation throughout Frederick City and connecting to other municipalities

**Rail:** CSX Transportation and Maryland Midland Railway (short line service)

**Truck:** 66 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located in the county

**Water:** 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:** Served by Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) as well as Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports; Frederick Municipal Airport offers jet and turboprop charter service and ILS, VOR and GPS approaches; 2 runways with longest at 5200'

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

**Parks:** Cunningham Falls, Gambrill, Gathland, and Washington Monument State Parks, Monocacy National Battlefield, Sugarloaf Mountain, C&O Canal Towpath and Catoctin Mountain Park

**Recreation and Leisure:** Golfing, fishing, hiking, ice skating, canoeing, swimming, orchard and winery tours, historic walking and motorcoach tours, visual and performing arts, art galleries, a zoological park, and minor league baseball

**Historical and Cultural:** Schifferstadt Architectural Museum, Barbara Fritchie House, Francis Scott Key Monument and Grave, Roger Brooke Taney House/Francis Scott Key Museum, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Historical Society of Frederick County, Delaplaine Visual Arts Center, Weinberg Center for the Arts, Seton Shrine Center, Grotto of Lourdes, Lily Pon Water Gardens, Brunswick Railroad Museum, covered bridges and antique and specialty shopping

**Arts & Entertainment District:** Downtown Frederick

**Events:** Frederick's In the Street Festival, Brunswick Railroad Days, Candlelight Tour of homes, museums and historic houses of worship, Beyond the Garden Gates Tour, Rose Hill Days, Frederick Festival of the Arts, Maryland Christmas Show, Catoctin Colorfest, the Great Frederick Fair, New Market Days, Commemoration of the Battle of Monocacy, Myersville Trolley Festival, Middletown Heritage Festival, Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt, Annual Craft Fair and more

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** The Allegheny Power System and Thurmont Municipal Light Company; customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

**Gas:** Frederick Gas Company, a division of Washington Gas; Baltimore Gas and Electric serves Mount Airy; UGI Central Penn Gas serves Rocky Ridge and Emmitsburg; customers may choose their gas supplier

**Water and Sewer:** Municipal water and sewer systems in Brunswick, Emmitsburg, Frederick, Middletown, Mount Airy, Myersville and Thurmont; municipal water systems in Walkersville and Woodsboro; 18 county-operated water plants and 15 sewage plants serve a wide geographical area

**Telecommunications:** Predominant local carrier - Verizon Maryland; Long distance carriers - AT&T, LCI, Sprint Nextel, Verizon and numerous additional carriers, resellers and providers of WATS, MTS, voice, paging systems, data, video networking, CATV, satellite communications systems and other wireless systems; ISDN digital switching and fiber optics widely available

## GOVERNMENT<sup>11</sup>

**County Seat:** Frederick

**Government:** County executive and seven 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

Jan H. Gardner, County Executive 301.600.3190

Harold F. (Bud) Otis, Jr., Pres., County Council 301.600.1303

**Website:** [www.frederickcountymd.gov](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov)

**County Bond Rating:** AAA (S&P); Aa I (Moody's); AAA (Fitch)

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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 Frederick County Business Development and Retention

7 Maryland Department of Commerce

8 Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission

9 Maryland State Dept. of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury

10 Maryland Association of Realtors

11 Maryland State Archives; Maryland Association of Counties