BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Kent County, founded in 1642, is located on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, directly across from Baltimore. Its boundaries, formed by the Sassafras and Chester Rivers, the Delaware state border, and the Chesapeake Bay, create a delightful peninsula with over 265 miles of tidal shoreline. Beaches, wildlife areas and more than 20 marinas provide exceptional recreational opportunities. A portion of the picturesque Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway runs from Georgetown through Chestertown and Rock Hall, ending at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Route 301 provides a major north-south artery for commercial transportation. Over 100,000 acres of prime farmland provide the fifth highest crop output in Maryland, with nursery crops and corn representing the most valuable product.

The county's 720 businesses employ 6,700 workers. Such diverse businesses as Chester River Health System, Washington College, Dixon Valve & Coupling and David A. Bramble call Kent County home. Washington College, the first college founded in the new United States, offers over 25 major fields of study in both undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students.

Kent County encourages growth and development of clean industrial and agriculture-related businesses. Close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and major tributaries offer opportunities for environmental, aquaculture and tourism businesses.

LOCATION

Driving distance from Chestertown:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	692	1,113
Baltimore, Maryland	64	103
Boston, Massachusetts	381	613
Chicago, Illinois	747	1,202
New York, New York	170	274
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	81	131
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	283	456
Richmond, Virginia	173	279
Washington, DC	76	122

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY[1]

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.8
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	18.1
Summer Temperature (°F)	75.3
Winter Temperature (°F)	35.6
Duration of Freeze-Free Period (days)	209
Land Area (square miles)	278.3
Water Area (square miles)	25.3
Shoreline (miles)	343
Elevation (feet)	sea level to 102

POPULATION[2,3]

	Kent County Households	Kent County Population	Upper Eastern Shore*	Maryland
2000	7,666	19,197	199,406	5,296,486
2010	8,165	20,197	224,771	5,773,552
2020**	9,025	21,500	252,500	6,216,150

*Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2010): Chestertown 5,252; Rock Hall 1,310; Galena 612; Millington 605; Butlertown 505

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION[3] (2010)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	995	4.9
5 - 19	3,436	17.0
20 - 44	5,503	27.2
45 - 64	5,866	29.0
65 and over	4,397	21.8
Total	20,197	100.0
Median age		45.6 years

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

LABOR AVAILABILITY[3,4,5] (BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE)

Civilian Labor Force (2012 avg.)	County	Labor Mkt. Area*
Total civilian labor force	11,024	38,172
Employment	10,235	35,698
Unemployment	789	2,474
Unemployment rate	7.2%	6.5%
Residents commuting outside the county to work (2009-2011)	Number 2,028	Percent 22.9%
Employment in selected occupations (2009-2011)		
Management, business, science and arts	3,311	36.5%
Service	1,993	22.0%
Sales and office	2,067	22.8%
Production, transp. and material moving	869	9.6%

* Kent and Queen Anne's counties

MAJOR EMPLOYERS[6,7] (2012)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Washington College	Higher education	635
Chester River Health Syst.	Medical services	586
Dixon Valve & Coupling	Valves and couplings	410
Angelica Nurseries*	Plants and flowers	230
Heron Point of Chestertown	Nursing care	190
LaMotte	Chemical testing equipment	171
David A. Bramble	Paving and road constr.	150
Waterman's Crab House*	Restaurant	104
Kent Center	Services for the disabled	103
Chestertown Nursing & Rehabilitation	Nursing care	90
USA Fulfillment*	Promotion fulfillment	77
Acme Markets	Groceries	76
Echo Hill Outdoor School*	Private school	72
The Molly's Group	Retail and restaurant	71
Gillespie & Son	Concrete products	68
Chester River Yacht & Country Club*	Yacht and country club	63
Peoples Bank	Banking services	59
Fresh & Green's	Groceries	52
Eastman Specialties	Plasticizers, synthetic oils	50
Georgetown Yacht Basin*	Restaurants, marina and inn	45
Haven Harbour*	Marina and restaurant	42
McDonald's	Restaurant	42
Benchworks	Advertising services	35
Fish Whistle	Restaurant	35

Excludes post offices, state and local governments; includes higher education
* Includes seasonal workers

EMPLOYMENT[4] (2011, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Emp. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Federal government	15	75	1.0	$871
State government	7	202	2.6	665
Local government	16	730	9.5	816
Private sector	722	6,692	86.9	669
Natural resources and mining	32	270	3.5	629
Construction	81	343	4.5	775
Manufacturing	26	788	10.2	883
Trade, transportation and utilities	149	1,104	14.3	555
Information	6	42	0.5	936
Financial activities	55	318	4.1	761
Professional and business services	93	580	7.5	806
Education and health services	93	1,949	25.3	758
Leisure and hospitality	102	1,046	13.6	375
Other services	85	252	3.3	468
Total	760	7,699	100.0	685

Includes civilian employment only

HOURLY WAGE RATES[4] (2011)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	$30.75	$21.25	$39.00
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	16.75	11.75	19.75
Computer support specialists	19.75	13.25	24.75
Computer systems analysts	39.75	24.50	45.00
Customer service representatives	14.25	8.50	18.50
Electronic engineering technicians	30.00	23.00	33.50
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	12.75	9.00	15.00
Industrial truck operators	14.50	11.00	16.75
Inspectors, testers, sorters	15.00	10.50	18.25
Machinists	21.00	16.25	23.00
Maintenance workers, machinery	17.00	11.25	19.75
Mixing and blending machine operators	17.25	14.00	19.00
Network administrators	33.75	23.75	38.75
Packers and packagers, hand	10.00	8.25	11.25
Secretaries	15.00	11.75	17.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	12.50	9.50	15.25
Team assemblers	13.25	9.75	16.25

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

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES[3,8]

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2009-2011)

High school graduate or higher	86.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	31.0%

Public Schools

Number: 5 elementary; 1 middle; 1 high

Enrollment: 2,130 (Sept. 2012)

Cost per pupil: $14,571 (2010-2011)

Students per teacher: 14.3 (Oct. 2012)

High school career / tech enrollment: 372 (2012)

High school graduates: 151 (June 2011)

Private Schools

Number: 8 (Sept. 2011)

Higher Education (2011)	Enrollment	Degrees
2-year institution		
Chesapeake College*	2,982	251
4-year institution		
Washington College	1,553	268

* A regional community college serving residents of Kent County; main campus is located in adjacent Queen Anne's County

TAX RATES[9]

	Kent Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2013)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
Personal Income Tax (2013)	2.85%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income *Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over $300,000		
Sales & Use Tax (2013)	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		
Real Property Tax (FY 13)	$1.022	$0.112
Effective rate per $100 of assessed value In an incorporated area, a municipal rate will also apply		
Business Personal Property Tax (FY 13)	none	none
No county personal property tax on ordinary business property In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply		

Major Tax Credits Available

Job Creation, R&D

INCOME[3] (2009-2011)

Distribution	Percent Households Kent Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under $25,000	26.4	15.9	24.0
$25,000 - $49,999	20.0	18.7	24.5
$50,000 - $74,999	15.8	17.8	18.3
$75,000 - $99,999	13.0	13.5	12.0
$100,000 - $149,999	15.0	17.8	12.3
$150,000 - $199,999	3.0	8.3	4.5
$200,000 and over	6.9	8.0	4.3
Median household	$53,766	$71,294	$51,484
Average household	$79,733	$92,929	$70,909
Per capita	$33,695	$35,193	$27,158
Total income (millions)	$587	$198,061	$8,149,680

HOUSING[2,3,10]

Occupied Units (2009-2011) 7,365 (72.8% owner occupied)

Housing Transactions (2011)	Units	Median Selling Price
All arms-length transactions	104	$247,995
All multiple-listed properties*	162	$207,000

*Excludes auctions and FSBO

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY[6]

Industrial sites in the county range in size and price, depending on location and infrastructure. Wireless broadband is available in Kent County.

Kent County Business Park at Worton - Located on Route 297 with rail, water and sewer access; in a Priority Funding Area.

Radcliffe Creek Business & Professional Park - Located on Route 291 Bypass with campus-style professional and industrial buildings.

Chestertown Business Park - Located on High Street in the heart of Chestertown with campus-style professional, industrial and manufacturing buildings.

Interstate 301 Industrial Area - Within easy access to Maryland Route 301 near the town of Millington.

Kent County welcomes clean industrial development and agriculture-biomedical partners.

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	$50,000	$160,000	$122,500
Office	$115,000	$173,000	$144,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	$6.00	$8.00	$7.00
Flex / R&D / Technology	$6.00	$8.00	$7.00
Class A Office	$12.00	$16.00	$14.00

KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRANSPORTATION

Highways: U.S. 301 and MD 213

Rail: Maryland & Delaware Railroad Company with access to Norfolk Southern Railway; Amtrak passenger service provided in Wilmington, Delaware approximately 60 miles from Chestertown

Truck: 109 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located on the Upper Eastern Shore

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), approximately 64 miles from Chestertown, and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), approximately 72 miles from Chestertown; Massey Aerodrome (3,000 ft turf runway) is approximately 25 miles from Chestertown

RECREATION AND CULTURE

Parks: Nine county parks; in addition, Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Chesapeake Farms, Turner's Creek and the Sassafras River Natural Resource Management Area appeal to nature lovers

Recreation: Public beaches, marinas, county-owned landings, private yacht clubs, fishing charters and other boat charters provide opportunities for water-related activities; hunting of geese, ducks, deer and upland game, fishing and paddling are other recreational pastimes

Attractions: 18th and 19th century buildings, several museums, and open landscapes that complement Kent County's Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway, Star-Spangled Banner Trail, and Maryland certified Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

Events: Tea Party, Taste of the Town, National Music Festival, River Arts Studio Tour and Show, Music in the Park, Chestertown Antiques Show and Sale, Historic Chestertown House Tour and Sultana Downrigging in Chestertown; Pirates & Wenches Weekend, Rock Fish Tournament, FallFest and Rock Hall Crawl New Year's Eve Celebration in Rock Hall; Betterton Day; Galena Dogwood Festival; and the Kent County Fair

UTILITIES

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

Water: Municipal systems in Betterton, Chestertown, Galena, Millington and Rock Hall; county systems serve Edesville, Fairlee, Kennedyville, Millington and Worton

Sewer: Municipal systems in Betterton, Chestertown, Galena, Millington and Rock Hall; county systems serve Edesville, Fairlee, Galena, Kennedyville, Millington, Quaker Neck, Rock Hall, Tolchester and Worton

Telecommunications: Local carriers - Verizon Maryland and Bay Broadband Communications wireless; long distance carriers - AT&T, Sprint Nextel, Verizon and others; cable provided by Atlantic Broadband; satellite TV provided by Direct TV

GOVERNMENT[11]

County Seat: Chestertown

Government: Three commissioners elected at large for four-year terms; code home rule government allows for broad local legislative authority
Ronald H. Fithian, President, Board of County Commissioners
410.778.4600
Ernest A. Crofoot, Esq., County Administrator/County Attorney
410.778.3805

Website: www.kentcounty.com

County Delegation to Maryland General Assembly:
E. J. Pipkin, Senate Chair 410.841.3639
Jay A. Jacobs, House Chair 410.841.3449

U.S. Congressional Election District: 1st

Kent County Tourism and Economic Development

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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 Kent County Tourism and Economic Development
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