



# Economic Overview

## Dorchester County, Maryland



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# Demographic Profile

The population in Dorchester County, Maryland was 31,994 per American Community Survey data for 2016-2020.

The region has a civilian labor force of 15,856 with a participation rate of 60.7%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Dorchester County, Maryland, 18.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 34.3% in the nation.

The median household income in Dorchester County, Maryland is \$52,799 and the median house value is \$187,300.

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Dorchester County, Maryland	Maryland	USA	Dorchester County, Maryland	Maryland	USA
<b>Demographics</b>						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	31,994	6,037,624	326,569,308
Male	46.7%	48.5%	49.2%	14,950	2,925,644	160,818,530
Female	53.3%	51.5%	50.8%	17,044	3,111,980	165,750,778
Median Age <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	44.8	38.8	38.2
Under 18 Years	21.0%	22.2%	22.4%	6,734	1,340,766	73,296,738
18 to 24 Years	6.7%	8.8%	9.3%	2,140	532,160	30,435,736
25 to 34 Years	12.0%	13.7%	13.9%	3,835	829,403	45,485,165
35 to 44 Years	10.4%	12.9%	12.7%	3,338	776,058	41,346,677
45 to 54 Years	12.9%	13.5%	12.7%	4,137	817,301	41,540,736
55 to 64 Years	15.6%	13.4%	12.9%	4,980	811,061	42,101,439
65 to 74 Years	12.3%	9.1%	9.4%	3,931	546,754	30,547,950
75 Years and Over	9.1%	6.4%	6.7%	2,899	384,121	21,814,867
Race: White	64.9%	54.2%	70.4%	20,777	3,275,048	229,960,813
Race: Black or African American	25.7%	29.9%	12.6%	8,216	1,803,128	41,227,384
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%	0.3%	0.8%	12	15,860	2,688,614
Race: Asian	1.2%	6.4%	5.6%	377	384,429	18,421,637
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0	2,650	611,404
Race: Some Other Race	2.0%	4.7%	5.1%	628	285,370	16,783,914
Race: Two or More Races	6.2%	4.5%	5.2%	1,984	271,139	16,875,542
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.8%	10.3%	18.2%	1,840	619,418	59,361,020
<b>Population Growth</b>						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—	31,853	6,055,802	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>4</sup>	-0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	-84	26,702	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	59.0	622.8	92.9
<b>Economic</b>						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	60.7%	67.4%	63.2%	15,856	3,243,851	164,759,496
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	84.1%	86.0%	82.4%	9,509	2,065,798	105,137,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.7%	0.4%	3	32,103	1,143,342
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.6%	5.4%	4.5%	851	202,011	8,920,267
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.5%	83.2%	76.8%	651	168,043	6,853,673
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$52,799	\$87,063	\$64,994
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$29,860	\$43,352	\$35,384
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	27.3	33.0	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.7%	7.4%	4.6%	94	226,646	7,044,886
<b>Educational Attainment, Age 25-64</b>						
No High School Diploma	12.4%	8.4%	10.5%	2,026	271,152	17,929,220
High School Graduate	38.9%	23.0%	25.4%	6,344	744,390	43,289,555
Some College, No Degree	23.3%	19.0%	20.5%	3,802	613,931	34,959,338

## Summary<sup>1</sup>

	Percent			Value		
	Dorchester County, Maryland	Maryland	USA	Dorchester County, Maryland	Maryland	USA
Associate's Degree	7.3%	7.2%	9.3%	1,184	232,557	15,776,790
Bachelor's Degree	12.0%	23.1%	21.6%	1,950	747,880	36,888,244
Postgraduate Degree	6.0%	19.3%	12.7%	984	623,913	21,630,870
<b>Housing</b>						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	16,754	2,459,650	138,432,751
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	\$187,300	\$325,400	\$229,800
Homeowner Vacancy	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	115	22,023	1,129,755
Rental Vacancy	5.3%	5.7%	5.8%	247	44,432	2,704,553
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	32.5%	32.9%	35.6%	4,365	734,699	43,552,843
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	9.6%	8.8%	8.5%	1,292	196,074	10,344,521
<b>Social</b>						
Poverty Level (of all people)	16.2%	9.0%	12.8%	5,108	531,553	40,910,326
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	21.1%	10.1%	11.4%	2,832	224,592	13,892,407
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%	318	79,896	4,358,865
Disconnected Youth <sup>3</sup>	6.5%	2.0%	2.5%	91	6,089	433,164
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	55.5%	34.5%	34.0%	3,428	440,091	23,628,508
Uninsured	4.9%	5.9%	8.7%	1,536	352,186	28,058,903
With a Disability, Age 18-64	14.7%	8.9%	10.3%	2,676	327,152	20,231,217
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	41.1%	48.7%	43.2%	1,099	159,290	8,740,236
Foreign Born	4.1%	15.2%	13.5%	1,302	916,067	44,125,628
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.5%	7.0%	8.2%	746	396,869	25,312,024

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2016-2020, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

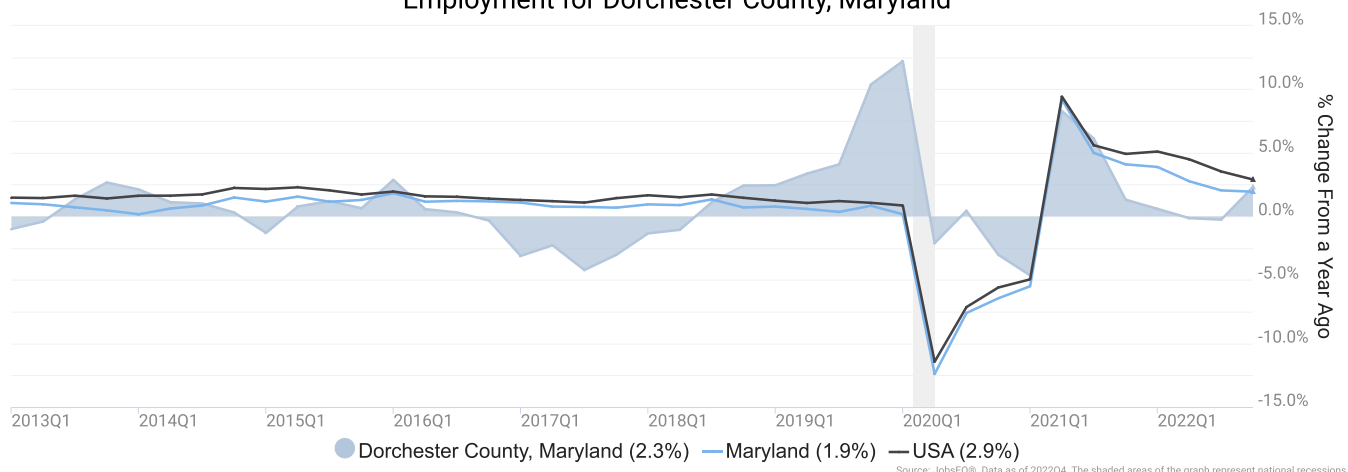
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

# Employment Trends

As of 2022Q4, total employment for Dorchester County, Maryland was 13,270 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2022Q4, employment increased 2.3% in the region.

Employment for Dorchester County, Maryland

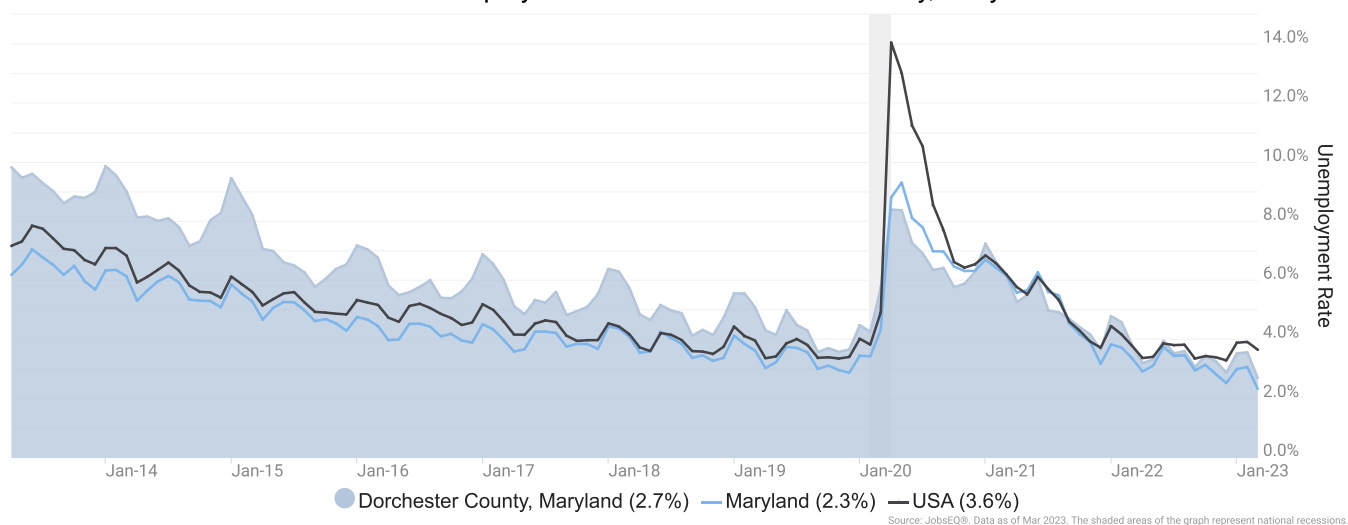


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

# Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Dorchester County, Maryland was 2.7% as of March 2023. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.6%. One year earlier, in March 2022, the unemployment rate in Dorchester County, Maryland was 3.8%.

Unemployment Rate for Dorchester County, Maryland

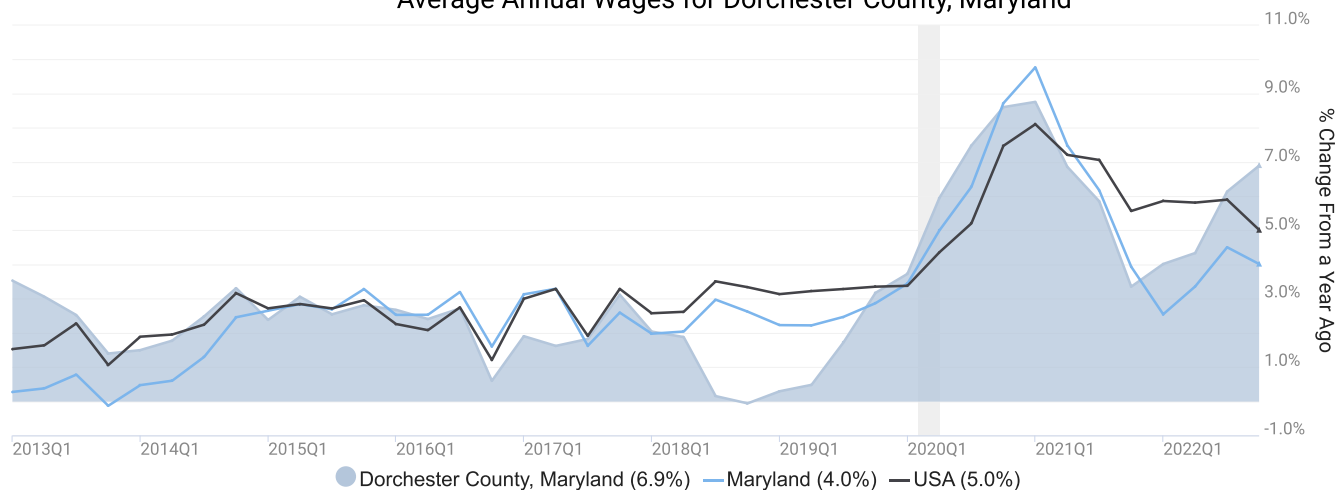


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through March 2023.

# Wage Trends

The average worker in Dorchester County, Maryland earned annual wages of \$49,215 as of 2022Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 6.9% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$68,838 in the nation as of 2022Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Dorchester County, Maryland



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

# Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 1.0% higher in Dorchester County, Maryland than the U.S. average.

## Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Dorchester County, Maryland	\$49,215	101.0	\$48,704
Maryland	\$71,984	120.1	\$59,917
USA	\$68,838	100.0	\$68,838

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

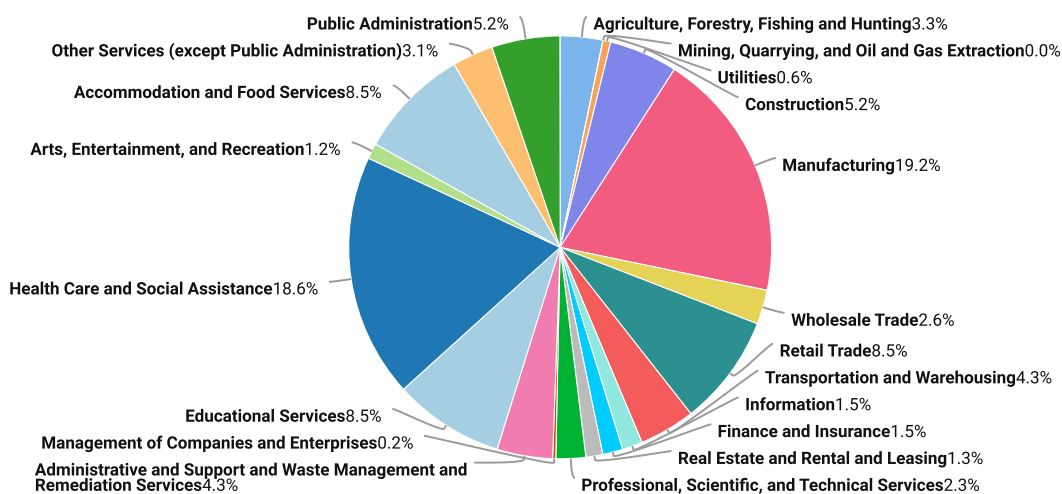
Data as of 2022Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2022Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

# Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Dorchester County, Maryland is Manufacturing, employing 2,545 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (2,472 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (1,133). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 2.48), Manufacturing (2.37), and Health Care and Social Assistance (1.30).

Total Workers for Dorchester County, Maryland by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2022Q4

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Sectors in Dorchester County, Maryland with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$93,091), Utilities (\$79,535), and Finance and Insurance (\$69,382). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+577 jobs), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+362), and Educational Services (+137).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Dorchester County, Maryland is projected to contract by 20 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Information with a +3.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Accommodation and Food Services (+12 jobs), Information (+6), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+3).



# Dorchester County, Maryland, 2022Q4<sup>1</sup>

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31	Manufacturing	2,545	\$53,066	2.37	118	1.0%	263	102	174	-14	-0.5%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	2,472	\$58,418	1.30	577	5.5%	257	117	137	3	0.1%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	1,133	\$26,014	1.00	-25	-0.4%	211	90	109	12	1.1%
44	Retail Trade	1,130	\$33,427	0.85	-17	-0.3%	149	69	91	-11	-0.9%
61	Educational Services	1,123	\$59,762	1.07	137	2.6%	105	52	58	-6	-0.5%
23	Construction	694	\$46,285	0.88	72	2.2%	66	24	43	-2	-0.3%
92	Public Administration	693	\$66,666	1.14	-8	-0.2%	64	28	40	-5	-0.8%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	569	\$52,003	0.86	23	0.8%	68	28	40	0	-0.1%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	566	\$40,413	0.66	362	22.7%	66	28	41	-2	-0.4%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	433	\$60,347	2.48	-26	-1.2%	53	24	31	-2	-0.5%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	414	\$31,563	0.73	-37	-1.7%	51	21	29	1	0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	349	\$53,942	0.70	15	0.9%	37	14	24	-2	-0.4%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	301	\$59,903	0.31	7	0.5%	28	10	17	1	0.4%
52	Finance and Insurance	205	\$69,382	0.38	-8	-0.8%	18	7	12	-1	-0.4%
51	Information	204	\$31,465	0.75	32	3.5%	26	7	13	6	3.0%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	171	\$38,200	0.73	61	9.3%	17	8	10	-1	-0.5%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	159	\$24,503	0.62	-34	-3.8%	24	10	14	1	0.4%
22	Utilities	78	\$79,535	1.17	65	42.3%	6	3	5	-2	-2.0%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	32	\$93,091	0.15	-23	-10.3%	3	1	2	0	-0.3%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	n/a	0.00	-12	n/a	0	0	0	0	-0.7%
Total - All Industries		13,270	\$49,215	1.00	1,280	2.0%	1,509	639	890	-20	-0.2%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Dorchester County, Maryland is Production Occupations, employing 1,482 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (1,411 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1,177). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 2.51), Production Occupations (1.97), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.42).

Occupation groups in Dorchester County, Maryland with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$109,000), Legal Occupations (\$96,700), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$93,100). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Legal Occupations to 6.7% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Dorchester County, Maryland is expected to be Personal Care and Service Occupations with a +1.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+8 jobs) and Personal Care and Service Occupations (+5). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Production Occupations (175 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (172).

## Dorchester County, Maryland, 2022Q4<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	1,482	\$39,000	1.97	71	4.9%	39	26	0.4%	165	67	108	-10	-0.6%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	1,411	\$44,300	0.86	70	3.7%	39	88	1.3%	153	74	93	-14	-1.0%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	1,177	\$40,100	1.01	103	5.7%	62	97	1.7%	159	62	98	-1	-0.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,087	\$93,100	1.42	19	2.0%	130	377	8.9%	63	33	31	0	0.0%
41-0000	Sales and Related	1,002	\$45,500	0.81	74	5.2%	69	9	0.2%	128	61	75	-8	-0.8%
11-0000	Management	904	\$109,000	1.00	15	1.8%	71	131	3.2%	77	30	47	0	0.0%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	895	\$32,600	0.85	99	6.7%	86	-9	-0.2%	179	80	92	8	0.9%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	726	\$62,500	1.03	19	3.1%	36	64	1.9%	60	31	32	-3	-0.4%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	591	\$34,900	1.01	32	3.9%	122	84	3.1%	90	38	47	4	0.7%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	567	\$72,800	0.66	14	2.5%	31	152	6.5%	50	17	33	0	-0.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	552	\$35,900	1.26	45	5.6%	33	25	0.9%	75	35	39	0	0.1%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	536	\$53,000	1.04	19	2.3%	53	67	2.7%	51	20	31	0	-0.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	514	\$49,400	0.86	47	5.1%	8	48	2.0%	49	18	32	-1	-0.2%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	346	\$36,500	1.07	27	5.6%	7	-33	-1.8%	70	28	38	5	1.3%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	290	\$51,900	1.24	7	3.3%	64	-14	-0.9%	28	12	16	0	0.0%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	281	\$88,500	0.61	6	2.5%	25	84	7.3%	21	6	14	1	0.3%
33-0000	Protective Service	263	\$57,200	0.93	15	4.3%	6	14	1.1%	28	14	16	-1	-0.5%

# Dorchester County, Maryland, 2022Q4<sup>1</sup>

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages <sup>2</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads <sup>3</sup>	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
45- 0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	212	\$35,500	2.51	13	6.3%	4	-26	-2.3%	31	11	21	-1	-0.4%
17- 0000	Architecture and Engineering	133	\$92,300	0.61	2	2.0%	8	27	4.7%	9	4	6	0	-0.3%
27- 0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	121	\$53,700	0.52	5	5.2%	8	17	3.0%	13	5	7	0	0.2%
19- 0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	117	\$84,400	1.01	2	2.9%	13	33	6.8%	10	3	8	0	-0.2%
23- 0000	Legal	64	\$96,700	0.57	1	1.4%	1	18	7.0%	4	2	2	0	0.0%
<b>Total - All Occupations</b>		<b>13,270</b>	<b>\$55,300</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

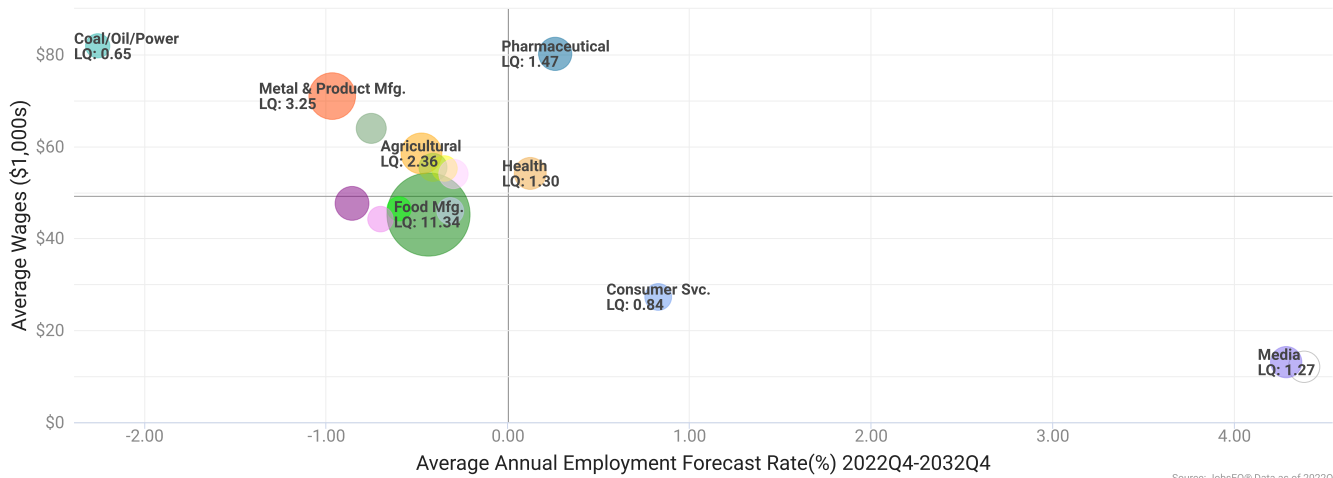
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2022Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2022 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Dorchester County, Maryland with the highest relative concentration is Food Mfg. with a location quotient of 11.34. This cluster employs 1,789 workers in the region with an average wage of \$45,211. Employment in the Food Mfg. cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.4% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Dorchester County, Maryland as of 2022Q4

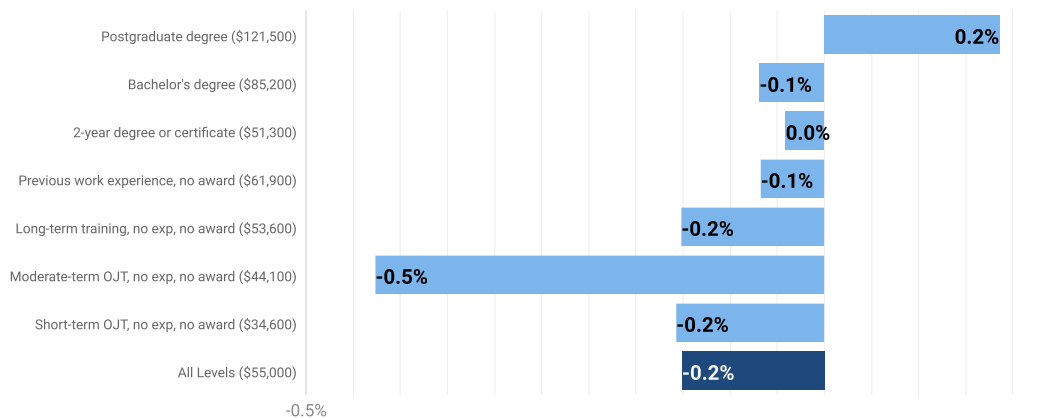


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

# Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Dorchester County, Maryland is projected to contract 0.2% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.0% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required

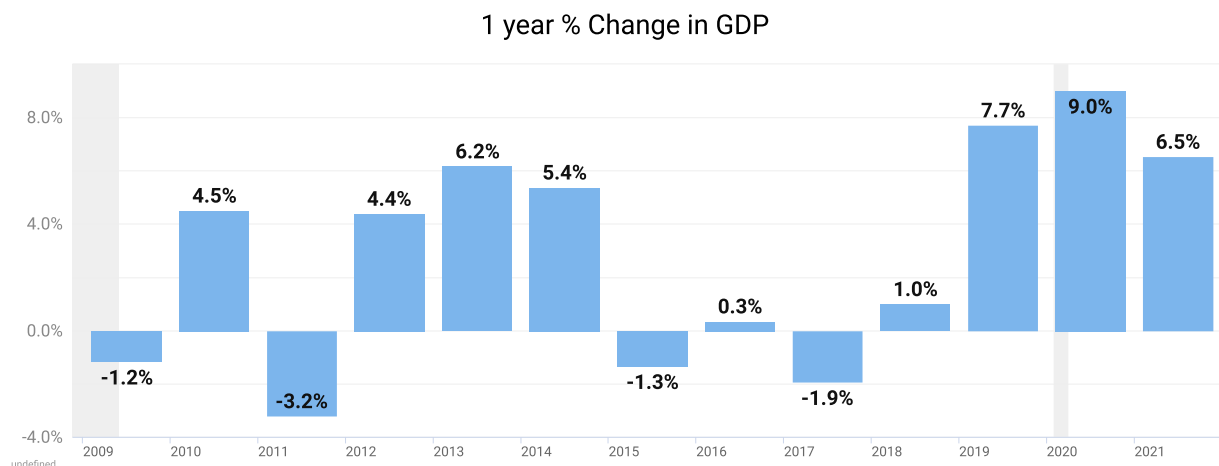


Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2022Q4

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2022Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

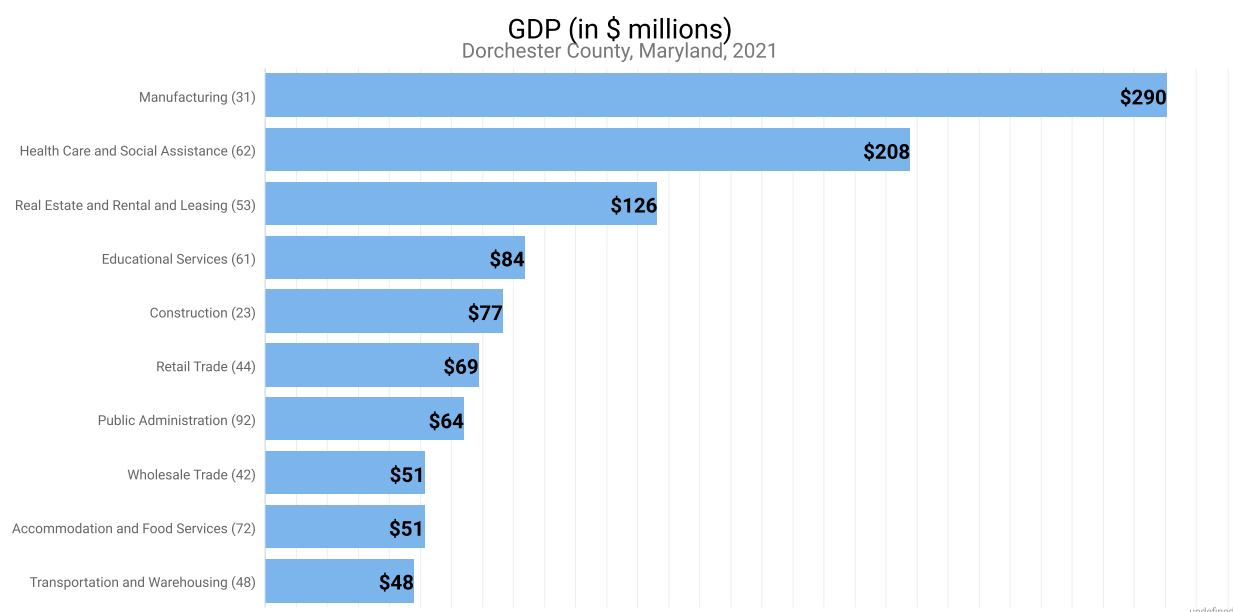
# Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2021, nominal GDP in Dorchester County, Maryland expanded 6.5%. This follows growth of 9.0% in 2020. As of 2021, total GDP in Dorchester County, Maryland was \$1,270,599,000.



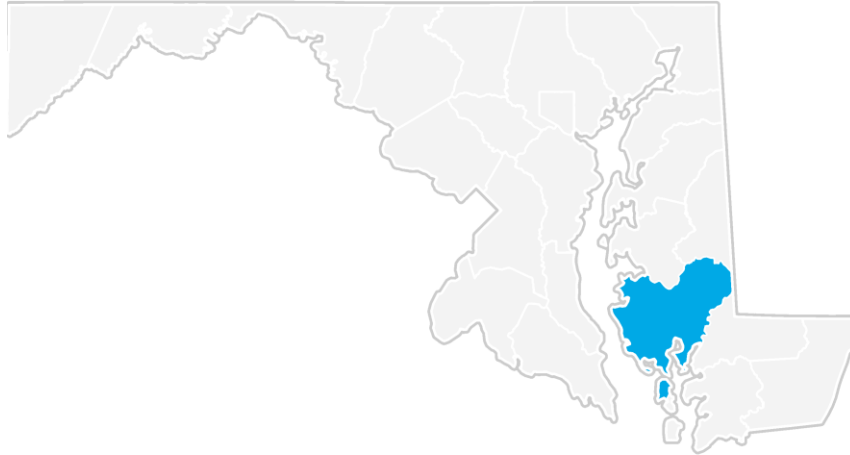
Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Of the sectors in Dorchester County, Maryland, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$290,493,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$207,787,000); Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$126,408,000); and Educational Services (\$83,719,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

# Dorchester County, Maryland Regional Map



# FAQ

## What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

## What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

## What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

## What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

## What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

## What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

## About This Report

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