

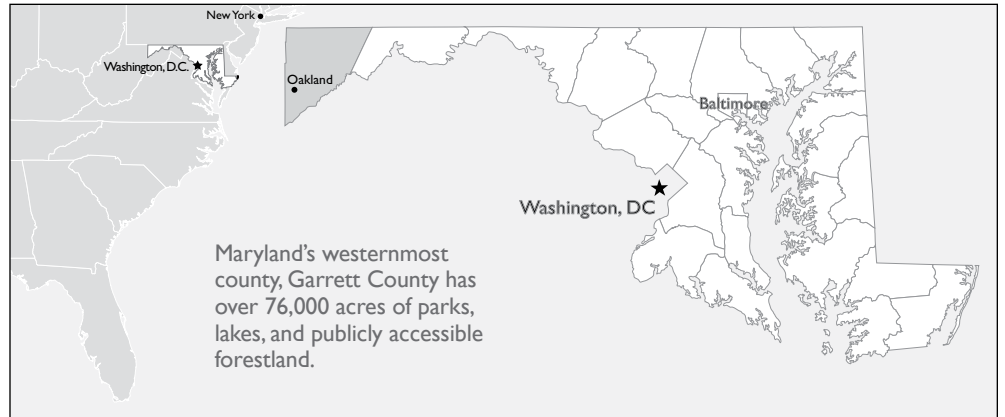
# BRIEF ECONOMIC FACTS

## GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Maryland's westernmost county, Garrett County has over 76,000 acres of parks, lakes, and publicly accessible forestland. The county boasts the state's highest elevation (3,360 feet) as well as its largest inland body of water (Deep Creek Lake). Garrett County is home to the state's only sub-arctic wetlands and is the only county in the state to produce natural gas or peat.

Garrett County's 960 businesses employ 10,000 workers, with an estimated 20 of these having 100 or more workers. From tourism and hospitality to manufacturing, financial services, agriculture, and technology, Garrett County's diverse business community continues to prosper. Major employers include Pillar Innovations/Beitzel, First United, Wisp Resort, Phenix Technologies, Garrett Con-tainer Systems, and Garrett Industrial Supply/Pioneer Conveyor.

Central, Northern, and Southern Garrett Industrial Parks, as well as the Keyser's Ridge Business Park located off I-68, are State



Enterprise Zones. Infrastructure development is complete on the McHenry Business Park, a new technology-based business park located adjacent to the Garrett County Airport.

Garrett County participates in the One Maryland Program, is designated a HUB (Historically Underutilized Business) Zone by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and has a property tax credit program for new and expanding businesses.

### LOCATION

Driving distance from Oakland:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	620	998
Baltimore, Maryland	181	292
Boston, Massachusetts	555	894
Chicago, Illinois	541	870
New York, New York	343	553
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	268	431
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	92	148
Richmond, Virginia	220	355
Washington, DC	159	256

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

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	47.6
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	85.7
Summer Temperature (°F)	66.6
Winter Temperature (°F)	29.1
Duration of Freeze-Free Period (days)	128
Land Area (square miles)	656.8
Water Area (square miles)	7.6
Elevation (feet)	960 to 3,360

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

	Garrett County	Western Maryland*	Maryland
2000	29,846	236,699	5,296,486
2005	29,700	243,300	5,577,450
2010	29,950	252,300	5,779,400
2015	30,800	265,550	6,086,850
2020	31,600	277,850	6,339,300

\*Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties

Selected municipalities population (2008): Friendsville 503; Grantsville 649; Mountain Lake Park 2,106; Oakland 1,844

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION<sup>2</sup> (2010 PROJECTION)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,500	5.0
5 - 19	5,840	19.5
20 - 44	8,470	28.3
45 - 64	8,790	29.3
65 and over	5,340	17.8
Total	29,950	100.0

# GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

### Civilian Labor Force (2009 avg.):

Total civilian labor force	16,416
Employment	15,109
Unemployment	1,307
Unemployment rate	8.0%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2006-2008) 3,093 21.2%

### Employment in selected occupations (2006-2008)

Management, professional and related	3,917	26.4%
Service	2,561	17.3%
Sales and office	3,199	21.6%
Production, transp. and material moving	2,515	17.0%

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS<sup>5,6</sup> (2009)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
First United	Banking and insurance	492
Garrett County Mem. Hosp.	Medical services	355
Wal-Mart	Consumer goods	300
Pillar Innovations/Beitzel	Metal fabrication	255
Uno Chicago Grill/Arrow-head Deli/Garrett 8 Cinema	Restaurant, deli	183
Goodwill Retirement Comm.	Nursing care	177
Wisp Resort*	Four-season resort	175
McDonald's	Restaurants	167
Fechheimer Brothers	Shirts, uniforms	140
Dennett Road Manor	Nursing care	135
Oakland Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	Nursing care	131
Garrett Container Systems	Alum. shipping containers	120
Vindex Energy	Processed coal	120
Phenix Technologies	High voltage testing equip.	116
Appalachian Parent Assn.	Services for the disabled	115
Garrett Industrial Supply/Pioneer Conveyor	Industrial equipment mfg. and maintenance services	113
ClosetMaid	Storage, shelving products	110
Garrett College	Higher education	100
Lowe's	Home improvement prods.	100
Merkle Response	Data entry and fulfillment	100
Global Hardwoods/Wood Products	Hardwood lumber	95
Maryland Salem Children's Trust	Special education, residential care	70
Brownings	Groceries	63
Rigidply Rafters	Roof and floor trusses	62

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

\* Employment increases to 800 during ski season

## EMPLOYMENT<sup>4</sup> (2008, BY PLACE OF WORK)

Industry	Annual Avg. Employment	%	Average Weekly Wage
Federal government	75	0.6	\$873
State government	215	1.8	765
Local government	1,482	12.6	743
Private sector	10,032	85.0	517
Natural resources and mining	462	3.9	905
Construction	1,029	8.7	653
Manufacturing	1,004	8.5	634
Trade, transp. and utilities	2,505	21.2	456
Information	137	1.2	547
Financial activities	433	3.7	480
Prof. and business services	886	7.5	625
Educ. and health services	1,659	14.1	565
Leisure and hospitality	1,616	13.7	249
Other services	298	2.5	466
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,804</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>552</b>

Includes civilian employment only

## HOURLY WAGE RATES<sup>4</sup> (2009)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$25.00	\$17.75	\$32.00
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	15.00	10.50	18.00
Computer systems analysts	30.75	18.00	39.00
Credit authorizers, checkers and clerks	17.25	13.75	18.75
Customer service representatives	12.00	10.00	14.75
Electronic engineering technicians	28.00	25.50	28.50
Freight, stock and material movers, hand	12.75	9.00	15.75
Industrial engineers	35.75	33.25	37.00
Industrial truck operators	14.25	11.50	16.75
Machinists	16.75	12.75	20.25
Maintenance workers, machinery	21.25	15.25	23.00
Mixing and blending machine operators	15.00	12.00	16.25
Network administrators	32.50	21.75	35.00
Packers and packagers, hand	14.50	10.00	16.00
Secretaries	13.75	10.00	16.25
Shipping/receiving clerks	13.25	9.75	16.25
Team assemblers	15.00	11.25	21.25

Wages are an estimate of what workers might expect to receive in Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties) and may vary by industry, employer and locality

# GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES<sup>3,7</sup>

### Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2006-2008)

High school graduate or higher	82.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	15.8%

### Public Schools

Number: 9 elementary; 4 middle/combined; 2 high
Enrollment: 4,425 (Sept. 2008)
Cost per pupil: \$11,696 (2007-2008)
Students per teacher: 12.7 (Oct. 2008)
High school career / tech enrollment: 896 (2009)
High school graduates: 335 (June 2008)

### Private Schools

Number: 7 (Sept. 2008)
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Higher Education (2008)	Enrollment	Degrees
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### 2-year institution

Garrett College	833	94
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Frostburg State University is located in adjacent Allegany County.

## TAX RATES<sup>8</sup>

	Garrett Co.	Maryland
<b>Corporate Income Tax (2010)</b>	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		
<b>Personal Income Tax (2010)</b>	2.65%	2.0% - 6.25%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 6.25% on taxable income over \$1 million		
<b>Sales &amp; Use Tax (2010)</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 10)</b>	\$0.99	\$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 10)</b>	none	none
No county personal property tax on ordinary business		
\$2.475/\$100 applicable to utility operating property; \$2.50/\$100 applicable to non-utility electric generators		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply		
<b>Major Tax Credits Available</b>		
Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, One Maryland, R&D, Garrett County Business Real Property Tax Credit, Garrett County GIEC Real Property Tax Credit		

## INCOME<sup>3</sup> (2006-2008)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Garrett Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	26.2	15.1	23.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	28.7	19.9	24.8
\$50,000 - \$74,999	20.6	18.5	18.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13.7	14.5	12.5
\$100,000 - \$149,999	7.3	17.5	12.2
\$150,000 - \$199,999	1.7	7.7	4.3
\$200,000 and over	1.8	6.9	4.2
Median household	\$45,084	\$70,005	\$52,175
Average household	\$56,047	\$90,234	\$71,128
Per capita	\$23,753	\$34,508	\$27,466
Total income (millions)	\$706	\$188,303	\$7,993,784

## HOUSING<sup>2,9</sup> (2008)

### Median Selling Price

All arms-length transactions	(314 units)	\$219,500
All multiple-listed properties*	(319 units)	\$274,322

\*Excludes auctions and FSBO

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY<sup>5</sup>

Garrett County's five industrial/business parks are strategically located throughout the county, with access to major highways and with underlying infrastructure in place. Infrastructure development has been completed on the county's two newest parks: the 240-acre **Keyser's Ridge Business Park** located near the intersection of U.S. Routes 219 and 40 and I-68; and the 138-acre **McHenry Business Park**, a technology-based business park located adjacent to the Garrett County Airport. Both parks are ready for occupancy.

The **Garrett Information Enterprise Center (GIEC)**, located on the Garrett College campus, offers incubator space to new and expanding technology-based businesses. The GIEC has an environment for facilitating the successful development of technology intensive companies. A county property tax credit program for businesses located in the GIEC was recently authorized.

### Business Incubator

Garrett Information Enterprise Center (GIEC), McHenry

Market Profile Data	Low	High	Average
<b>Land – cost per acre</b>			
Industrial	\$16,000	\$35,000	\$22,000
<b>Rental Rates – per square foot</b>			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$3.25	\$10.00	\$8.00
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$14.00

# GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

## TRANSPORTATION

**Highways:** MD Routes 135 and 495; U.S. Routes 40, 50 and 219; Interstate-68; easy access to Interstates 70, 79 and 81

**Rail:** CSX Transportation

**Truck:** 145 local and long-distance trucking establishments in Western Maryland; major companies include Pitt Ohio Express, Overnite Transportation Company, Larry Wagner Trucking, Jones Trucking, Marple Trucking, and R & R Trucking

**Water:** Served by the Port of Baltimore, a leading U.S. automobile and break-bulk port; closest Atlantic port to major midwestern population and manufacturing centers; port for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines; seven public terminals, including the state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility and the Cruise Maryland Terminal; 190 miles from Oakland

**Air:** Charter service at Garrett County Airport near Deep Creek Lake; runway open 24/7; 5,000-foot runway with parallel taxiway; new terminal building is handicap-accessible and includes a pilots' lounge, snack room, and lobby area; scheduled services at Morgantown, West Virginia (40 miles from Oakland) and Pittsburgh International Airport (100 miles from Oakland)

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

**Parks:** Big Run State Park, Casselman River Bridge State Park, Deep Creek Lake State Park, Garrett State Forest, Herrington Manor State Park, Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area, New Germany State Park, Potomac-Garrett State Forest, Savage River State Forest, Swallow Falls State Park

**Recreation and Leisure:** Agri-tourism, boating, sailing, water skiing, snow tubing, hunting, swimming, golfing, camping, snowmobiling, dog sledding/carting, carriage/sleigh rides

**Sports and Athletics:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fly fishing, kayaking, caving, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, tennis

**Attractions:** Adventure Sports Center, Deep Creek Lake, Mountain Fresh Farmers' Markets, Wisp Resort & Mountain Coaster, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Oakland's B & O Railroad Station

**Events:** Autumn Glory Festival, McHenry Highland Festival, Art & Wine Festival, Garrett County Agricultural Fair, Yough River Fest, Chautauqua, Little Yough Summer Festival, Garrett Lakes Arts Festival Annual Performing Arts Series

## UTILITIES

**Electricity:** Allegheny Power and Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC); customers of investor-owned utilities and major cooperatives may choose their electric supplier

**Gas:** Natural gas is supplied by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.

**Water:** Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville and Oakland; county maintains water systems in many other towns/areas

**Sewer:** Municipal systems in Accident, Grantsville, Loch Lynn Heights, Mt. Lake Park and Oakland; county maintains systems in many other towns/areas

**Telecommunications:** Verizon Maryland is the largest provider and offers a full range of services including local, Frame Relay, SMDS, ISDN, and DSL (in some areas); ProCom Mountain Communications provides local, long distance, VoIP, broadband and internet; additional providers include Comcast and Suddenlink

## GOVERNMENT<sup>10</sup>

**County Seat:** Oakland

**Government:** Three commissioners elected for four-year terms; commissioner form of government limits county legislative power to areas authorized by the General Assembly  
Dennis G. (Denny) Glotfelty, Chair, Board of County Commissioners 301.334.8970

R. Lamont Pagenhardt, County Administrator 301.334.8970

**Website:** [www.garrettcounty.org](http://www.garrettcounty.org)

**County Delegation to Maryland General Assembly:**

George C. Edwards, Senate Chair 410.841.3565

Wendell R. Beitzel, House Chair 410.841.3435

**U.S. Congressional Election District:** 6th

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

**Garrett County Economic Development Department**

Jim Hinebaugh, Director

203 South 4th Street, Courthouse Room 208

Oakland, Maryland 21550

Telephone: 301.334.1921

Email: [economicdevelopment@garrettcounty.org](mailto:economicdevelopment@garrettcounty.org)

[www.gcedonline.com](http://www.gcedonline.com)

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 Garrett County Economic Development Department

6 Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

7 Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Higher Education Commission

8 Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Comptroller of the Treasury

9 Maryland Association of Realtors

10 Maryland State Archives; Maryland Association of Counties