

Brief Economic Facts

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Garrett County is a progressive community that welcomes business. The westernmost county in Maryland, Garrett offers a central location to local major markets, interstates, available community-owned business parks, one of Maryland's best K-12 school systems, a variety of housing options, and an excellent workforce.

The Department of Economic Development works to attract, retain, and expand businesses to the area. The county's workforce, location, and affordable community-owned business parks have attracted some of the best businesses that Maryland has to offer. Garrett is an attractive location for manufacturing, distribution, back office, call center, energy, agricultural, and recreation firms.

The county public school system consistently ranks as one of Maryland's best. The STEM curriculum in both the public schools and Garrett College prepares graduates for career achievement and skilled local jobs. The Garrett County Scholarship Program puts post-secondary education within reach of area high school students and their families and provides an opportunity for all students to achieve higher education credentials.

Garrett County is a designated HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business) by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and

is home to the Garrett Information Enterprise Center, supporting small technology businesses since 2002. Major employers include Beitzel Corporation, ClosetMaid, Pillar Innovations, Phenix Technologies, and Garrett Container Systems.



Maryland's westernmost county, Garrett County has over 76,000 acres of parks, lakes, and publicly accessible forestland.

Location

Driving distance from Oakland:	Miles	Kilometers
Atlanta, Georgia	620	998
Baltimore, Maryland	181	292
Chicago, Illinois	541	870
Columbus, Ohio	227	365
New York, New York	343	553
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	268	431
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	92	148
Richmond, Virginia	220	355
Washington, DC	159	256

Climate and Geography¹

Yearly Precipitation (inches)	44.6
Yearly Snowfall (inches)	92.0
Summer Temperature (°F)	67.5
Winter Temperature (°F)	28.3
Days Below Freezing	137.6
Land Area (square miles)	656.8
Water Area (square miles)	7.6
Elevation (feet)	960 to 3,360

Population^{2,3}

	Garrett County Households	Garrett County Population	Western Maryland*	Maryland
2000	11,476	29,846	236,699	5,296,486
2010	12,057	30,097	252,614	5,773,552
2020**	12,383	30,300	261,250	6,141,900

*Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties

**Projections

Selected places population (2013-2017):

Mountain Lake Park 2,242; Oakland 1,744; Grantsville 786;

Loch Lynn Heights 506; Friendsville 577

Population Distribution^{2,3} (2018)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,452	5.0
5 - 19	4,556	15.6
20 - 44	7,996	27.4
45 - 64	8,635	29.6
65 and over	6,524	22.4
Total	29,163	100.0
Median age		46.6 years



Garrett County Government
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Labor Availability^{3,4,5} (by place of residence)

Civilian Labor Force (2018 avg.)	Labor Mkt.	
	County	Area*
Total civilian labor force	15,410	96,288
Employment	14,673	91,272
Unemployment	737	5,016
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.2%

Residents commuting outside the county to work (2013-2017)	Number	Percent
	3,497	25.5%

Employment in selected occupations (2013-2017)		
Management, business, science and arts	4,713	33.8%
Service	2,434	17.5%
Sales and office	2,625	18.8%
Production, transp. and material moving	1,871	13.4%

* Garrett and Allegany counties, MD, Preston Co., WV and Somerset Co., PA

Major Employers^{6,7} (2018-2019)

Employer	Product/Service	Employment
Garrett Regional Medical Center	Medical services	502
Beitzel/Pillar	Industrial construction	403
ClosetMaid	Storage, shelving products	232
Garrett College	Higher education	225
Wisp Resort*	Four-season resort	200
First United	Banking, insurance services	192
Goodwill Retirement Community	Nursing care	190
Garrett County Community Action Committee	Social advocacy	180
Arrowhead, Inc.	Cinema, deli, restaurant	156
Total Biz Fulfillment	Order fulfillment	134
Appalachian Parent Assoc.	Services for the disabled	150
Phenix Technologies	High voltage testing equip.	115
Garrett Container Systems	Alum. shipping containers	115
Global Hardwoods	Hardwood lumber	100
Savage Industries	Freight trucking	80
GCCTechnologies	Technology services	61
Fechheimer	Uniforms	75
Morningstar	IT admin support	67
Simon Pearce	Hand-blown glass	55
Hugh Umbel Companies	Retail; construction	56

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

* Employment increases to 600 during winter ski season

Employment⁴ (2018, by place of work)

Industry	Estab-lishments	Annual Avg. Empl.	Avg. %	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Government sector	64	1,713	14.5	\$ 787
Federal government	12	69	0.6	1,145
State government	6	261	2.2	792
Local government	46	1,385	11.7	769
Private sector	863	10,118	85.5	663
Natural resources and mining	35	330	2.8	1,235
Construction	153	935	7.9	891
Manufacturing	47	1,008	8.5	790
Trade, trans., utilities	214	2,567	21.7	591
Information	9	151	1.3	615
Financial activities	52	535	4.5	614
Professional and business services	114	851	7.2	850
Education and health services	78	1,756	14.8	705
Leisure and hospitality	105	1,694	14.3	337
Other services	52	287	2.4	694
Total	92	11,830	100.00	681

Includes civilian employment only

Hourly Wage Rates⁴ (2018)

Selected Occupations	Median	Entry	Experienced
Accountants	\$26.50	\$17.82	\$36.06
Bookkeeping/accounting clerks	17.55	12.00	20.57
Computer systems analysts	31.58	19.60	42.19
Customer service representatives	14.04	10.96	16.91
Electrical engineers	47.37	29.34	56.14
Electronics engineering technicians	31.12	22.26	37.02
Freight, stock and material movers hand	15.30	11.74	18.05
Industrial truck operators	17.91	14.17	21.88
Inspectors, testers, sorters	20.00	13.69	22.70
Machinists	19.77	13.82	24.64
Maintenance workers, machinery	24.35	17.73	27.88
Network support specialists	22.26	13.45	29.06
Packing/filling Machine operators	17.41	12.84	22.29
Secretaries	16.48	11.27	19.74
Shipping/receiving clerks	16.08	11.89	19.59
Stock clerks and order fillers	11.72	10.56	14.61
Team assemblers	13.40	10.87	16.34

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

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Schools and Colleges^{3,8}

Educational Attainment - age 25 & over (2013-2017)

High school graduate or higher	89.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	19.6%

Public Schools

Number: 7 elementary; 3 middle/combined; 2 high
Enrollment: 3,842 (Sept. 2018)
Cost per pupil: \$14,949 (2017-2018)
Students per teacher: 13.7 (Oct. 2018)
High school career / tech enrollment: 1,581 (2018)
High school graduates: 266 (July 2018)

Nonpublic Schools

Number: 7 (Sept. 2018)

Higher Education (2018)	Enrollment	Degrees
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2-year institution

Garrett College	658	107
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Frostburg State University, a University System of Maryland institution with an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of over 5,300 students, is located in adjacent Allegany County.

Tax Rates⁹

	Garrett Co.	Maryland
Corporate Income Tax (2019)	none	8.25%
Base – federal taxable income		

Personal Income Tax (2019)	2.65%	2.0%-5.75%*
Base – federal adjusted gross income		
*Graduated rate peaking at 5.75% on taxable income over \$300,000		

Sales & Use Tax (2019)	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 2020)	\$1.056	\$0.112
Effective rate per \$100 of assessed value		
In an incorporated area, the county rate may vary and a municipal rate will also apply		

Business Personal Property Tax (FY 2020)	none	none
No county personal property tax on ordinary business property \$2.64/\$100 applicable to operating property of utilities and non-utility electric generators		
In an incorporated area, a municipal rate may apply; municipal exemptions may be available		

Major Tax Credits Available

Enterprise Zone, Job Creation, More Jobs for Marylanders (Tier 1), R&D, Biotechnology and Cybersecurity Investment, Arts & Entertainment District, Garrett County Business Real Property Tax Credit, One Maryland (Tier 1), Hire Our Veterans, Maryland Wineries & Vineyards

Income³ (2013-2017)

Distribution	Percent Households		
	Garrett Co.	Maryland	U.S.
Under \$25,000	24.0	14.2	22.3
\$25,000 - \$49,999	28.0	17.1	23.1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18.2	16.5	17.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	11.5	13.1	12.2
\$100,000 - \$149,999	12.6	18.7	13.5
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.5	9.7	5.4
\$200,000 and over	2.7	10.7	5.7
Median household	\$48,174	\$78,916	\$57,652
Average household	\$63,130	\$103,845	\$81,283
Per capita	\$26,303	\$39,070	\$31,177
Total income (millions)	\$749	\$226,495	\$9,658,475

Housing^{3,10}

Occupied Units (2013-2017)	11,865 (77.5% owner occupied)
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Housing Transactions (2018)*

Units sold	459
Median selling price	\$245,142

*All multiple listed properties; excludes auctions and FSBO

Business and Industrial Property⁶

Six industrial/business parks, with access to major highways and underlying infrastructure in place, are strategically located throughout Garrett County. Acreage is still available in the 240-acre Keyzers Ridge Business Park off I-68, and the 135-acre McHenry Business Park, a technology-based business park located adjacent to the Garrett County Airport. One lot (4.2 acres) is still available in the Southern Garrett Business & Technology Park located along MD Route 135 in Oakland.

Located on the Garrett College campus, the Garrett Information Enterprise Center offers incubator space to new and expanding technology-based businesses and is the perfect environment for facilitating the successful development of technology-intensive companies.

Business Incubator

Garrett Information Enterprise Center, McHenry

Market Profile Data (2018)	Low	High	Average
Land – cost per acre			
Industrial	\$16,000	\$50,000	\$30,000
Rental Rates – per square foot			
Warehouse / Industrial	\$3.25	\$10.00	\$8.00
Flex / R&D / Technology	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$14.00

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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: 131 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 and Carnival Cruise Lines; seven public terminals, including a state-of-the-art Intermodal Container Transfer Facility and the Cruise Maryland Terminal; 190 miles from Oakland

Air: Garrett County Airport near Deep Creek Lake: runway open 24/7; 5000' 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, Sang Run State Park

Recreation and Leisure: Agri-tourism, boating, sailing, water skiing, snow tubing, hunting, swimming, golfing, camping, biking, hiking, 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, Garrett Growers Pop Up Farmers Markets, Wisp Resort & Mountain Coaster, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Oakland's B & O Railroad Station, new St. John's Rock Off-road Vehicle Trail and Campground, Community Aquatic & Recreation Complex, Barn Quilt Trail

Arts & Entertainment Districts: Grantsville, Oakland

Events: Autumn Glory Festival, Deep Creek Lake Art, Wine & Beer Festival, Garrett County Agricultural Fair, Yough River Festival, Chautauqua, Little Yough Summer Music Festival, Garrett Lakes Arts Festival Annual Performing Arts Series, Garrett County Celtic Festival, Savageman Triathlon, Garrett County Gran Fondo, Taste of Garrett, Festival of Trees, Art in the Park, Stage Wisp Concert Series, Oakland Winter Fest, Garrett County All Things Home Expo, Tri-State Relief Sale, Benefit Auction & Cruise In, Garrett County Wings & Wheels Fly-In, Oakland Pocket Park Movies, Western MD Tennis Championships, A Small Town Christmas, Subaru Winterfest, Grantsville Days, Friendsville Days, Kitzmiller Homecoming, Accident Homecoming, Garrett County Opry, Broadford Park Fireworks, Fire on the Mountain Fireworks Display, Yough River Annual Flotilla, Country Fest and Auction

Utilities

Electricity: Potomac Edison 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.; customers may choose their gas supplier

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 primarily offers traditional copper service for voice and data (POTS/PRI/DSL/DS3); AT&T Wireless and US Cellular are the largest cellular providers; Comcast, Shentel, ProCom, QCoI, (cable/fiber) and NeuBeam (fixed wireless) provide broadband internet and VOIP services

Government¹¹

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
Paul C. Edwards, Chair, Board of County Commissioners
301.334.8970

Kevin G. Null, County Administrator 301.334.8970

Website: www.garrettcounty.org

Garrett County Department of Economic Development

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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, Office of Workforce Information and Performance
- 5 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 6 Garrett County Department of Economic Development
- 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



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