# REGIONAL DATA – ALLEGANY COUNTY

**Summary & Location**

Allegany County, in the mountains of western Maryland, is located within a two-hour drive from three major metropolitan areas. Located along Interstate 68 with Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD to the east and Pittsburgh, PA to the north. Allegany County is bounded on the west by Garrett County, Maryland; on the east by Washington County, Maryland; Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties to the north in Pennsylvania; and on the south by Mineral, Hampshire, and Morgan Counties in West Virginia. The County lies in the Potomac River Basin, and in the Appalachian Mountains within the Chesapeake Bay Drainage area.

The following chart reflects driving distance from Cumberland to key U.S. Cities:

Table

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**Regional View**

Map

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**Transportation & Linkages**

[One major interstate (68) and other key highways](http://www.discoverfrederickmd.com/living/transportation/highways.cfm) (Maryland Routes 144, 40, and 220) converge in Allegany County, providing good transportation networks that provide access to markets in the metropolitan areas of Washington D.C., Baltimore, as well as southwestern Pennsylvania. Both Washington, D.C., and Baltimore are within a two hour's drive. Pittsburg, Pennsylvania is approximately 1 and ½ hour drive to the north west.

**Population and Income**

As of the [2020 United States Census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), there were 68,108 people in Allegany County. According to the [2010 United States Census](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), there were 68,106 people in Allegany County. This represents a very slight decrease in population over the decade. According to 2023 census estimates, the population is continuing to decrease with an estimated population of 67,273.

In 2022 the median income for a household in the county was $55,248. The per capita income was $29,343. The poverty rate stood at 18.1%.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Labor & Employment**

Allegany County has approximately 1,744 businesses that employ more than 29,000 people as of 2011 (source: Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development). More recent U.S. Census estimates put the total employment numbers at 20,908 as of 2021 with 1,472 total businesses. The unemployment numbers had been improving overall since the Great Recession a decade earlier. The recent Covid pandemic had negatively impacted the economy nationally as well as across the state, leading to significantly increased unemployment rates. The average unemployment rate for 2020 was approximately 7.5%, up significantly from the pre-pandemic rate of 5.4% in February 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, the unemployment number has been dropping significantly and averaged 3.2% in 2022.

The following charts show unemployment trends during the last nine years and employment and payroll trends during the last nine years (source: dllr.state.md.us)



The total workforce in Allegany County decreased considerably between 2019 and 2020; showing some signs of recovery during the first quarter of 2022 (last data available).

**Housing**

Allegany County had 32,733 housing units as of 2022. The owner-occupied housing unit rate was 70.1%. The median value of owner-occupied housing units was $143,300. The median gross rent was $743. There were 27,462 households in 2022 and 2.22 persons per household.

**Economic Development**

Allegany County is home to two federal HUB Zones, located in South Cumberland and Frostburg. The HUB Zones Empowerment Contracting Program provides Federal contracting preferences to small businesses. In addition, there are three [Maryland Enterprise Zones](http://www.mdbusiness.state.md.us/businessservices/taxincentives/enterprisezone.html) designated in Allegany County. Businesses locating in a Maryland Enterprise Zone may be eligible for income tax credits and real property tax credits in return for job creation and investments made in the zone. Allegany County's Enterprise Zones are located in Cumberland, Frostburg and Rt. 220 South, giving businesses several tax saving options.

**Education**

ACPS, located in rural Western Maryland, has seen changes in demographics over recent years. The student enrollment continues to decline, decreasing from 9,022 students in 2011 to 8,181 for the 2022/2023 school year.

**June 2023 Allegany County Public School Statistics:**

* Total Schools - 23
  + 14 Elementary
  + 4 Middle
  + 3 High
  + 1 Alternative Program
  + 1 Center for Career and Technical Education
* Graduation Rate – 90.77% (2022-2023 data)
* Dropout Rate – 5.11% (2022-2023 data)

***Source:*** [***Allegany***](http://fcps.schoolwires.com/fcps/lib/fcps/publications/FCPSwinter09_10.pdf) ***County Public Schools***

**Higher Education**

Frostburg State University

Allegany College of Maryland