# REGIONAL DATA – FREDERICK COUNTY

**Summary & Location**

Frederick County is Maryland's largest county in size -- 663 square miles. The City of Frederick, the county seat, is intersected by five interstate and national highways that provide easy access to Baltimore (46 miles), Washington D.C. (44 miles), Gettysburg, PA (32 miles), Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (21 miles), and Leesburg, Virginia (25 miles). It is home to the 5,700 acre Catoctin Mountain Park, site of the Camp David Presidential Retreat. Frederick County is also Maryland's largest dairy producer, and has the second largest concentration of biotech companies in the state, with over 80 biotech firms located within Frederick County. The following chart reflects driving distance from Frederick to key U.S. Cities:

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**Regional View**



**Transportation & Linkages**

***Highways:*** Interstate 70, Interstate 270, U.S. Route 15, and U.S. Route 340.

***Mass Transit:*** MARC (commuter rail) service to Washington D.C. and Amtrak; public bus transportation throughout Frederick City and connecting other municipalities.

***Rail:*** CSX Transportation and Maryland Midland Railway (short line service).

***Truck:*** 76 local and long-distance trucking establishments are located in the county.

***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); Reagan Washington National Airport; and Dulles International Airport. Frederick Municipal Airport offers jet and turboprop charter service and has two runways.

**Population**

Desirable living conditions have contributed to Frederick County being among the fastest growing counties in the region. From 2000 to 2020, Frederick County experienced a 39.14% increase in population while the State of Maryland's total population increased by 16.62% during the same time frame. According to U.S. Census, the 2020 population for Frederick County was 271,717, which is approximately 16.4% over the 2010 Census. The estimated population for 2024 was 299,317. Please note the following table (Source: U.S. Census):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FREDERICK COUNTY: POPULATION PROFILE** | | | | |
|  | **2000** | **2010** | **2020** | **2024** |
| **Population** | **195,277** | **233,385** | **271,717** | **299,317** |

From 2010 to 2020, Frederick City experienced a 19.73% increase in population which is slightly higher than the rate noted for Frederick County The census population in 2020 was 78,171. The estimated population for 2023 was 85,793. Please note the following table (Source: U.S. Census):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FREDERICK CITY: POPULATION PROFILE** | | | | |
|  | **2000** | **2010** | **2020** | **2023** |
| **Population** | **52,767** | **65,289** | **78,171** | **85,793** |

Below is a chart showing the estimated population growth for the municipalities in Frederick County, from the 2010 U.S. Census to 2020:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Population** | **Population** | **Estimated Growth** | **Estimated** |
| **City/Town** | **per 2010 Census** | **Per 2020 Census** | **Since 2010** | **Percent Increase** |
| **Brunswick** | 5,870 | 7,762 | 1,892 | 32.23% |
| **Burkittsville** | 151 | 151 | 0 | 0.00% |
| **Emmitsburg** | 2,814 | 3,156 | 342 | 0.00% |
| **Frederick** | 65,239 | 78,171 | 12,932 | 6.77% |
| **Middletown** | 4,136 | 4,943 | 807 | 6.71% |
| **Mt. Airy** | 9,288 | 9,654 | 366 | .93% |
| **Myersville** | 1,626 | 1,763 | 137 | 5.08% |
| **New Market** | 656 | 1,536 | 880 | 43.88% |
| **Rosemont** | 294 | 272 | 18 | 0.00% |
| **Thurmont** | 6,170 | 6,274 | 104 | 0.88% |
| **Walkersville** | 5,800 | 6,261 | 461 | 1.81% |
| **Woodsboro** | 1,141 | 1,181 | 40 | 0.87% |
|  | |  |  |  |

**Income**

According to U.S. Census, Frederick County’s median household income in 2020 was $97,730 which was 15% greater than the state of Maryland’s average of $84,805. Maryland had the highest median household income of any state in the U.S. according to the 2020 Census. The estimated median household income in 2023 was $120,458. The following information, obtained from the City of Frederick’s Office of Economic Development website, reflects the income data for Frederick County:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Households by Income** | **2000** | | **2010** | | **2020** | |
| **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** |
| <$15,000 | 5,014 | 7.2 | 4,116 | 4.9 | 4,339 | 4.7 |
| $15,000-$24,999 | 5,519 | 7.9 | 4,765 | 5.6 | 3,080 | 3.3 |
| $25,000-$34,999 | 6,554 | 9.3 | 4,507 | 5.3 | 4,131 | 4.4 |
| $35,000-$49,999 | 11,063 | 15.8 | 9,294 | 11.0 | 8,508 | 9.2 |
| $50,000-$74,999 | 16,815 | 24.0 | 17,466 | 20.7 | 13,761 | 14.9 |
| $75,000-$99,999 | 11,846 | 16.9 | 16,809 | 19.9 | 13,309 | 14.4 |
| $100,000-$149,000 | 9,495 | 13.5 | 18,339 | 21.7 | 21,473 | 23.2 |
| $150,000-$199,999 | 2,253 | 3.2 | 5,791 | 6.9 | 13,775 | 14.9 |
| $200,000+ | 1,556 | 2.2 | 3,431 | 4.1 | 9,921 | 10.7 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Median HH Income | $60,256 | | $77,242 | | $97,730 | |
| Average HH Income | $69,955 | | $88,872 | | $117,009 | |

Median household income for Frederick County increased over 28% between 2000 and 2010. Estimates for 2020 showed a 27% increase in median household income since 2010.

The median household income for Frederick City for 2020 was $74,801 (esri community profile) The estimated median income for 2023 according to census data was $95,150. The following chart, obtained from the City of Frederick’s Office of Economic Development website, reflects the income data for Frederick City:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Households by Income** | **2000** | | **2010** | | **2020** | |
| **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** | **Number** | **%** |
| <$15,000 | 2,156 | 10.3 | 1,826 | 7.2 | 1,902 | 6.5 |
| $15,000-$24,999 | 2,275 | 10.9 | 2,128 | 8.4 | 1,756 | 6.0 |
| $25,000-$34,999 | 2,646 | 12.7 | 1,948 | 7.7 | 1,610 | 5.5 |
| $35,000-$49,999 | 3,864 | 18.5 | 3,654 | 14.5 | 4,537 | 15.5 |
| $50,000-$74,999 | 4,861 | 23.3 | 5,757 | 22.8 | 4,859 | 16.6 |
| $75,000-$99,999 | 2,678 | 12.8 | 4,622 | 18.3 | 4,098 | 14 |
| $100,000-$149,000 | 1,779 | 8.5 | 3,782 | 15.0 | 5,445 | 18.6 |
| $150,000-$199,999 | 360 | 1.7 | 900 | 3.6 | 2,605 | 8.9 |
| $200,000+ | 270 | 1.3 | 627 | 2.5 | 2,459 | 8.4 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Median HH Income | $47,793 | | $61,794 | | $74,801 | |
| Average HH Income | $57,064 | | $72,842 | | $98,516 | |

Median household income for Frederick City increased more than 29% between 2000 and 2010. Data for 2020 show a 21% increase in median household income since 2010.

**Labor & Employment**

The labor market of Frederick County also includes portions of other surrounding counties within the State of Maryland, as well as Loudoun County, Virginia; Adams County, Pennsylvania; and Jefferson County, West Virginia.

The Maryland Department of Labor reported that Frederick County's 2020 average unemployment rate was up significantly from 2019 numbers, due in large part to the effects of the pandemic. The first and second quarter 2020 rates were negatively impacted significantly by the CoVid-19 pandemic, reaching 9.8% as of end April 2020). At the end of 2019, the rate was 2.6% in December, compared to 5.0% in December 2020. The unemployment rate continued to decrease in 2021 to end the year at 3.4% in December 2021 (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, St. Louis Federal Reserve). The unemployment rate by December 2022 was 2.80%.

The workforce includes the population of Frederick County between the ages (living in Frederick County, not necessarily working in Frederick County) of 18 and 65.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Frederick County Labor Force Estimates** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **YEAR** | **Labor Force** | **Employment** | **Unemployment** | **Rate** |
| 2023 | 136,641 | 133,908 | 2,733 | 2.00% |
| 2022 | 135,039 | 130,988 | 4,051 | 3.00% |
| 2021 | 131,270 | 126,807 | 4,463 | 4.80% |
| 2020 | 129,790 | 123,289 | 6,501 | 5.80% |
| 2019 | 135,685 | 131,633 | 3,564 | 3.00% |
| 2018 | 132,005 | 127,484 | 4521 | 3.20% |
| 2017 | 131,266 | 126,505 | 4,761 | 3.50% |
| 2016 | 129,440 | 124,587 | 4,853 | 3.80% |
| 2015 | 128,775 | 123,006 | 5,769 | 4.50% |
| 2014 | 128,018 | 121,547 | 6,471 | 5.10% |
| 2013 | 128,357 | 120,947 | 7,410 | 5.80% |
| 2012 | 128,605 | 120,756 | 7,849 | 6.10% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, St. Louis Federal Reserve

A graph showing a line

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The following chart highlights employment and payrolls by industry within Frederick County – representing the labor force working in Frederick County regardless of where they live (in or out of county). Based on information collected since 2011 through 2020, this chart reflects employment in Frederick County[[1]](#footnote-1) segmented by government, private sector and within private sector by industry breakdown:

A table with numbers and numbers

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The total number of people employed in Frederick County increased for seven consecutive years between 2013 and 2019. 2020 saw a significant decrease due to the negative impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the economy. Each subsequent year has seen an increase in employment. Please note the following chart:

A graph of employment with numbers and a bar

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Between 2013 and 2023, the overall government sector employment experienced approximately 13% growth – 15,640 persons in 2013 as compared to 17,700 in 2023. However, the sector shrunk significantly between 2019 and 2021. It rebounded in subsequent years. The number of federal employees declined from 3,796 in 2013 to 3711 in 2023.. State government employees increased from 778 in 2013 to 864 in 2023. Local/municipal employment in Frederick County increased from 11,056 in 2013 to 12,110 in 2023.

Frederick County’s private sector employment saw increases during the same time period (2013-2019). As with overall employment, private sector employment increased eight consecutive years – increasing by approximately 16.64% -- during this time frame. Again, 2020 saw a significant decrease due to the effects of the pandemic. It rebounded between 2021-2023 but still has not reached 2019 levels.

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Source: Maryland Department of Commerce, Brief Economic Facts, Frederick County, Maryland

**Housing**

In 2023 Frederick County had a total of 101,807 households with an average household size of 2.71. [[2]](#footnote-2) Frederick City had a total of 111,331 housing units estimated in 2023. The median value of a home in Frederick County in 2023 was $437,700 and in Frederick City $365,200.

**Frederick County Government**

Frederick County transitioned from the County Commissioner form of government to the County Charter form of government on December 1, 2014.  Under Charter Government, there is an Executive Branch with a County Executive and a Legislative Branch with a County Council.

The County Executive establishes the long-term vision for Frederick County and ensures effective and efficient services to county residents.  The County Executive provides management oversight and direction for Frederick County Government departments and agencies, establishes public policy, and is responsible for the development of the county budget. The County Executive serves a four-year term and not more than two consecutive terms.

The seven-member County Council consists of five members elected by district and two elected at large. They also serve four year terms -- no more than three consecutive terms. Council members will have the power to initiate legislation.

Frederick County has twelve municipalities: [Brunswick](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/brunswick/html/b.html), [Burkittsville](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/burkittsville/html/b.html), [Emmitsburg](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/emmitsburg/html/e.html), [Frederick](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/frederick/html/f.html), [Middletown](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/middletown/html/m.html), [Mount Airy](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/mountairy/html/m.html), [Myersville](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/myersville/html/m.html), [New Market](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/newmarket/html/n.html), [Rosemont](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/rosemont/html/r.html), [Thurmont](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/thurmont/html/t.html), [Walkersville](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/walkersville/html/w.html), and [Woodsboro](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/37mun/woodsboro/html/w.html). Frederick was the first locality to incorporate in Frederick County in 1816. It was followed by Emmitsburg (1824), Thurmont (1831), Middletown (1833), Woodsboro (1836), New Market (1878), Brunswick (1890), Walkersville (1892), Burkittsville (1894), Mount Airy (1894), Myersville (1904), and Rosemont (1953).

**Economic Development**

The City of Frederick Department of Economic Development is an active organization tasked with increasing economic opportunities for Frederick residents through job creation, revitalization, and reinvestment. This mission is achieved through four strategic priorities: job creation, business infrastructure advocacy, downtown revitalization, and key corridor revitalization.

Business attraction and retention is a core function of DED. The City works in partnership with Frederick County Business Development and Retention Department (BDRD) and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), to attract business to Frederick. Outreach efforts include regional and national trade shows targeted at bioscience and technology; targeted regional advertising that focuses on bioscience, technology, manufacturing and site selection consultants; and participation in and sponsorship of key industry events hosted by groups such as the Tech Council of Maryland and Maryland/DC Chapter of NAIOP.

Business retention and expansion is a key focus. Studies by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) show that 65-80% of new jobs in a community are created by the existing businesses. Retention and expansion efforts include business retention visits; attendance at local business events such as the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce activities; local advertising and trade shows; and support for expanding businesses as they navigate the development review and permit process.

Downtown Frederick, serving as the County Seat, is home to more than 600 businesses and 5,000 employees. Downtown is also the hub of culture and tourism, attracting more than 1.4 million visitors annually. As a major economic engine within the City, continued revitalization, reinvestment and adaptive reuse of historic buildings are key economic development goals for DED.

The City's retail and business corridors also serve as valuable economic engines. Revitalization and reinvestment in traditional retail corridors and the surrounding neighborhoods are critical DED initiatives that strengthen both the business community and quality of life in Frederick.

**Education**

Frederick County offers a wide variety of public and private educational opportunities for its residents – which include pre-primary through graduate school. Frederick County is nationally recognized for its public education system and remains one of the region's leaders in virtually every measure of student achievement and educational attainment. [Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS)](http://www.fcps.org) has been a recipient for many years of the US Department of Education's prestigious national Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Award and Maryland Public Schools rank consistently high nationally.

**2024 Frederick County Public School Statistics:**

* Total Enrollment – 46,889
* Total Schools - 69
  + 38 Elementary
  + 13 Middle
  + 10 High
  + 8 Special
* Graduation Rate – 94.3%
* Dropout Rate – 3.0%

***Source:*** [***May 2025- Frederick County Public School***](http://fcps.schoolwires.com/fcps/lib/fcps/publications/FCPSwinter09_10.pdf)***s (FCPS.org)***

**Private Schools**

* [The Banner School](http://www.bannerschool.org), Frederick
* [The Barnesville School](http://www.barnesvilleschool.org), Frederick
* [Beth Sholom Day School](http://www.bethsholomfrederick.org), Frederick
* Catoctin View Mission School, Thurmont
* [Frederick Adventist School](http://fredericksdachurch.org), Frederick
* [Frederick Christian Academy](http://www.fcamd.org), Frederick
* Frederick Montessori School, Frederick
* [Friends Meeting School](http://www.friendsmeetingschool.org), Ijamsville
* Grace Baptist Academy, Brunswick
* [Lucy School: An Arts-Based School](http://www.lucyschool.com), Middletown,
* [Mother Seton School](http://www.mothersetonschool.org), Emmitsburg
* [New Life Christian School](http://www.newlifecs.org), Frederick
* [St. John Regional Catholic School](http://www.sjrcs.org), Frederick
* [St. John's Catholic](http://www.stjph.org/) Prep, Buckeystown
* [St. Thomas More Academy](http://www.stthomasmoreacademy.org), Middletown
* [Walkersville Christian Family School](http://www.wcfs.edu), Thurmont

**Special Education Schools**

* [Maryland School for the Deaf](http://www.msd.edu) offers educational opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.
* [Rock Creek School](http://schools.fcps.org/amain/mainpage.cfm?bcid=1024) serves those students with severe physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, hearing, visual, and learning disabilities.
* [The Jefferson School](http://thejeffersonschool.org) offers educational opportunities for children and adolescents with emotional, social or learning disabilities.
* [Sylvan Learning Center](http://www.educate.com) provides tutoring services in Frederick County.
* [Huntington Learning Center](http://www.huntingtonlearning.com) tutors students from kindergarten through college.

**Higher Education**

A comprehensive array of advanced education alternatives is offered by local colleges, including Hood College, Mount Saint Mary's University and Frederick Community College as well as by prestigious universities such as Johns Hopkins University and the 13 campuses of the University System of Maryland. [Hood College](http://www.hood.edu/) in Frederick City is a private, four-year college offering 27 undergraduate majors and 13 graduate programs. In Emmitsburg, [Mount Saint Mary's University](http://www.msmary.edu/) is an undergraduate liberal arts college with graduate programs that include business and education. [Frederick Community College,](http://www.frederick.edu) also in Frederick City, is a two-year college offering associate degrees in a variety of majors, including business, pre-engineering and nursing. More than 300,000 students are enrolled in approximately 65 accredited institutions of higher education in the Baltimore-Washington area.

**Workforce Training**

The workforce development system in Frederick County works together to proactively promote and implement the needs of its ever-changing workforce. [Frederick Community College](http://www.frederick.edu) (FCC) has numerous partnerships and is capable of customizing various industries training needs. The [Frederick County Business and Employment Center](http://www.frederickworks.com) provides various levels of training, which range from seminars, hands on computer-labs to working with Frederick Community College and the customized training programs. [Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development](http://www.mdbusiness.org/) (DBED) provides reimbursements grants for the development and training of new employees in firms locating or expanding their workforce in Maryland. The newest workforce initiative in the area is the [Frederick County Business Roundtable for Education](http://www.frederickchamber.org/CWT/external/wcpages/programs/FCBRE.aspx), a 501c(3) that helps develop strong connections between classroom learning and the business community and promotes academic excellence.

**Healthcare**

[Frederick Healthcare](http://www.fmh.org) is an accredited 276-bed hospital that provides for medical/surgical, pediatric, psychiatric, obstetric, sub-acute, and emergency patients and is a Level III A Neonatal Intensive Care facility. Its 400 physician staff specializes in all areas of medicine. In addition to their main campus on 7th Street, FHH has opened branch locations at the FSK Mall, Rose Hill Plaza on Opossumtown Pike, FHH South along New Design Road, FHH Crestwood, FHH-Mt. Airy, the new health campus on Monocacy Boulevard, as well as several locations to serve the residents of southern Frederick County.

A full range of medical care can be found within the Frederick community through private practice as well. From general practitioners, obstetrics, dermatology, radiology, dialysis, holistic health care providers and more, there is an abundance of quality care available for area residents. Both Children's Hospital and John's Hopkins have opened Frederick facilities as well.

**Tourism**

Tourism has a tremendous impact on Frederick City and County. According to the Tourism County of Frederick County, in 2023 approximately 1.9 million visitors spent $539 million while on excursion in Frederick County. Tourism also accounts for nearly 6,800 industry-related jobs. One of the chief attractions is downtown Frederick’s 40-block historic district, with its nationally renowned architecture, variety of historic sites, retailers and antique shops, and 40 restaurants along Restaurant Row. Nearly three-quarters of all visitors to Frederick County come to downtown Frederick during their journey – about 1.4 million tourists each year.

Other notable visitor attractions throughout the City and downtown include the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick County Historical Society and Roger Brooke Taney House, Mt. Olivet Cemetery and the grave of Francis Scott Key, and Harry Grove Stadium – home to the Frederick Keys, the Baltimore Orioles’ minor league affiliate

**Recreation**

The City of Frederick maintains 57 municipal parks totaling 422 acres of recreational pleasure. City parks include Baker Park, Carroll Creek Park, Hillstreet Skate Park, Diggs Pool, and many neighborhood parks. The city also owns and manages the William Talley Fitness Center, which offers affordable fitness facilities and fitness classes.

Harry Grove Stadium near downtown Frederick is home to the Frederick Keys baseball team, a member of the MLB Draft Team. This stadium, owned by the City of Frederick, was constructed in 1990 and seats 5,400 fans. In addition, the City of Frederick is home to the Frederick Flying Cows, a TBL Professional Basketball team that plays its home games at the Hood College Athletic Center.

**Agriculture**

The agricultural industry is a vital part of Frederick County’s economy and quality of life. The large agricultural base covers 188,576 acres of farmland. This makes Frederick County the largest agricultural county in Maryland, accounting for 10% of Maryland's total farmland. There are more than 1300 farms in Frederick County accounting for the largest number of farms in the state. Frederick County ranks number one in Maryland for turkeys, cattle, agritourism farms, and third for equine inventory. The total value of sales that Frederick County farmers produce is almost $130 million annually. Agricultural producers in the county have expanded production of Nursery and greenhouse crops as well as Christmas trees.

**Public Safety**

The Frederick Police Department is a full service, nationally accredited police agency providing police services. The FPD provides an array of multi-faceted police services through multiple divisions. Fire and Rescue Services are managed through the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services Division. Frederick City has six Fire Stations located within the Frederick City limits and 28 throughout Frederick County.

1. Maryland Department of Labor, 2023 statistics. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. U.S. CensusQuickfacts [↑](#footnote-ref-2)