**REGIONAL DATA**

**Summary & Location**

Montgomery County comprises a land mass of 495 square miles immediately contiguous to and northwest of Washington, D.C. It is located in the Washington Standard Metropolitan Area (SMSA) and known as one of the most affluent counties in the State of Maryland and the eleventh most affluent county in the nation, according to the most recent American Community Survey, as conducted by the census bureau.

Montgomery County was originally settled as part of Prince George's County in the 1600s. The northern part of Prince George's County was carved out and renamed Frederick County in 1748. In 1776 Montgomery County was carved out of Frederick County and named for Richard Montgomery, a brigadier general in the Colonial Army who was killed in action and never saw the land for which he was named.

Over time Montgomery County has changed, evolving from a region of farming communities into a vital force in the metropolitan urban area. Major forces of change have been the Civil War, jnjjjexplosion. Since the 1940s, the county’s population has grown exponentially and in the process has become multi-cultural, with residents coming from all parts of the world. (Source: The Montgomery County Historical Society).

Approved by the voters in 1968 and implemented in 1970, Montgomery County has a charter form of government which consists of a county executive and nine council members.

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**Transportation & Linkages**

Montgomery County is adjacent to the District of Columbia. I-495 runs through the heart of Montgomery County and provides through connecting highways direct access to the larger metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington. The port of Baltimore, which lies farther inland than any other Atlantic seaport, is only a few minutes away and provides economical access for domestic and foreign trade. Montgomery County is within easy access to three major airports: Reagan National Airport, BWI Airport, and Dulles International Airport.

**Population**

Desirable living conditions and close proximity to Washington, D.C. have contributed to Montgomery County being one of the most desirable places to live in Maryland and the greater metropolitan area. The County's estimated population in 2023 was 1,058,474, an 8.9% increase since 2010. The population in 2010 was 971,777. In 2020 the population was 1,062,065, a slight .3% decrease over 2023 estimates.  This is most likely attributable to pandemic-related migration trends.

**Income**

According to the Census Bureau's 2023 Quickfacts, the estimated median household income for Montgomery County was $125,583, 27.5% higher than Maryland's median household income of $98,461, making this one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the State of Maryland and the country.

**Labor & Employment**

The scientific, industrial, and research and development character of the county is due in large part to its proximity to the Nation's capital. Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Standards and Technology, Naval Ship Research and Development Center, Naval Surface Warfare Center, and the National Naval Medical Center have located their R&D installations in Montgomery County. National and regional corporations such as Marriott, Martin-Marietta, and IBM have located their corporate headquarters in Montgomery County, which is also home to more than 200 manufacturing firms, mostly in the electrical, electronic and precision instrument fields.

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According to the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development and Maryland Department of Commerce, the top ten major employers in Montgomery County are listed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Employer** | **# of Employees** |
| 1 | [National](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Health_and_Human_Services) Institute of Health | 17,580 |
| 2 | [U.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_County_Public_Schools) S. Food and Drug Administration | 13,855 |
| 3 | [Naval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense) Support Activity Bethesda | 12,000 |
| 4 | Marriott International | 5,800 |
| 5 | Adventist Health Care | 4,290 |
| 6 | Montgomery College | 3,190 |
| 7 | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin. | 2,920 |
| 8 | National Institute of Standards and Technology | 2,835 |
| 9 | Kaiser Foundation Health Plan | 2,640 |
| 10 | U.S. Nuclear Reg. Commission | 2,340 |

**Housing**

According to the Census Bureau Quickfacts,, in 2018-2022 there were 385,284 households in Montgomery County, with an average household size of 2.72 persons per household. There were a total of 406,801 housing units. By comparison, in 2010, there were 382,241 housing units at an average density of 778 per square mile (261 /km2). In 2022 the owner-occupied housing unit rate was 65.5%. The median value of an owner-occupied housing for the same period was $588,900, and the median monthly gross rent rate was $1,957.

**Education**

**Public Schools**

Number: 136 elementary; 40 middle; 25 high, 1 Career and Tech school, 5 Special Needs Schools; 2 Early Childhood Centers; 2 Programs; 1 Special Service Program

Total Number of Schools = 211

Enrollment for 2021-2022 = 160,554

Cost per pupil: approximately $17,569

In addition to having the largest public schools system in the State of Maryland, Montgomery County also boasts a strong network of private and parochial schools throughout the county.

**Higher Education**

The County is also served by [Montgomery College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montgomery_College), a public, open access community college. The county has no public university of its own, but the state university system does operate a facility called [Universities at Shady Grove](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universities_at_Shady_Grove) in Rockville that provides access to baccalaureate and Master's level programs from several of the state's public universities.