

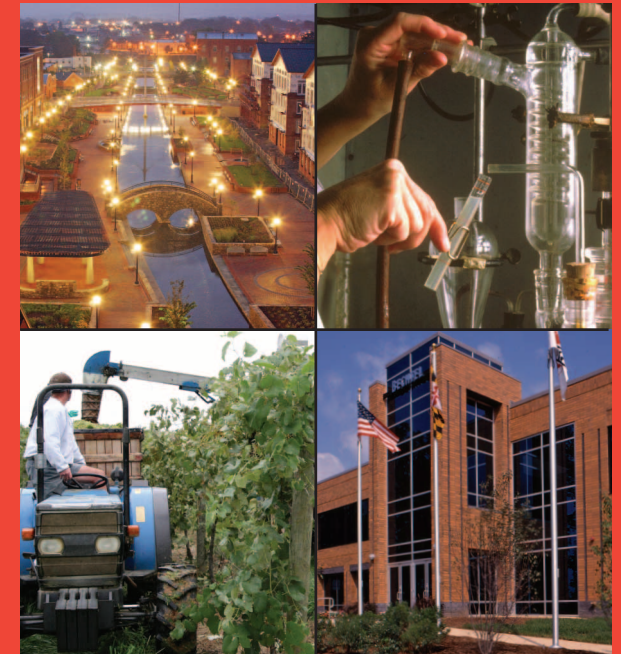
Fast Facts

- Frederick County is Maryland's largest county in size—663 square miles
- The County is located 45 miles from both Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD
- Current population = 230,000; projected population for 2015 = 266,000
- Frederick County's 6,000 businesses employ 82,000 workers
- Annual average unemployment rate = 3.0%
- Estimated median household income = \$80,000
- Fort Detrick is the County's largest employer with a workforce of 8,000
- The County is home to three institutions of higher learning (Hood College, Mount Saint Mary's University and Frederick Community College)
- Frederick County is proud of its Blue Ribbon Public School System which has a graduation rate of over 96%, highest in Maryland



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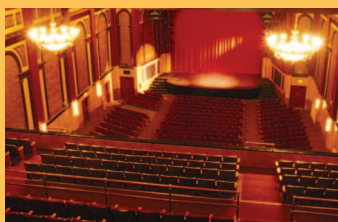


No matter what your perspective, it all points to Frederick County, MD

Frederick County, Maryland,

the state's largest county, is strategically located within an hour of two major metropolitan areas, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. The County's diverse economic base and vibrant business community are complimented by a culturally rich heritage, thriving arts community,

picturesque countryside and an enviable quality of life. The Office of Economic Development



understands that Frederick County's prosperity depends on retaining and supporting existing businesses.

Ongoing outreach and a full complement of coordinated business services are needed to develop, maintain and grow businesses and entrepreneurs. In addition to our strategic location, Frederick provides a supportive and business friendly climate, an abundance of highly skilled and well-educated workforce, an award winning educational system and an array of business associations and agencies to assist and foster the growth and success of businesses.



Bioscience There are more than 60 bioscience companies located in Frederick County, representing over 15% of the total bioscience and federal research institutions in Maryland. The growth the County is experiencing in this field is due in part to two business incubators, which cater to bioscience and information technology companies. The growth is also due to a local economic engine – Frederick County's largest employer – Fort Detrick.



Manufacturing

There are 190 manufacturing firms employing nearly 6,000 people and paying \$67 million in annual wages in Frederick County. The Office of Economic Development works with the Frederick County Manufacturers Roundtable, a membership organization comprised of representatives from local manufacturing companies who meet to discuss ways to improve the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in the County.

Advanced Technology

For the 10th consecutive year, the Greater Washington region, which includes Frederick, has many of the fastest growing private advanced technology companies in America, according to *Inc. Magazine*. Frederick County's local network of the Technology Council of Maryland supports the advanced technology, information technology and bioscience communities and coordinates educational and networking events throughout the year.



Agriculture As the state's leader in agricultural acres, Frederick County hosts a diverse and extensive agriculture industry. Dairy farming is an integral part of the County's agriculture community, with over \$50 million in products produced every year. The Office of Economic Development is heavily involved in the area of agritourism and has developed its own Home Grown Here branding campaign, Virtual Farmers Market and Farm Guide.