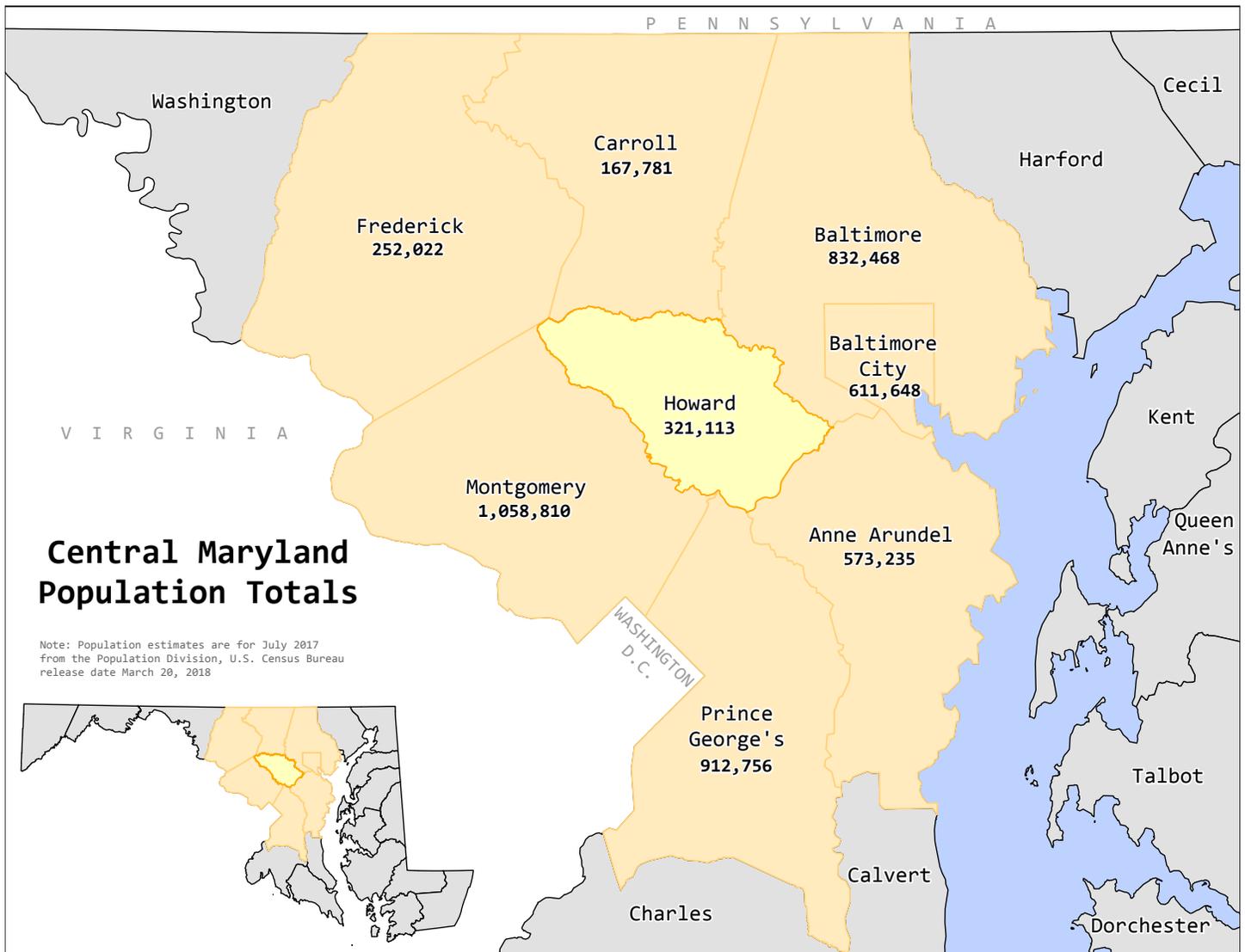


HOWARD COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW – Prepared by Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Division (2018)

Howard County in Context

Howard County is located between Baltimore and Washington in central Maryland (18 miles from Baltimore City and 27 miles from Washington D.C.). At about 254 square miles it is the smallest of Maryland's 23 counties. Only Baltimore City, which is the 24th jurisdiction in Maryland, is smaller at 92 square miles. In terms of total population, however, Howard County ranks 6th in the state with an estimated population of 321,000. The five other jurisdictions with greater populations are also all located in central Maryland adjacent to Howard County. Including Carroll and Frederick Counties with these (ranked 8th and 9th in the state, respectively), a total of just over to 4.7 million residents live in central Maryland, 78% of the state's total 6.1 million residents. Howard County's 321,000 residents make up 5.3% of the state total.



Population Ranking of Maryland Counties and Baltimore City - July 1, 2017

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Montgomery County | 1,058,810 | 13 Wicomico County | 102,923 |
| 2 Prince George's County | 912,756 | 14 Cecil County | 102,746 |
| 3 Baltimore County | 832,468 | 15 Calvert County | 91,502 |
| 4 Baltimore City | 611,648 | 16 Allegany County | 71,615 |
| 5 Anne Arundel County | 573,235 | 17 Worcester County | 51,690 |
| 6 Howard County | 321,113 | 18 Queen Anne's County | 49,770 |
| 7 Harford County | 252,160 | 19 Talbot County | 37,103 |
| 8 Frederick County | 252,022 | 20 Caroline County | 33,193 |
| 9 Carroll County | 167,781 | 21 Dorchester County | 32,162 |
| 10 Charles County | 159,700 | 22 Garrett County | 29,233 |
| 11 Washington County | 150,578 | 23 St. Mary's County | 25,918 |
| 12 Somerset County | 112,667 | 24 Kent County | 19,384 |
| Maryland Total | | | 6,052,177 |

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, release date March 20, 2018

Physical Geography and Climate

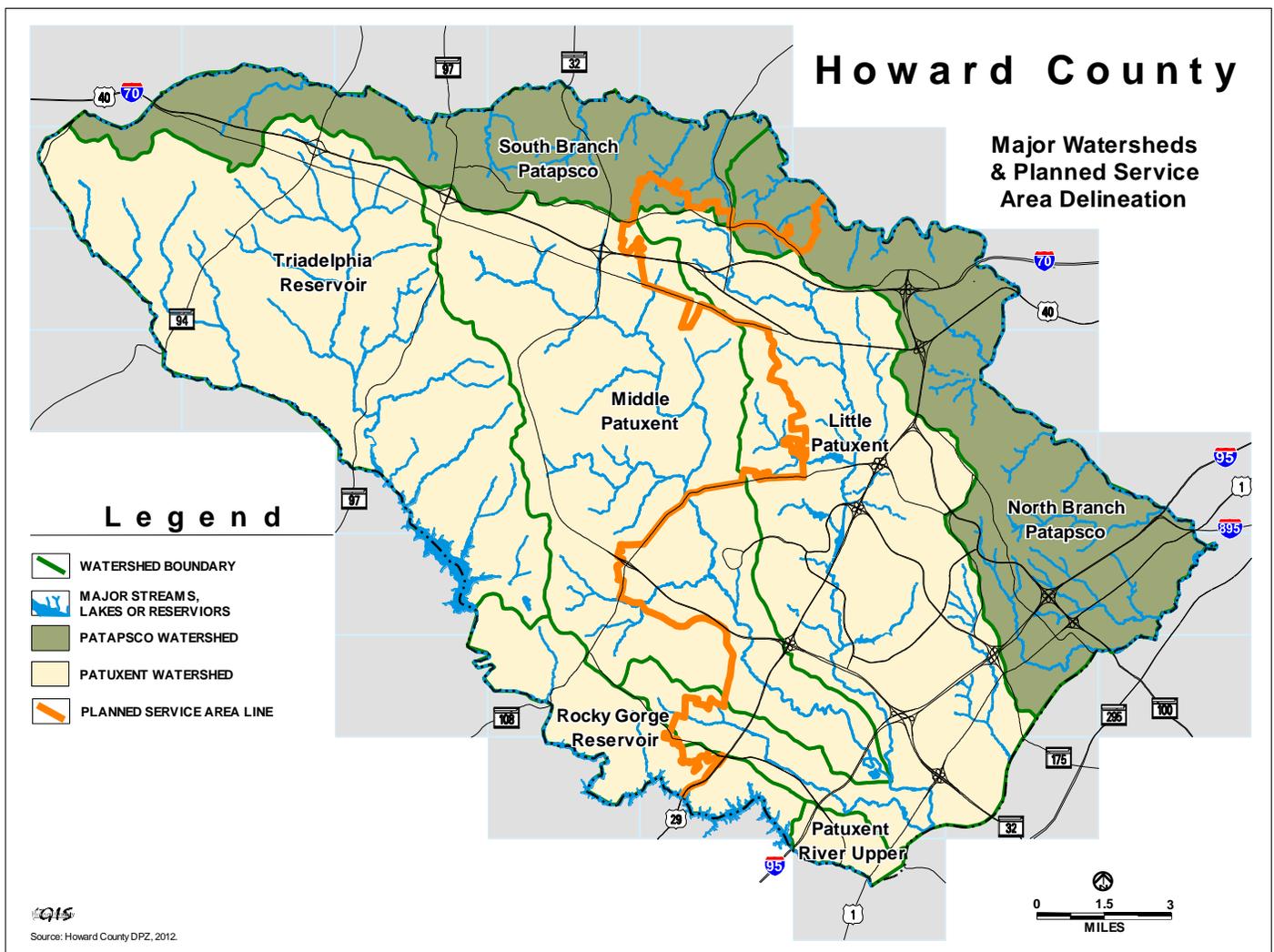
Howard County is in the Piedmont Plateau region of Maryland, with rolling hills making up most of the landscape. It is bounded on the north and northeast by the Patapsco River, on the southwest by the Patuxent River, and on the southeast by the Deep Run River and the CSX railroad line. Both the Patapsco and Patuxent run largely through publicly accessible parkland along the county borders. The Patuxent border includes the Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge reservoirs, which provide drinking water for residents in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County as well as a small portion of southern Howard County. Howard County is the only “Maryland-locked” county in the state—that is, the only county not bordering the Chesapeake Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, another state, the Potomac River or Washington D.C.

There are two major watersheds in Howard County—the Patapsco and the Patuxent. Most wastewater is treated by the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant owned and operated by Howard County. Waste from the Patapsco area is treated by the Patapsco treatment plant located in Baltimore City. There are close to 1,000 miles of rivers and streams in Howard County and several moderately sized manmade lakes, including Centennial Lake just north of MD108 and east of US29 and lake Kittamaquindi in Downtown Columbia. These lakes are part of Howard County’s stormwater management system.

The western portion of Howard County largely consists of farmland and forest, much of which has been permanently preserved through county and state agricultural and environmental preservation programs, and large lot residential development on well and septic systems. This area, known as the Rural West, is approximately 60% of the total county land area and is delineated by the Planned Service Area line. The roughly 40% of county land east of this line is served by the public water

and sewer system owned and operated by Howard County. The eastern portion of the county includes higher density suburban development with a population density about 8 times that of the west—3.9 persons per acre compared to 0.5 persons per acre.

Howard County lies in the humid subtropical climate zone. Annual rainfall is about 43 inches throughout the county. Annual snowfall averages about 23 inches. Over a 60-year period from 1950 to 2010, there were 394 National Climatic Data Center reportable events causing 617 injuries and 99 fatalities. There were 9 reported tornadoes reaching a maximum of F2, with no recorded fatalities.



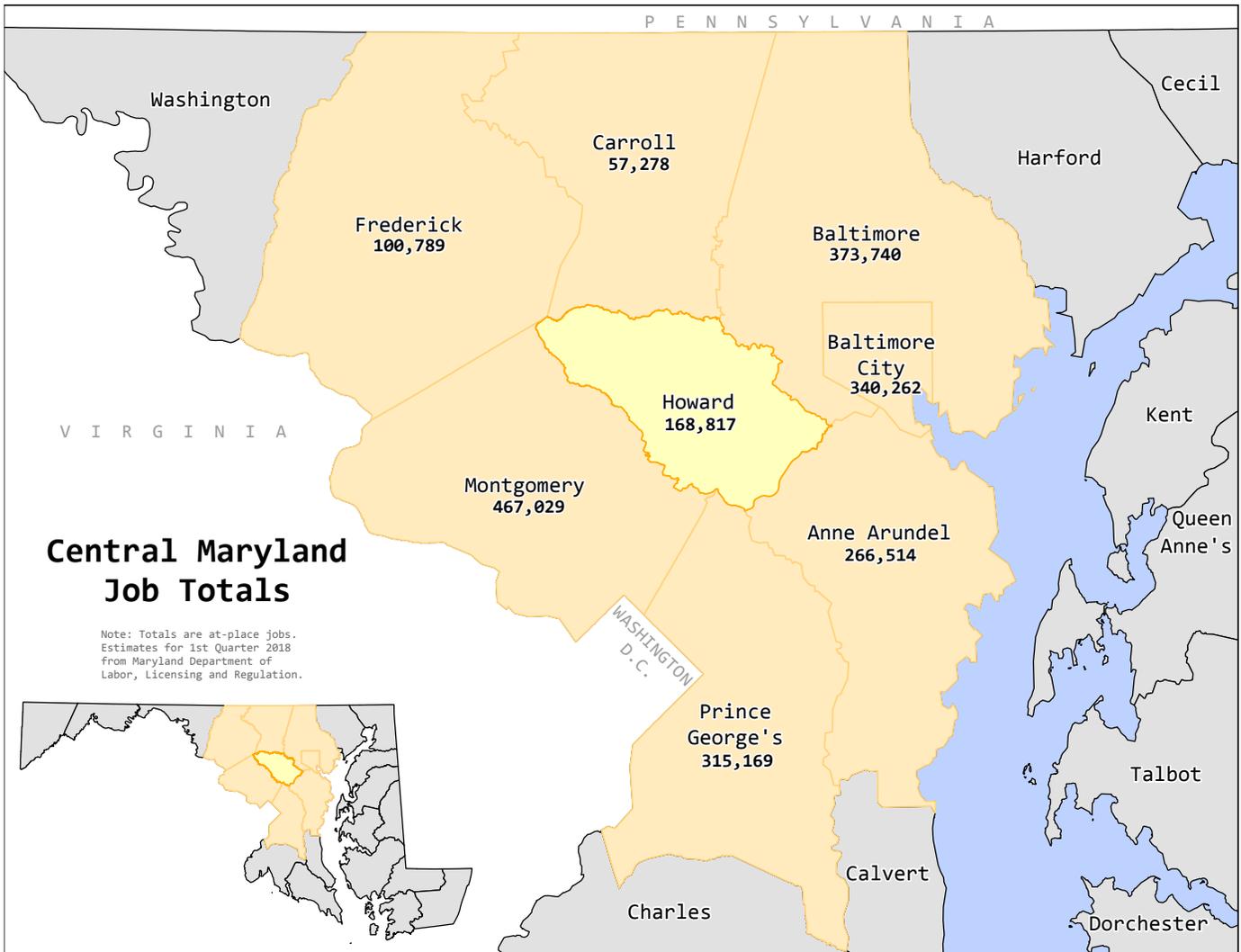
Jobs and Economy

Howard County has a significant job base, ranking 6th highest in the state with 169,000 jobs located in the county, most all of which are in the east. This represents about 6.4% of the total 2.6 million jobs statewide. The eight jurisdictions in central Maryland have 2.1 million jobs of the 2.6 million total, representing about four out of every five jobs in the state.

Job Ranking of Maryland Counties (and Baltimore City) -- 1st quarter 2018

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Montgomery | 467,029 | 13 Charles | 41,047 |
| 2 Baltimore County | 373,740 | 14 Cecil | 31,487 |
| 3 Baltimore City | 340,262 | 15 Allegany | 28,654 |
| 4 Prince George's | 315,169 | 16 Calvert | 22,235 |
| 5 Anne Arundel | 266,514 | 17 Worcester | 20,659 |
| 6 Howard | 168,817 | 18 Talbot | 18,731 |
| 7 Frederick | 100,789 | 19 Queen Anne's | 14,245 |
| 8 Harford | 92,167 | 20 Garrett | 11,516 |
| 9 Washington | 65,096 | 21 Dorchester | 10,397 |
| 10 Carroll | 57,278 | 22 Caroline | 9,584 |
| 11 Wicomico | 45,048 | 23 Kent | 7,556 |
| 12 <u>St. Mary's</u> | <u>43,876</u> | 24 <u>Somerset</u> | <u>6,656</u> |
| | | Nondistributable | 72,562 |
| Maryland Total | | | 2,631,114 |

Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, 1st quarter 2018



About 78% of the 169,000 jobs in Howard County are service providing jobs. About 12% are goods producing jobs and the remaining 10% are government jobs. More than 25% of all jobs located in Howard County are for professional and business services. This is followed by trade, transportation and utility jobs (20%) and then education and health services (11%). Close to 5% of all jobs are for manufacturing and 7% for construction. The table below summarizes all jobs by job type in Howard County. (Note that these jobs reported by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation do not include proprietors that are not on an employer payroll. According to the latest available 2016 BEA data, there were an additional 50,623 proprietor jobs in Howard County.)

Jobs in Howard County by Job Type - 1st Quarter, 2018

| Job Type | Jobs | Percent |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Government Sector | | |
| Federal Government | 663 | 0.4% |
| State Government | 1,693 | 1.0% |
| Local Government | 14,834 | 8.8% |
| Subtotal/Average | 17,190 | 10.2% |
| Goods Producing | | |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 283 | 0.2% |
| Construction | 11,736 | 7.0% |
| Manufacturing | 8,204 | 4.9% |
| Subtotal/Average | 20,224 | 12.0% |
| Service Providing | | |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 33,673 | 19.9% |
| Information | 3,743 | 2.2% |
| Financial Activities | 10,281 | 6.1% |
| Professional and Business Services | 45,021 | 26.7% |
| Education and Health Services | 19,062 | 11.3% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 15,213 | 9.0% |
| Other Services | 4,407 | 2.6% |
| Subtotal/Average | 131,402 | 77.8% |
| TOTAL | 168,817 | 100.0% |

Source: Maryland Dept. of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

The latest labor force statistics from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (August 2018) indicate that of the 184,777 Howard County residents in the labor force, 178,842 are employed resulting in a 3.2% unemployment, the second lowest unemployment rate Maryland. Montgomery County has the lowest at 3.1%. The statewide average is 4.2%.

According to the latest American Community Survey (ACS), conducted in 2017 by the U.S. Census Bureau, 74,680 Howard County residents work in Howard County and 95,642 residents commute to work outside the county. The 2017 ACS also estimates that 91,438 out of county residents commute into Howard County to work. Subtracting the 95,642 Howard County residents

who leave the County each day for work from the 321,113 estimated 2017 resident population and then adding back in the 91,438 out of county in-commuters results in a “daytime population” estimate of 316,909. Given out-commuters exceed in-commuters by a modest 4,204 workers, the daytime population is only slightly lower than the resident population total. *Thus, Howard County does not “empty out” during the work day, nor does the population swell by a very large amount either—the county’s population remains relatively consistent over the course of the day amid a significant regional commuting pattern.*

The table below summarizes the major public and private sector employers in Howard County. The largest employer in the county is the Howard County Public School System, followed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab and then the Howard County government. These three employers combined employ 18,430 people and account for about 10% of all jobs in the county.

Major Employers in Howard County - 2018

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|-----|
| 1 Howard County Public School System | 8,230 | 13 Oracle | 650 |
| 2 Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab | 7,000 | 14 Enterprise Community Partners | 505 |
| 3 Howard County Government | 3,200 | 15 W.R. Grace | 500 |
| 4 Howard County General Hospital | 1,765 | 16 Humanim | 475 |
| 5 Verizon | 1,700 | 17 Leidos | 450 |
| 6 Howard Community College | 1,400 | 18 Tenable Network Security | 415 |
| 7 Lorien Health Systems | 1,190 | | |
| 8 Coastal Sunbelt Produce | 1,050 | | |
| 9 Wells Fargo | 807 | | |
| 10 Nestle Dreyer's Ice Cream | 735 | | |
| 11 Sysco Food Services | 680 | | |
| 12 Maxim Healthcare Services | 675 | | |

Sources: Howard County Economic Development Authority (2018)

Race and Languages

Howard County has a racially diverse population. According to the latest American Community Survey (2017), about 52% of Howard County residents are White, 18% African American, 19% Asian, and 7% Hispanic. The minority populations in Howard County have steadily increased over time and the county is expected to be a “majority-minority” county by the next Census in 2020 when the White population is expected to be less than 50% of the total. The adjacent counties of Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Baltimore City are already “majority-minority.” Of all races, Howard County’s Asian population has increased the most significantly since 2010, growing by 45% over the last 7 years. During this same period the White population in Howard County has *decreased* by 2%. Asian Indians make up the greatest number of Asians in Howard County, followed by Chinese, Korean, other Asians, and then Filipinos, Vietnamese, and Japanese.

Howard County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin - 2017

| Race | Estimate | Margin of Error | % | % Margin of Error |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| White alone | 165,566 | +/-1,008 | 51.6% | +/-0.3 |
| African American | 57,918 | +/-2,236 | 18.0% | +/-0.7 |
| Asian | 59,491 | +/-1,306 | 18.5% | +/-0.4 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 21,973 | **** | 6.8% | **** |
| Two or More Races | 13,023 | +/-2,695 | 4.1% | +/-0.8 |
| American Indian & Alaskan Native | 951 | +/-428 | 0.3% | +/-0.1 |
| Some Other Race | 2,191 | +/-1,079 | 0.7% | +/-0.3 |
| Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander | 0 | +/-203 | 0.0% | +/-0.1 |
| TOTAL | 321,113 | **** | 100.0% | **** |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Note that, other than the Hispanic or Latino category, all are non-Hispanic only

**** No sample observation, controlled to annual Population Division estimate

Howard County Population by Select Minority Race Detailed Breakdown - 2017

| Race | Estimate | Margin of Error | % | % Margin of Error |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Asian | 59,567 | +/-1,409 | 18.6% | +/-0.4 |
| Asian Indian | 17,026 | +/-3,373 | 5.3% | +/-1.1 |
| Chinese | 12,382 | +/-2,911 | 3.9% | +/-0.9 |
| Korean | 12,262 | +/-2,350 | 3.8% | +/-0.7 |
| Other Asian | 11,327 | +/-2,593 | 3.5% | +/-0.8 |
| Filipino | 3,015 | +/-1,753 | 0.9% | +/-0.5 |
| Vietnamese | 2,924 | +/-1,693 | 0.9% | +/-0.5 |
| Japanese | 631 | +/-770 | 0.2% | +/-0.2 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 21,973 | ***** | 6.8% | **** |
| Other Hispanic or Latino | 13,484 | +/-2,228 | 4.2% | +0.7 |
| Mexican | 5,268 | +/-2,337 | 1.6% | +0.7 |
| Puerto Rican | 2,690 | +/-1,309 | 0.8% | +0.4 |
| Cuban | 531 | +/-618 | 0.2% | +0.2 |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Note that percents are percent of total Howard County population

**** No sample observation, controlled to annual Population Division estimate

As expected in a place with a significant minority population, almost a quarter of Howard County residents 5 years and over speak a language other than English. However, most are also proficient in English—only 6.9% of the population 5 years and over speak English less than “very well” according to the latest American Community Survey. The largest portion of these less than very well English speakers are Asians (4.1%). Despite these relatively low percentages, the county should nonetheless be prepared to communicate to all residents in Howard County as this accounts

for a population of almost 21,000 residents. And if you include this group’s young children under five not accounted for in this statistic, the number is even greater.

**Language Spoken at Home & English Proficiency in Howard County - 2017
(Population 5 years and over)**

| Language & English Proficiency | Margin of | | % Margin | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Estimate | Error | % | of Error |
| English Only | 224,037 | +/-5,184 | 74.2% | +/-1.7 |
| Language other than English | 77,843 | +/-5,184 | 25.8% | +/-1.7 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 20,786 | +/-2,338 | 6.9% | +/-0.8 |
| Spanish | 16,596 | +/-2,611 | 5.5% | +/-0.9 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 2,980 | +/-977 | 1.0% | +/-0.3 |
| Other Indo-European languages | 24,451 | +/-3,907 | 8.1% | +/-1.3 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 4,880 | +/-1,406 | 1.6% | +/-0.5 |
| Asian and Pacific Islander languages | 32,068 | +/-3,251 | 10.6% | +/-1.1 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 12,461 | +/-1,970 | 4.1% | +/-0.7 |
| Other languages | 4,728 | +/-1,753 | 1.6% | +/-0.6 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 465 | +/-389 | 0.2% | +/-0.1 |
| TOTAL | 301,880 | +/-3 | | |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Children and the Elderly

According to the latest American Community Survey conducted in 2017, the median age in Howard County is 38.6 years old. About 6% of the population is under 5 years old (19,233 residents) and 1.6% is 85 and over (5,001 residents). About 25% of the population is under 18 and 13% is 65 and over. School-aged residents in Howard County—those between 5 and 18 years old—amount to about 20% of the population, about 1 out of every 5 residents.

The baby-boomers—those born between 1946 and 1964—are currently aged 54 to 72 years old. The leading edge of this large demographic group began turning 65 seven years ago in 2011. As this group continues to age, the 65 and older population is expected to almost double by 2030 when the youngest boomers turn 66. At that time about 1 out of every 5 Howard County residents will be 65 and older (20% of the population). Also, by 2030 it is expected that there will be more than 8,000 residents in Howard County 85 and older, about double the number that are in that age group today. It is important that this rapid growth of the older and more vulnerable population in Howard County be anticipated and planned for.

Age of Howard County Residents - 2017

| Age | Estimate | Margin of Error | % | % Margin of Error |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Under 5 years | 19,233 | +/-3 | 6.0% | +/-0.1 |
| 5 to 9 years | 22,705 | +/-2,205 | 7.1% | +/-0.7 |
| 10 to 14 years | 21,953 | +/-2,206 | 6.8% | +/-0.7 |
| 15 to 19 years | 21,088 | +/-1,137 | 6.6% | +/-0.4 |
| 20 to 24 years | 18,902 | +/-1,423 | 5.9% | +/-0.4 |
| 25 to 29 years | 18,831 | +/-1,133 | 5.9% | +/-0.4 |
| 30 to 34 years | 20,595 | +/-812 | 6.4% | +/-0.3 |
| 35 to 39 years | 23,496 | +/-1,927 | 7.3% | +/-0.6 |
| 40 to 44 years | 21,632 | +/-1,856 | 6.7% | +/-0.6 |
| 45 to 49 years | 24,031 | +/-782 | 7.5% | +/-0.2 |
| 50 to 54 years | 24,116 | +/-482 | 7.5% | +/-0.2 |
| 55 to 59 years | 21,964 | +/-1,675 | 6.8% | +/-0.5 |
| 60 to 64 years | 19,396 | +/-1,742 | 6.0% | +/-0.5 |
| 65 to 69 years | 14,600 | +/-1,132 | 4.5% | +/-0.4 |
| 70 to 74 years | 12,544 | +/-1,202 | 3.9% | +/-0.4 |
| 75 to 79 years | 7,315 | +/-1,032 | 2.3% | +/-0.3 |
| 80 to 84 years | 3,711 | +/-786 | 1.2% | +/-0.2 |
| 85 years and over | 5,001 | +/-987 | 1.6% | +/-0.3 |
| TOTAL | 321,113 | **** | 86.5% | |
| 18 years and over | 242,799 | +/-133 | 75.6% | +/-0.1 |
| 21 years and over | 232,468 | +/-1,644 | 72.4% | +/-0.5 |
| 62 years and over | 53,590 | +/-1,293 | 16.7% | +/-0.4 |
| 65 years and over | 43,171 | +/-511 | 13.4% | +/-0.2 |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

**** No sample observation, controlled to annual Population Division est.

Income and Poverty

Howard County is the wealthiest jurisdiction in Maryland and one of the wealthiest in the United States. In 2017 the median household income in Howard County was \$111,473. The mean was \$139,444. By comparison, the statewide median household income in 2017 was \$80,776 and the mean was \$106,035. For the U.S. the median and mean household incomes were an even lower \$60,336 and \$84,525, respectively.

The poverty rate in Howard County is estimated to be 6.3% in 2017. For residents under 18, the poverty rate is a higher 7.9%. These statistics also come from the most recent 2017 American Community Survey. Given the small sample size, there are large margins of error associated with this data and the actual numbers or residents are thus not reported. A separate dataset from Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program reports that the overall

poverty rate in Howard County was 5.2% (+/-1.0%) in 2016. Overall, poverty in Howard County is relatively low compared to Maryland as a whole, which had a reported SAIPE poverty rate of 9.7% (+/-0.2%) in 2016.

**Howard County Household Income - 2017
(Occupied Housing Units)**

| Household Income | Estimate | Margin of Error | % | % Margin of Error |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Less than \$5,000 | 2,261 | +/-763 | 2.0% | +/-0.7 |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | 1,964 | +/-785 | 1.7% | +/-0.7 |
| \$10,000 to \$14,999 | 2,050 | +/-912 | 1.8% | +/-0.8 |
| \$15,000 to \$19,999 | 1,311 | +/-513 | 1.1% | +/-0.4 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999 | 2,677 | +/-914 | 2.3% | +/-0.8 |
| \$25,000 to \$34,999 | 4,744 | +/-1,311 | 4.1% | +/-1.1 |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999 | 5,609 | +/-1,145 | 4.9% | +/-1.0 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 | 13,634 | +/-1,580 | 11.8% | +/-1.4 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 15,738 | +/-2,034 | 13.7% | +/-1.7 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 24,813 | +/-2,397 | 21.5% | +/-2.0 |
| \$150,000 or more | 40,488 | +/-2,324 | 35.1% | +/-2.0 |
| TOTAL | 115,289 | +/-1,695 | 115,289 | +/-1,695 |
| Median household income | \$111,473 | +/-2,666 | | |
| Mean household income | \$139,444 | +/-5,301 | | |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Individuals with Disabilities

An estimated 7.8% of all noninstitutionalized residents in Howard County are disabled, and 26.0% of all noninstitutionalized residents 65 years are disabled. For Maryland, these rates are higher—11.1% of all residents and 31.2% of residents 65 years and older. And for the U.S., the rates are even higher—12.7% of all residents and 34.6% of residents 65 years and older. Given the Howard County population is rapidly aging, these disability rates are expected to increase in the future. It is important that the county plan for a corresponding increase in the number of residents who may require enhanced assistance during an emergency in the years ahead.

Disability Status of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population in Howard County - 2017

| Disability Status | Estimate | Margin of Error | % | % Margin of Error |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|
| Total Population | 317,477 | +/-1,201 | | |
| With a disability | 24,709 | +/-2,397 | 7.8% | +/-0.8 |
| Under 18 years | 78,267 | +/-151 | | |
| With a disability | 2,852 | +/-694 | 3.6% | +/-0.9 |
| 18 to 64 years | 196,554 | +/-1,211 | | |
| With a disability | 10,771 | +/-1,932 | 5.5% | +/-1.0 |
| 65 years and over | 42,656 | +/-564 | | |
| With a disability | 11,086 | +/-1,314 | 26.0% | +/-3.0 |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Household Composition

Of the more than 115,000 households in Howard County, about three-fourths are family households and one-fourth non-family households. Family households are defined as two or more people living together related by birth, marriage or adoption. About half of the 83,000 family households include families with children under 18 years old, representing 35% of all households in the county. Statewide, only 28% of households are family households with children under 18 and nationally 27% are. Howard County is clearly more of a bedroom community with relatively high percentage of family households with children.

About 23%, almost 1 out of every 4 households in the county, are single occupancy households where the residents live alone. This compares to 27% statewide and 28% nationally. About 8% of households in Howard County include residents 65 years and older living alone. This compares to a higher 10% statewide and 11% nationally.

Households by Type in Howard County - 2017

| Household Type | Esstimate | Margin of Error | % Margin of Error | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | | % | |
| Family Households | 82,981 | +/-2,764 | 72.0% | +/-2.3 |
| With own children under 18 years | 39,834 | +/-2,007 | 34.6% | +/-2.2 |
| Nonfamily households | 32,308 | +/-2,642 | 28.0% | +/-2.3 |
| Householder living alone | 26,165 | +/-2,460 | 22.7% | +/-2.0 |
| 65 years and over | 8,627 | +/-1,407 | 7.5% | +/-1.1 |
| TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS | 115,289 | +/-1,729 | 100.0% | |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Commuting to Work & Access to Transportation

Slightly more than 80%, or 4 out of every 5 commuters in Howard County, drive alone to work. Slightly more than 6% carpool to work and only 4% use public transportation. The remaining 0.6% walk, 1% commute by other means, and 7% work at home. Statewide, 74% of workers drive alone, 9% carpool and 9% use public transportation. Nationally, 76% drive alone, 9% carpool and 5% use public transportation.

Commuting to Work in Howard County (civilian employed population 16 years and over) - 2017

| Commuting to Work | Estimate | Margin of Error | % Margin of Error | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | | % | |
| Car, truck, or van—drove alone | 138,749 | +/-3,447 | 81.5% | +/-1.6 |
| Car, truck, or van—carpooled | 10,400 | +/-1,945 | 6.1% | +/-1.1 |
| public transportation (excluding taxi) | 6,525 | +/-1,547 | 3.8% | +/-0.6 |
| Walked | 1,078 | +/-688 | 0.6% | +/-0.5 |
| Other means | 1,628 | +/-804 | 1.0% | +/-0.6 |
| Worked at home | 11,942 | +/-1,639 | 7.0% | +/-1.0 |
| TOTAL COMMUTERS | 170,322 | +/-3,627 | 100.0% | |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) provides limited commuter bus service from within Howard County to Baltimore City and Washington DC. Buses stop at park and ride lots, village centers and in Downtown Columbia. MTA also operates the MARC commuter trains along Route 1 that provide rail access to Baltimore and Washington D.C. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) also provides more localized bus service in Howard County, Anne Arundel County, the City of Laurel and Northern Prince George's County. Like most suburbs, however, transit ridership in Howard County is limited.

Rider surveys have concluded that the local bus system in Howard County mostly attracts riders who are transit dependent—that is they don't have access to vehicles. The system does not attract riders who choose to take transit as an alternate means, but primarily only riders who have no other means of transportation. Surveys also determined that two-thirds of riders live within 3 blocks of a bus stop as transit dependent riders typically choose to live near bus stops. The table below summarizes the availability of vehicles to Howard County workers. A relatively small number of Howard County residents don't have access to a vehicle.

Vehicles Available for Howard County Workers (workers 16 years and over) - 2017

| Vehicles Available | Margin of | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Estimate | Error |
| No vehicle available | 1,255 | +/-700 |
| 1 vehicle available | 26,355 | +/-3,265 |
| 2 vehicles available | 79,801 | +/-5,181 |
| 3 or more vehicles available | 62,775 | +/-4,221 |
| TOTAL WORKERS | 170,186 | +/-3,623 |

Source: 2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Summary

Howard County has a diverse and growing population. It is a wealthy county located in the middle of a vibrant metropolitan area surrounded by other wealthy counties that are also diverse and growing. Located between Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Howard County is in the heart of one of the largest regional economies in the United States. There is much activity and movement with commuters and commercial freight coming into and leaving the county every day. The diverse economy attracts jobs and industries of all types, from basic services and retail, to manufacturing and warehousing, to the high-tech jobs of the future. Despite being the center of all this activity and regional growth, a large portion of Howard County remains rural with its western half made up of low density housing and acres of farmland and natural resources, much of which is permanently preserved. The county's eastern half consists of higher density housing, including many apartment and townhome communities, and a significant number of jobs. The diversity of housing draws a diverse population made up of many races who speak a variety of languages. Given the high quality of its school system Howard County attracts many families with children. As a result, it has a higher proportion of families with children compare to Maryland and the U.S. However, like most places around the U.S., Howard County's population is rapidly aging, with increasing numbers of residents living alone and with disabilities. This diversity in people and workers and household types creates a vibrant and active community for all to enjoy and share in.