

## Median Household Incomes increased from 2018 to 2019 for Maryland and most Jurisdictions

Sixteen jurisdictions in Maryland meet the minimum population threshold (65,000) to be counted in the American Community Survey's 2019 One-Year Estimates. Median household income data were analyzed for the United States, Maryland, and its jurisdictions over the past 13 years, (2006 to 2019). The findings are highlighted below. Note: All income figures and changes in income are adjusted for inflation and expressed in constant 2019 dollars.

- Maryland, among all fifty states, had the highest income in the nation. According to the 2019 ACS Single-Year Estimates, the District of Columbia's median household income (\$92,266) ranked first followed by these top states: Maryland (\$86,738), Massachusetts (\$85,843) and New Jersey (\$85,751). Virginia ranked 11<sup>th</sup> with \$76,456.
- Comparing household incomes across all jurisdictions in the United States, as per the 2019 ACS, Loudoun County, Virginia reported the highest at \$151,800. Fairfax County, Virginia (\$128,374) came in at fourth place behind the California counties San Mateo (\$138,500) and Santa Clara (\$133,076). Also, among the wealthiest jurisdictions was Douglas County, Colorado (\$122, 867) in 6<sup>th</sup> place and **Maryland's Howard County** (\$121,618) in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Rounding out the top ten were Arlington County, Virginia; Nassau County, New York; and Morris County, New Jersey.
- Nationally, the 2019 median household income was \$65,712, an all-time high. As reported in adjusted numbers, the last time incomes were near the 2019 figure was 2008 (\$63,733). Since then incomes tumbled plateauing in 2013 (\$58,932). The increase from trough to peak was about \$6800 or 11.5 percent. Just in the last year, 2018 to 2019, median household incomes increased by \$2,426 or 3.8 percent. [See [Chart 1.](#)]
- Statewide, the 2019 median household income was \$86,738— a gain of \$1,683 or about 2 percent over 2018 (\$85,055). The last time incomes were close to the 2019 figure was in 2008 (\$87,022). Since 2008 incomes tumbled plateauing in 2012 (\$81,672)— a loss of \$5,350 or 6.6 percent. In the years after, Maryland has recovered much of that loss [See [Chart 1.](#)]
- Maryland incomes are larger than national incomes. On average, in the last 13 years, state incomes have been \$23,000 more than national incomes, i.e., about 1.4 times higher. More recent data indicate that, at least since 2017, the income gap between state and nation may have narrowed somewhat. [See [Chart 2.](#)]
- Within the state of Maryland, as of 2019, Howard County had the largest median household income at \$121,618 followed by Calvert County at \$112,380, Montgomery County (\$110,389) and Charles County (\$103,932). [See [Chart 7.](#)]

- Of Maryland's 16 jurisdictions, for which there is data, ten jurisdictions had higher median household incomes in 2019 than in 2018. The largest one-year percentage increases occurred in Allegany (13.8%) and Charles (7.8%). The largest one-year numeric increases were also in these counties. Rounding out 2019's top five increases in household incomes by jurisdiction: Frederick (5.7% or +\$5,579), Carroll (3.5% or +\$3,463) and Calvert (1.9% or \$2,147). [See [Chart 3](#), [Chart 4](#).]
- Between 2018 and 2019 median household income declined in six of 16 jurisdictions. Largest percentage declines occurred in Washington (-8.3%), Wicomico (-7.0%) and St. Mary's (-6.7%) counties. [[Chart 3](#).] These counties also had the largest numeric declines: St. Mary's (-\$6,312), Washington (-\$5,361), and Wicomico (-\$4,094). [[Chart 4](#).]
- Measuring income growth from pre-recession (2006) to the more recent (2019) shows that only three jurisdictions showed positive percentage and numeric gains: Allegany (6.9% or +\$3,174), Frederick (1.1% or +\$1,093), and Baltimore City (0.7% or +\$327). [See [Chart 5](#), [Chart 6](#).]
- Most Maryland jurisdictions achieved their highest incomes prior to the outbreak of the Great Recession. Seven counties peaked in 2006: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Harford, Prince George's, and Washington. Five counties peaked in 2007: Calvert, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery, and Wicomico. Of the 16 jurisdictions, only two experienced a peak in their median household incomes as of 2019: Allegany and Frederick [See [Table 1](#).]
- Jurisdiction with the largest percentage increase from 2006 to its peak year income was Cecil County. Cecil County's median household income increased 7.6 percent by 2008, peaking at \$84,642. The jurisdiction with the largest decline from its peak year to 2019 was Howard County. Howard county's median income peaked in 2007 at \$134,910 and declined 9.9 percent with the County ending 2019 with a median household income of \$121,618. [See [Table 1](#).]