

The Change in Median Household Income for Maryland's Jurisdictions, 1999 to 2010

There are 16 jurisdictions in Maryland which meet the minimum population threshold (65,000) that allow for single-year estimates from the American Community Survey. Below are some of the highlights for a comparison of median household income estimates between 1999 (from the 2000 Census) and the single-year American Community estimates over the 2006 thru 2010 period.

- The Great Recession, which lasted from December 2007 thru June 2009, and the subsequent slow recovery since that time, has had significant effects on median household income in Maryland. For the State as a whole, median household income peaked in 2007 at \$71,781, a rise of 3.8 percent since 1999, but between 2007 and 2010 declined by just over \$2,900 (-4.1%). As a result, Maryland's median household income in 2010 was just over \$300 (-0.5%) below the 1999 level. (See [Median Household Income, 1999-2010.](#))
- There were nine jurisdictions which also had lower median household incomes in 2010 compared to 1999. The largest decline by far, both in numeric and percentage terms, was in Allegany County, which had a nearly \$5,300 drop (-13.1%) between 1999 and 2010. Allegany County was one of three jurisdictions in Maryland (in addition to Baltimore and Prince George's counties), which did not record a median household income between 2006 and 2010 that was higher than in 1999.
- With its decline, Allegany County now has the lowest median household income in the State (\$35,039), below that of Baltimore City (\$38,346), although this difference is NOT statistically significant at the 90 percent level of confidence.
- Baltimore City's median household income actually grew between 1999 and 2008 by just over \$1,000 (2.7%), before declining. As a result of this subsequent decline, the City's 2010 median household income of \$38,346 is about \$1,000 (-2.6%) below its 1999 level.
- In percentage terms, the second largest drop in median household income between 1999 and 2010 was in Baltimore County (-5.7%). The County had the largest increase in the African American population in the State between 2000 and 2010 while at the same time experiencing the second largest decline in non-Hispanic whites (after Prince George's County).
- Changing demographics was also probably behind the drop in median household incomes in a number of jurisdictions, but none more so than in Montgomery County. In 1999, Montgomery County had the second highest median household income in the State (\$93,627), but after increasing thru 2007, had a particularly sharp drop between 2009 and 2010 leaving the 2010 number (\$89,155) nearly \$4,500 (-4.8%) below the 1999 figure. With this drop, Montgomery County's 2010 median household income is not statistically different from Calvert (88,862), Charles (\$87,007) and St. Mary's (88,444) counties.

- Montgomery County has the largest number (nearly 315,000) and share (32.2%) of foreign born population in Maryland and moved to majority-minority status (50.7%) in 2010 (up from 40.5% in 2000). The largest increase in Montgomery's population between 2000 and 2010 was in Hispanics.
- Howard County still had the highest median household income in 2010 (\$101,771) as it did in 2000, and did show a \$4,700 (4.9%) increase between 1999 and 2010. However, the County's median household income peaked at just under \$107,700 in 2007 and experienced a \$5,900 (-5.5%) decline between 2007 and 2010.
- Only St. Mary's County had its highest median household income in 2010 among the 16 jurisdictions for which there is data. However, its estimated \$88,444 median household income in 2010 comes with a rather large margin of error (+/- \$7,013), meaning the estimate is somewhat unreliable. Additionally, there was a rather large reported increase from 2009 (up nearly \$14,400) that highlights the uncertainty of the data.