



HARFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Grow Rural Opportunity in Maryland

Stakeholder Engagement Highlights

Harford County possesses a wide variety of capabilities, people, and resources to achieve economic success in numerous opportunities. The following are key takeaways from this effort's stakeholder engagement process and recommendations for the County's economic growth.



Strengths

- Strategic location and unique, small-town feel
- Harford County Public Schools and Harford Community College
- Aberdeen Proving Ground's unique military missions and potential
- Local healthcare
- Natural resources and land preservation programs



Challenges

- Attraction of young professionals
- Coordinated vision for the future
- Competition for skilled workers
- Public transportation connectivity
- Housing availability



Opportunities

- Develop local workforce training pipelines in select industries such as manufacturing and small-scale technology
- Explore economic development at Aberdeen Proving Ground (the GATE; new mission sets)
- Pursue targeted development projects (US Route 40 corridor; indoor sports complex)
- Develop local agricultural product processing



Recommendations

Align Community Resources

- Develop vision, branding, and marketing for the County's future
- Promote coordination between education and industry
- Explore creation of a Central Water Authority

Harness the Potential of Aberdeen Proving Ground

- Explore the GATE complex as a defense contracting hub
- Analyze defense contract award trends and keep contract work in Harford County
- Establish the Pilot Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program through RAMP-MD

Pursue Expansion of Specialized Industries

- Explore agricultural product processing, particularly for meat
- Expand Harford County's sports tourism and conference location potential
- Invest in innovation incubators (i.e., Converge Innovation Center) to promote biomanufacturing, small tech, and defense-adjacent industries





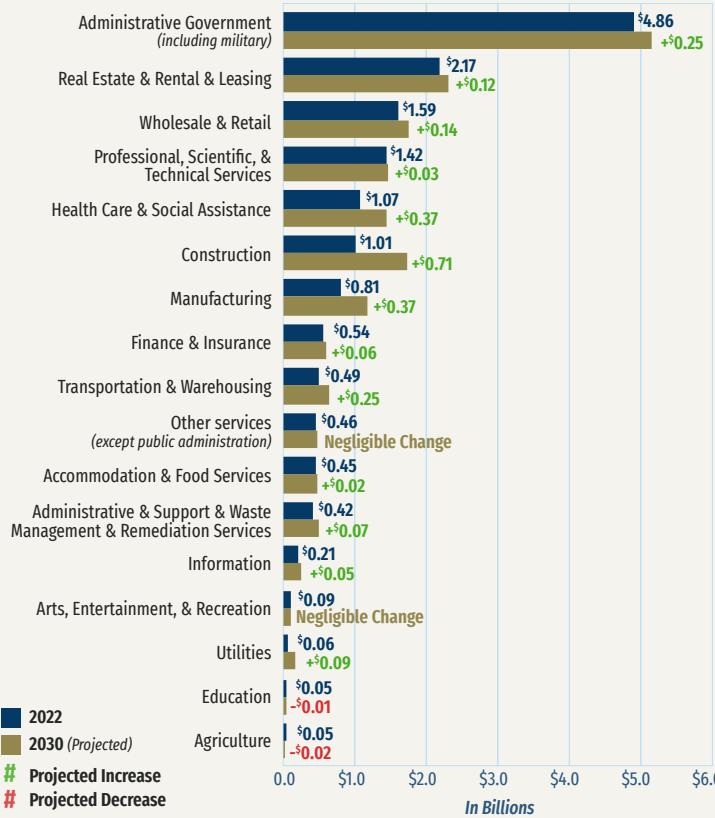
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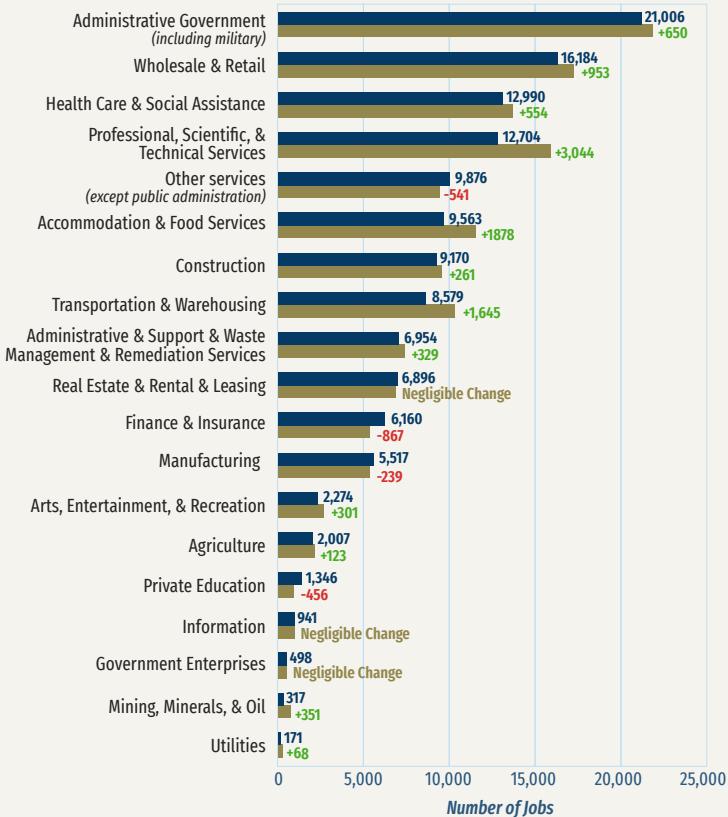
Economic Analysis Highlights

Harford County has a diverse economic ecosystem with strong rural and urban characteristics. The County's economy is primed to achieve growth in multiple industry sectors over the next ten years. The following are key takeaways from the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) - based economic analysis of the County's economy.

Current & Projected GRP by Industry



Current & Projected Employment by Industry Sector



Interpreting the Graph

- Gross Regional Product (GRP)** in this case is the measure of the total value of all goods and services in a particular industry.
- Each chart displays Harford County's top industries in ranked order of their 2022 GRP value or employment respectively. Each 2030 projected value indicates the projected growth in each industry from 2022.
- Administrative Government**, Harford's most valuable sector, is comprised primarily of Federal military and civilian workers and public education workers (HCPS and HCC).
- Most defense contractors fall into the **Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services** category.

Other Key Takeaways

- Harford County median household income is \$6K higher than state median income.
- Harford County residents hold graduate or professional degrees at a 4% higher rate than the national average.
- Harford County's population is aging, potentially creating a challenge in meeting workforce requirements.



Grow Rural Opportunity in Maryland (GRO MD) is a tri-county project of the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory (MAGIC), Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI) and the Harford County Office of Economic Development (HCOED) using federal funds under award number ED230IE0G0131 from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations of these activities are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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