

MARYLAND AT A GLANCE

State Capital. Annapolis

Population. 3,922,399 in 1970 census; ranked 18th among the states.

Estimated Population. July 1, 1978, 4,143,000; 1980 projected, 4,373,476.

Government. The governor, elected by popular vote for a four-year term, is the chief executive of the State. Most State agencies are encompassed within one of the twelve cabinet-level executive departments. Maryland's bicameral Legislature consists of a 47-member Senate and a 141-member House of Delegates. Forty of the 47 Senators and 125 of the 141 Delegates are Democrats. Three senators and twenty-five delegates are women, and six senators and thirteen delegates are black. The Legislature meets each year on the second Wednesday in January for 90 days to enact laws. The Maryland Judiciary consists of four courts: the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Court, and the District Court. Local government is provided by Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City, 150 municipal corporations, and 253 special districts, giving Maryland a total of 426 "governmental units" and a rank of 41st among the 50 states in terms of the fewest number of local governments.

Area. In square miles: land, 9,874; inland water, 703; Chesapeake Bay, 1,726; total, 12,303. Ranks 42nd among the states.

Statehood. April 28, 1788, the seventh state.

Physiography. Divided into three provinces with progressively higher altitudes from east to west; Coastal Plain province extends from Atlantic Ocean to Fall Line; Piedmont or "Foothill" province from Fall Line to base of the Catoctin Mountains; Appalachian province from base of Catoctin Mountains to western boundary of State. Mean elevation, 350 feet; maximum elevation, 3,360 feet on Backbone Mountain.

Distances. Longest east-west, 198.6 miles—Fairfax Stone to Delaware Line; north-south, 125.5 miles—Pennsylvania line to Virginia line at Smith Point on south-shore mouth of the Potomac River; shortest north-south, 1.9 miles—Pennsylvania line to south bank of Potomac River near Hancock; farthest points northwest corner to southeast corner at Atlantic Ocean, 254.7 miles.

Location. Highway distance from Central Maryland (in miles): Boston, 392; Chicago, 668; New

York, 196; Philadelphia, 96; Pittsburgh, 218; Richmond, 143; Washington, D.C., 37.

Climate. Generally moderate, the climate varies from mild to hot in summer and in winter from moderate in the east and south to very cold in the mountainous region. Average annual rainfall, 41.65 inches; average annual snowfall, 26.70 inches; temperature average 64.4 degrees Fahrenheit maximum, 43.7 degrees Fahrenheit minimum, and 54 degrees Fahrenheit mean. Average duration of freeze-free period is 185 days.

Chesapeake Bay. 195 miles long with 1,726 square miles in Maryland and 1,511 square miles in Virginia. Varies in width from 3 to 20 miles. Navigable for ocean-going ships and has two outlets to the Atlantic Ocean, one through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, one through the mouth of the Bay between the Virginia capes. The William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge (Chesapeake Bay Bridge) spans 4.2 miles between Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County, and Kent Island, Queen Anne's County.

Chief Rivers. Potomac, Wye, Patuxent, Susquehanna, Choptank, Nanticoke, Elk, Magothy, Patapsco, Sassafras, South, Severn, Gunpowder, Tred Avon, Bush, Miles, Chester, Northeast, Wicomico, Pocomoke, and Great Bohemia.

Boating Waters. Twenty-three rivers and bays with more than 400 miles of water tributary to the Chesapeake Bay; Chincoteague Bay with 35 miles of water accessible to and from the Atlantic Ocean; an estimated (1977) 607 boat ramps and 37,115 boat slips.

Water Frontage. Sixteen of the 23 counties and Baltimore City border on tidal water. Length of tidal shoreline, including islands, 4,100 miles.

Forest Area. More than 2,653,000 acres, or approximately 42 per cent of the land surface. Chief forest products are lumber, pulpwood, and piling. Nine State forests and one State forest nursery cover 112,662 acres.

State Parks and Recreation Areas. Thirty-five operational State parks covering 63,525 acres; 66 lakes and ponds open to public fishing; 9 State forests and portions of 9 State parks open to public hunting; 31 wildlife management areas covering 69,306 acres open to public hunting; 3 natural environment areas containing 12,662 acres.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment (1978). Civilian labor force, 2,032,000; total employment, 1,918,000; unemployment, 114,000, or