

1. How was the CPI figure was chosen? Refer to See sec. 5.200(a)(3) of the County Code.

- CPI Index is a very common index used for measuring inflation and the cost of living. It appears to be one of the best indices available to measure inflation, price changes, etc. It is the most commonly used inflation index although there are few other alternative indices available.
- CPI-U Index - The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) measures the changes in the price of a basket of goods and services purchased by urban consumers. The urban consumer population is deemed by many as a better representative measure of the general public because most of the U.S. population—approximately 89% according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics—lives in highly populated areas
- Council Bill 18-2018 and Council Bill 19-2018 were recent pieces of legislation that changed the County Code to the current CPI-U Baltimore/Towson/Columbia Index (it was just Baltimore/Washington previously)

2. Is all of Howard is in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD CPI-U Index?

- Yes, per the CPI Index website: “The Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD, Core Based Statistical Area includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne’s counties, as well as Baltimore City, in Maryland”

3. What other indexes might be used, etc.

- GDP Index - A measure of inflation in the prices of goods and services produced in the United States. The gross domestic product price index includes the prices of U.S. goods and services exported to other countries. The prices that Americans pay for imports aren't part of this index. Over the last few years, the GDP measure has typically grown less rapidly than the CPI. Since the GDP index is more comprehensive than the CPI (it includes prices for more items), is designed in accordance with standard price index theory, and seems less biased than the CPI in recent years
- PCE Index - A measure of the prices that people living in the United States, or those buying on their behalf, pay for goods and services. The PCE price index is known for capturing inflation (or deflation) across a wide range of consumer expenses and reflecting changes in consumer behavior.

4. Number of federal and state employees in the county

Howard County - First Quarter 2019 - County Industry Series - Maryland's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) - Workforce Information & Performance (per Maryland DLLR site)

| Industry | FIRST QUARTER 2019 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| | Number of Reporting Units | Monthly Employment | | | Quarterly Average Employment | Total Wages | Average Weekly Wage Per Worker |
| | | First | Second | Third | | | |
| Howard County | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL EMPLOYMENT | 10,161 | 171,314 | 170,511 | 171,023 | 170,949 | \$3,081,944,537 | \$1,387 |
| GOVERNMENT SECTOR - TOTAL | 138 | 17,528 | 17,600 | 17,609 | 17,579 | 256,405,549 | 1,122 |
| Federal Government | 26 | 669 | 657 | 656 | 661 | 13,049,610 | 1,521 |
| State Government | 14 | 1,756 | 1,758 | 1,758 | 1,757 | 25,190,553 | 1,103 |
| Local Government | 98 | 15,103 | 15,185 | 15,195 | 15,161 | 218,165,386 | 1,107 |

5. The largest employers in the county

Howard County's Largest Employers (HCEDA as of 2018)

- Howard County Public School System – 8,230 employees
- Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory – 5,700 employees
- Howard County General Hospital – 1,800 employees
- Verizon – 1,700 employees
- Howard Community College – 1,438 employees
- Lorien Health Systems – 1,190 employees
- W.R. Grace & Co. – 1,100 employees
- Coastal Sunbelt Produce – 1,050 employees
- Giant Food – 1,050 employees
- Wells Fargo – 840 employees
- Oracle/MICROS Systems – 810 employees

- Leidos – 760 employees
- Howard County Library System – nearly 300 employees

6. The cost of living in the county compared to other counties

Howard County cost of living is 134.8

| COST OF LIVING | Howard | Maryland | USA |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Overall | 134.8 | 113 | 100 |
| Grocery | 107.6 | 105.2 | 100 |
| Health | 92.2 | 89.1 | 100 |
| Housing | 192.6 | 127.2 | 100 |
| Median Home Cost | \$504,000 | \$361,900 | \$291,700 |
| Utilities | 109.1 | 105.6 | 100 |
| Transportation | 108.4 | 119.3 | 100 |
| Miscellaneous | 119.1 | 104.9 | 100 |

Montgomery County cost of living is 139.4

| COST OF LIVING | Montgomery | Maryland | USA |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Overall | 139.4 | 113 | 100 |
| Grocery | 113 | 105.2 | 100 |
| Health | 92.6 | 89.1 | 100 |
| Housing | 195 | 127.2 | 100 |
| Median Home Cost | \$560,100 | \$361,900 | \$291,700 |
| Utilities | 104.8 | 105.6 | 100 |
| Transportation | 138.7 | 119.3 | 100 |
| Miscellaneous | 108.3 | 104.9 | 100 |

Anne Arundel County cost of living is 118.5

| COST OF LIVING | Anne Arundel | Maryland | USA |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Overall | 118.5 | 113 | 100 |
| Grocery | 105.3 | 105.2 | 100 |
| Health | 87.6 | 89.1 | 100 |
| Housing | 150.9 | 127.2 | 100 |
| Median Home Cost | \$410,400 | \$361,900 | \$291,700 |
| Utilities | 107.6 | 105.6 | 100 |
| Transportation | 101.9 | 119.3 | 100 |
| Miscellaneous | 112.5 | 104.9 | 100 |

Baltimore County cost of living is 105.7

| COST OF LIVING | Baltimore | Maryland | USA |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Overall | 105.7 | 113 | 100 |
| Grocery | 103.3 | 105.2 | 100 |
| Health | 90.4 | 89.1 | 100 |
| Housing | 103.4 | 127.2 | 100 |
| Median Home Cost | \$294,200 | \$361,900 | \$291,700 |
| Utilities | 107.5 | 105.6 | 100 |
| Transportation | 116.2 | 119.3 | 100 |
| Miscellaneous | 107.2 | 104.9 | 100 |