

SECTION 3 – COUNTY BUDGET DATA

Each year's publication of the Budgets, Tax Rates, and Selected Statistics includes budget data received through MACo's annual survey. This data is typically useful in general terms—however, gathering budget data that is comparable across jurisdictions is especially difficult. MACo also recognizes that this publication's relatively rapid availability is both an asset and liability—the data is timely, but often subject to later adjustment. For the most accurate historic reference, MACo suggests using data available in the Department of Legislative Services' annual publication Local Government Finances, which provides audited and re-categorized information presented after each year's books are settled.

Table 3.1 shows the total operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2010, the change from FY 2009 to FY 2010, and average rate of change from FY 2006 to FY 2010.

It should again be noted that the figures in Table 3.1 are only comparable across jurisdictions in general terms, as the functions and funds contained within operating budgets vary significantly among jurisdictions. Generally, in requesting data for this publication, MACo sought to normalize data to the extent possible by excluding enterprise funds and other self-supporting operations. However, with the numerous different county governmental fiscal structures - use of different special funds, dedicated revenues, and varying budgetary structures - completely accurate comparisons are very difficult.

Table 3.2 provides a summary of each county's FY 2010 capital budgets. General areas of capital spending are shown for comparison.

Table 3.3 details the bond ratings granted each county's most recent issuances by the three major bond rating firms, Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch.

Table 3.4 is a new table this year detailing the county general fund operating budgets.

Bonds are the mechanisms through which long-term improvements are financed. Bond ratings range from "AAA" for the best quality and smallest investment risk, to "C", for lowest quality and poorest risk—generally, a lower bond rating will require a higher interest rate paid to investors. (Specific classification systems are used by each rating agency, but the letter-grade systems generally follow these norms.) The ratings are assigned based upon the overall "creditworthiness" of the issuer. For county governments, measurements such as size and growth in tax bases are a key factor in determining the bond rating. Prudent fiscal management and planning can also enhance a government's standing.

TABLE 3.1
TOTAL COUNTY OPERATING BUDGETS
FISCAL YEAR 2006 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2010

SUBDIVISION	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change FY 09-10	Avg Annual Chg FY 06-10
ALLEGANY	84,700,918	87,629,834	97,085,299	97,233,858	93,238,639	-4.11%	2.43%
ANNE ARUNDEL	1,504,755,422	1,670,201,100	1,826,052,500	1,889,994,600	1,797,958,600	-4.87%	4.55%
BALTIMORE CITY	1,901,600,638	2,015,669,944	1,773,774,698	1,854,226,889	1,920,508,000	3.57%	0.25%
BALTIMORE COUNTY	2,172,447,144	2,378,464,390	2,538,840,827	2,589,214,367	2,565,828,945	-0.90%	4.25%
CALVERT	177,513,796	194,055,268	226,005,601	280,130,938	292,876,732	4.55%	13.33%
CAROLINE ¹	34,152,722	47,402,579	56,544,020	55,138,117	56,823,571	3.06%	13.57%
CARROLL	283,922,740	302,636,000	358,107,849	374,555,468	376,650,316	0.56%	7.32%
CECIL	161,470,427	198,395,748	197,673,922	229,324,393	231,225,465	0.83%	9.39%
CHARLES	324,725,188	363,656,184	442,011,945	398,416,239	403,498,491	1.28%	5.58%
DORCHESTER	52,761,468	57,551,863	56,714,356	55,678,729	53,755,159	-3.45%	0.47%
FREDERICK	387,338,432	436,712,716	827,460,233	833,354,252	831,765,649	-0.19%	21.05%
GARRETT	57,542,628	60,027,377	65,378,991	68,629,440	68,743,597	0.17%	4.55%
HARFORD	440,176,775	474,889,722	512,465,777	539,792,500	520,988,518	-3.48%	4.30%
HOWARD	830,884,570	917,546,310	1,023,455,582	1,003,815,458	1,102,561,564	9.84%	7.33%
KENT	34,723,934	36,680,947	49,139,243	54,506,727	67,804,692	24.40%	18.21%
MONTGOMERY ²	3,561,986,208	3,881,588,682	3,868,384,132	4,342,173,776	4,473,976,748	3.04%	5.86%
PRINCE GEORGE'S ²	2,598,874,700	2,807,122,500	2,965,897,300	3,030,297,600	2,985,125,600	-1.49%	3.52%
QUEEN ANNE'S	88,438,112	99,266,664	122,059,848	126,298,910	123,903,722	-1.90%	8.80%
ST. MARY'S	160,388,216	175,445,375	181,596,305	193,581,464	201,536,576	4.11%	5.88%
SOMERSET	31,342,037	31,955,467	39,058,523	41,429,386	38,888,850	-6.13%	5.54%
TALBOT ¹	66,711,758	71,488,758	81,295,633	79,189,695	77,772,000	-1.79%	3.91%
WASHINGTON	164,705,837	180,551,887	206,990,060	219,533,470	223,466,170	1.79%	7.93%
WICOMICO	108,526,433	126,441,348	185,041,953	173,427,946	150,920,385	-12.98%	8.59%
WORCESTER	144,255,143	165,215,092	176,693,088	185,963,625	173,591,023	-6.65%	4.74%
TOTAL	15,373,945,246	16,780,595,755	17,877,727,685	18,715,907,847	18,833,409,012	0.63%	5.20%

¹ Budgets include capital projects, pay-go transfer.

² Excludes operating budget for bi-county agencies MNCPPC and WSSC

SOURCE: Maryland Association of Counties, Budget and Tax Rate Survey, November 2009

TABLE 3.2
COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGETS
FOR SELECTED CATEGORIES IN FISCAL YEAR 2010

JURISDICTION	Education (K-12 only)	Libraries & Comm Colleges	Courts & Sheriff	Public Works	Public Safety	Parks & Recreation	Health	Economic Development	Resource Protection	Other	Total
ALLEGANY	151,000	500,000		3,394,400	6,710,000	45,000		92,939		50,000	10,943,339
ANNE ARUNDEL	120,529,000	8,930,000		199,949,000	(8,592,000)	8,620,000			(239,000)	2,654,000	331,851,000
BALTIMORE CITY	23,000,000	2,500,000		310,092,000	1,650,000	19,352,000	600,000	7,000,000		169,786,000	533,980,000
BALTIMORE COUNTY ¹	196,712,803	40,847,000		440,587,448		14,410,271		5,700,516	23,715,591	34,118,605	756,092,234
CALVERT	17,175,000			12,244,060	565,963	519,811				2,764,581	33,269,415
CAROLINE	2,961,281	423,177		2,120,035	360,000	742,579		4,859,570	12,421	1,345,924	12,824,987
CARROLL	27,975,170	1,181,100	300,000	23,683,440		1,181,900			36,433,549	2,330,000	93,085,159
CECIL	2,803,000	2,320,000	5,799,000	10,455,000	816,000						22,193,000
CHARLES	9,197,000	7,231,000	600,000	20,053,000		2,011,000			4,408,000	628,000	44,128,000
DORCHESTER	17,842,298	445,450	95,343	2,856,714	166,300	70,000				56,950	21,533,055
FREDERICK	35,222,000	7,151,440	1,732,860	7,413,950	1,271,270	13,051,970	4,137,640	400,000	471,500	(1,192,170)	69,260,460
GARRETT	949,937	45,000		493,401	77,718					14,500	1,980,556
HARFORD	74,236,938			28,073,838	4,459,127	8,708,415				15,184,935	130,663,253
HOWARD	70,762,000	22,824,000		122,015,000	9,050,000	9,553,000			1,160,000	197,854,000	433,218,000
KENT		289,542		929,473		4,184,018				82,828	5,485,861
MONTGOMERY ²	264,451,000	96,087,000	25,814,000	205,740,000	3,459,000	43,903,000	3,535,000	148,000	6,413,000	62,490,000	712,040,000
PRINCE GEORGE'S	67,014,000	34,374,000		54,798,000	53,436,000	93,949,000		12,100,000	42,205,000	13,335,000	371,211,000
QUEEN ANNE'S	30,809,700		393,096	11,010,480	349,396	1,490,000			317,000	829,250	45,198,922
ST. MARY'S	8,797,720	900,000	399,000	5,349,100	175,000	896,652			4,167,333		20,684,805
SOMERSET	5,500,000	24,000	1,000	695,378	7,179	143,000				2,339,217	8,709,774
TALBOT	720,600	489,995		17,499,000		15,000					18,724,595
WASHINGTON	18,660,200	29,546,200	1,319,300	21,711,300	2,889,400	47,000				17,416,000	91,589,400
WICOMICO	18,980,000	3,666,687		1,600,000						300,000	24,546,687
WORCESTER	32,803,146	2,289,515	201,790	3,764,653	4,927,007	609,481	420,000			3,846,033	48,861,625
TOTAL	1,047,253,793	262,065,106	36,655,389	1,506,528,670	81,777,360	223,503,097	8,692,640	30,301,025	119,064,394	526,233,653	3,842,075,127

¹ Biennial process may distort annual contributions to capital program

² Includes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Source: Maryland Association of Counties, Budget and Tax Rate Survey, November 2009

TABLE 3.3
COUNTY BOND RATINGS
FISCAL YEAR 2010

COUNTY	S&P	MOODY'S	FITCH
ALLEGANY *	A-	Baa1	-
ANNE ARUNDEL	AAA	Aa1	AA+
BALTIMORE CITY *	AA-	Aa3	A+
BALTIMORE COUNTY	AAA	Aaa	AAA
CALVERT	AA+	Aa2	AA+
CAROLINE *	A	A2	-
CARROLL	AA+	Aa2	AA+
CECIL *	AA	Aa3	-
CHARLES	AA	Aa2	AA+
DORCHESTER *	A+	A2	-
FREDERICK	AA+	Aa2	AA+
GARRETT *	AAA	Aaa	-
HARFORD	AA+	Aa1	AA+
HOWARD	AAA	Aaa	AAA
KENT *	-	-	-
MONTGOMERY	AAA	Aaa	AAA
PRINCE GEORGE'S *	AAA	Aa1	AA+
QUEEN ANNE'S *		A1	AA
ST. MARY'S	AA	Aa3	AA
SOMERSET	-	-	-
TALBOT	-	Aa3	AA+
WASHINGTON	AA	Aa3	AA-
WICOMICO **	AA-	A2	A+
WORCESTER	-	Aa3	AA-

* Purchases Bond Insurance

** Purchases Bond Insurance on some bonds but not all

Source: Maryland Association of Counties Budget and Tax Rate Survey, November 2009

TABLE 3.4
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGETS
FISCAL YEAR 2009 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2010

SUBDIVISION	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change FY 09-10
ALLEGANY	77,782,003	81,116,798	4.29%
ANNE ARUNDEL	1,216,297,600	1,180,889,400	-2.91%
BALTIMORE CITY	1,336,914,000	1,343,287,000	0.48%
BALTIMORE COUNTY	1,719,528,210	1,673,876,467	-2.65%
CALVERT	225,302,879	220,192,150	-2.27%
CAROLINE	43,262,231	42,082,951	-2.73%
CARROLL	353,000,000	354,500,000	0.42%
CECIL	164,058,774	164,954,097	0.55%
CHARLES	295,629,187	306,095,800	3.54%
DORCHESTER	54,884,186	53,018,481	-3.40%
FREDERICK	476,862,611	449,036,299	-5.84%
GARRETT	68,629,440	68,743,597	0.17%
HARFORD	539,792,500	520,988,518	-3.48%
HOWARD	835,417,613	820,224,970	-1.82%
KENT	42,412,958	45,094,624	6.32%
MONTGOMERY	933,856,130	910,428,020	-2.51%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	2,619,839,053	2,600,758,700	-0.73%
QUEEN ANNE'S	106,031,610	110,048,956	3.79%
ST. MARY'S	191,981,338	199,303,995	3.81%
SOMERSET	41,429,386	38,888,850	-6.13%
TALBOT	79,189,695	77,772,000	-1.79%
WASHINGTON	206,991,000	209,346,700	1.14%
WICOMICO	129,535,922	124,628,442	-3.79%
WORCESTER	185,963,625	173,591,023	-6.65%
TOTAL	11,944,591,951	11,768,867,838	-1.47%

Source: MD Association of Counties, Budget & Tax Rate Survey, Nov. 2009