Megalopolis is a traditional center of manufacturing in the US. The urban economies of the region developed around a solid base of manufacturing employment. In recent years there has been a national shift in manufacturing employment to the south and west as old plants in Megalopolis have closed and new plants are opened in the Sunbelt.

The per capita income in manufacturing in Megalopolis is higher than the national average. While the average across the nation is $33,876 it is $36,263 in Megalopolis. The traditional industrial regions of the upper Midwest and the high technology sectors of California and Washington are other parts of the country where the per capita income is larger than the national average. The income in manufacturing is double the per capita income in the retail sector.

Within Megalopolis the old central city manufacturing centers have relatively lower per capita incomes. In New York City for example, manufacturing is concentrated in the garment industry and other low wage sectors; so per capita rates are relatively lower. In the older industrial areas and more rural areas, incomes are also lower. There is a belt of higher income suburban counties stretching from Prince William VA through Delaware PA up to the Boston region.

Here manufacturing is associated with newer plants, higher tech and higher skill sectors with correspondingly higher incomes.