The US government is a major source of spending. The government requires a massive amount of goods and services. Government contracts are highly valued as they are always paid, backed as they are by the weight of government authority.

The distribution of procurement contracts per capita shows an uneven distribution. The heaviest concentration is around the Washington DC area. Companies and firms have located to this area in order to be close to the center of power and decision-making. The high per capita amounts in counties such as Falls Church and King George and Fairfax City all in Virginia as well Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland are the main reason behind the growth of this region in the past twenty years. Elsewhere there are some distinct areas such as New London CT, where the Groton naval shipyard is allocated large procurement grants to build ships and submarines.

The largest economy in the region in the New York metro area has a relatively low level of per capita procurement grants and awards. While the Washington metro area is dependent on public sector monies, the New York metro area is more dominated by the private sector.