



MetroNation Profile: Washington Metropolitan Area

This two-page profile of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area demonstrates its contribution to state and national economies, and highlights the area's critical assets that drive regional and national prosperity.



Orientation

Population, 2005 5,251,629 people
Employment, 2005 3,120,965 jobs

Major employment centers, 2005

Alexandria, Virginia	88,450 workers
Arlington, Virginia	162,880 workers
Bethesda, Maryland~	73,903 workers
Frederick, Maryland*	47,843 workers
Gaithersburg, Maryland*	41,830 workers
Reston, Virginia~	56,106 workers
Rockville, Maryland*	72,637 workers
Washington, District of Columbia	669,068 workers

Economic Contribution

Gross Domestic Product, 2005	\$347,631,000,000	2.8 percent of U.S. total 43.1 percent of Virginia total [^] 40.7 percent of Maryland total [^]
GDP per job, 2005	\$111,386	126.9 percent of U.S. average 125.0 percent of Virginia average ^{^^} 108.4 percent of Maryland average ^{^^}
Employment in largest export clusters, 2004		
Business services	332,376 jobs	14.0% of metro employment
Education and knowledge creation	118,114 jobs	5.0% of metro employment
Financial services	58,098 jobs	2.4% of metro employment
Hospitality and tourism	54,872 jobs	2.3% of metro employment
Heavy construction services	33,177 jobs	1.4% of metro employment

Fortune 500 headquartered firms (13)

Company	Rank	Industry
Freddie Mac (McLean, VA)	50	Diversified financials
Sprint Nextel (Reston, VA)	53	Telecommunications

Company	Rank	Industry
Lockheed Martin (Bethesda, MD)	57	Aerospace and defense
General Dynamics (Falls Church, VA)	92	Aerospace and defense
Capital One Financial (McLean, VA)	154	Commercial banks
Marriott International (Bethesda, MD)	203	Hotels, casinos, resorts
Danaher (Washington, DC)	260	Scientific, photo, control equipment
SLM (Reston, VA)	284	Diversified financials
Pepco Holdings (Washington, DC)	290	Utilities: Gas and electric
Gannett (McLean, VA)	302	Publishing, printing
Coventry Health Care (Bethesda, MD)	313	Health care: Insurance and managed care
NVR (Reston, VA)	371	Homebuilders
Host Hotels & Resorts (Bethesda, MD)	452	Real estate

Critical Assets

Innovation

Patents per 100,000 people, 2005	17.6	69.9 percent of U.S. average
NSF/NIH funding to universities per capita, 2005	\$50	75.9 percent of U.S. average
Venture capital funding per capita, 2006	\$177	201.1 percent of U.S. average
R&D workers per 1,000 workers, 2005	17.4	424.7 percent of U.S. average
Research university enrollment per 1,000 people, 2005	19.1	157.9 percent of U.S. average
University of Maryland–College Park	31,973 students	
George Mason University	21,120 students	
George Washington University	18,898 students	
Georgetown University	12,792 students	
Howard University	10,268 students	
Catholic University of America	4,994 students	

Human Capital

Share of adults with bachelor's degree, 2005	45.9 percent	168.9 percent of U.S. average
Share of adults with graduate degree, 2005	21.3 percent	214.2 percent of U.S. average
Share of recent in-movers with bachelor's degree, 2005	60.2 percent	159.5 percent of U.S. average
Average wage	\$55,182	137.5 percent of U.S. average
Employment rate	75.4 percent	107.6 percent of U.S. average

Infrastructure

Passenger boardings per capita, 2005	4.1	166.1 percent of U.S. average
Air cargo tonnage per capita, 2005	116.2	22.6 percent of U.S. average
Public transit passenger miles per capita, 2005	377.0	237.2 percent of U.S. average
Share of population in high-broadband areas, 2004	82.1 percent	144.3 percent of U.S. average

Quality Places

Share of metropolitan jobs in principal cities, 2005	43.3 percent	88.2 percent of U.S. average
Share of metro households in downtown area(s)	2.1 percent	72.4 percent of 100-metro average
Ethnic diversity index, 2000**	0.31	151.0 percent of U.S. average

* Denotes places where 2005 data were not available. To estimate a value for 2005, year 2000 place-of-work data was multiplied by the city's estimated 2000 to 2005 population growth rate

~Denotes places where 2005 data were not available and where 2000 to 2005 population growth estimates were not available. The year 2000 place-of-work data was thus multiplied by the metro area's estimated 2000 to 2005 population growth rate

^This share represents the percent of the state's GDP that is generated from the in-state portion of the metro area

^^This figure is calculated by dividing the in-state metro GDP per job by the state GDP per job

** Index represents diversity of population by country of birth

Sources: Brookings analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard University; Fortune Magazine; U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; National Science Foundation; National Institutes of Health; Thompson Financial; Ned Hill calculations of Economy.com data; Carnegie Foundation; National Center for Education Statistics; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Transit Administration; Federal Communications Commission; Internal Revenue Service; ESRI

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