

SYNOPSIS OF "MUNICIPAL YARDSTICK (TM)"

A report prepared for Wilbraham dated 11/16/2007 by Municipal Benchmarking, LLC, Woburn, MA

As part of the report, Wilbraham was assessed against all Towns in Massachusetts for socio-economic, demographic and geographic factors. The 20 Towns in MA which showed the least variation from Wilbraham factors were then selected as a PEER GROUP. Wilbraham requested the PEER GROUP be modified slightly to remove Sandwich and Beverly and replace them with Sutton and Longmeadow which were slightly more variant from the Wilbraham standard.

When ranked against all MA towns, Wilbraham provided the following standard for comparison in **2007**:

Socio-Economic Factors	Percentile	Relative Level
Income per capita	74	Moderate – High
Median Family Income	72	Moderate – High
Avg. Single Family Tax Bill	73	Moderate – High
Residential Assessment per capita (2006)	36	Low – Moderate
Comm. Tax Receipts as % of Total (2006)	44	About Average
Unemployment Rate	21	Low
Demographic Factors		
Population (2005 est.)	61	Moderate – High
School Enrollment	69	Moderate – High
Birth Rate per Capita (2005)	17	Low
Population Density	55	About Average
% Population over 65 (1999)	82	High
% English as 2nd Language (1999)	28	Low – Moderate
% Families Below the Poverty Level	55	About Average
Geographic Factors		
Land Area (sq. mi.)	57	About Average
Public Roads	73	Moderate – High

Those communities that varied least from the Wilbraham standard were (**Ipswich**- 6.4 variance to **Longmeadow** - 9.0 variance) . Other PEER GROUP selectees in increasing order of variance from the Wilbraham standard were **Pembroke, Grafton, Holden, Concord, East Longmeadow, Williamstown, Foxborough, Wrentham, Holliston, Kingston, Hingham, Scituate, East Bridgewater, Northborough, Easton, Duxbury, Norton and Sutton.**

As a result of the selection process which selected Towns very similar to ours, Wilbraham was fairly average when compared to the PEER GROUP. There were some variations **in 2007** from the STATE MEDIAN and the PEER GROUP that may be worth mentioning in the VTF Report.

Item	Difference from STATE MEDIAN/PEER GROUP	Possible VTF Team(s)
Per Capita Income	~12% higher/avg.	General
Road Miles	~18% higher/~10% higher	General
Birth Rate	~18% lower/~21% lower	General
Unemployment	~13% lower/avg.	Business, Livability
School Enrollment	~20% higher/avg.	Education
% over 65	~21% higher/~25% higher	General
%Family < Poverty Level	~4% higher/~11% higher	General

Item	Difference from PEER GROUP	Possible VTF Team(s)
% Residential Med. Density (1999)	~80% higher	Land Use
Aggregate Revenues	~22% lower	General
% Revenue from State	~11% lower	General
Ass. Resid. Value/Capita (2005)	~20% lower	Town Services
Outstanding Debt	~80% lower	General
Aggregate Expenditures	~25% lower	General
Education		
Education Expend./Capita	~8% lower	Education
School Transportation	~160% higher	Education
Non-Instructional Expenses (Food)	~40% higher	Education
Custodial Service	~28% higher	Education

Item	Difference from PEER GROUP	Possible VTF Team(s)
Education		
Technology Spending per Pupil	~25% lower	Education
Low Income Students (2005)	~59% higher	Education
Special Education	~25% lower	Education
Classroom Teacher #s	~33% higher	Education
Pay Max and Step 10 (Bachelor's)	~20% lower	Education
Special Education Enrollment (2006)	~47% higher	Education
Student Post Grad. Plans (4 yr. coll.)	~9% lower	Education
Student Post Grad Plans (2 yr. coll.)	~9% higher	Education
MCAS Ration Success/Failure (2006)	~25% higher	Education
Town Govt. Expenditures (2006)		
Treasurer	~31% lower	Town Services
Public Buildings	~57% higher	Town Services
Operations Support	~190% higher	Town Services
Conservation	~97% lower	Town Services
Police		
Full Time Police Off. #s	~27% higher	Town Services
Officers Per 1000 Housing Units	~27% higher	Town Services
Crime Index (2003)		
Larceny	~55% higher	Town Services
Burglary	~50% higher	Town Services
Motor Vehicle theft	~100% higher	Town Services
Fire		
Expended as % Total Spending (2006)	~30% higher	Town Services

Item	Difference from PEER GROUP	Possible VTF Team(s)
Fire		
Overtime	~60% lower	Town Services
Total Full Time Officers	~28% higher	Town Services
FT Staff/1000 Residents	~21% higher	Town Services
Public Works		
Waste Spending (2006)	~22% lower	Town Services
Water/Sewer/Waste/capita	~23% lower	Town Services
Road Expenditures	~30% higher	Town Services
Road Miles Added (2002-4)	~400% higher	Town Services
# Highway workers	~50% higher	Town Services

Notes

- 1) Wilbraham has executed Budget Overrides vs Short Term Notes and other debt.
- 2) There are added graphs on Capital Expenditures by Category that are not listed here.