

The Sprawl Index

Worcester-Fitchburg-Leonminster, MA

Overall Sprawl Index Score: 90.48

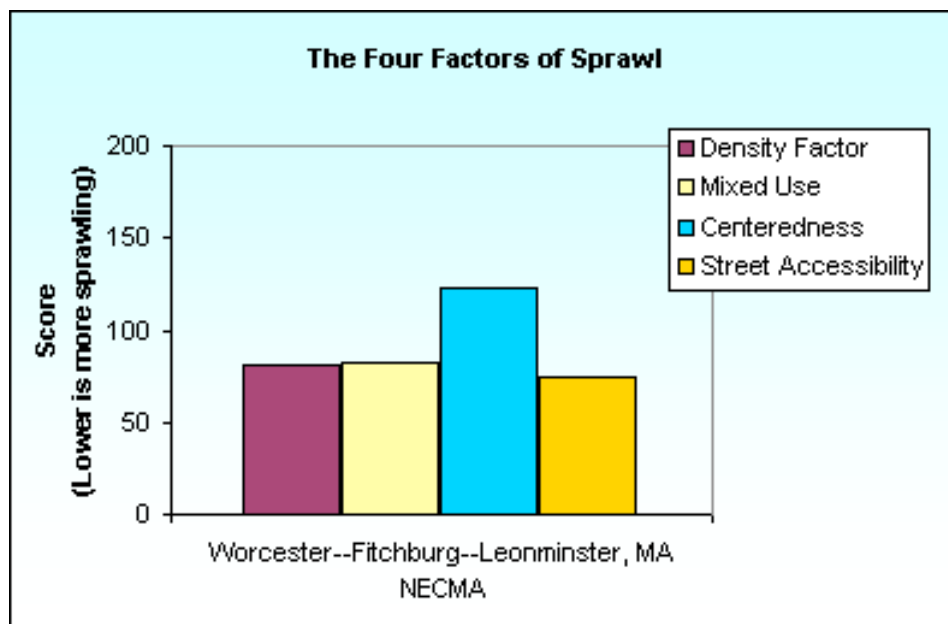
ranking it 25th most sprawling of 83 metro areas measured.

A lower score on the index indicates a greater degree of sprawl. The average score for all metros ranked is 100. A lower score indicates below average conditions among these 83 U.S. metro areas: for example, less compact housing, a poorer mix of homes and jobs, poor street connectivity, or weaker than average town centers. A score above 100 indicates above average performance, when compared to the other metro areas ranked. Most metro areas score between 50 and 150 on the scale.

What Makes a Place Sprawling:

The sprawl index measured sprawl in four ways. Below are index scores for this metro area. See the report for a full explanation of each factor.

Sprawl Factor	Index Score	Ranking out of 83 <i>(most to least sprawling)</i>
Residential Density Factor	81.16	9
Mix of homes, jobs & services	82.28	20
Strength of town centers/downtowns	122.72	70
Accessibility of street network	74.54	13



The Impact of Sprawl:

Outcomes Affected by Sprawl in Worcester

Peak 8-hour ozone level (parts per billion)	93
Fatal accidents per 100,000 persons	8.66
Daily Miles Driven per person (DMVT)	24.70
Average number of vehicles per household	1.65
Percent of commuters using Transit	1.71%
Percent of commuters walking to work	3.09%
Average commute time, in minutes	25.80
Average annual traffic delay, in hours	n/a

2000 Population: 750,963

MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. For more information on MSAs, PMSAs, CMSAs, and NECMAs, see the Census Bureau.