

Toward Understanding Urban Pathology: Creating a Typology of 'Weak Market' Cities

The above-captioned working paper, written by Kimberly Furdell and Hal Wolman of George Washington University and funded by the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution, developed a prototype for classifying cities based on two indices. The first focused on the economic well-being of the city while the second was concerned with the economic well-being of the residents. Of the 302 cities in the study, 65 cities were identified as being weak market cities. Cities that fell in the bottom third of both distributions were designated 'weak market'. As our map clearly illustrates, the preponderance, around 70 percent, of these 'weak market' cities are located in the northeastern region of the country. Three Connecticut cities—Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven—are part of this unfavorable grouping. Hartford received the distinction of having the 300th weakest economic condition of residents, right behind Brownsville, Texas and Detroit, Michigan.

For more details on this study, go to <http://www.gwu.edu/~gwipp/papers/wp021.pdf>