



City of Bridgeport: Seeding Southend Commercial Infrastructure

Dr. Tim Dorr & Ms. Zoljargal Tsengel
School of Business, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT

Abstract

The city of Bridgeport has suffered economically throughout the last 20-30 years. Much of this struggle can be traced to the loss of 19th and 20th century manufacturers coupled with poor fiscal management.

In addition to Federal job development programs the State of Connecticut has actively pursued and offered a variety of tax-focused incentive programs to attract business to the state as well as its major cities.

Despite these programs the City of Bridgeport remains reluctant to pursue these options or to create city specific programs. As a result other similar Connecticut cities are benefitting.

The study identified a need for the city to implement a tax relief program for companies with less than 50 employees to encourage location into Bridgeport's Enterprise Zone.

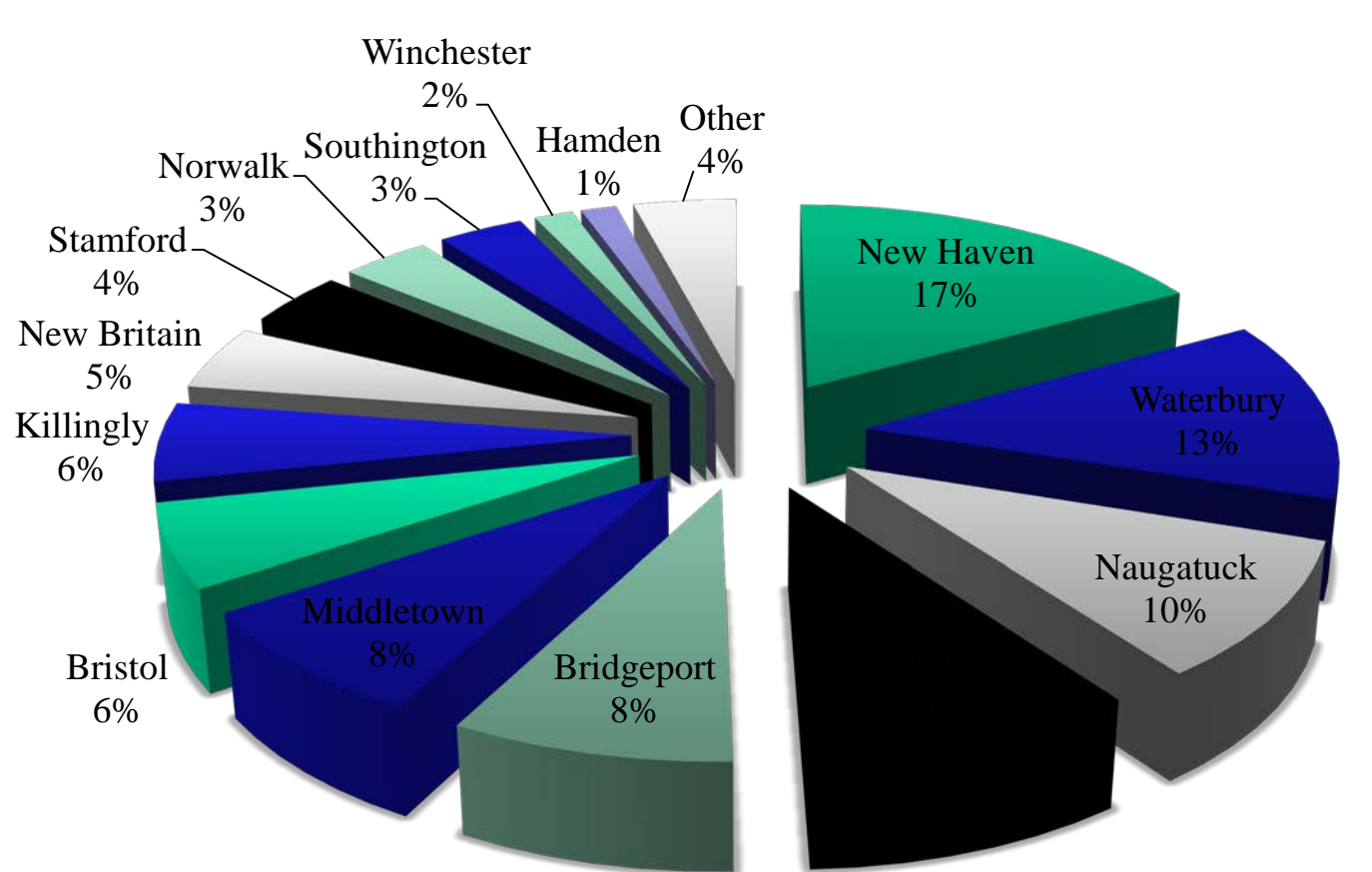
Comparison Among EZs in Fairfield and New Haven County

	Bridgeport	Stamford	Norwalk	Fairfield	Stratford	Milford	New Haven
Population	144,229	125,401	87,214	61,534	52,092	51,509	130,553
Age	< 45	45 - 64	45 - 64	< 20, 45 - 64	45 - 64	45 - 64	< 35
Education	< Associate	< Grad	< Grad	< Grad	< Assoc	< Bache	< Associate
Income	< 49,999	75,000 - 149,999	75,000 - 149,999	150,000 <	75,000 - 149,999	75,000 - 149,999	< 49,999
% in top 20%tile income	5.0%	24.8%	19.7%	39.9%	13.80%	18.7%	7.0%
% in bottom 40%tile income	33.1%	15.3%	15.8%	9.5%	17.0%	14.9%	36.0%



Share of Jobs?

Based on a demographic comparison Bridgeport and New Haven are comparable yet New Haven gains twice as many new jobs.



Number of New Jobs Created in Bridgeport and New Haven

	Number of businesses	Location	Average SF	Total of existing jobs	Total of new jobs created
Bridgeport	17	EZ	21,461	87	145
New Haven	11	EZ	27,887	286	302

Recommendation

Implement programs for companies with less than 50 employees within the Bridgeport EZ.

Offer one time benefits for relocation to the Bridgeport EZ.

Programs should focus on new hires.

Track current New Haven company relocation outreach programs.

