Discovery: Economic Development

Shrewsbury Master Plan

ABOUT

A community's economy is shaped by its location, natural resources, infrastructure, the types of industries it attracts, the education, skills, and incomes of its residents, and its land development policies. Economic development matters to Shrewsbury because it provides jobs and tax revenue, and it has a direct impact on the community's quality of life.[1]

Adjacent to Worcester and within driving distance of Boston, Shrewsbury benefits from access to the two largest metro areas in New England with an excellent school system and high quality municipal services attractive for businesses and residents alike.

Shrewsbury has welcomed the growing medical and biotechnical fields rooted in Worcester, remains home to a strong transportation and warehousing industry, and is working to attract community-compatible and high-quality development.

Shrewsbury has a single tax rate by long-standing tradition, and it is low compared to neighboring cities and towns (see right). Shrewsbury's commercial tax base is relatively small. The distribution of the tax levy between residential and commercial, industrial, and personal (CIP) properties continues to steadily shift further into a dependence on residential despite new commercial growth. This may be accounted for by new residential growth and increased housing values.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE 2016 MASTER PLAN

- ✓ Sewer expansion projects, particularly along Route 20, support development efforts
- ✓ Ongoing Town Center Revitalization prioritize strengthening and enhancing this area, including visioning, parking and multimodal transportation studies, creation of a Town Center Zoning District, public-private partnerships, & updated wayfinding and branding
- ✓ Completed a Town-wide Economic Development Special Plan
- ✓ Developed design guidelines and a facade improvement program to ensure new development compliments Shrewsbury's character

DID YOU KNOW?

Shrewsbury's high labor force participation (**21,580 workers**) and low unemployment rate (**4%**) indicate a healthy economy[2]

20% of Shrewsbury residents are employed in the transportation and warehousing industry[4]

Most Shrewsbury residents do not work in Shrewsbury (**92%**), and most jobs in Shrewsbury are filled by people who do not live in town (**90%**)[3]

PROPERTY TAX RATES AND TAX LEVY IN SHREWSBURY AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

Location	Year	Residential Tax Rate	Commercial, Industrial, and Personal (CIP) Tax Rate	Percent of Tax Levy from Residential Taxes	Percent of Tax Levy from CIP Taxes
Shrewsbury	**2026**	**11.5**	**11.5**	**88.84**	**11.16**
	2025	12.04	12.04	89.15	10.85
	2016	13	13	87.05	12.95
Boylston	2026	13.58	13.58	83.94	16.06
Grafton	2026	13.69	13.69	91.35	8.65
Marlborough	2026	10.54	18.43	62.82	37.18
Millbury	2026	12.87	12.87	82.51	17.49
Northborough	2026	14.82	14.82	74.07	25.93
Westborough	2026	15.93	15.93	70.76	29.24
Worcester	2026	13.28	29.06	63.01	36.99

Source: MA DOR Division of Local Services, Data Analytics and Resources Bureau, Tax Rates by Class, Tax Levies by Class, data obtained 8/7/26.

1. 2016 Master Plan
2. Massachusetts Department of Economic Research, 2014-2025.
3. U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap, 2023.
4. Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Municipal Employment Data, Shrewsbury Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment.