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Employment in southeast Michigan reaches new high, while Unemployment hits historic low

Over 2.62 million jobs held marks new milestone since 2007

DETROIT, Mich. - The second quarter of 2016 represented a new high in employment in Southeast Michigan dating back nearly a decade to 2007. With employment expanding by 1.4 percent, or 35,000 jobs added in Q2 2016, the total number of jobs held in the region exceeded 2.62 million—a milestone in employment. These latest findings from the second quarter labor 2016 market report, compiled by the Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN).

Nearly 20,000 previously unemployed individuals gained jobs in the region in Q2 2016, along with more than 15,000 new workers (for a total of 35,000 new jobs), bringing the unemployment rate down to 4.5 percent, a low not experienced in Southeast Michigan since 2001.

“High job demand earlier this year resulted in substantial employment growth in the second quarter,” said Lisa Katz, Executive Director, WIN. “As it stands today, even more workers are needed to meet the increasing needs of area employers.”

Q2 2016 is typically a time when employment begins an annual surge that continues through the end of the year. With substantial job gains seen between Q1 and Q2 in the region, 2016 is expected to follow this typical cyclical trend.

Despite a notable high in employment and a decrease in unemployment, the gap between employment growth and labor force growth continues to produce hiring challenges for employers in the 16-county region including Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. With a smaller labor force, employers have fewer options when hiring, making it more difficult to find the ideal candidate.

Job postings expanded in several occupation groups including Construction (3.5%), IT (3.8%), and Transportation Distribution and Logistics (TDL) (16%), primarily. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers once again top the demand lists with historic posting levels in TDL occupations.

The top in-demand jobs in Q2 2016 overall included:

- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers: 7,473 job postings
- Registered nurses: 6,324 job postings
- Software developers, applications: 5,899 job postings
- Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing (except technical and scientific products): 5,020 job postings
- Retail salespersons: 3,951 job postings
- Managers, all other: 3,382 job postings

The average wage advertised in postings during Q2 2016 were as follows:

- Agriculture: \$46,622
- Business and finance: \$62,970
- Construction: \$48,552
- Customer Service: \$56,641 (although most postings listed wages below \$35,000)
- Education: \$31,660
- Energy: \$65,873
- Health care: \$60,094
- IT: \$86,462
- Skilled trades and technicians: \$36,593 (although most postings listed wages below \$35,000)
- TDL: \$65,239

The full Q2 2016 labor market report can be viewed at: <http://www.win-semich.org/data-research/quarterly-reports/>.

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ABOUT WORKFORCE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) is a collaborative effort between six Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs), ten community colleges, and numerous other organizations. The WIN partnership aims to create a comprehensive and cohesive workforce development system in southeast Michigan that provides employers with the talent they need for success.

WIN BOARD ORGANIZATIONS:

Colleges

Henry Ford College
Jackson College
Macomb Community College
Monroe County Community College
Mott Community College
Oakland Community College
Schoolcraft College
St. Clair County Community College
Washtenaw Community College
Wayne County Community College District

Michigan Works! Agencies

Detroit Employment Solutions Corp.
GST Michigan Works!
Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!
Oakland County Michigan Works!
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance
Southeast Michigan Works! Consortium