Introduction

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) partnership is a collaboration of six Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) and ten community colleges across a 16-county region in Michigan. The counties in the WIN partnership include: Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saint Clair, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw, and Wayne, along with the City of Detroit.

The WIN partnership region’s labor shed highlights why, when it comes to talent, we must think regionally: The workforce is mobile. Although 91.0% of the region’s workforce live and work in the 16-county area, not all residents work in their home county. It is not uncommon for workers to commute one or two counties over for work. This means that the residents in every county should be ready for the job demands of employers hiring throughout southeast Michigan.

This document provides detailed information on where employees in the area commute to and from each day for work, how far they travel, along with other information about workers and businesses in the area. For more detail on the labor market please see WIN’s Quarterly Labor Market Report publications.

Where Residents Work

In 2015, the City of Detroit’s workforce consisted of 177,431 residents. 58,730 (33.1%) of the residents lived and worked within the City of Detroit, while the remaining 118,701 residents (66.9%) traveled outside of the city for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the City of Detroit for work increased by 5,252 (4.6%) individuals from 113,449 to 118,701.

Detroit residents were more mobile in 2015 than in 2011. In 2015, 14.9% of the city’s workforce (26,394 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment. Destinations in Wayne County were the most popular places for Detroit residents to find employment. 32,423 residents (18.8% of the city’s workforce) traveled to destinations in Wayne County outside of the City of Detroit for employment in 2015 (94,019 total employment in Wayne County), followed by 41,179 residents (8.9% of the city’s workforce) that traveled to Oakland County.

Where Detroit Residents Work

Source: U.S. Census OnTheMap, 2015
Analysis: Workforce Intelligence Network
Where Workers Live

The City of Detroit is a net importer of workers, making the city a job center. In 2015, 234,493 workers were employed in the City of Detroit. 175,763 (75.0%) of those workers were employed in the City of Detroit but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Detroit for work, 30,134 (17.1%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While employers in the City of Detroit were able to attract a sizable amount of young workers in 2015, 104,167 (59.3%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Detroit.

Similar to the outflow of Detroit residents, the great majority of workers that travel to the city reside elsewhere in Wayne County or in Oakland County. 116,305 (49.6%) of Detroit workers reside in Wayne County (57,687 live in outer Wayne) followed by 50,763 (21.6%) that travel in from Oakland County, and 39,047 (16.7%) that travel in from Macomb County. 41,262 (17.6%) of the 234,493 workers in the City of Detroit traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment in 2015.

Source: U.S. Census OnTheMap, 2015
Analysis: Workforce Intelligence Network

1 This fact and labor shed statistics throughout this brief are analyzed from the U.S. Census OnTheMap, Center for Economic Studies (2015).

Analysis: Workforce Intelligence Network