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 daily 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, Huron County’s workforce consisted of 12,547 residents. 7,399 (59.0%) of the residents lived and worked within Huron County, while the remaining 5,148 residents (41.0%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work increased by 83 (1.6%) individuals from 5,065 to 5,148.

Huron County residents were more mobile in 2015 than in 2014. In 2015, 37.9% of the county’s workforce (4,754 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 37.4% (4,611 individuals) in 2014. Oakland County was the most popular destination outside of Huron County for residents to find employment. Five-hundred and fifty-nine residents (4.5% of the county’s workforce) traveled to Oakland County for employment in 2015, followed by 556 residents (4.4% of the county’s workforce) that traveled to Tuscola County.
Where Workers Live

Huron County is a commuting community. In 2015, 11,067 workers were employed in Huron County. Three thousand six hundred and sixty-eight (33.1%) of those workers were employed in Huron, but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Huron County for work, 1,227 (23.8%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Huron County employers were able to attract a sizable amount of young workers in 2015, 2,679 (52.0%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Huron County.

Unlike the outflow of Huron County residents, the great majority of workers that travel to Huron reside in either Tuscola or Sanilac counties. In 2015, 1,059 (9.6%) of Huron County workers travel in from Tuscola County followed by 863 (7.8%) that travel in from Sanilac County. In 2015, 2,651 (24.0%) of the 11,067 workers in Huron County traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment.

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