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, Lapeer County’s workforce consisted of 35,827 residents. 8,966 (25.0%) of the residents lived and worked within Lapeer County, while the remaining 26,861 residents (75.0%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work increased by 27 individuals from 26,834 to 26,861. Additionally, the number of residents who live and work in Lapeer County increased, but only by 200 workers.

Lapeer County residents were less mobile in 2015 than in 2014. In 2015, 51.7% of the county’s workforce (18,515 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment. Oakland County was the most popular destination outside of Lapeer County for residents to find employment. 9,564 residents (26.7% of the county’s workforce) traveled to Oakland County for employment in 2015, followed by 5,201 residents (14.5% of the county’s workforce) that traveled to Macomb County.

Where Lapeer Residents Work

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

In 2015, 18,499 workers were employed in Lapeer County. Of those workers employed in Lapeer County, 9,533 (51.5%) lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Lapeer County for work, 5,701 (21.2%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Lapeer County employers were able to attract a sizable amount of young workers in 2015, 5,317 (55.8%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Lapeer County.

The great majority of workers that travel to Lapeer County reside in either Genesee or Oakland counties. 2,792 (15.1%) of Hillsdale County workers travel in from Genesee County followed by 1,311 (7.1%) that travel in from Oakland County. In 2015, 5,097 (27.6%) of the 18,499 workers in Hillsdale 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