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, Monroe County’s workforce consisted of 63,703 residents. 20,497 (32.2%) of the residents lived and worked within Monroe County, while the remaining 43,206 residents (67.8%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work fell by a scant 133 (0.3%) individuals from 43,339 to 43,206 in 2015.

Monroe County residents had similar commuting distances in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, 35.9% of the county’s workforce (22,843 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 35.5% (22,622) in 2015. Wayne County was the most popular destination outside of Monroe County for residents to find employment. 13,630 residents (21.4% of the county’s workforce) traveled to Wayne County for employment in 2015, followed by 11,260 residents (17.7% of the county’s workforce) that traveled to Lucas County, Ohio.

Where Monroe Residents Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence Area</th>
<th>Worked in Monroe County</th>
<th>Worked Outside Monroe County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monroe County</td>
<td>20,497</td>
<td>43,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>22,843</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas County</td>
<td>22,622</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Michigan Counties</td>
<td>22,622</td>
<td>35.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Monroe County was a net importer of workers in 2015, with more workers entering the county for jobs than seeking employment outside Monroe. However, this was not true in 2014, as the proportions of residents and incoming workers are near 50 percent each. In 2015, 41,827 workers were employed in Monroe County; of those, 21,330 (51.0%) were employed in Monroe but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Monroe County for work, 5,146 (24.1%) workers were 29 or younger. While Monroe County employers attracted many young workers in 2015, 11,623 (54.5%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Monroe County.

Reflecting the outflow of Monroe County residents, the great majority of workers that travel to Monroe reside in either Wayne or Lucas counties. 6,687 (16.0%) of Monroe County workers travel in from Wayne County followed by 3,284 (7.9%) that travel in from Lucas County, Ohio. 11,704 (28.0%) of the 41,827 workers in Monroe County traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment in 2015.

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