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, Region 6’s workforce consisted of 323,688 residents. 165,067 (51.0%) of the residents lived and worked within Region 6, while the remaining 158,587 residents (49.0%) traveled outside of the region for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the region for work increased by 1,390 (0.8%) individuals from 157,197 to 158,587.

Region 6 residents were more mobile in 2015 than in 2014. In 2015, 44.5% of the region’s mobile workforce (144,123 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment. Genesee County was the most popular destination within Region 6 for residents to find employment. 83,970 residents (25.9% of the region’s workforce) traveled to Genesee County for employment in 2015, followed by 46,824 residents (14.5% of the region’s workforce) that traveled to Oakland County.

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

In 2015, 232,688 workers were employed in Region 6. Of those workers employed in Region 6, 67,621 (29.1%) lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Region 6 for work, 17,301 (25.6%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Region 6 employers were able to attract many young workers in 2015, 36,188 (53.5%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Region 6.

The great majority of Region 6 workers reside in either Genesee or St. Clair counties. 78,897 (33.9%) of Region 6 workers live in Genesee County followed by 30,638 (13.2%) that live in St. Clair County. In 2015, 69,978 (31.1%) of the 232,688 workers in Region 6 traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment.

\[ \text{Where Region 6 Workers Live} \]

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

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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