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 region’s workforce consisted of 2,295,900 residents. 2,088,193 (91.0%) of the residents lived and worked within the 16-county region, while the remaining 207,707 residents (9.0%) traveled outside of the region for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the region for work decreased by 9,397 individuals (4.3%) from 217,104 to 207,707.

WIN region residents were somewhat less mobile in 2015 than in 2014. In 2015, 22.8% of the region’s workforce (524,453 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles for work. By comparison, in 2014, 23.7% of the region’s workforce (531,156 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment. The most popular destination for work outside of the WIN region counties in 2015 was Ingham County with 43,056 individuals (1.9 % of the workforce) from the region commuting into the county.
Where Workers Live

The WIN region is a net exporter of workers with more workers leaving the region for jobs than coming in from outside for employment, although the majority of workers both live and work in the region. In 2015, 2,269,629 workers were employed in the WIN region. Of those, 181,436 workers (89.0%) lived outside of the region’s borders and commute in. Among those that traveled to the region for work, 49,108 (27.1%) of workers were 29 or younger. While regional employers attracted many young workers in 2015, over half of the 2,269,629 total internal jobs (1,243,878 individuals or 54.8%), were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. Another 497,221 (21.9%) workers are aged 55 or older. This indicates an aging workforce with too few young workers to take over once retirements begin to accelerate.

The small portion of workers that travel to the WIN region for work from an outside county generally reside in either Ingham or Saginaw counties. 25,079 (1.1%) of regional workers travel in from Ingham County followed by 16,319 (0.7%) that travel in from Saginaw County.

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