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, Wayne County’s workforce consisted of 650,971 residents. 374,612 (57.5%) of the residents lived and worked within Wayne County, while the remaining 276,359 (42.5%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work increased by 4,103 (1.5%) individuals from 272,256 to 276,359.

Wayne County residents had shorter commutes in 2015 than 2014. In 2015, 15.3% of the county’s workforce (99,687 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 17.0% (113,656 individuals) in 2014. Oakland County was the most popular destination outside of Wayne County for residents to find employment. 133,156 residents (20.5% of the county’s workforce) traveled to Oakland County for employment in 2015, followed by 41,393 residents (6.4% of the county’s workforce) that traveled to Macomb County.

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

Wayne County is a net importer of workers, making the county a job center. In 2015, 650,971 workers were employed in Wayne County. 276,359 (42.5%) of those workers were employed in Wayne, but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Wayne County for work, 58,976 (19.8%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Wayne County employers were able to attract a sizable amount of young workers in 2015, 170,663 (57.2%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Wayne County.

Similar to the outflow of Wayne County residents, the great majority of workers that travel to Wayne reside in either Oakland or Macomb counties. 113,456 (16.9%) of Wayne County workers travel in from Oakland County followed by 67,903 (10.1%) that travel in from Macomb County. 130,243 (19.4%) of the 646,546 workers in Wayne 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).