Introduction

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) partnership is a collaboration of Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) and 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 90.4% 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 2017, Region 10’s workforce consisted of 1,583,440 residents. 1,277,896 (87.3%) of the residents lived and worked within Region 10, while the remaining 185,843 (12.7%) traveled outside of the region for work. Since 2014, the number of residents that traveled outside of the region for work decreased by 31,638 individuals (-14.5%) from 217,481 to 185,843.

Region 10 residents have displayed similar mobility patterns since 2014. In 2017, 16.0% of the region’s workforce (233,833 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment. Washtenaw County as the most popular destination outside of the tri-county region for residents to find employment. In 2017, 33,013 residents (2.3% of the region’s workforce) traveled to Washtenaw County for employment, followed by 24,267 (1.7% of the region’s workforce) that traveled to Ingham County.
Region 10 is a net importer of workers, making the county a job center. In 2017, 1,583,440 workers were employed in Region 10. Of those, 305,544 (12.7%) of those workers were employed in Region 10 but lived outside its borders. Of those that traveled to Region 10 for work, 75,825 (24.8%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Region 10 employers were able to attract many young workers in 2017, 677,708 (53.0%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Region 10.

Similar to the outflow of Region 10 residents, workers that travel to Region 10 for work most frequently reside in Washtenaw County. In 2017, 37,629 (2.4%) of Region 10 workers travel in from Washtenaw County followed by 35,733 (2.3%) that travel in from Genesee County. In 2017, 333,492 (21.1%) of the 1,583,440 workers in Region 10 traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment.

1 This fact and labor shed statistics throughout this brief are analyzed from the 2017 U.S. Census OnTheMap, Center for Economic Studies.

Data Sources: Economic Modeling Specialists, International, and U.S. Census OnTheMap Analysis: Workforce Intelligence Network