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, Huron County’s workforce consisted of 12,643 residents. 7,272 (57.5%) of the residents lived and worked within Huron County, while the remaining 5,371 residents (42.5%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2015, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work increased by 223 (4.3%) individuals from 5,148 to 5,371.

Huron County residents continue to become more mobile, following this pattern since 2014. In 2017, 38.7% of the county’s workforce (4,893 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 37.4% (4,611 individuals) in 2014. Oakland County was the most popular destination outside of Huron County for residents to find employment. 657 residents (5.2% of the county’s workforce) traveled to Oakland County for employment in 2017, about 100 more than in 2015. Another 556 residents (4.6% of the county’s workforce) that traveled to Tuscola County.

Where Huron Residents Work
Where Workers Live

Huron County is a commuting community. In 2017, 10,991 workers were employed in Huron County. 3,719 (33.8%) of those workers were employed in Huron but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Huron County for work, 926 (24.9%) of the workers were 29 or younger. While Huron County employers were able to attract many young workers in 2017, 2,679 (50.5%) of the internal jobs were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Huron County.

The great majority of workers that travel to Huron county reside in either Tuscola or Sanilac counties. In 2015, 1,010 (9.2%) of Huron County workers travel in from Tuscola County followed by 888 (8.1%) that travel in from Sanilac County. In 2017, 2,711 (24.6%) of the 11,067 workers in Huron County traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment, mirroring the increased distance travelled by residents.

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