Introduction

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) partnership is a collaboration of six Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) and nine 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, the WIN Region’s workforce consisted of 2,347,359 residents. 2,121,593 (90.4%) of the residents lived and worked within the WIN Region, while the remaining 225,766 residents (9.6%) traveled outside of the region for work. Since 2015, the number of residents that traveled outside of the region for work increased by 18,059 (8.0%) individuals, from 207,707 to 225,766 individuals.

In 2017, 23.4% of the region’s workforce (550,323 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 22.8% (524,453 individuals) in 2015. Oakland County was the most popular destination inside the WIN Region for residents to find employment in 2017, with 660,405 residents or 28.1% of the region’s workforce commuting, an increase of 20,852 residents since 2015. Wayne County employed 631,774 residents (26.9% of the region’s workforce) in 2017.
Where Workers Live

In 2017, 2,315,590 workers were employed in the WIN Region. 193,997 (8.4%) of those workers were employed in the region, but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to the WIN Region for work, 98,014 (50.5%) of the workers were aged 30 to 54 years. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in the region. While the WIN Region employers were able to attract a sizable amount of workers in 2017, 225,766 residents (9.6% of the region's workforce) filled external jobs. Just under half (49.4%) of external commuters were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54.

The great majority of workers that travel to the region reside in either Wayne County or Oakland County. 618,632 (26.7%) of the region's workers travel in from Wayne County followed by 519,883 (8.4%) that travel in from Oakland County. 534,004 (23.1%) of the 2,315,590 workers employed in the WIN Region traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment in 2017.

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

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