EATON COUNTY LABOR SHED

Introduction

The Workforce Intelligence Network for Southeast Michigan (WIN) partnership is a collaboration of seven Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) and ten community colleges across a 19-county region in Michigan. The counties in the WIN partnership include: Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, 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 19-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 2019, Eaton County’s workforce consisted of 47,402 residents. 13,286 (28.0%) of the residents lived and worked within Eaton County, while the remaining 34,116 residents (72.0%) traveled outside of the county for work. Since 2017, the number of residents that traveled outside of the county for work increased slightly by 440 (1.3%) individuals, from 33,676 to 34,116 individuals.

Eaton County residents have maintained similar mobility patterns over last few years. In 2019, 30.0% of the county’s workforce (14,198 individuals) traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment compared to 30.6% (14,164 individuals) in 2017. Ingham County was the most popular destination outside of Eaton County for residents to find employment in 2019, with 17,508 residents or 36.9% of the county’s workforce commuting, an increase of 363 residents since 2017. Kent County employed 2,204 residents (4.6% of the county’s workforce) in 2019.
Where Workers Live

In 2019, 44,154 workers were employed in Eaton County. 30,868 (69.9%) of those workers were employed in the county, but lived outside of its borders. Of those that traveled to Eaton County for work, 16,128 (52.2%) of the workers were aged 30 to 54 years. This indicates a desire for experienced workers in Eaton County. While Eaton County employers were able to attract a sizable amount of workers in 2019, 34,116 residents (72.0% of the county’s workforce) filled external jobs. Over half (53.2%) of external commuters were filled by workers between the ages of 30 and 54.

The great majority of workers that travel to Eaton reside in either Ingham or Clinton counties. 9,863 (22.3%) of Eaton County workers travel in from Ingham County followed by 3,118 (7.1%) that travel in from Clinton County. 5,087 (45.7%) of the 11,129 workers employed in Eaton County traveled more than 25 miles to their place of employment in 2019.

1This fact and labor shed statistics throughout this brief are analyzed from the U.S. Census OnTheMap, Center for Economic Studies (2019).

Data Sources: Lighcast and U.S. Census OnTheMap
Analysis: Workforce Intelligence Network