

# Central Wisconsin Labor Region Labor Availability Analysis – 2018

## *With Emphasis on Manufacturing Employment*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Wisconsin Labor Region includes all or portions of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Jefferson, Rock, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties in Wisconsin. The purpose of this report is to assess the “Available Labor Pool” in this labor basin, with an emphasis on those interested in manufacturing employment. The “Available Labor Pool” represents those who are looking for employment or are interested in new jobs for the right employment opportunities.

The Docking Institute’s independent analysis of this labor basin shows that:

- The population of the Central Wisconsin Labor Region is 779,636. The Civilian Labor Force is 450,208. The Available Labor Pool contains 259,704 individuals.
- Of the *non-working* members of the Available Labor Pool, an estimated 14,969 (5.8%) are currently looking for work and 46,427 (17.9%) are interested in working for the right opportunities. Of the *working* members of the Available Labor Pool, 36,092 (13.9%) are currently looking for work, while 162,153 (62.5%) are interested in different jobs given the right opportunities.
- More than three-quarters (80.7%) of the Available Labor Pool have at least some college experience and almost 99% have at least a high school diploma. The average age for members of the Pool is about 48 years old, and women make up half (45.2%) of the Pool.
- Almost 20% of the Available Labor Pool are currently employed as general laborers, while an additional 6.9% work in government services or technical/highly skill blue-collar occupations. About 30% of the Pool work in service sector jobs, while 19.4% work in professional white-collar jobs. About a quarter (23.7%) are not currently working.
- More than three-quarters (76.9%) of the Available Labor Pool are “willing to work outside of their primary field of employment for a new or different employment opportunity.”
- Not quite half (45%) of the members of the Available Labor Pool will commute up to 45 minutes, one-way, for an employment opportunity, while 87% will commute up to 30 minutes for employment.
- The six most important desired benefits, in order, are good salary or hourly wage, good retirement benefits, good health benefits, good vacation benefits, on-the-job training (OJT) or paid training, and flexible hours or flex-time.
- An estimated 7,012 members (3%) of the Available Labor Pool are interested in a new job at \$10 an hour, 29,347 (11%) are interested at \$15 an hour, and 71,419 (28%) are interested at \$20 an hour.
- About 44% of the Available Labor Pool report having training or experience, and 47% report being interested in employment in manufacturing. Of those with manufacturing experience, 51% report working in production.
- The average age for those interested in manufacturing employment is about 50 years old, and 32.5% are women. Practically all (99.9%) have a high school diploma.
- Half (50%) of those interested in manufacturing employment will work in Dodge County, and 57% will work in Jefferson County.

**For the complete study, email your request to: [julieo@ghdpartnership.org](mailto:julieo@ghdpartnership.org).**

**Please include your name, title, company/organization and contact information. In addition, please indicate which study/studies you would like: Dodge County, Jefferson County, Regional (combined).**



The Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Central  
Wisconsin Labor Region Study ©2018

