

## **Greater Kansas City Area: Leavenworth County Labor Basin Assessment**

### **Executive Summary**

The Leavenworth County Labor Basin includes seven counties in Kansas and Missouri: Atchison (KS), Douglas (KS), Jefferson (KS), Johnson (KS), Leavenworth (KS), Platte (MO), and Wyandotte (KS). This report assesses the “Available Labor Pool” in this labor basin. The “Available Labor Pool” represents those who indicate they are looking for a new job or are interested in a new job given the right employment opportunities. The Docking Institute’s independent analysis of this labor basin shows that:

- The population of the Leavenworth County Labor Basin is 384,902 and the Civilian Labor Force (CLF) is 203,072. The Institute estimates that 106,461 working-age adults constitute the Available Labor Pool for the Leavenworth County Labor Basin.
- An estimated 7,133 (6.7%) members of the Available Labor Pool are non-employed *and* currently looking for employment, while 14,353 (13.5%) are non-employed *but* are interested in a job for the right opportunities. In addition, 21,335 (20.0%) employed individuals are currently looking for new or different full-time employment, and 63,639 (59.8%) are employed and interested in new or different full-time employment for the right opportunities.
- A large majority (84.8%) of the Available Labor Pool has at least some college experience and nearly all (98.8%) has at least a high school diploma. The average age for members of the Available Labor Pool is about 46 years old and women make up 52.6% of the Pool. About 27.5% indicate that they speak “at least a little” Spanish.
- An estimated 10,379 (9.7%) members of the Available Labor Pool currently work in general labor occupations (such as cleaning, construction, delivery, manufacturing and maintenance). Interestingly, more (12,714 or 11.9%) members of the Pool work in high-skilled occupations (such as mechanics, welders, computer technicians and crew managers).
- An estimated 41,673 (39.1%) members of the Pool currently work in service sector occupations (such as customer service workers, clerical workers, retail sales, office managers, nurses and teachers), while an additional 20,209 (19%) work in white-collar professional occupations (such as executives, doctors and attorneys).
- More than three-quarters (77.3%) of the Pool is “willing to work outside of their primary field of employment for a new or different employment opportunity.”
- Slightly less than a third (31%) of the members of the Pool will commute up to 45 minutes, one-way, for an employment opportunity. About three-quarters (76%) will commute up to 30 minutes, one-way, for employment.
- The five most desired benefits for a new job are good salary or hourly wage, good retirement benefits, good health benefits, on-the-job (OJT) or paid training, and good vacation benefits.
- An estimated 25,070 people (24% of the Pool) are interested in a new job at \$15 an hour and 7,458 (7%) are interested in a new job at \$10 an hour.
- Of the 84,975 members in the subset of *employed members* of the Pool, 26,002 (31%) consider themselves underemployed.
- Of the 99,967 members in the subset of *non-business owning members* of the Pool, 40,887 (41%) indicate a desire to own their own businesses.