



East Central Energy Conduit Economic and Workforce Profile Executive Summary

Executive Briefing

Highlights of population and labor force trends, labor force quality, target industry and occupation trends are excerpted below, followed by a detailed analysis of the region's workforce supply and demand.

Population Trends

- After growing at a 0.7 percent annual rate between 2000 and 2008, the region's 2008 population was 379,591.
- Over the next eight years, the annual population growth rate of the region is projected to slow to 0.3 percent.
- Having grown at 2.7 percent annually between 2000 and 2008, Columbia County is the fastest growing county in the region.
- The unemployment rate increased from 5.9 percent in February 2008 to 9.3 percent in February 2009 as 6,229 more workers were unemployed in February 2009 than one year prior.
- The labor turnover rate of the region declined from 10.8 percent in 2000 to 9.3 percent in 2008.
- In 2007, 36,762 migrated to the region and 36,393 emigrated from the region, creating a net in-migration of 369 people.
- Between 2007 and 2014, the white population is expected to grow by 0.6 percent, while the black or African-American population is projected to increase by 5.6 percent, the Hispanic or Latino population is projected to increase by 7.0 percent, and the Asian population is projected to increase by 5.6 percent.

Labor Force Trends

- Between 2000 and 2008, the labor force in the region grew at a faster rate than in the state as a whole.
- The only target industry to significantly outpace the region's overall labor force growth rate between 2000 and 2008 was architectural and engineering services, which grew by 3.7 percent compared to the region's overall 1.9 labor force growth rate.
- The region's labor turnover rate (9.3 percent) was slightly lower than the rate for the state of Georgia (9.6 percent).
- Among the targeted industries, electrical power generation, transmission, and distribution and architectural and engineering services had lower labor turnover rates than the region as a whole.
- The region has a lower proportion of workers aged 19-24 years old than the state as a whole. This is also true for three of the region's target industries— electrical power generation, transmission, and distribution, heavy and civil engineering construction, and non-residential building construction.
- All five target industries in the region are heavily male dominated although women make up the largest portion of the region's workforce.



Labor Force Quality

- At \$34,268 per year, incomes earned in the East Central Energy Conduit were approximately 14 percent lower than the state average of \$39,969 per year.
- Self-employed proprietors account for 17.9 percent of jobs in the region, up from 12.2 percent a decade ago.
- More than one in five (22.8 percent) residents of the region aged 25 and above has not completed high school compared with 16.7 percent for Georgia and 14.9 percent for the U.S.

Industry and Occupation Trends

- In the region, the education and health services supersector is expected to experience the most growth, growing from 19,925 employees in 2003 to 30,355 employees in 2018.
- The specialty trade contractors industry grew from 7,917 employees in 2003 to 9,588 employees in 2008. Employment in the industry is projected to grow by 0.7 percent annually between 2008 and 2018.
- The average earnings for all workers in the region are \$34,268, and average earnings in four of the different target industries are above the average for the region.
- Construction laborers and carpenters are two of the largest occupations within the target industries, with both employing over 1,000 workers in 2008.
- Augusta Technical College offers a number of different programs to train workers for key occupations, including an electricians program and a business management program.
- Other postsecondary institutions in the region also offer business management programs, including Augusta State University, Georgia Military College-Augusta Campus, Paine College, Savannah River College, and University of Phoenix-Augusta Campus.