

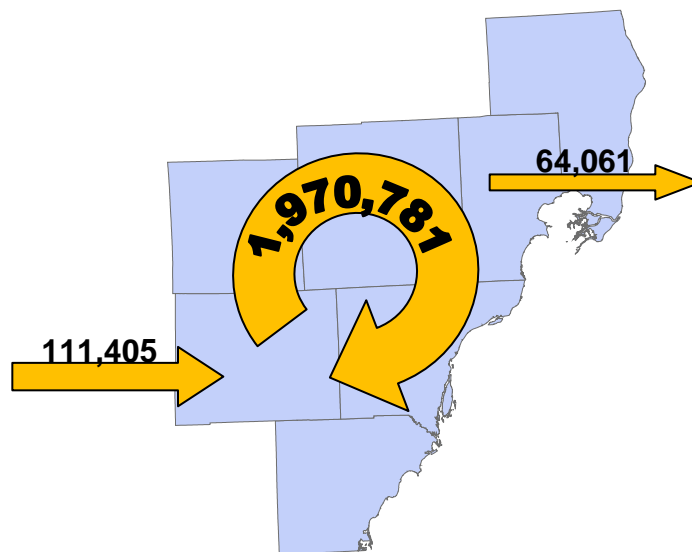
May 2013

## Commuting in Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010

In March 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau released County-to-County Commuting Data for years 2006-2010 (average over five years). This is the first detailed commuting flows information that the bureau has released since Census 2000.

Commuting patterns within the SEMCOG region continue to show the connectedness of various labor and housing markets within Southeast Michigan. During the 2006-2010 period, 96.9 percent of region's resident workers, an estimated 1,970,780 workers, traveled within the seven-county region for work, slightly down from 97.5 percent in 2000.

**Figure 1**  
**Commuter Flows for Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010**



The region also continues to realize a net labor inflow. During 2006-2010, an estimated 111,400 workers, or 5.4 percent of those working in the region, commuted from outside the seven-county region, and 64,000 workers, or 3.1 percent of region's workers, commuted to places outside the region (Figure 1).

### **Worker and job change in the region**

The Great Recession of 2007 has taken a substantial toll on Southeast Michigan workers. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of the civilian labor force, aged 16 and over, declined by more than

36,000; the number of employed declined by more than 174,000 persons. All counties except Livingston County experienced loss in workers, with Wayne County losing the most, both in numbers and percentage (Table 1). Livingston County gained more than 6,000 workers, a growth of 8.0 percent during the same time period.

**Table 1**  
**Number of Workers by County of Residence, 1980-2010**

	1980	1990	2000	2006-2010	Change 2000-2010	
					Number	Percent
<b>Livingston</b>	40,150	57,450	79,729	86,089	6,360	8.0%
<b>Macomb</b>	297,850	349,937	383,664	374,947	-8,717	-2.3%
<b>Monroe</b>	51,000	59,492	68,835	68,007	-828	-1.2%
<b>Oakland</b>	454,400	546,636	603,761	567,838	-35,923	-5.9%
<b>St. Clair</b>	50,200	62,989	76,437	68,894	-7,543	-9.9%
<b>Washtenaw</b>	125,900	148,727	169,169	163,823	-5,346	-3.2%
<b>Wayne</b>	482,850	822,620	827,311	705,244	-122,067	-14.8%
<b>REGION</b>	<b>1,502,350</b>	<b>2,047,851</b>	<b>2,208,906</b>	<b>2,034,842</b>	<b>-174,064</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>

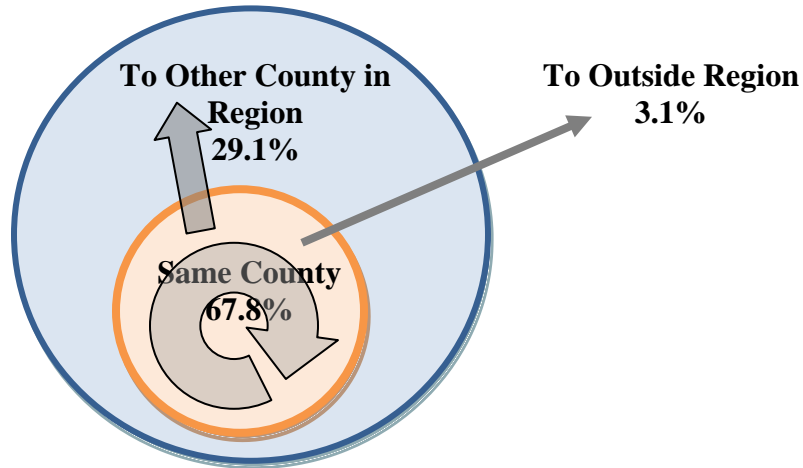
Note: 1980, 1990, 2000 data is from decennial Census long form, while 2006-2010 data is from American Community Survey (ACS). As a result, some of the change may be attributed to differences in survey methodologies between the Census and ACS, and may not be statistically significant. The table is provided to help understand the trends.

As a result of the job and population losses in the region, commuter trips within the region have also declined between 2000 and 2010. The number of workers commuting within the region declined by 183,300 (8.5 percent), and those commuting from outside into the region declined by 6,400 (5.2 percent). However, the number of commuters commuting to outside of the region for work increased by 9,200 (16.9 percent) during the same time period.

### **County-to-county commuting within Southeast Michigan**

Of the 2,034,800 workers residing in Southeast Michigan, 29.1 percent traveled outside of their county of residence for work, but stayed within the region, compared to 28.7 percent in 2000. Little over three percent traveled to places outside the region, and 67.8 percent lived and worked in the same county (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
**Inter-County and Intra-County Commuting in Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010**

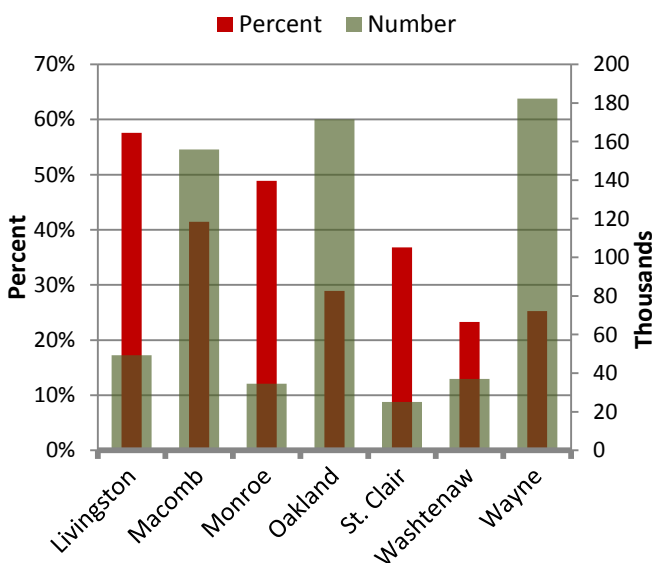


While the cohesiveness of the region as a single commutershed continues to emerge, clear subregional patterns are also evident. As expected, the outlying counties of Livingston, Monroe, and St. Clair have higher rates of out-of-county commuting, compared to counties with large cities such as Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne (Figure 3).

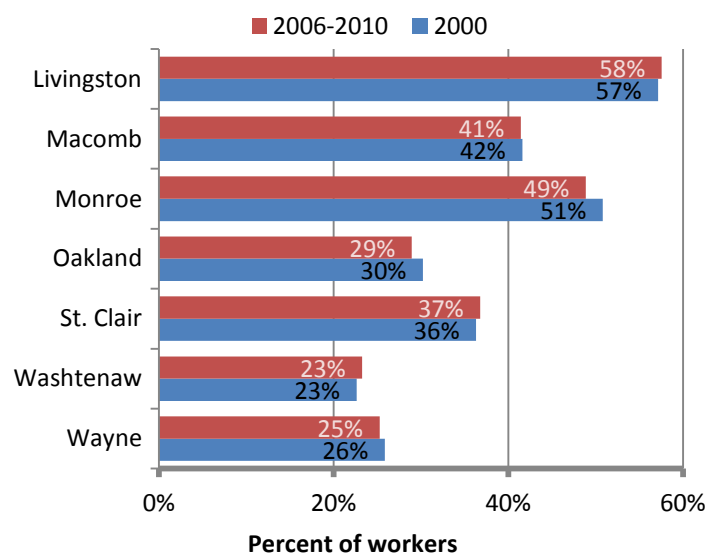
Wayne County had the highest number of workers who traveled outside of their county of residence for work (182,200 workers); St. Clair County had the lowest number of workers (25,000 workers) who did not work in their county of residence. On the other hand, Livingston County had the highest rate of out-of-county commuting (57.1 percent) and Washtenaw County had the lowest (22.6 percent).

**Figure 3**  
**Workers who Worked Outside of their County of Residence, Southeast Michigan**

**Living and working in different counties, 2006-2010**



**Percent out-bound flow, 2000 and 2006-2010**



The largest amount of county-to-county flows generally occurred among the three large counties in the region (Table 1). Flows between Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties also ranked among the highest in the nation. As expected, adjacent counties had higher flows. Overall, the list of large commuting flows in 2006-2010 is similar to that of 2000. However, some notable shifts in relative position occurred. For example, flows between Oakland and Macomb, and Livingston and Oakland increased in relative rank during the last decade, partly due to rapid growth in Livingston and Macomb counties (Table 2).

**Table 1**  
**Commuter Flows between Counties in Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010**  
**Number of Commuters in the Flow**

Commuting to	Livingston	Macomb	Monroe	Oakland	St. Clair	Washtenaw	Wayne	within Region	Out of Region
<b>Commuting from</b>									
Livingston	<u>36,891</u>	1,119	129	17,055	11	11,782	10,820	77,807	8,282
Macomb	357	<u>218,996</u>	236	89,757	3,334	1,075	56,177	369,932	5,015
Monroe	86	471	<u>33,458</u>	1,043	16	4,592	13,323	52,989	15,018
Oakland	4,583	37,812	332	<u>396,337</u>	524	7,491	103,186	550,265	17,573
St. Clair	38	15,653	67	3,554	<u>43,889</u>	69	3,161	66,431	2,463
Washtenaw	2,407	715	1,040	6,620	16	<u>126,765</u>	20,478	158,041	5,782
Wayne	1,672	34,686	4,542	104,700	260	26,486	<u>522,970</u>	695,316	9,928
<b>within Region</b>	46,034	309,452	39,804	619,066	48,050	178,260	730,115	<u>1,970,781</u>	64,061
<b>Out of Region</b>	8,729	10,460	7,177	39,436	4,315	21,379	19,909	111,405	--

**Commuter Flows between Counties in Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010**  
**Percent Flow**

Commuting into	Livingston	Macomb	Monroe	Oakland	St. Clair	Washtenaw	Wayne	within Region	Out of Region
<b>Commuting from</b>									
Livingston	<u>42.9%</u>	1.3%	0.1%	19.8%	0.0%	13.7%	12.6%	90.4%	9.6%
Macomb	0.1%	<u>58.4%</u>	0.1%	23.9%	0.9%	0.3%	15.0%	98.7%	1.3%
Monroe	0.1%	0.7%	<u>49.2%</u>	1.5%	0.0%	6.8%	19.6%	77.9%	22.1%
Oakland	0.8%	6.7%	0.1%	<u>69.8%</u>	0.1%	1.3%	18.2%	96.9%	3.1%
St. Clair	0.1%	22.7%	0.1%	5.2%	<u>63.7%</u>	0.1%	4.6%	96.4%	3.6%
Washtenaw	1.5%	0.4%	0.6%	4.0%	0.0%	<u>77.4%</u>	12.5%	96.5%	3.5%
Wayne	0.2%	4.9%	0.6%	14.8%	0.0%	3.8%	<u>74.2%</u>	98.6%	1.4%
<b>within Region</b>	2.3%	15.2%	2.0%	30.4%	2.4%	8.8%	35.9%	<u>96.9%</u>	3.1%
<b>Out of Region</b>	7.8%	9.4%	6.4%	35.4%	3.9%	19.2%	17.9%	100.0%	-

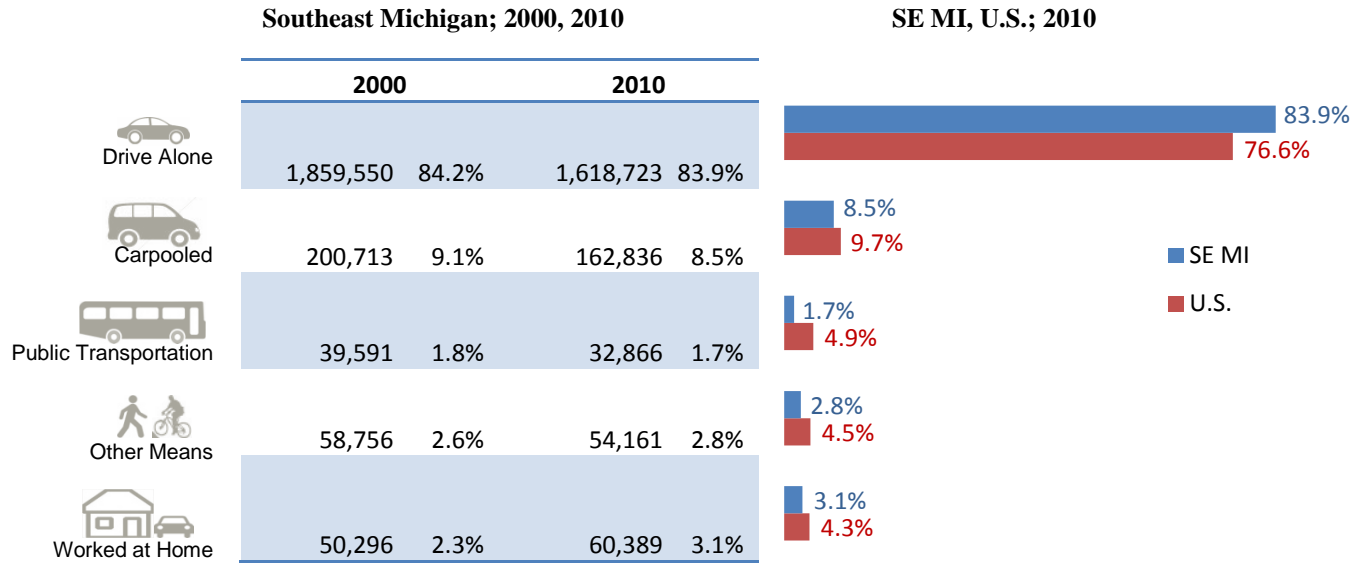
**Table 2**  
**Commuting Flows with more than 10,000 Workers in Flow**

	Residence County	Workplace County	Number of Workers in Flow		Rank in 2000	% of Residence County's out-Bound Workers in Flow; 2006-2010	Total out-Bound Workers From Residence County, 2006-2010
			2006-2010	2000			
1	Wayne	Oakland	104,700	124,137	1	57.4%	182,274
2	Oakland	Wayne	103,186	106,405	2	60.2%	171,501
3	Macomb	Oakland	89,757	94,376	3	57.6%	155,951
4	Macomb	Wayne	56,177	56,211	4	36.0%	155,951
5	Oakland	Macomb	37,812	41,935	6	22.0%	171,501
6	Wayne	Macomb	34,686	44,064	5	19.0%	182,274
7	Wayne	Washtenaw	26,486	25,015	7	14.5%	182,274
8	Washtenaw	Wayne	20,478	23,269	8	55.3%	37,058
9	Livingston	Oakland	17,055	17,064	10	34.7%	49,198
10	St. Clair	Macomb	15,653	17,967	9	62.6%	25,005
11	Monroe	Wayne	13,323	12,161	11	38.6%	34,549
12	Livingston	Washtenaw	11,782	11,033	12	23.9%	49,198
13	Livingston	Wayne	10,820	10,549	13	22.0%	49,198

### Commuting patterns by mode

With many workers in the region commuting across county lines, driving remains by far the primary mode of transportation in Southeast Michigan, and driving alone to work continues to be the most prevailing option (Figure 4). In 2010, 83.9 percent of the region's commuters drove alone to work, slightly down from 84.2 percent in 2000. Another significant shift includes the decline in carpooling from 9.1 percent in 2000 to 8.4 percent in 2010. While this report focuses on commuting patterns, there is a growing trend of people not commuting at all – workers who telecommute or work at home. The share of workers working from home increased from 2.3 percent in 2000 to 3.1 percent in 2010, a share much higher than transit commuting and higher than walking or biking.

**Figure 4**  
**Means of Commute**



**Commute time**

Travel time for workers varied through the region. The majority of workers (61.8 percent) spent less than 30 minutes commuting to work, down from 62.4 percent in 2000, and less than U.S. average of 64.6 percent. At the other end, 6.1 percent of the region’s workers experienced longer commutes (60 minutes or more), the same as in 2000, but significantly less than the national average of 8.0 percent. The ex-urban county of St. Clair had the highest percentage of both short distance (less than 10 min.) and long distance (more than 60 min.) commuters, 16.6 percent and 12.1 percent respectively. Washtenaw County had the lowest percentage (4.8 percent) of long distance commuters (Table 3).

**Table 3**  
**Travel Time to Work, Southeast Michigan, 2006-2010**

	Livingston County	Macomb County	Monroe County	Oakland County	St. Clair County	Washtenaw County	Wayne County	Southeast Michigan
<b>Less than 10 minutes</b>	9.2%	9.6%	15.5%	9.5%	16.6%	13.8%	10.2%	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>10-29 minutes</b>	38.6%	49.4%	49.5%	50.7%	43.9%	57.8%	53.7%	<b>51.3%</b>
<b>30-59 minutes</b>	40.6%	34.1%	29.9%	34.3%	27.3%	23.6%	30.8%	<b>32.1%</b>
<b>60 or more minutes</b>	11.6%	6.8%	5.2%	5.5%	12.1%	4.8%	5.3%	<b>6.1%</b>

The average commute time in the region in 2010 was 25.6 minutes almost the same as the national average of 25.3 minutes.

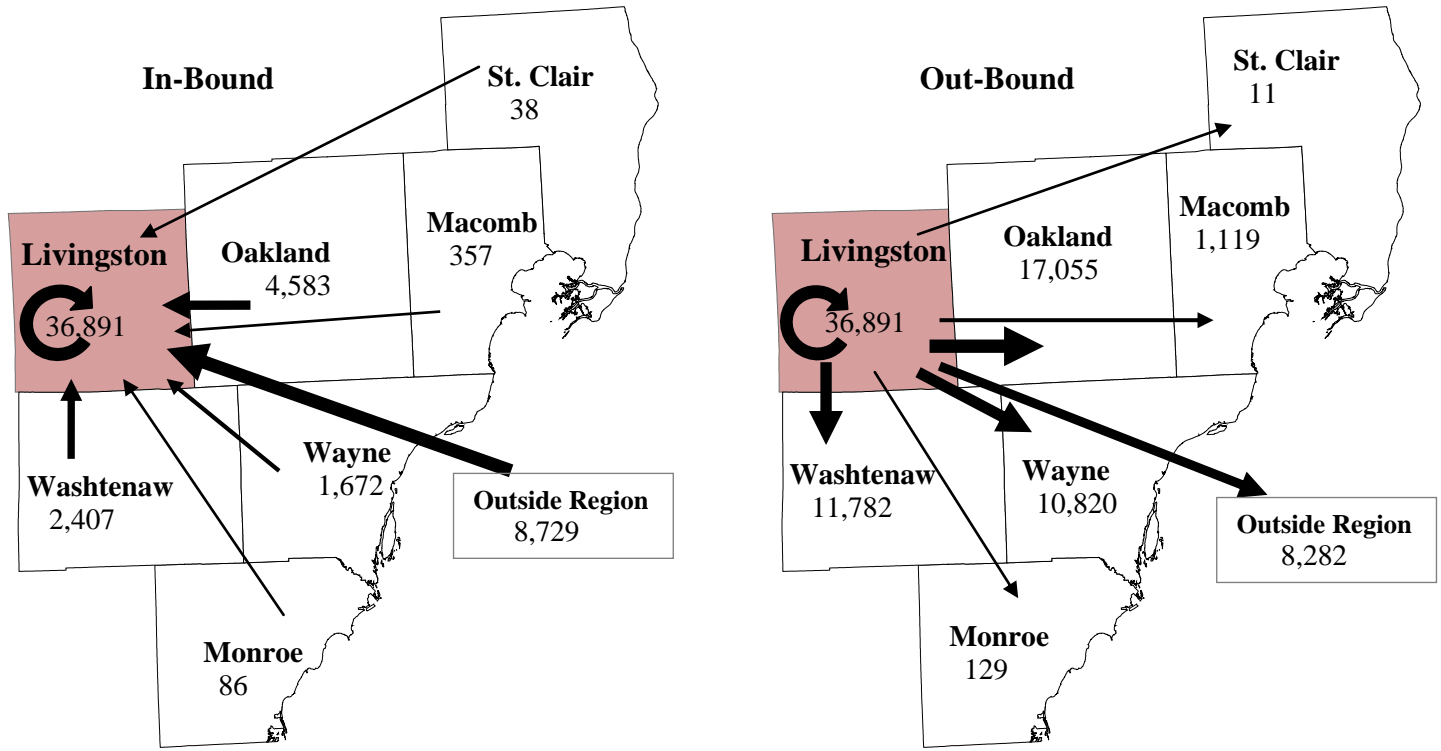
## **Summary**

Travel-to-work data in the region continues to suggest that the SEMCOG region is connected by commuting flows that tie the housing markets and job centers across the region. However, the commuting patterns have expanded, and commuting preferences have changed. While the region has some of the largest commuter flows in the nation, commuters in the region still face the challenge of not having many options for getting to work other than driving alone. Although the overall commuting pattern in the region has been relatively stable in the past decade, future changes in demographic, economic, and technologic factors will influence future work travel patterns which, in turn, will have a significant effect on travel demand, transportation services, and infrastructure needs. Understanding commuting patterns in the region was a critical component in analyzing and planning for Southeast Michigan's regional transportation systems including developing the region's 2040 long-range transportation plan.

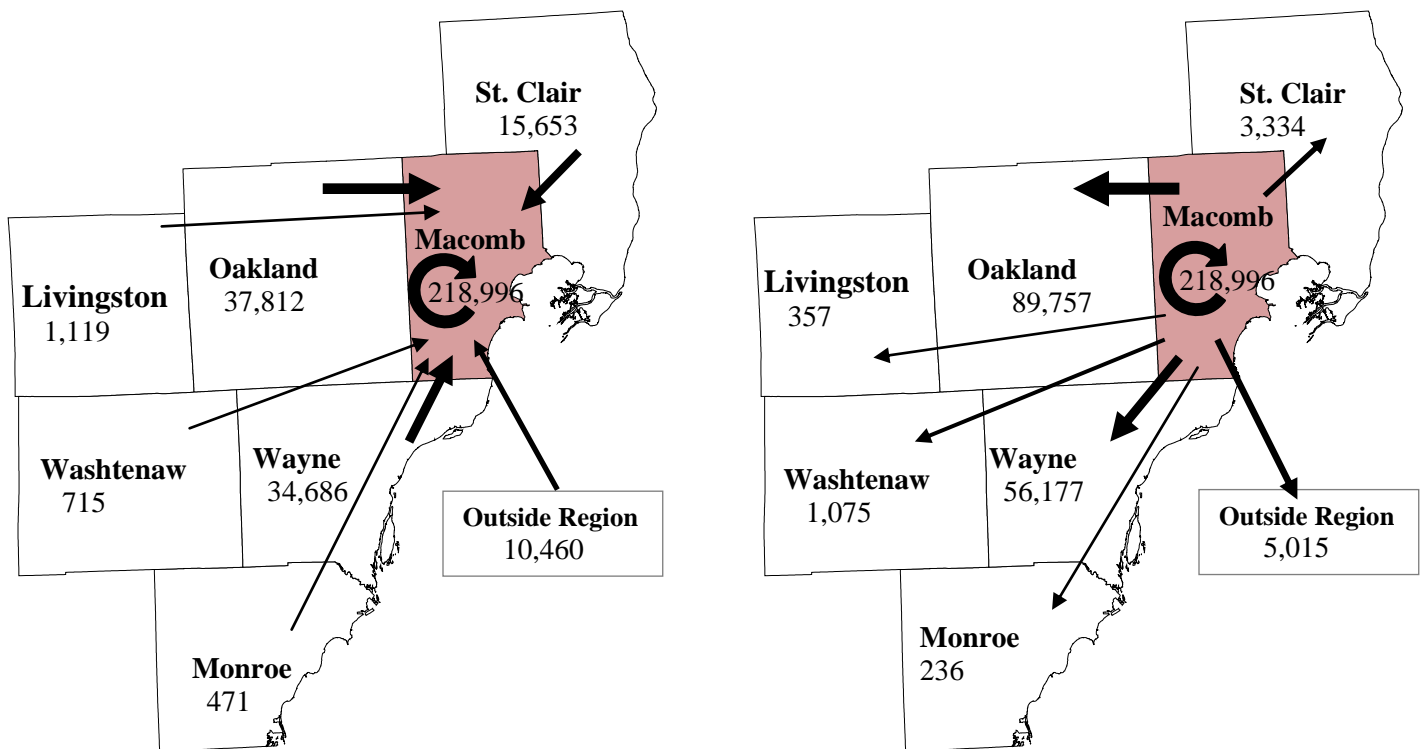
# Commuting Flows by County, Southeast Michigan

## ACS 2006-2010

### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Livingston County



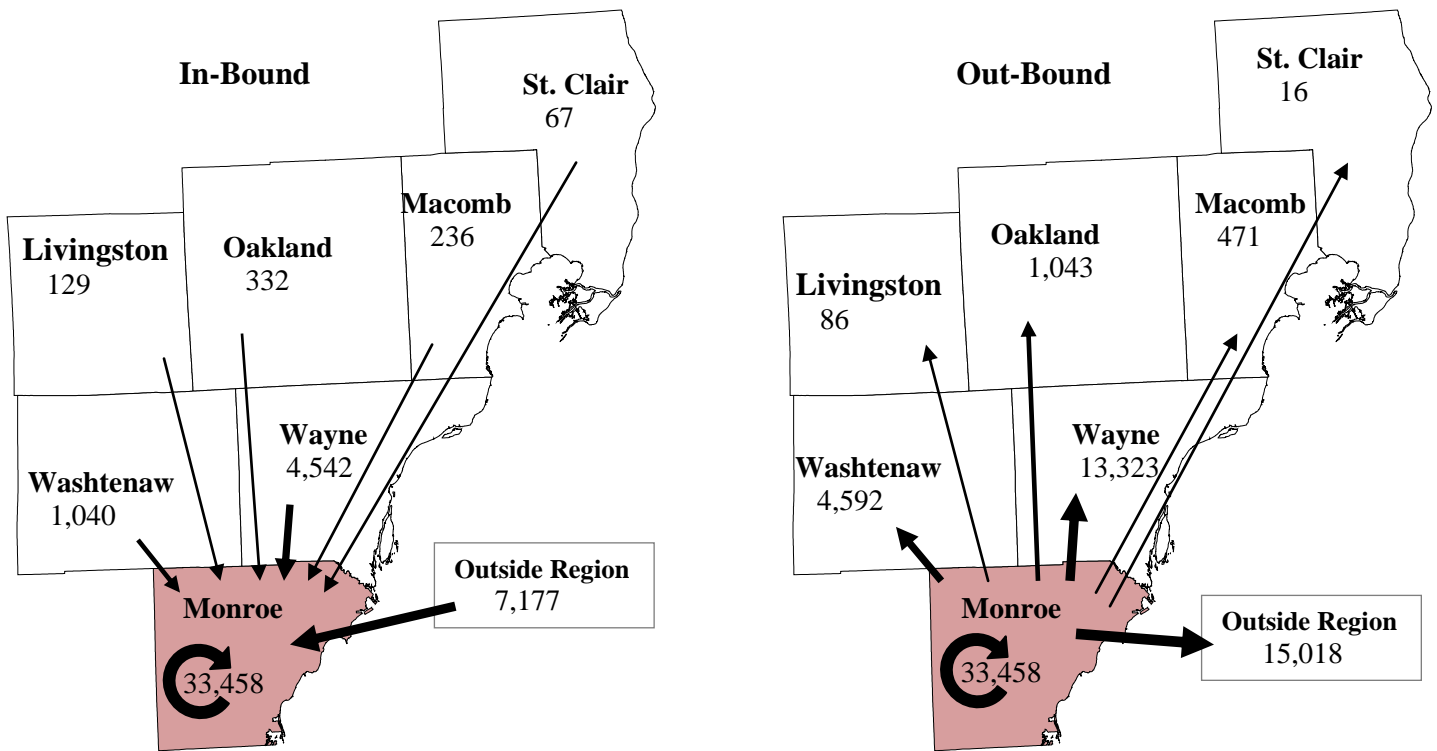
### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Macomb County



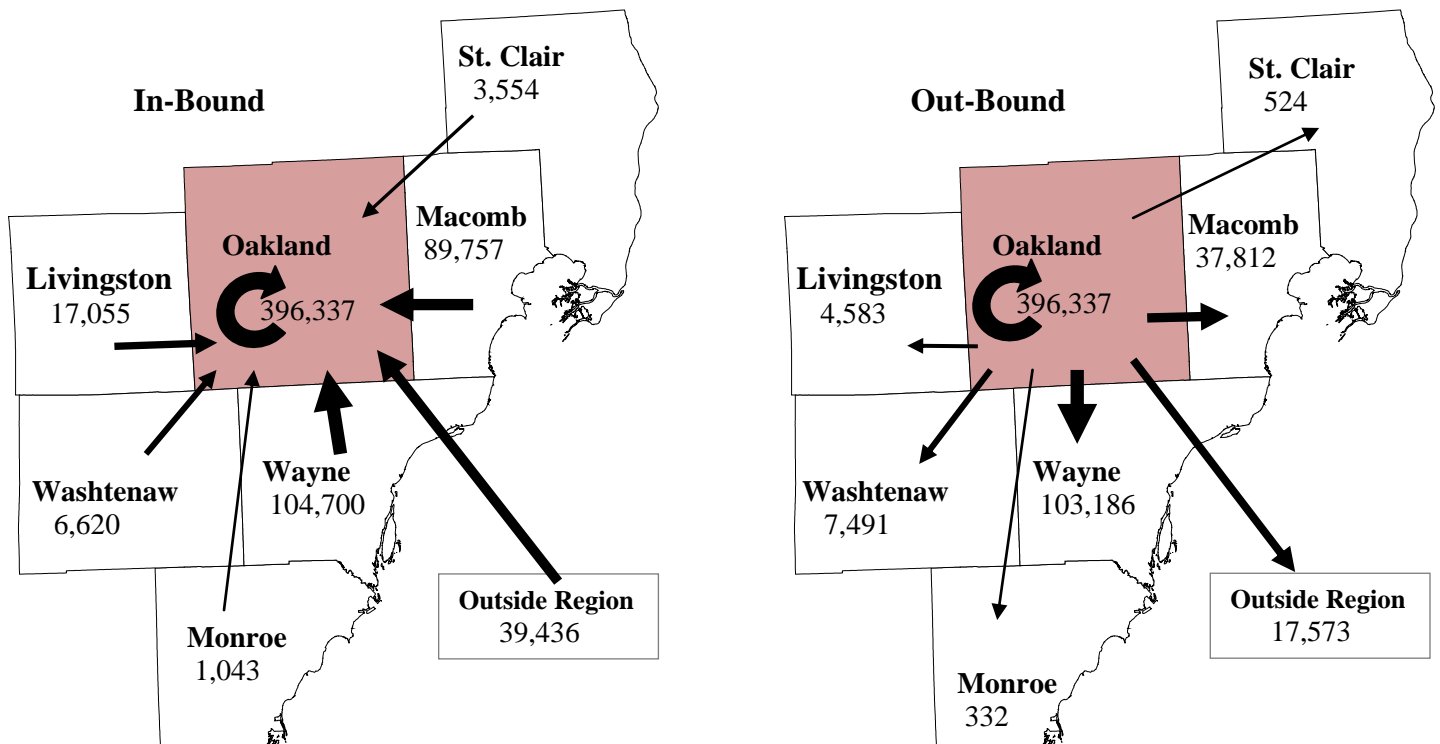
# Commuting Flows by County, Southeast Michigan

## ACS 2006-2010

### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Monroe County



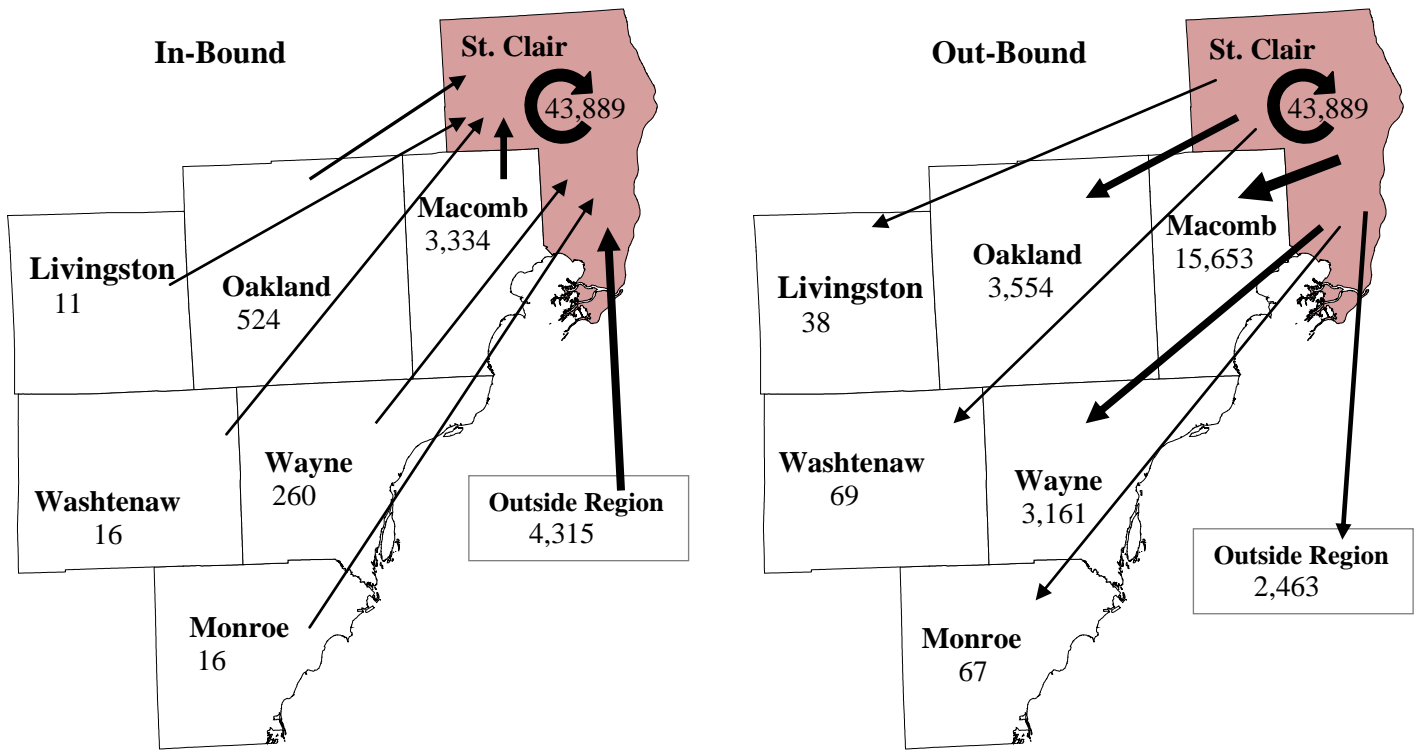
### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Oakland County



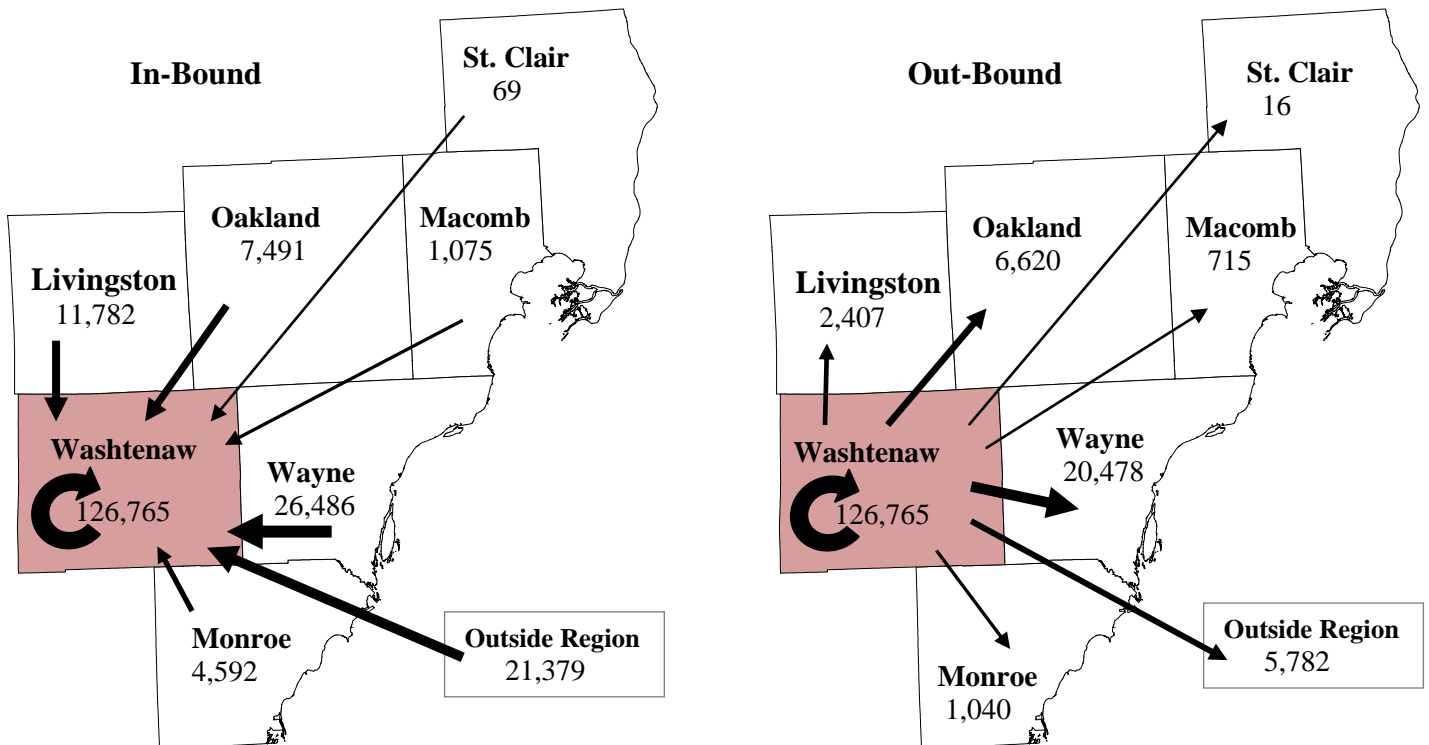
# Commuting Flows by County, Southeast Michigan

## ACS 2006-2010

### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for St. Clair County

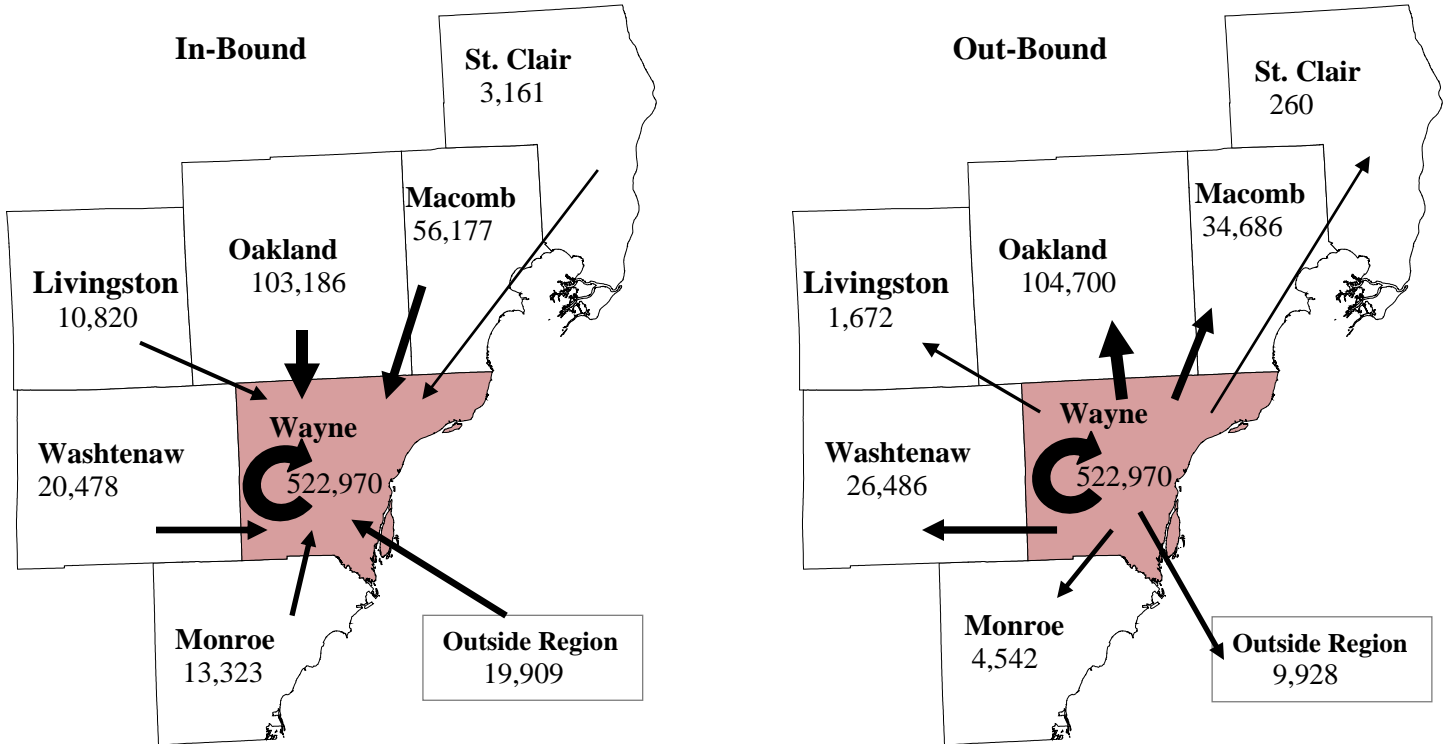


### In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Washtenaw County



# Commuting Flows by County, Southeast Michigan ACS 2006-2010

## In-Bound and Out-Bound Commuting for Wayne County



For additional data, please check out the [Commuting Patterns map](#) located on our website.