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PARTNER WORK

JOB SEEKER TRENDS

IN SELECTED PITTSBURGH NEIGHBORHOODS

I. Introduction

This report analyzes job seeker trends in Hazelwood, Homewood, Hill District/Uptown, and the Northside. Its purpose is to assist these four Pittsburgh neighborhoods that are actively crafting local workforce strategies in understanding their workforce base and job seekers. The report describes the universe of residents from each neighborhood seeking career services through the public workforce and provides information on the nature of the job seekers' interactions with the public system and their demographic characteristics. We used City of Pittsburgh data as a benchmark to compare and contrast the trends in each neighborhood.

II. Workforce Base

Table 1 (below) provides an overview of the workforce base in each of the selected neighborhoods. It illustrates how large the population over 16 years old is in each community and how many residents are part of the labor force. The unemployment rate is calculated from the total number of residents unemployed as a percentage of the entire labor force.

Hazelwood and Homewood have a comparable population over 16 years old and labor force. However, Homewood has nearly double the unemployment rate (25%). The Northside has the largest population over 16 years old and labor force of the four selected neighborhoods. Its unemployment rate is the lowest of the four, and at 10%, it is only slightly higher than the overall unemployment rate of the city (9%). The Uptown/Hill District neighborhood has a half the population over 16 years old compared to the Northside but double the overall unemployment rate of the city (18%).

From the four selected neighborhoods, the Northside has the largest share of residents seeking workforce services as a percentage of its total unemployed population (87%), followed by Uptown/Hill District (74%), Homewood (73%), and Hazelwood (69%). In contrast, 1.72 Pittsburgh residents seek workforce services for every unemployed person living in the city. In other words, residents from these three neighborhoods are not engaging the public system as much as residents from other parts of the city.

Table 1	City	Hazelwood	Homewood	Northside	Uptown/Hill District
Total Population over 16	262,512	4,262	4,624	30,947	14,369
Total Labor Force	162,775	1,977	2,372	20,016	5,633
Total Unemployed	14,017	254	587	2,031	1,001
Unemployment Rate	~ 9%	~ 13%	~ 25%	~ 10%	~ 18%
Residents seeking workforce services	24,071	176	431	1,769	738
Percent of unemployed (%)	172%	69%	73%	87%	74%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015 5-yr Estimate. Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS), Jan1st – Dec31st, 2016. Accessed February 2017</i>					

III. Job Seeker Activity

Table 2 (below) classifies the total number of residents seeking workforce services as active and passive job seekers. Those considered active job seekers engage in more intensive career services and/or training tailored to their individual needs. While passive job seekers only access online information or resources (job postings, for example) and/or basic career services (such as use of computer or resource center at CareerLinks).

Between 2015 and 2016, the number of residents seeking workforce services increased in Homewood, the Northside, and the Uptown/Hill District neighborhood by 33%, 28%, and 36% respectively. This is fairly close to the city’s 31% increase in residents seeking workforce services. Hazelwood was the only neighborhood not experiencing any significant changes (a 0.6% decrease).

As for the type of job seeker activity, the city of Pittsburgh saw an increase of 2% in its share of active job-seekers. Homewood, the Northside, and Uptown/Hill District slightly outperformed the city with an increase of 5%, 6%, and 7% respectively in terms of active job seekers. In this regard, Hazelwood more than doubled (13%) the other two neighborhoods’ increase in the share of active job seekers, despite not having experienced an increase in the number of residents seeking workforce services like the other two did.

As of 2016, Uptown/Hill District, Hazelwood, and Homewood are now fairly close in the share of active job seekers with 37%, 33%, and 35% respectively. In comparison, the Northside active job seekers only account for 25% of all residents seeking workforce residents.

Table 2	City			Hazelwood			Homewood			Northside			Uptown/Hill District		
	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive
2015	18,326	8%	92%	177	20%	80%	323	30%	70%	1,387	19%	81%	541	30%	70%
2016	24,071	10%	90%	176	33%	67%	431	35%	65%	1,769	25%	75%	738	37%	63%
Change	5,745	2%	(2%)	(1)	13%	(13%)	108	5%	(5%)	382	6%	(6%)	197	7%	(7%)
<i>Source: Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS), accessed February 2017</i>															

IV. 2016 Job Seeker Characteristics

Table 3 (below) is a complete breakdown of the demographic characteristics of passive and active individuals seeking workforce services in 2016.

In Pittsburgh, 58% of residents seeking workforce services are men, 70% are white, and 47% have a high school diploma or less. The two largest age groups seeking workforce services in the city are people between 35 and 54 years old (35%) and those 25 to 34 (25%). In other words, a Pittsburgh resident seeking workforce services is most likely to be a white male, between the ages of 35 and 54, with lower education.

Northside residents seeking workforce services resemble the city the closest, with 56% of them being men, 58% having a high school diploma or less, and with age groups 35-54 (34%) and 25-34 (26%) being the largest. However, in the Northside 60% of the job seekers accessing services are minority.

As for Hazelwood and Homewood, the majority of residents seeking services are women, with 57% and 54% respectively. They are also minority, 76% in Hazelwood and 98% in Homewood, and about 68% with a high school diploma or less in both neighborhoods. In regards to age, the largest groups for both neighborhoods are those under 25 years old and between 35-54, 30%/30% and 26%/34% respectively. In the Uptown/Hill District neighborhood, slightly more women than men are seeking workforce services, 52% compared to 48%. From the four analyzed neighborhoods, Uptown/Hill District has with 89% the second largest share of minority among residents seeking workforce services. Those seeking workforce service from Uptown/Hill District are often either under the age of 25 (30%) or between 35 and 54 years old (29%) and have a low level of education (75%).

Table 3	City			Hazelwood			Homewood			Northside			Uptown/Hill District		
	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive	Total	Active	Passive
Gender	21,182			176			395			1,588			646		
Female	8,963	13%	87%	91	33%	67%	214	39%	61%	694	30%	70%	334	42%	58%
Male	12,219	10%	90%	70	39%	61%	181	36%	64%	894	26%	74%	312	42%	58%
Age	24,071			176			431			1,769			738		
<25	4,084	20%	80%	52	65%	35%	114	54%	46%	363	42%	58%	224	55%	45%
25-34	5,958	8%	92%	36	8%	92%	84	36%	64%	465	20%	80%	163	29%	71%
35-54	8,478	8%	92%	53	26%	74%	145	24%	76%	603	21%	79%	215	31%	69%
55+	5,551	7%	93%	35	17%	83%	88	26%	74%	338	20%	80%	136	24%	76%
Race	19,628			146			363			1,491			606		
Minority	5,895	27%	73%	111	42%	58%	354	39%	61%	896	37%	63%	539	43%	57%
White	13,733	5%	95%	35	14%	86%	9	44%	56%	595	15%	85%	67	39%	61%
Education	19,726			150			370			1,498			622		
Lower	9,271	16%	84%	102	40%	60%	251	39%	61%	873	31%	69%	465	44%	56%
Mid	3,252	9%	91%	22	18%	82%	78	31%	69%	228	27%	73%	84	32%	68%
Advanced	7,203	7%	93%	26	27%	73%	41	39%	61%	397	19%	81%	73	34%	66%

Source: Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS), accessed February 2017

