

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN 2021/2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Moraine Park Technical College

Institutional Research

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All District Counties

- MPTC district top industry: Manufacturing
- MPTC district top occupation: Production
- All MPTC district counties had a lower poverty rate than the United States from 2014-2019
- MPTC witnessed a jump in degrees awarded from 2020-2021, after a slight decrease in 2019-2020
- Job placement rates for MPTC 2019-2020 graduates fell slightly coming in at 90%
- Median age of all students remains around 31 years, and 23 for program students

Fond du Lac County

Those living in Fond du Lac County have the shortest commute to work (20.4 min. avg.), out of all the other district counties. This is also below the Wisconsin (22.2 min.) and national (26.9 min.) averages.

MPTC serves more students from Fond du Lac County than other district counties. This may be a result of Fond du Lac being the largest campus.

Green Lake County

Green Lake County has the highest unemployment rate of all district counties. However, the county's small population easily influences its unemployment rate.

Out of all other district counties, those living in Green Lake County have the longest commute to work (26.1 min. avg.), just under the national average (26.9 min.).

Dodge County

Dodge county has the greatest difference in gender, and is the only county in the district with more men (52%) than women (48%).

Dodge county has the lowest unemployment rate (5.3%) in 2020 out of all the district counties, 2.8 percentage points lower than the national average.

Washington County

Washington County has the most veterans, by count, compared to all district counties. It also saw the highest increase in veterans from 2015-2019.

Washington County has the highest median household income compared to all district counties, Wisconsin, and the United States.

Commuting Patterns

The average commute time to work for MPTC district residents is 23.6 minutes. Fond du Lac county residents average the shortest commute, while Green Lake county residents average the longest commute. Washington County showed the largest percent increase over the past 3 years in individuals employed in the county, but living outside.

Non-Employer

There was a slight increase in non-employer business (self-employment). MPTC has an entrepreneurship certificate as part of a career pathway that builds to the Small Business Entrepreneurship Associate Degree. Local resources, such as Envision Greater Fond du Lac, offer market research to assist entrepreneurs in their start-up.

Degrees/Diplomas

Over the past five years, the number of associate degrees being awarded has gone down. With this current trend, MPTC should continue to incorporate more career pathways in the curriculum for students who leave the program for employment (jobbing out). This would allow more students to earn credentials. MPTC has already seen an increase from 51 (2016-2017) to 207 (2020-2021) in pathway certificates awarded. Pathway credentials allow students to enter the workforce quickly with an industry credential.

Industries/Occupations

Manufacturing remains the top industry in MPTC's district counties in 2021, with just over 37,500 individuals employed in the industry. Production continues to remain the top occupation in 2021 with roughly 22,000 individuals having a production occupation. Cultivating and developing relationships with in-district manufacturers may increase the likelihood of graduates pursuing employment in-district.

Unemployment Rate

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, district unemployment trended downwards, hovering near 3.5%. During COVID-19, unemployment peaked at 13.6% in April 2020. High unemployment is often followed by increased entrepreneurship, increasing the need for MPTC to focus on this.

Education Hot Topics

U.S. Department of Justice reaches a settlement with Brown University after wrongfully refusing readmission to students taking medical leave for mental health concerns, even when students were cleared by doctors to return.

There is continuous controversy over whether or not online courses yield the same success rates, especially with the questionable validity of studies conducted during the COVID pandemic. Many research professionals believe that data collected during the pandemic should not be used to draw conclusions about these issues.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in popularity of the use of Artificial Intelligence-based proctoring systems. Researchers and students raise skepticism over the security of these proctoring systems. These systems are collecting sensitive student information, and this is cause for concern.

Institutions are expanding mental health services for students struggling with the effects of the pandemic. Many of these services are geared toward getting students help virtually and after clinical hours.

The Education Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) Foundation is funding four community colleges in the U.S. to create new programs at their institution for single mothers. The goal of this project is to increase the number of single mothers receiving a degree or diploma.