Welcome to the newly redesigned U.S. Cluster Mapping website. Here, policymakers, economic development professionals, and researchers can find powerful data and tools to understand clusters, improve institutions, and locate appropriate partners across the country. This site was developed by a consortium of academic institutions and U.S. regions, led by Professor Michael Porter through the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School, and supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Welcome from Michael Porter

Explore the Data

Maps | Charts

Related to Data Dashboard

For more information, see the Cluster Mapping Primer.

Related Resources

Click to view in the left panel

http://clustermapping.us
CLUSTERS: A DEFINITION

Why are they important for job creation?

CLUSTERS

Geographic concentrations of interconnected industries and supportive organizations that make regions uniquely competitive for jobs and private investment.

“Regional innovation clusters are based on a simple but critical idea: if we foster coordination between the private sector and the public sector to build on the unique strengths of different regions—while creating the incentives for them to do so—we will be better equipped to marshal the knowledge and resources that America needs to compete in the global economy.” Sperling & G. Lew, May 2011
Clusters & Economic Development

★ Clusters provide a framework for understanding regional competitiveness and drivers of private investment and job creation—not a top-down formula.

★ Clusters can help identify and prioritize opportunities for public investment—not a litmus test for qualifying or strictly characterizing “good” or “bad” projects.

★ Clusters are a platform for linking, leveraging, and aligning federal or state programs to get a better return on investment of taxpayer funds—not a prescription.
Clusters are not “urban” or “rural”

- Innovation and collaboration—the fuel for effective cluster development—is present in all communities.
- Population density can help grow clusters faster, but not a prerequisite for engaging in cluster development strategies.
- A major research university is an advantage, but not the price of admission—federally-funded R&D is not the only source of innovation that matters.
Turning crisis into competitive advantage

★ Maytag HQ and production facilities close, impacting 1,900 workers in a community of only 15,500 residents.

★ Public and private sector leaders came together to focus on aligning education, economic, and workforce strategies around leveraging dislocated workforce’s specialized skills and Central Iowa’s natural assets—targeted renewable energy (wind).

★ Cluster development efforts have yielded more than 1,000 new jobs and population loss resulting from the Maytag closure has been minimal.

Source: IEDC, Creating Quality Jobs


Regional Projects Enable “Learning by Doing” Approach

Regional Asset Mapping
Partner: Great Plains Development Inc.

Regional Manufacturing Park/Incubator IBED Strategy and Business Development
Partner: Harvey County Economic Development Council

Wind Supply Chain ID and Pre-profiling Assessment
Partner: South Central Kansas Economic Development District

Business Profiling/Supply Chain Network Development
Partner: KDOC

KTEC Technology Cluster Strategy Development
Partner: KTEC

Business Profiling and Innovation Networking
Partner: North Central Regional Planning Commission

Kansas Army Ammunition Plant Business Redevelopment
Partner: Great Plains Development Authority
A consortium of manufacturers organized to increase business opportunities while addressing Department of Defense procurement challenges through services that help manufacturers to overcome federal procurement challenges. READ MORE

The American Manufacturer Network Mission is to enhance and assure the domestic supply base for the Department of Defense by working with an existing, local network of manufacturers and exercising processes that reduce costs, cycle times and waste. As a result, AMN shall increase military preparedness and create manufacturing business opportunities resulting in job creation in the Pacific Northwest.

http://www.amn-usa.org/
TARGETING: Identifying key industries

BENCHMARKING: Tracking performance

CONNECTING: Sharing best practices
Targeting: How is this useful?

★ Provides economic developers and grant applicants with free, easily accessible information on regional economies and clusters that can form the basis of project proposals to EDA and its federal partners, state agencies, and other funding sources.

★ Provides an objective source of data on clusters with national coverage, allowing for consistent approaches to working with applicants across EDA regions.

★ Provides EDDs* with objective data source for SWOT analysis and strategies in CEDS, as well as suggestions for companies to serve on CEDS committee.

Benchmarking: How is this useful?

- Provides a system for evaluating federal and local return on investment in cluster strategies and initiatives—how are regions with investments performing relative to non-investment regions?
- Facilitates collaboration across EDA regions & EDDs—what are lessons learned in growing/declining clusters?
- Sheds light on the life cycle of clusters—how can EDA and its federal partners best support clusters and regions in different stages of development?
Connecting: How is this useful?

★ Connects theory to practice—makes cluster-based economic development more “real” for people when they can see where it’s happening and who’s doing it.

★ Connects EDDs, university centers, and other stakeholders working on cluster initiatives for sharing best practices.

★ Helps identify potential partners for applications to EDA and other federal agencies—the usefulness of Registry depends on active user base. Please participate!

★ Provides a publicly-available clearinghouse for showcasing federal, state, and local investments in clusters.
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To offer feedback on the cluster mapping website, please send an email to cmp@hbs.edu or use the Feedback box located near the bottom right corner of the homepage: http://clustermapping.us.