



Growth Lab

# **Identifying local opportunities: Doña Ana County**

January 2026

# Key Takeaways on Doña Ana County's Economic Snapshot



*The first part of this presentation provides an economic snapshot of the county. The following key takeaways stand out.*

- **Economic cluster:** The county is the main hub of economic activity in southern New Mexico. It includes the "Borderplex Region," a large economic cluster that connects Las Cruces and El Paso (TX) and shares connections with Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua (Mexico).
- **Long-term trajectory:** Population growth did not accelerate rapidly in the 1940s like Bernalillo County. However, early decades of strong growth, like including 1920s and 1950s, and sustained rates afterward, have positioned the county as the second most populated in the state.
- **Recent economic performance:** Doña Ana County's economy expanded in the early 2000s more rapidly than the state average and other metro areas in neighboring states. However, that changed dramatically after 2010, and it took almost a decade to recover its 2010 peak in gross county product (GCP). As a result of these contrasting decades, Doña Ana's does not stand out in income level growth since 2000. Growth since 2020 has been strong, paralleling the state trend.
- **Underlying economic engines:** Government activity is the largest economic sector, but this is not the main economic driver nor the critical factor holding the economy back. In the early 2000s, services (professional, education, and health services) led growth. Mining also grew but was a smaller share of the economy. After 2010, the main drivers shifted. Mining growth evaporated and services slowed down, while transportation and manufacturing emerged. Agriculture stands out for its consistent decline across both periods.
- **Housing dynamics:** Today, people are drawn to the county as a place to live. Housing prices slightly accelerated in 2017 and have surged since 2020, though not at the pace of some other metro areas. Doña Ana County has done a better relative to other urban areas in New Mexico in expanding its housing stock, particularly by adding single-family units. The vacancy rate has remained stable.
- **Conclusion:** After a weak decade, the county is now on a strong growth trajectory. Recent projects (data centers, manufacturing, and logistics) continue to bring momentum to the economy. As Doña Ana attracts potential residents for its opportunities and amenities, new pressures on housing prices could emerge. The county must continue to increase its supply of housing and public services to keep pace with demand.

# Observations on Doña Ana County's Diversification Opportunities



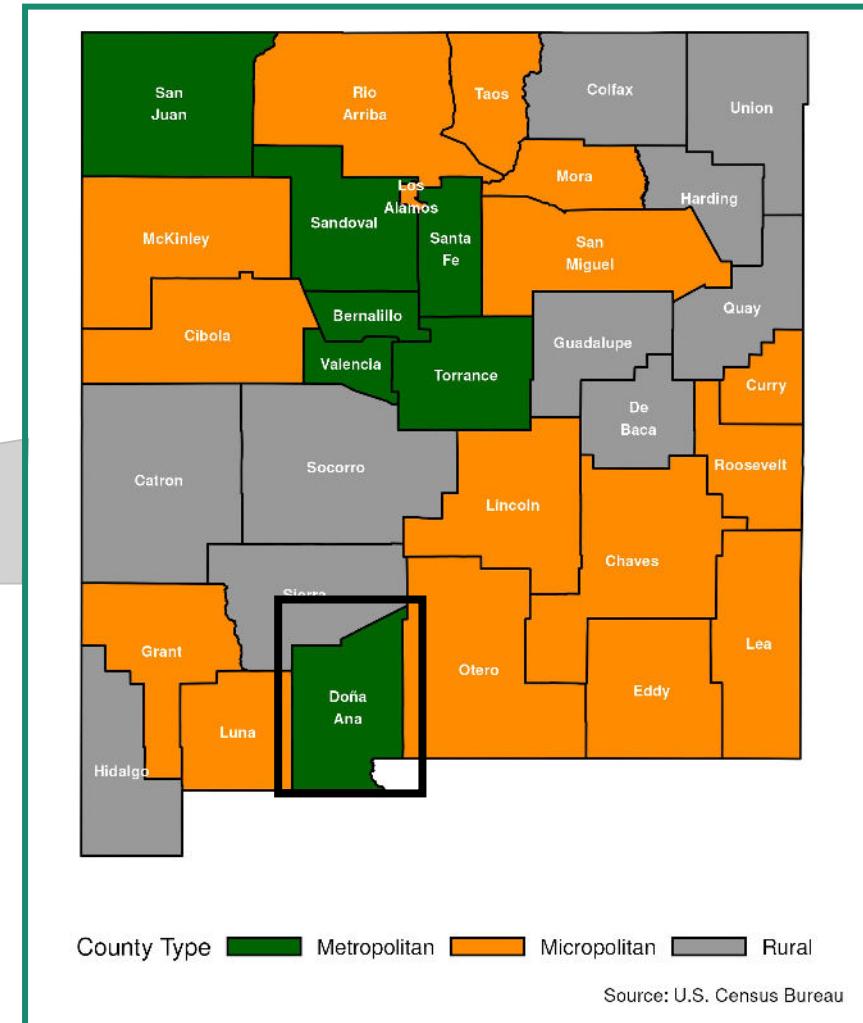
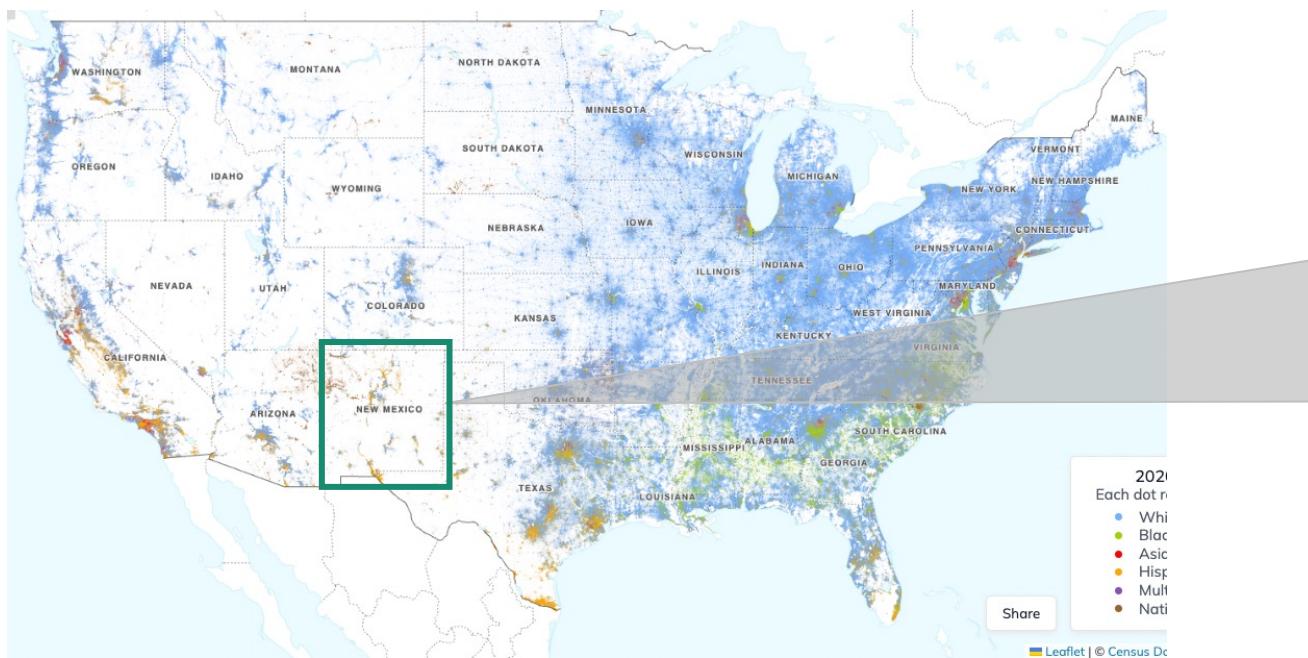
*The second part of this presentation provides an analysis of diversification opportunities grounded in an economic complexity approach. This analysis is meant as an input for local strategy rather than a conclusive list. Several observations are noteworthy that may warrant local investigation.*

- **Professional services have been a stable driver, but could generate more tradable income for the county.** Despite strong economic performance, numerous tradable industries within this sector have lost jobs annually in the commuting zone (CZ). “Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)”, which stands out for its recent success statewide (adding more than 1,000 jobs annually,) has lost jobs overall in this county. Addressable constraints may be limiting this opportunity in Doña Ana County.
- **Agriculture could leverage logistics capabilities to thrive again.** Although agriculture has been a shrinking sector, there are still opportunities, such as cattle feedlots and cotton ginning. Combining these opportunities with emerging and latent capabilities in the transportation and warehousing sector, especially in the “Farm Product Warehousing and Storage” industry, could benefit the county.
- **Manufacturing still has growth potential even in industries that need more space and utilities.** Doña Ana has been expanding its manufacturing base and could continue to grow, especially with complex industries that can only survive in larger agglomerations. Examples include “Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing” and “All Other Miscellaneous Chemical Product and Preparation Manufacturing,” which have recently added jobs despite their high demand for space, electricity, and water. For some such industries, Doña Ana County offers close proximity to essential inputs.

# County economic snapshot

*Unpacking population and economic patterns*

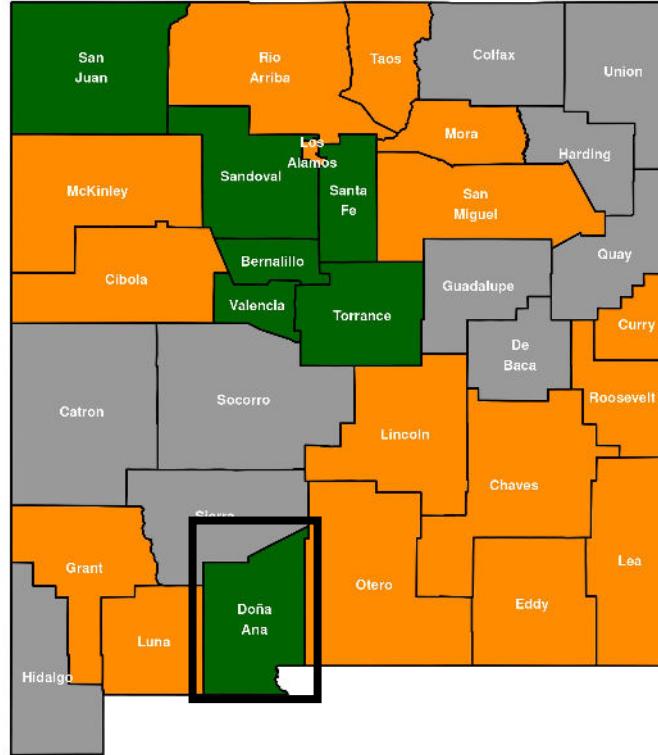
# Doña Ana county location



Note: Full map: <https://www.censusdots.com/race/new-mexico-demographics>

# Economic cluster – Firms in Doña Ana county & New Mexico

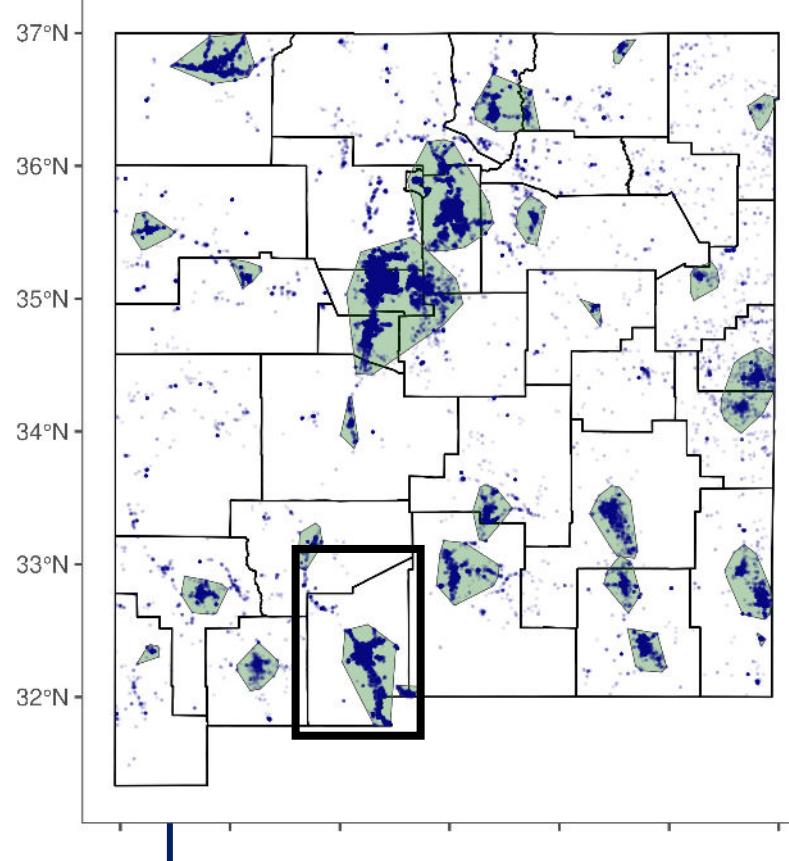
Map of Counties and Statistical Areas in New Mexico



County Type    Metropolitan    Micropolitan    Rural

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

New Mexico Firms' Location

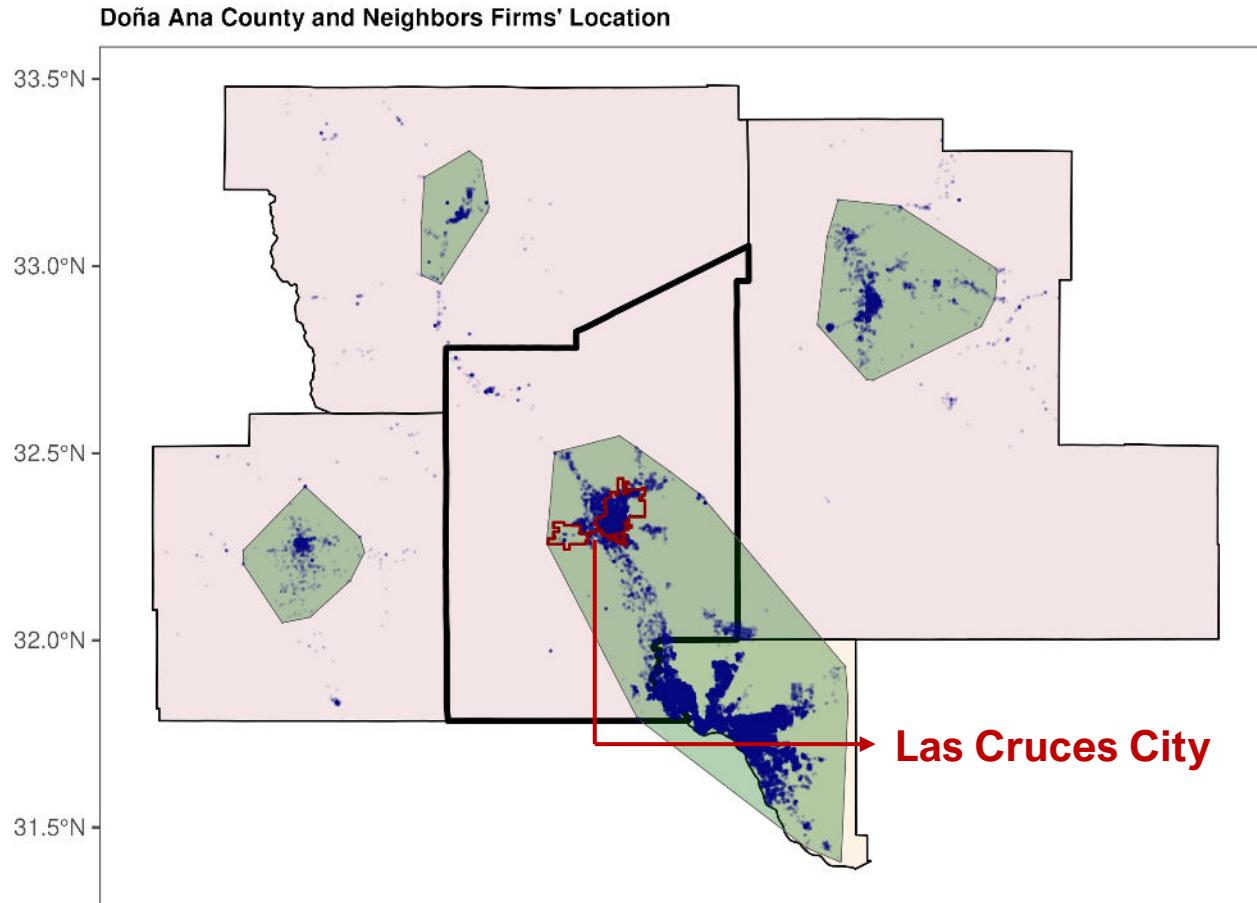


Note 1: Each blue dot represents a firm.  
Note 2: The green hulls enclose economic clusters.  
Source: Dun and Bradstreet, 2023

The county type definitions are based on the size of local population centers and their connection to larger urban areas. Metropolitan and micropolitan areas differ by the size of their core community, with a threshold of 50,000 residents. In contrast, rural areas do not have a population center with at least 10,000 residents.

The clusters of economic activity (shown by the green outlines) are defined by the proximity of firms (blue dots). These clusters reveal connections between counties, both within the state and across state borders.

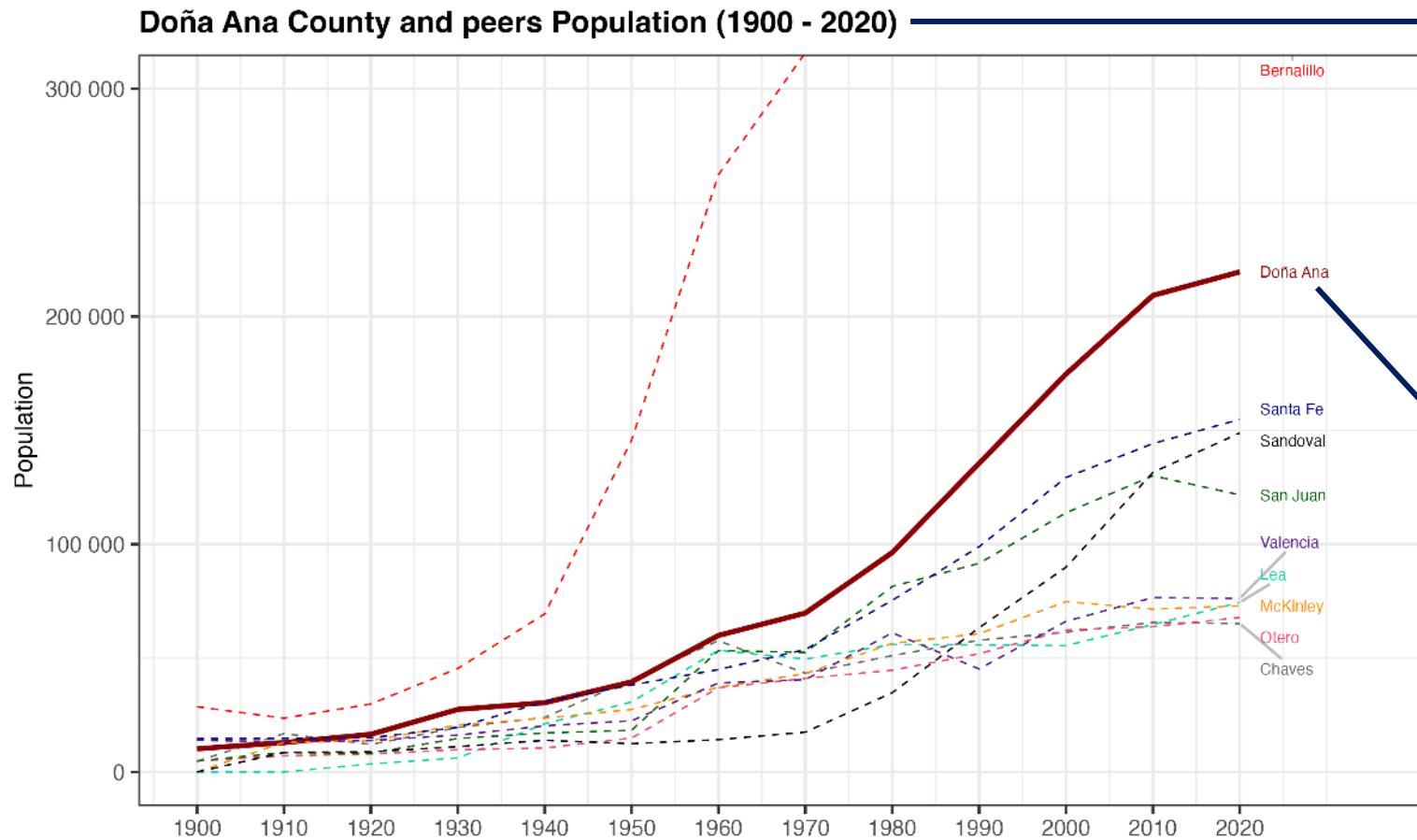
# Economic cluster – Firms in Doña Ana county and adjacent counties



Doña Ana's main economic cluster extends across county lines into El Paso (Texas). This cluster covers a small portion of Otero County (east). While there is significant concentration around Las Cruces City itself, economic activity in the cluster reaches beyond the city's boundaries.

Note 1: Each blue dot represents a firm.  
Note 2: The green hulls enclose economic clusters.  
Note 3: Counties are colored by their state.  
Source: Dun and Bradstreet, 2023

# Long-term trajectory – Population growth among New Mexico's counties

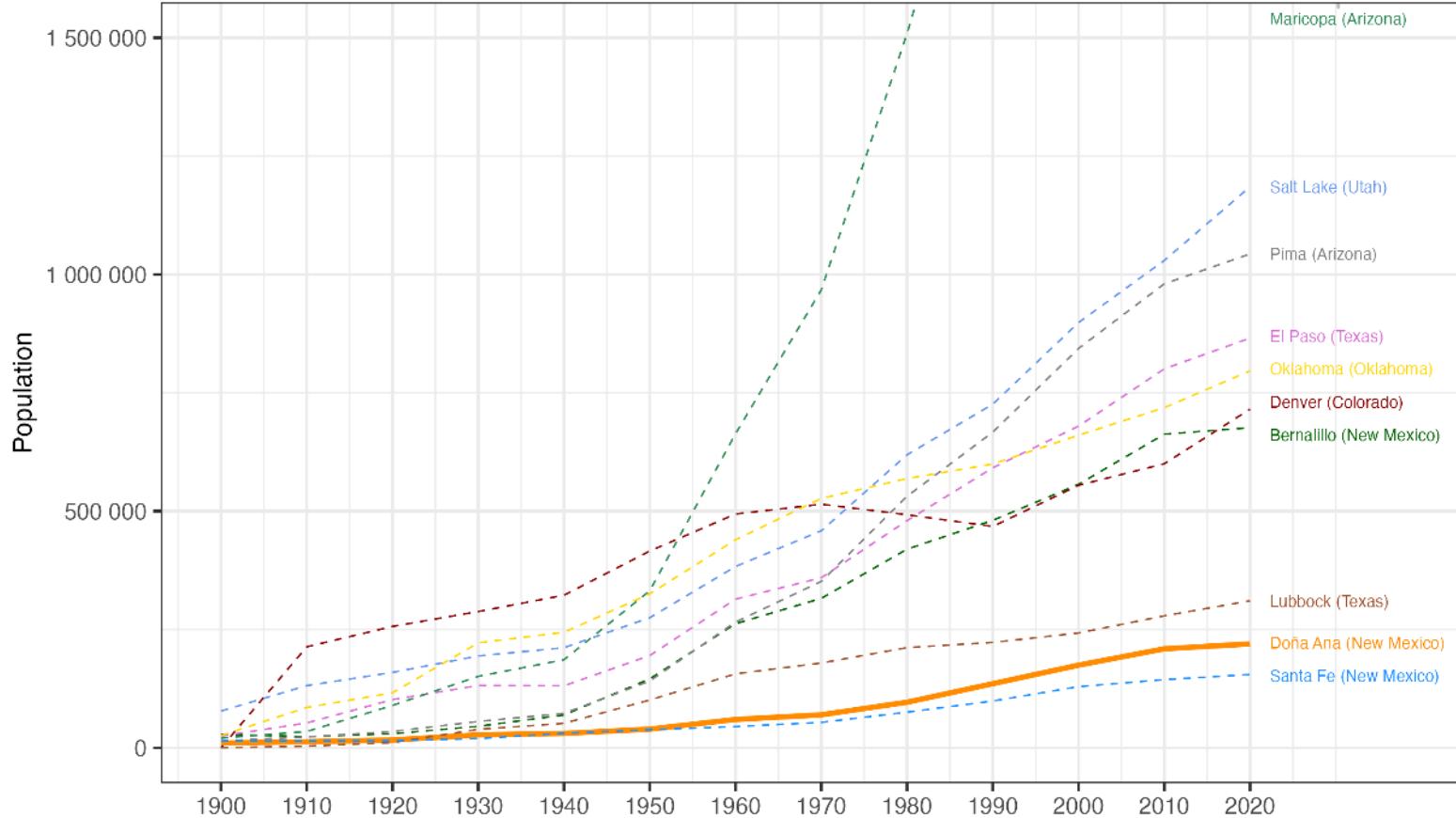


Understanding Doña Ana's economy requires looking at the county's long-term evolution. Demographic and economic trends are closely connected: job opportunities attract people and drive population growth, while job losses can lead to outmigration. At the same time, the size and skills of population influences which new economic activities, as critical mass of knowhow and networks enable economic activity.

Doña Ana's long-term population growth is shown alongside New Mexico's other largest counties. (Bernalillo County, not shown for scale, has a much larger population of around 680,000.)

# Long-term trajectory – Population growth among peers

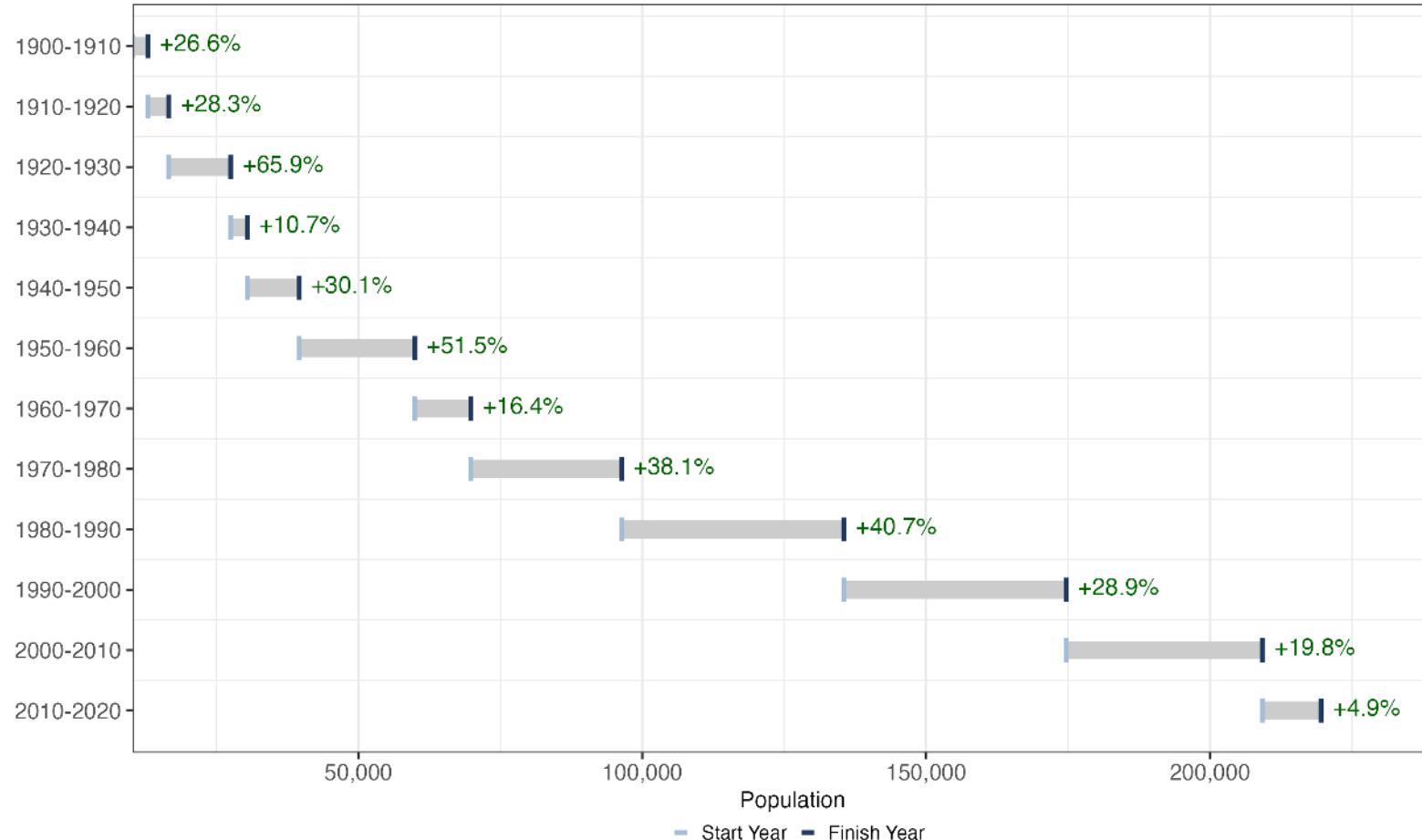
Doña Ana County and Peer Counties in Neighboring States Population Evolution



The previous slide compared Doña Ana's long-term population growth with other large counties in New Mexico. To give further context, the following analysis looks at a set of peer counties across New Mexico and five neighboring states (Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah). These counties were selected because they are large metro areas.

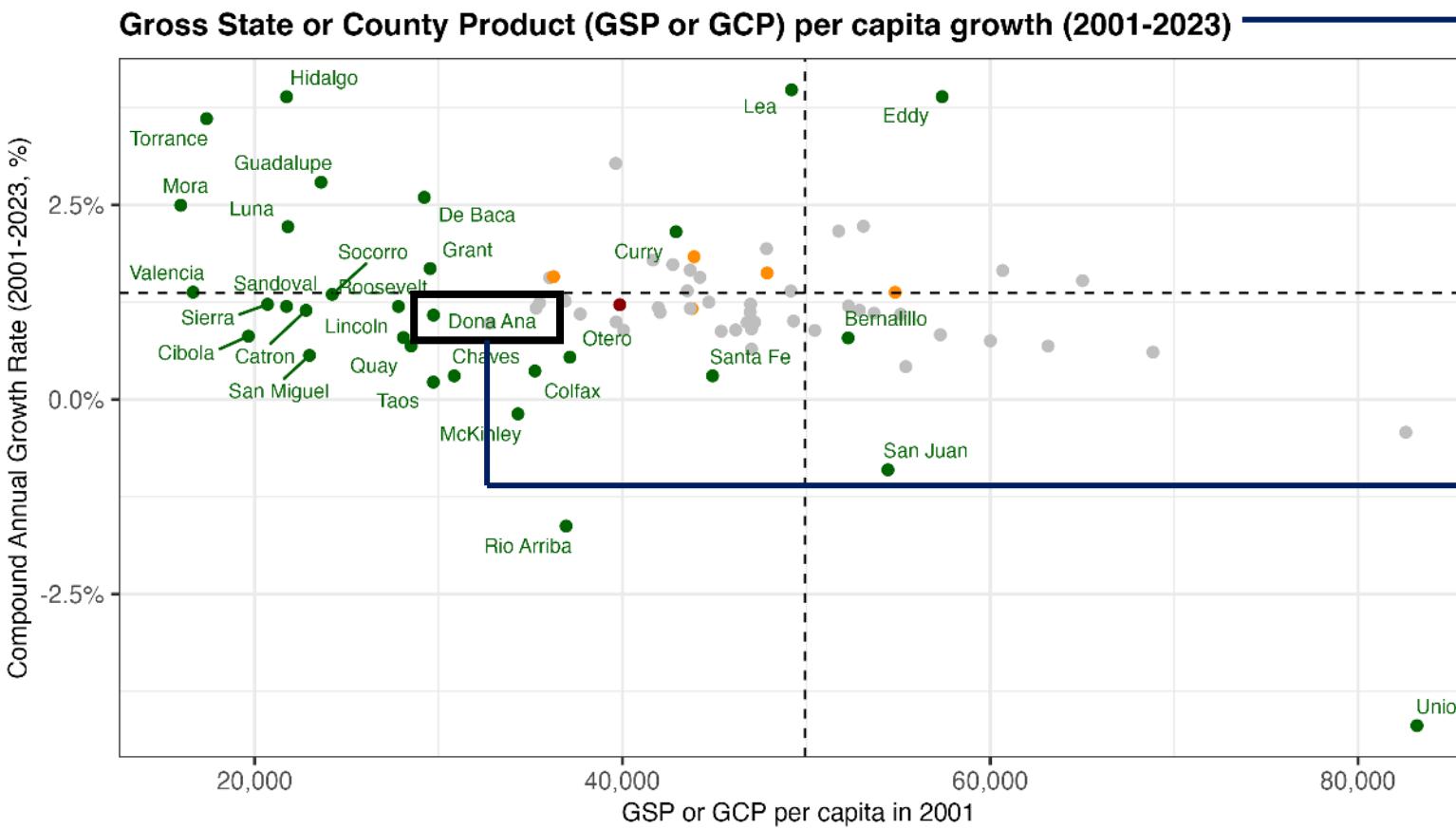
# Long-term trajectory – Population growth by decade

Population Change in Doña Ana County by Decade



Now, the focus shifts from comparing long-term trends to examining Doña Ana's population changes decade by decade. This graph shows the population at the start and end of each decade, as well as the total growth rate during each period.

# Recent economic performance – Income level growth

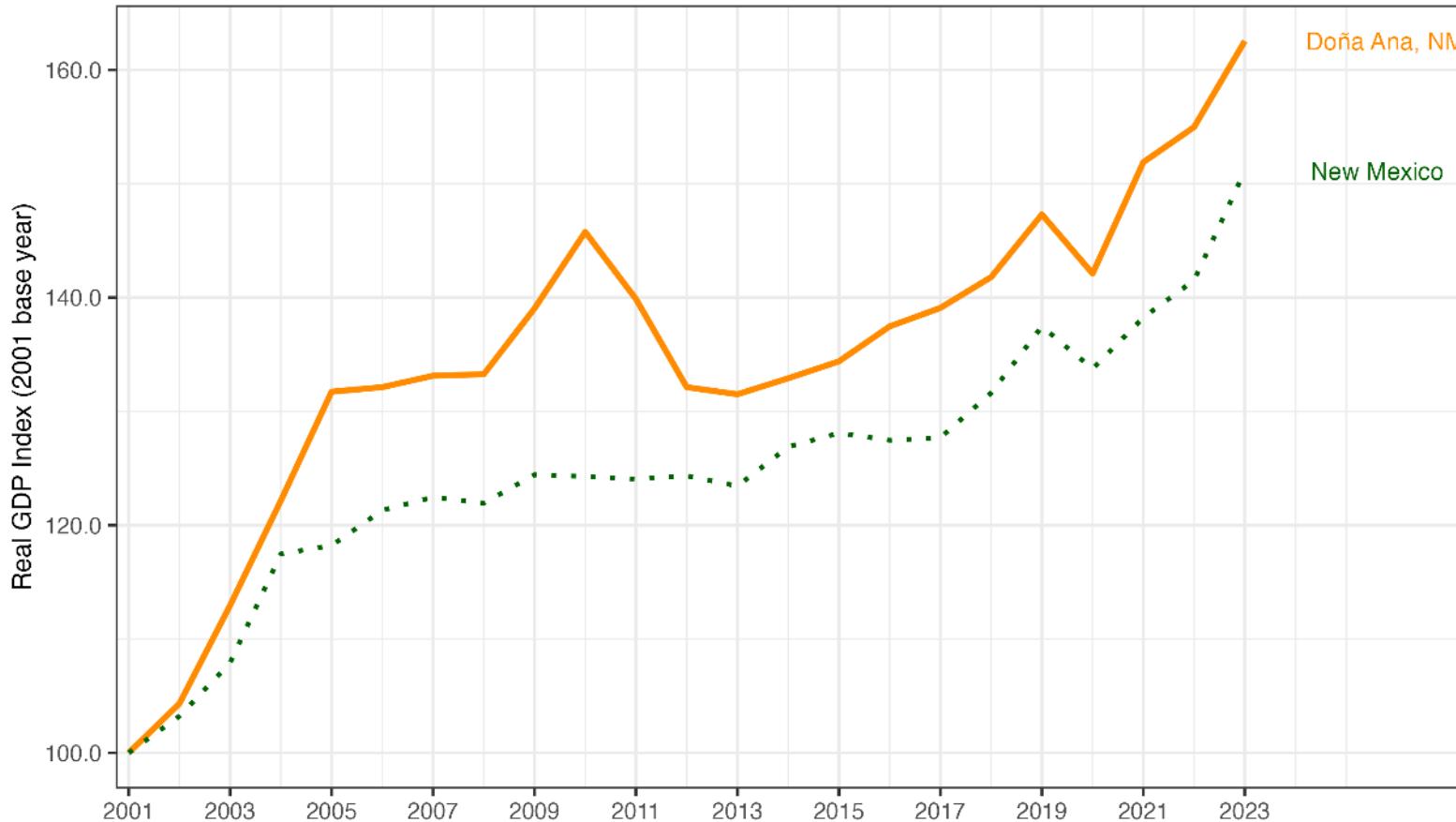


Demographic trends offer a long-term perspective on Doña Ana's economy. For a closer look at more recent decades, Gross County Product (GCP) provides annual data going back to 2001, capturing the value of economic activity produced within the county's borders. Dividing GCP by the local population gives a per capita figure, which serves as income level, a useful benchmark for comparing overall standards of living between places.

Doña Ana's average income growth rate is shown here alongside New Mexico's 32 other counties, the state average, and neighboring states.

# Recent economic performance – Gross County Product

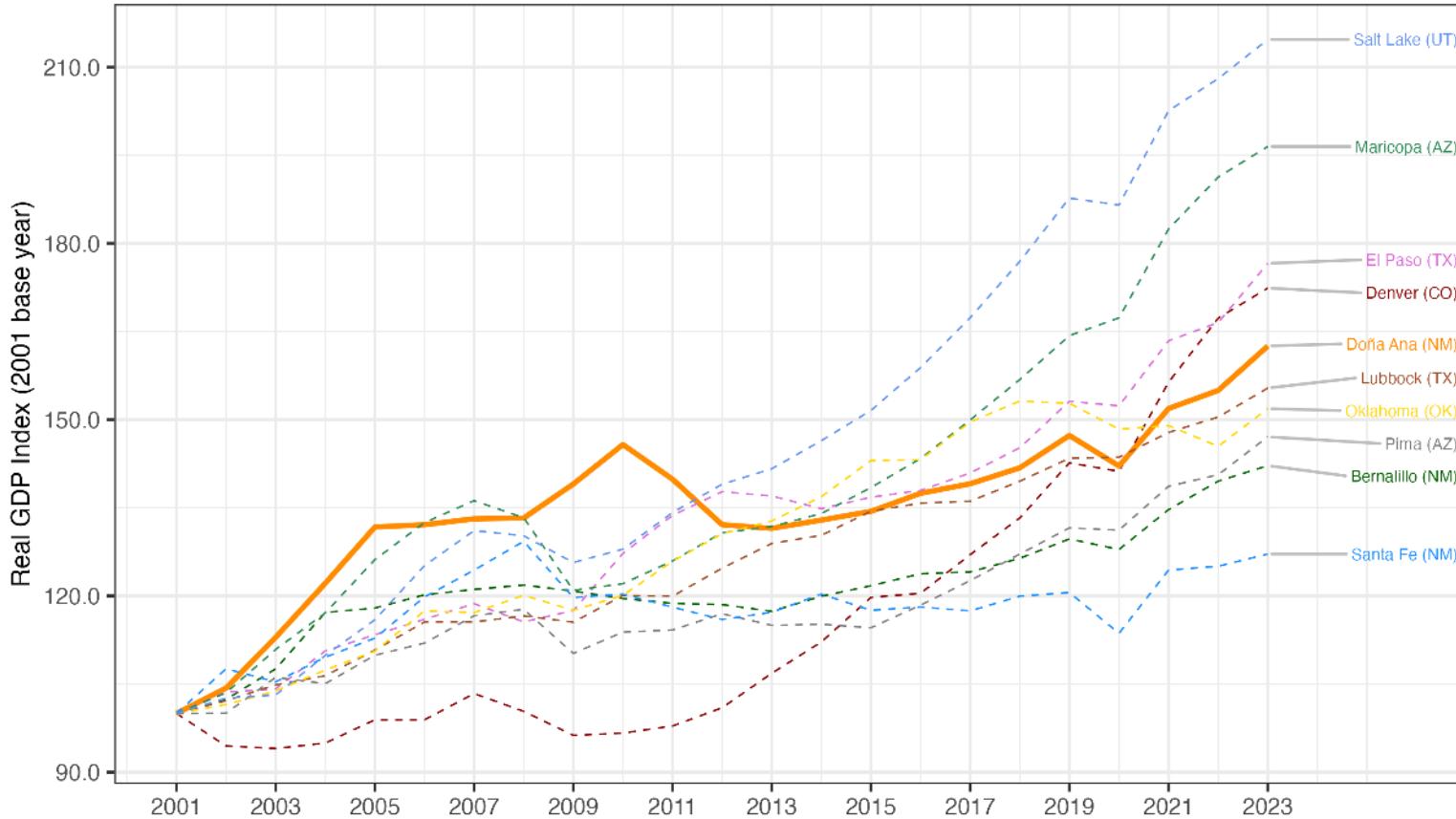
Doña Ana County GDP vs State (2001 - 2023)



Shifting from per capita measures to total GCP levels gives a sense of the overall size of the local economy, based on everything produced within the county's borders. To make comparisons between places clearer, GCP is shown as an index using 2001 as the base year. This approach allows for easy tracking of economic trajectories across places of different sizes and helps highlight specific periods when significant changes or challenges occurred. Doña Ana's economic trajectory is shown alongside that of New Mexico as a whole.

# Recent economic performance – GCP trajectory relative to peers

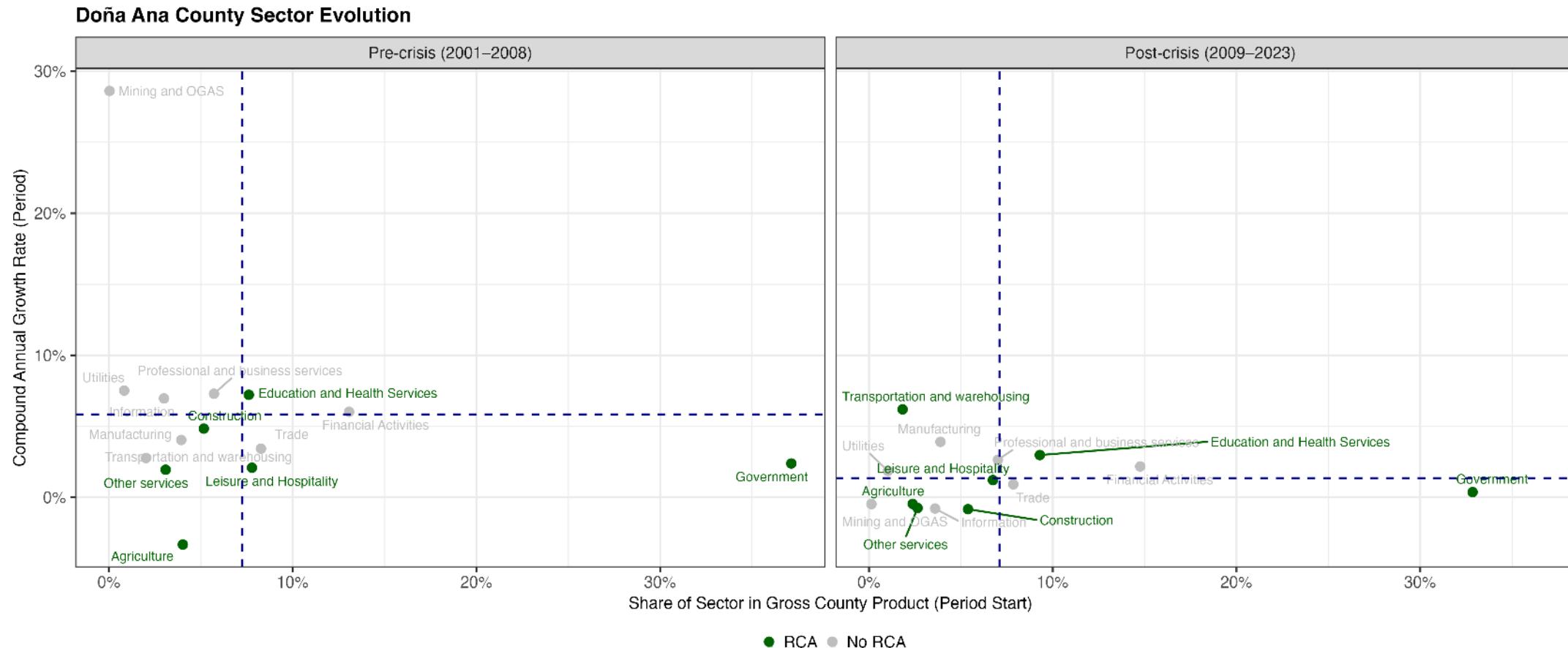
Doña Ana County and Peer Counties in Neighboring States GDP Evolution



This graph uses the same set of peer counties as in the population comparison but now focuses on economic trends. As with the previous comparison to the state, each county's GCP is indexed to 2001, making it easier to spot major changes and differences in trajectory over time. Doña Ana's GCP is shown alongside that of its peer counties.

# Underlying economic engines

GCP can be broken down into the sectors that drive the local economy. The following graph does this by showing each sector's average growth rate and share of the economy before and after the financial crisis. Each dot is a sector; its position reflects both its average growth and its importance to the county's economy.



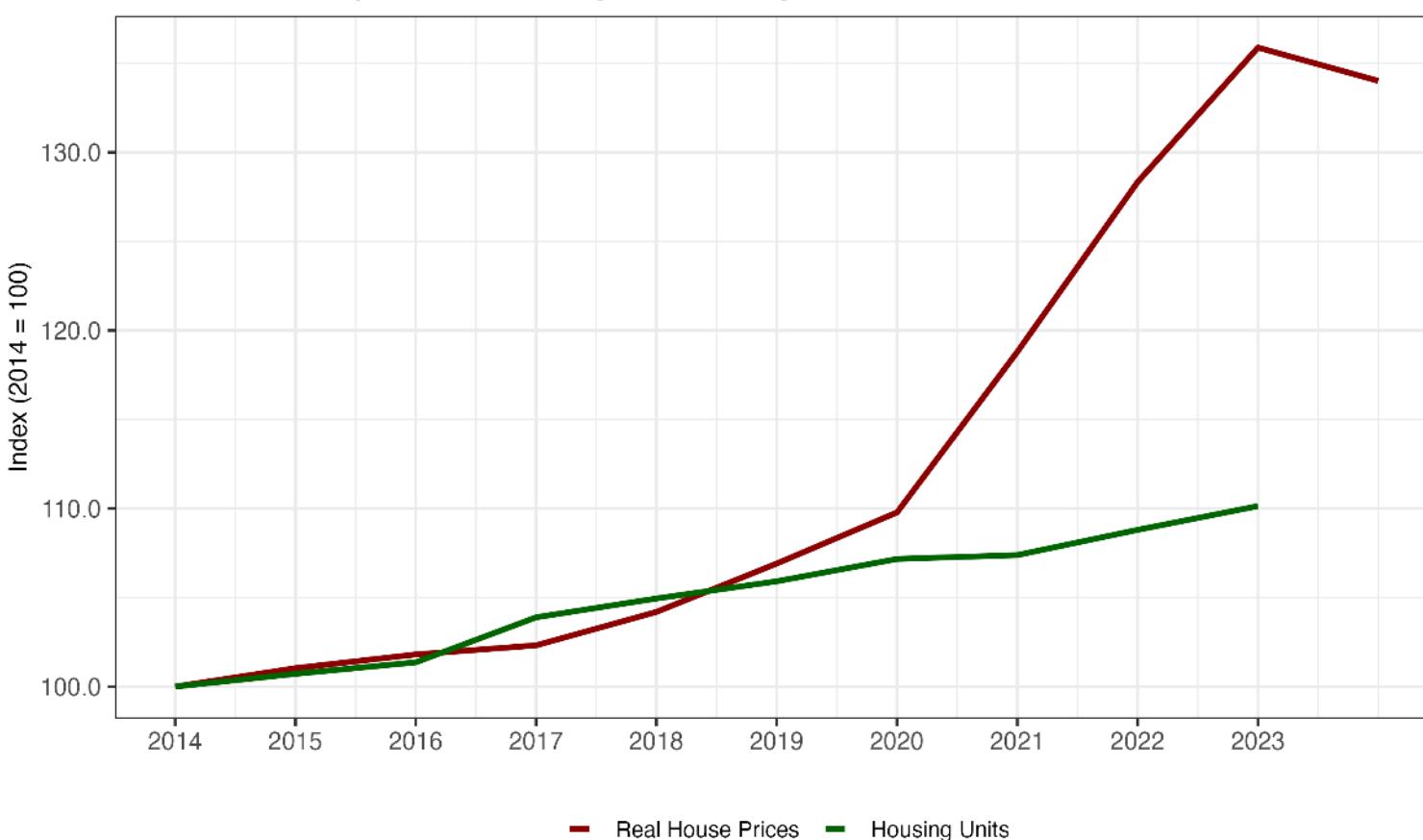
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Note: This RCA is comparing the county's share vs US to identify the distinctive sectors for the county.

Note 2: Some sectors are not included in both graphs due to data availability

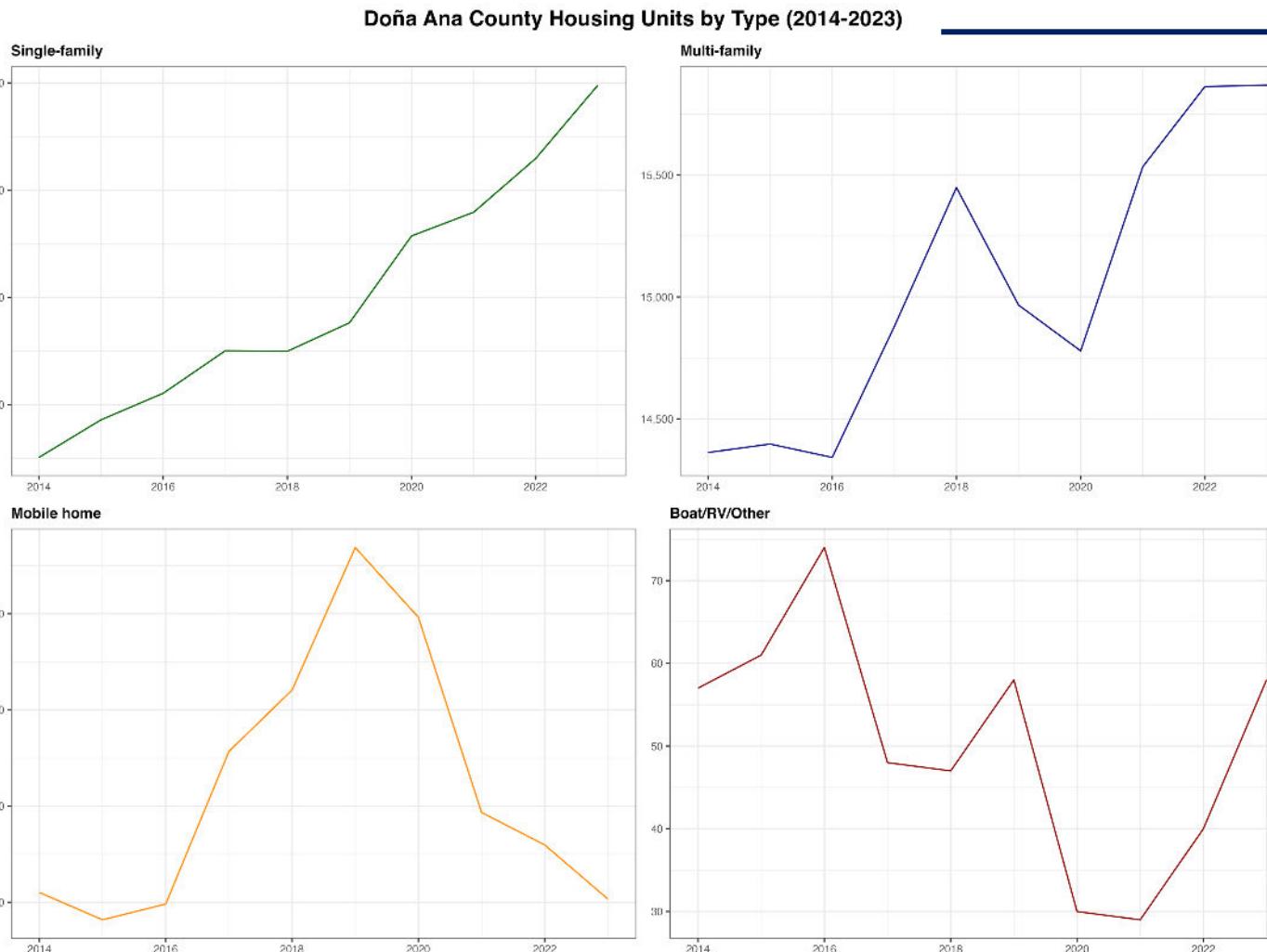
# Housing dynamics – local prices and housing supply

Doña Ana County: Relative Change in Housing Prices & Units (2014–2024)



So far, the analysis has focused on economic activity as a driver of growth. However, as noted earlier, people are not only drawn by job opportunities, but also by the overall quality of life a place can offer. Factors such as amenities, public services, and housing availability all play a role in where people choose to live. While this analysis doesn't cover every factor, it offers some insight into a community's ability to attract and retain talent by examining trends in housing demand and supply.

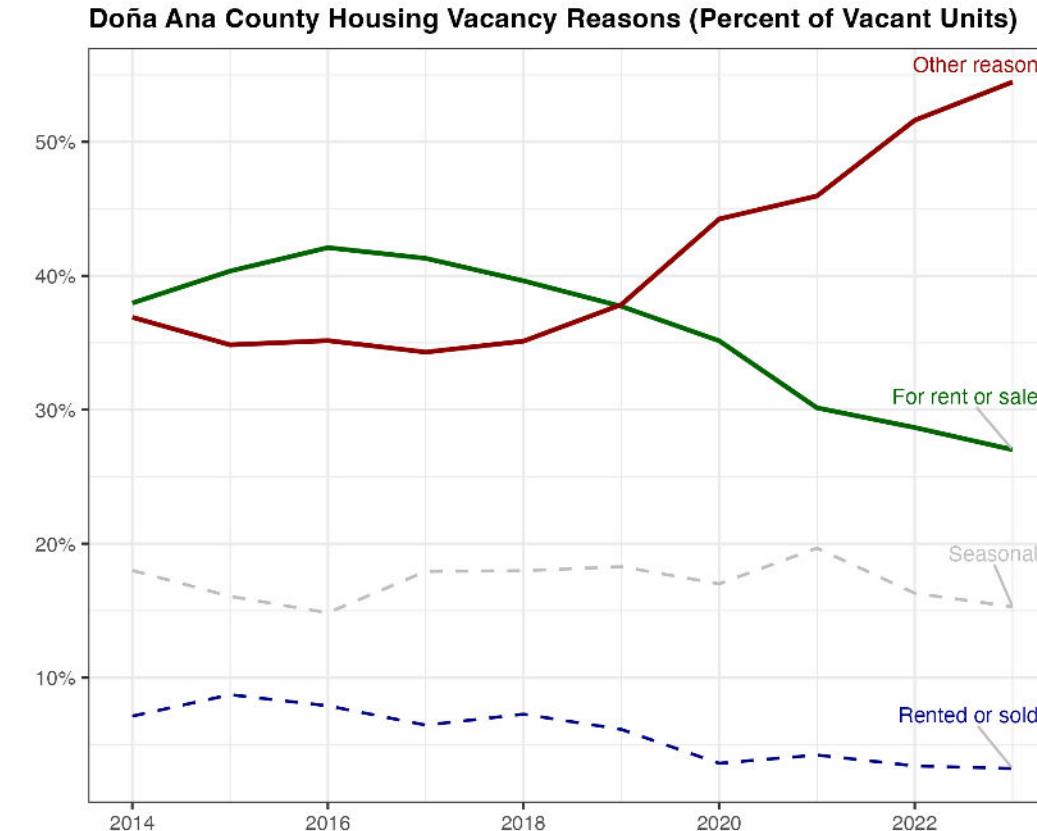
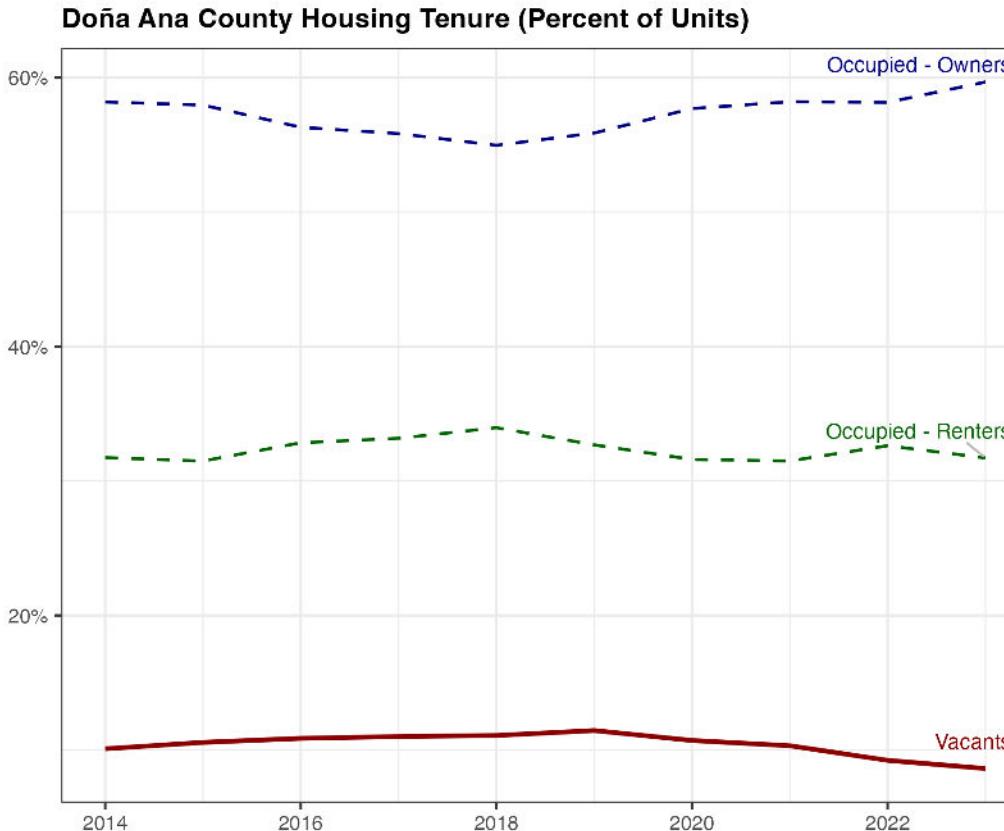
# Housing dynamics – Breakdown of housing supply



The U.S. Census Bureau classifies the housing structure according to how many units it has: one, two, three and so on. This analysis uses four main categories: Single-family (only one unit), Multi-family (two or more units), Mobile homes and Boat/RV or other types of housing.

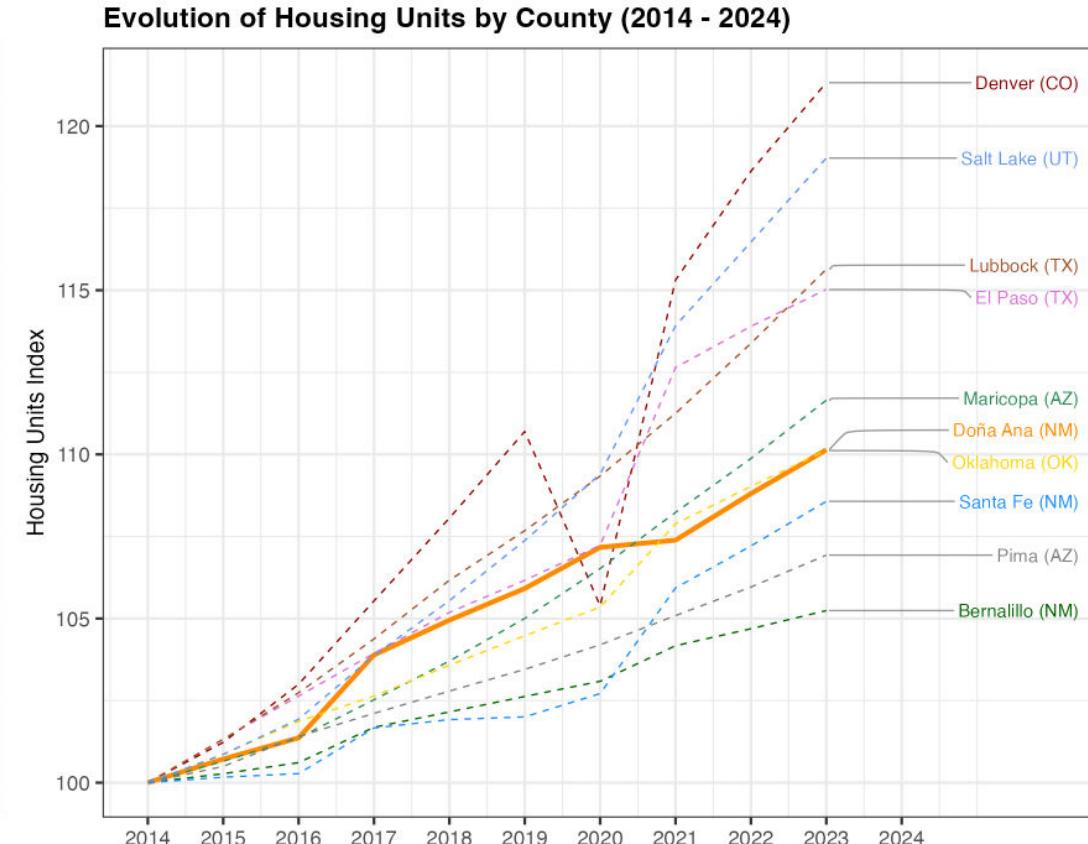
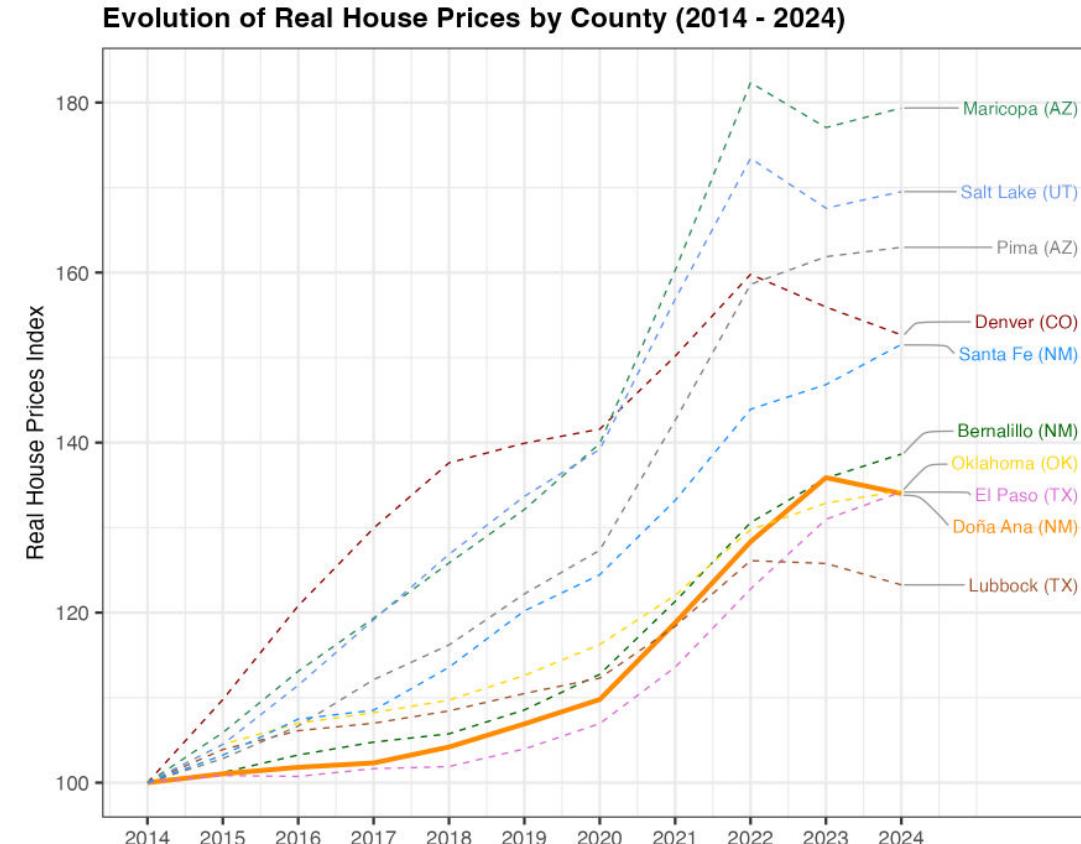
# Housing dynamics – Tenure and vacancy

Housing units can be occupied by either owners or renters, while some remain vacant for various reasons. Some vacant units are already taken and are awaiting new residents, while others are actively on the market for rent, for sale, or available seasonally. The most concerning are those listed as vacant for “Other” or unclear reasons.



# Housing dynamics – Comparison with peers

The previous slides examined Doña Ana County's housing supply and demand on its own. The following graphs add context by comparing these trends to the same peer counties used earlier



Source: U.S Census for Housing units and FHFA for prices. BEA for CPI and adjusting to real prices

---

# Diversification opportunities

*Which industries are better positioned to fuel Doña Ana County's economy?*

---

# Overview of the selection of promising industries

- **Background.** The prior section, “County Economic Snapshot,” provided a preliminary diagnosis of the county’s current situation by examining main population and economic trends. This analysis helps clarify whether the county faces greater challenges in fostering economic activity or in attracting and retaining workers for future growth. Regardless of these constraints, every community can benefit from identifying which industries are best positioned to bring new jobs.
- **Complement to local knowledge.** While local stakeholders often have valuable insights into which industries could thrive, the sheer number of possible options, over 1,000 industries at the 6-digit NAICS level, means there is room to complement local knowledge with data-driven observations, including some that may not be immediately obvious as a local fit.
- **Selection.** From the whole universe of potential industries, the analysis first identifies the industries the country is already good at and, second, other industries that require similar capabilities to these. Finally, it focuses in on which of these are tradable industries. Within tradable industries that align with the region’s existing capabilities, there are two key groups. “Already Competitive” industries have a strong local presence and serve as current economic strengths. “Potential Opportunities” are industries that are either smaller or not yet established locally, but whose growth requirements closely match the local economy’s current mix of know-how, skills, infrastructure, and other inputs (productive capabilities). These industries may offer pathways for future job creation and diversification.
- **Building blocks.** These groupings are based on an approximation of the local productive capabilities (knowhow, skills, infrastructure and other inputs) and how well these match the needs of different industries. By examining both the mix of existing industries and their broader relationships, the analysis highlights which industries the local economy is best equipped to support, either by reinforcing established strengths or by fostering new sources of job growth.

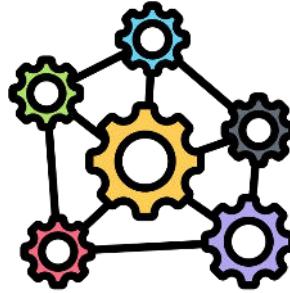
# Our analysis is built on three cornerstones

## Local Capabilities



**What is Doña Ana good at?**  
Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) or Location Quotient (LQ) as key metric

## Industries Relatedness



**How interconnected are industries with one another and with Doña Ana's capabilities?**  
Proximity and Density as key metrics

## Tradable Income



**Which industries can bring external income to Doña Ana?**  
Tradable or base industries that export goods and services

# Our analysis is built on three cornerstones

## Local Capabilities



***What is Doña Ana good at?***  
Revealed Comparative Advantage  
(RCA) or Location Quotient (LQ) as key metric

## Industries Relatedness

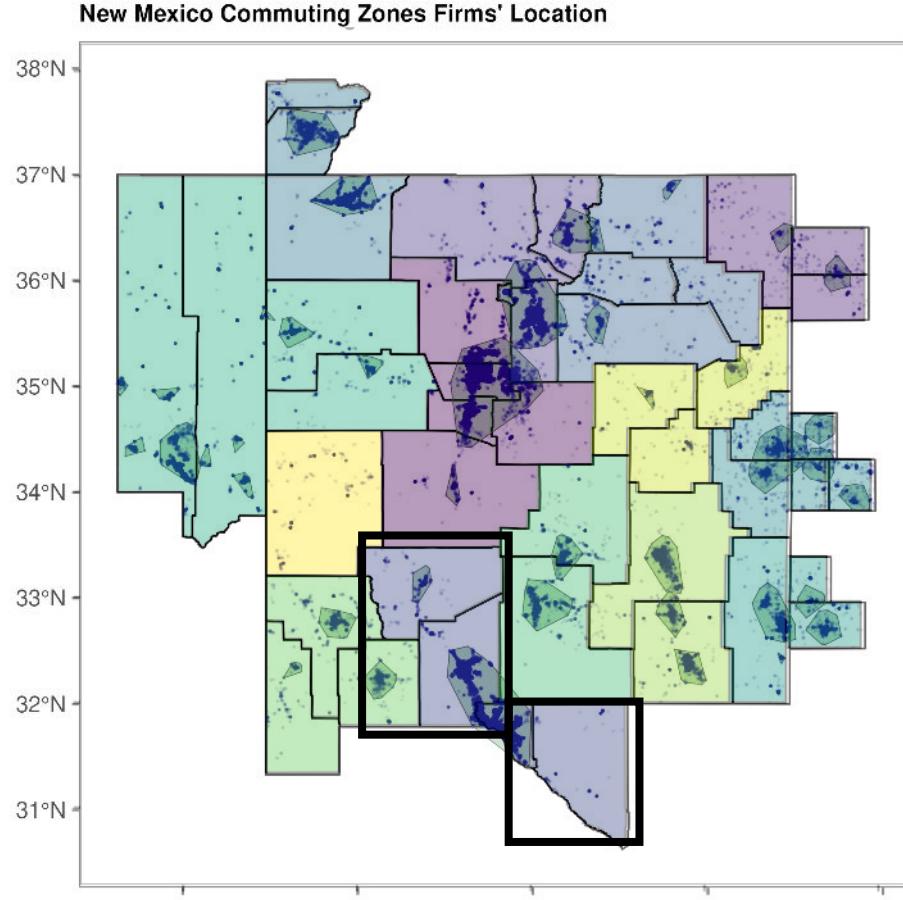


## Tradable Income



# What is considered “local”? Beyond administrative borders

## ► *We think of the local economy as a commuting zone (CZ).*



Workers often commute beyond the administrative boundaries of towns and cities. To capture this, the USDA defines commuting zones across the country, grouping areas based on where residents travel for work.

Doña Ana's commuting zone, highlighted by the black square on the left map, includes Sierra County (NM), and El Paso and Hudspeth (TX)

The analysis in this document focuses on Doña Ana's commuting zone (CZ), so references to Doña Ana refer to its CZ

# Which are Doña Ana capabilities? Looking for signals

▶ *Productive capabilities could be collective knowhow, skills, infrastructure and other inputs. We cannot observe all, but the current economic activity gives us a hint of which industries they can support.*

## Key metric:

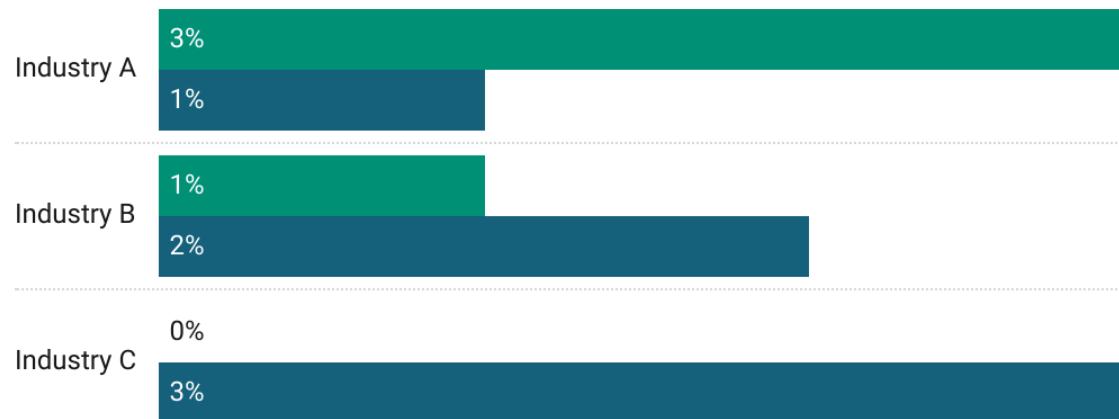
$$RCA = \frac{\% \text{ of CZ Jobs in industry } i}{\% \text{ of US Jobs in industry } i}$$



*By comparing an industry's presence in the CZ relative to its presence nationally, it tells us what is Doña Ana good at.*

## For example:

County share   U.S Share



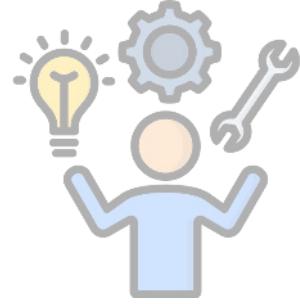
**RCA = 3 (RCA > 1, Competitive edge).** The CZ has the capabilities to excel in this industry.

**RCA = 0.5 (RCA < 1, Not competitive).** The CZ has some capabilities to participate in the industry

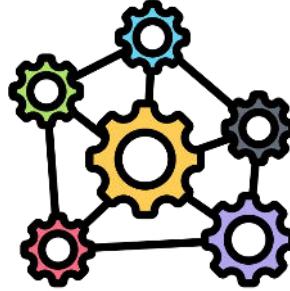
**RCA = 0 (No presence).** The industry is not currently active, but it could be developed in the future

# Our analysis is built on three cornerstones

## Local Capabilities



## Industries Relatedness



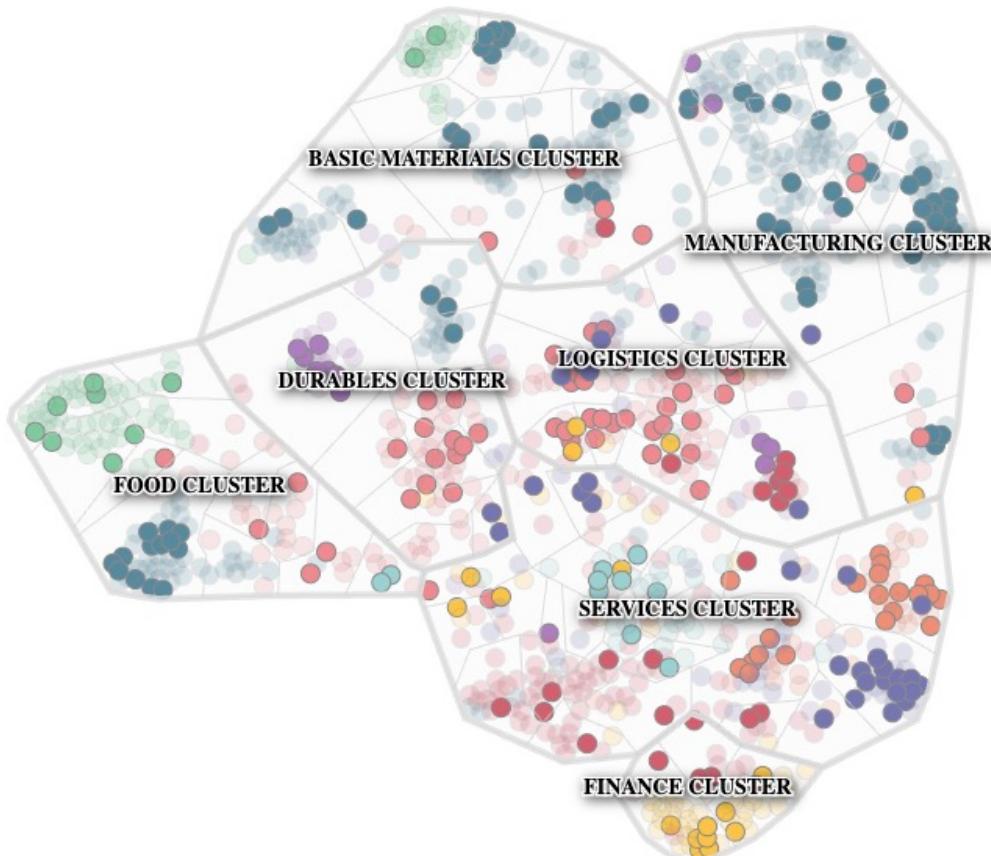
*How interconnected are industries  
with one another and with  
Doña Ana's capabilities?  
Proximity and Density as key metrics*

## Tradable Income



# What else could Doña Ana capabilities support? Let's start by looking at the relationships between industries

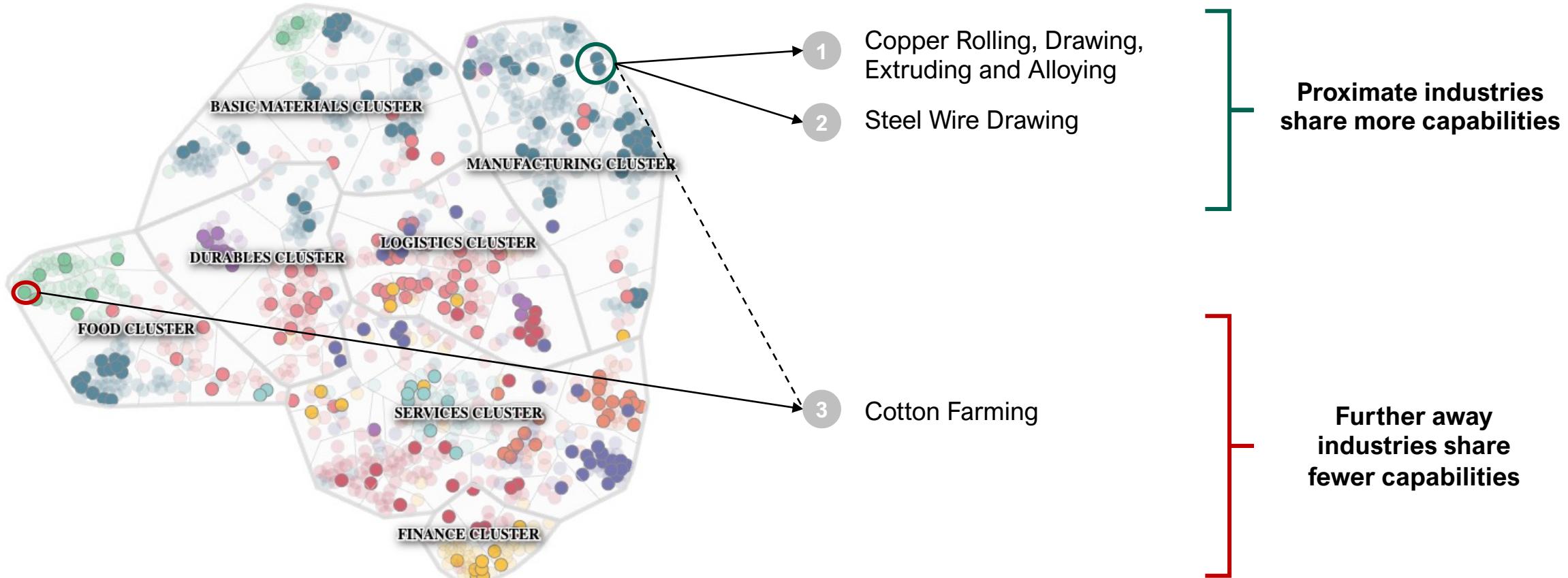
➤ *The industry space is the visual representation of the relatedness between all the existing industries.*



- Each dot represents an industry.
- Each color represents an economic sector
- Each area outlined in grey represents a cluster of economic activity. In each, industries from different economic sectors require similar capabilities.
- The stronger colored dots are industries with a significant presence in Doña Ana County commuting zone relative to the rest of the US (RCA  $> 1$ ).

# Which industries are more alike? It's all about their position

▶ **Proximity tells us how similar two industries are.**

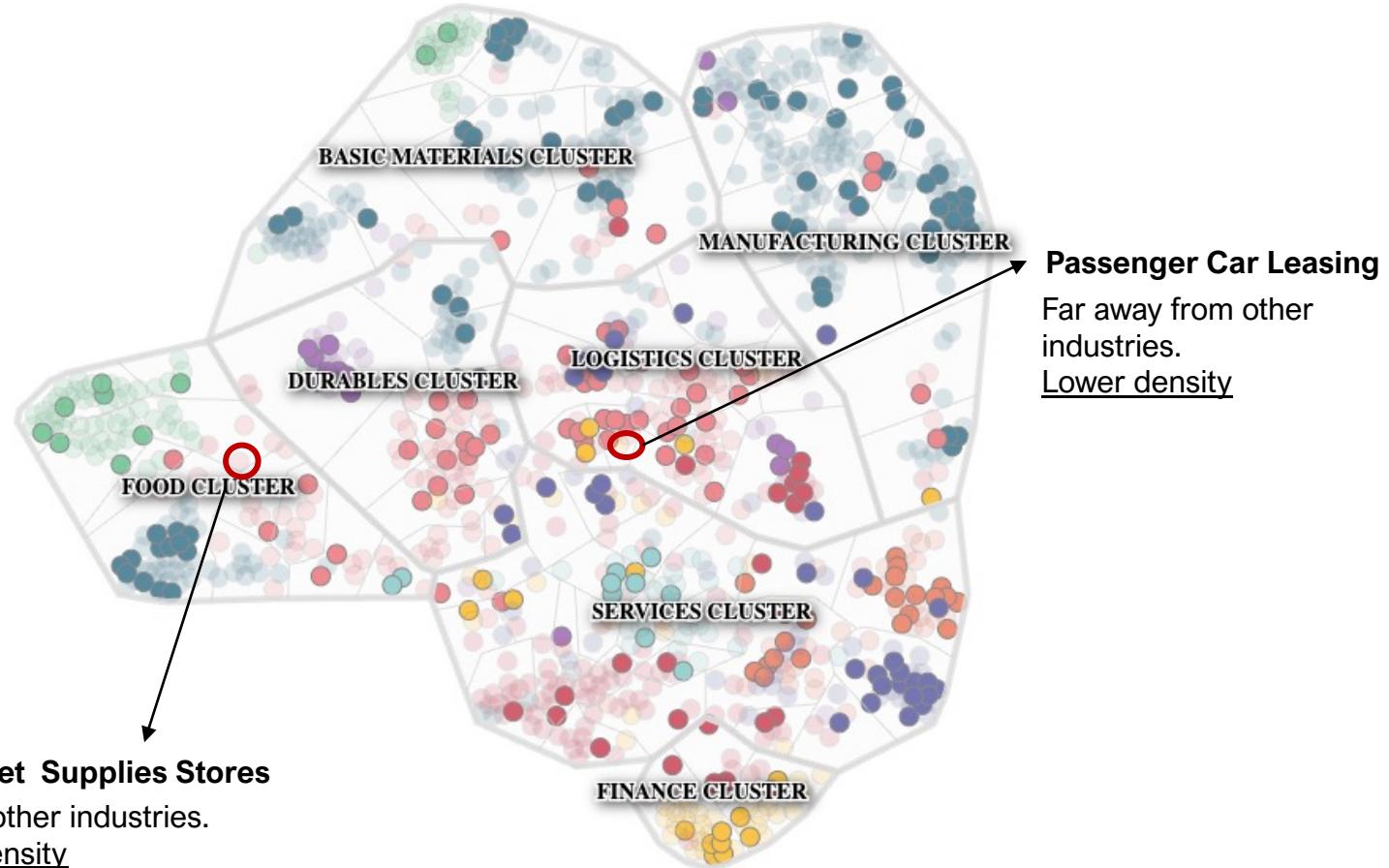


# What industries require similar capabilities as those found at Doña Ana?

Depends on their proximity to current industries

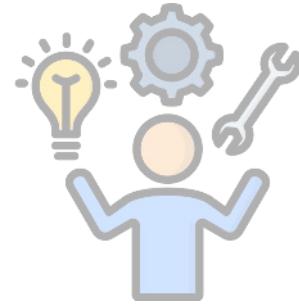
► *Density considers the connections between an industry and the CZ's current economic activity. It provides a notion of which other industries the productive capabilities could support.*

When thinking about new industries, development will be easier if the industry is located in a part of the industry space where Doña Ana already has significant economic activity and strong capabilities. Regions typically grow by developing these



# Our analysis is built on three cornerstones

## Local Capabilities



## Industries Relatedness



## Tradable Income



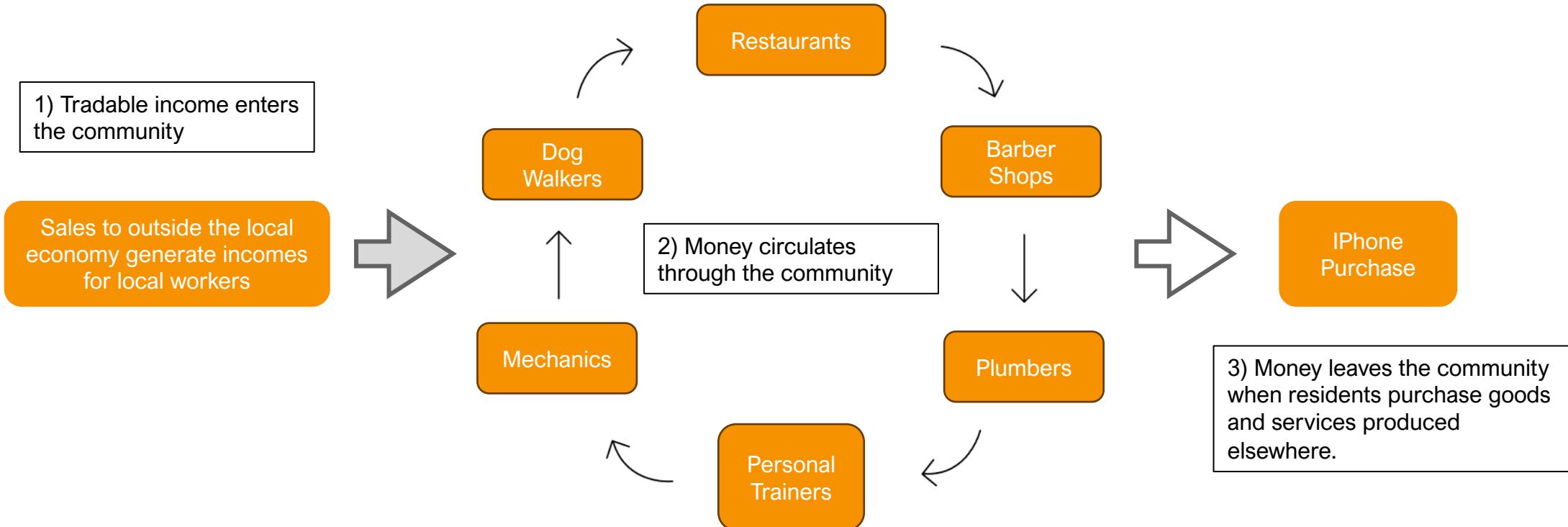
***Which industries can bring external income to Doña Ana?***

*Tradable or base industries that export goods and services*

# What are the industries that could bring external income to Doña Ana?

## The relevance of tradable income

➤ **Tradable income is jargon for money generated from stuff that a local economy sells beyond its borders. It is essential for economic survival as it allows to purchase goods and services that are not produced locally and creates local jobs.**



There are 1012 industries (6-digit NAICS 2022 code). Using County Business Pattern (CBP) dataset from Eckert et al. (2021), Growth Lab research has determined that 52% of them are tradable.

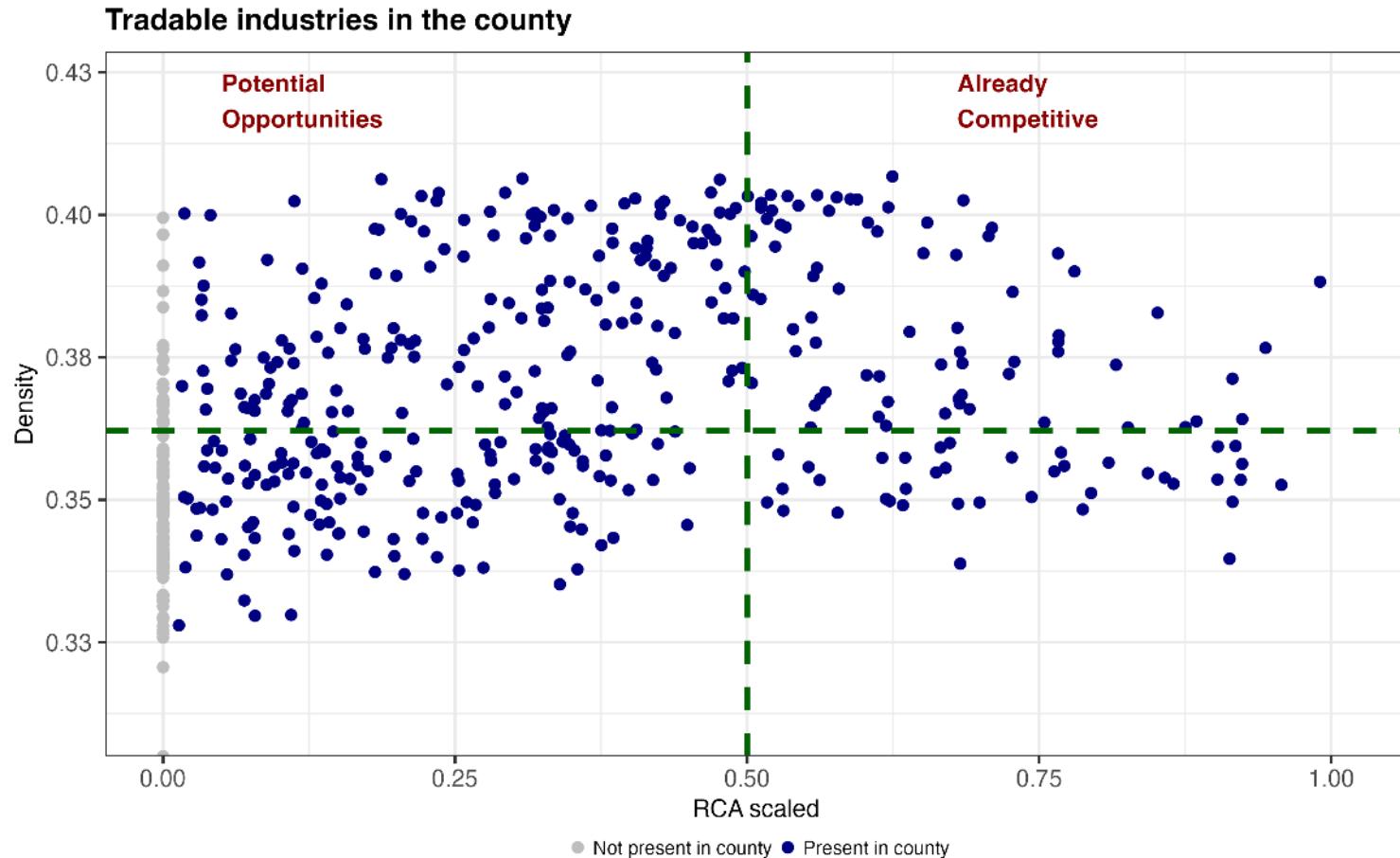
# What are the opportunities in the tradable sector? RCA and Density as criteria

Remember:

1 **RCA.** What is Doña Ana good at?

2 **Density.** How close is an industry to the Doña Ana's existing capabilities?

**Defining the groups.** The first threshold for group definitions is set at  $RCA = 1$  (or 0.5 on the scaled horizontal axis), separating industries with relatively larger and smaller local presence. The second threshold uses the median density among all tradable industries to identify those most similar to the local productive capabilities. The focus is on industries above the median density, as they are more closely aligned with existing capabilities.



Source: Dun & Bradstreet

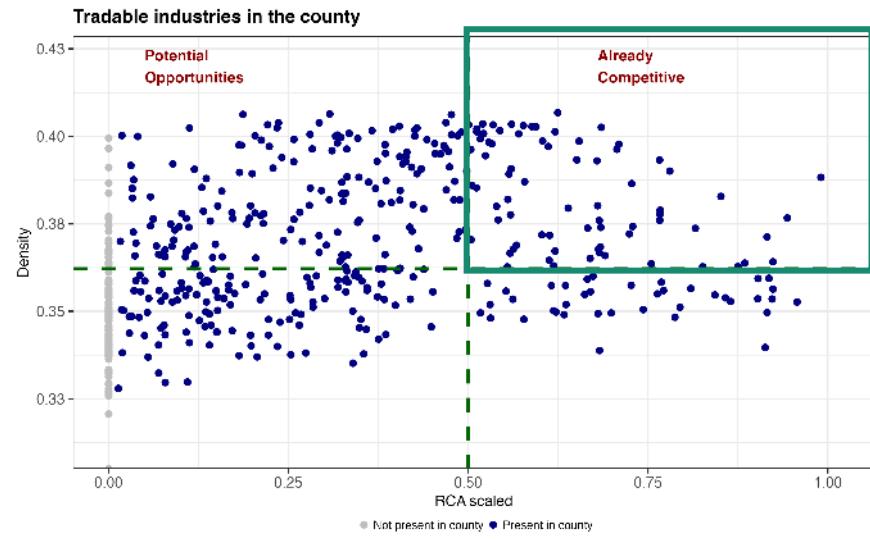
Note about RCA scaled formula:  $RCA \text{ scaled} = \frac{RCA}{RCA+1}$ .  $RCA=1$  is represented as 0.50 in the horizontal axis

# How to start exploring promising industries

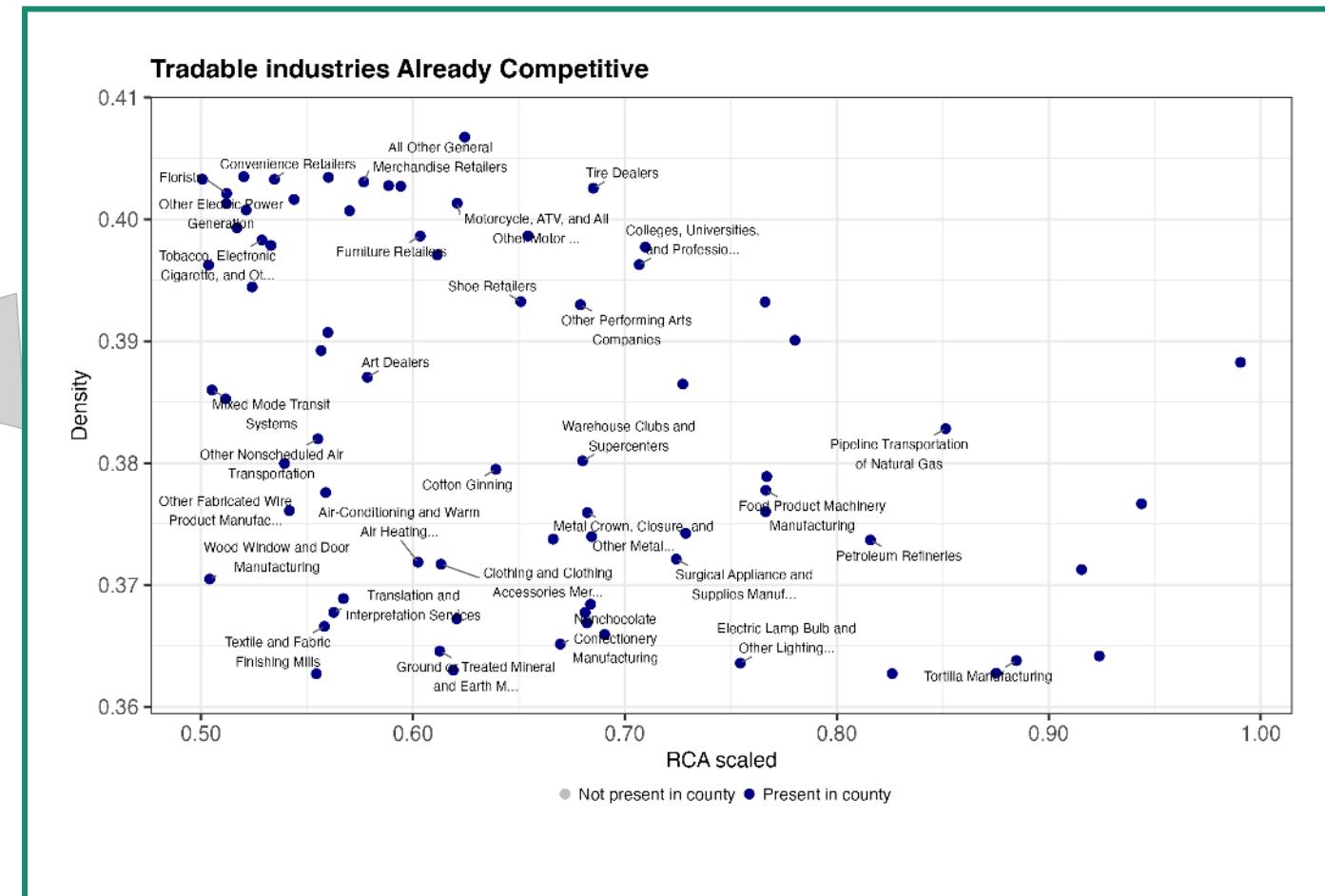
---

- **Wide set of possibilities.** The analysis highlights over 200 potential industries for growth (either by supporting industries already established locally or by creating conditions for new ones with potential to thrive). Ultimately, choosing which industries to pursue depends on local priorities, assets, and experience. The following slides and the attached dataset offer multiple ways to explore these opportunities. There is not a unique way of using these resources.
- **First pass.** If you're unsure where to begin, start by reviewing the visuals that display all opportunities by category (Manufacturing, Trade, Services, and Natural Resources) to get a sense of the landscape. Alternate between the visuals and the dataset, and make note of any industries that immediately catch your attention for further exploration. The dataset provides several variables for each industry, but at this stage, simply flag those that seem particularly relevant or interesting for your context. You can later assess which of these options are most practical or realistic based on the specific conditions required for development.
- **Exercise caution with opportunities that feel off.** Promising industries are identified based on their similarity to the local economy's capabilities, but a perfect fit is uncommon: some capabilities (skills, infrastructure, or inputs) may still be missing, especially for new or emerging sectors. The next step is to identify and assess these gaps with input from local firms and industry partners. In some cases, missing capabilities (like climate conditions for "Cotton Ginning") or unfavorable market conditions (as with "Support Activities for Coal Mining") mean the opportunity isn't realistic or practical. It is recommended to set aside options that clearly do not fit local conditions and instead focus on opportunities that align better with community strengths and potential.

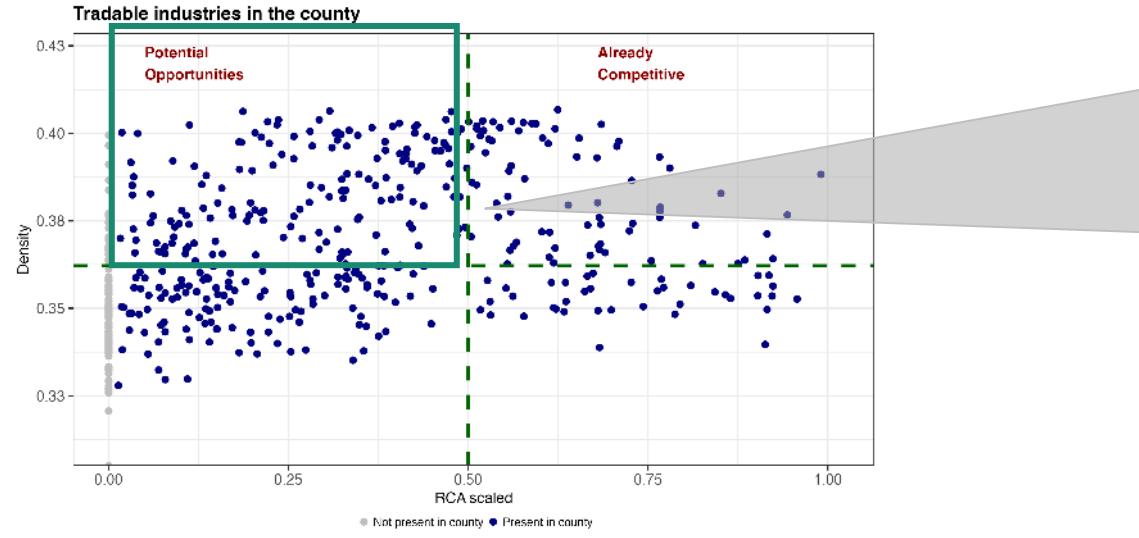
## Already competitive industries in Doña Ana's commuting zone



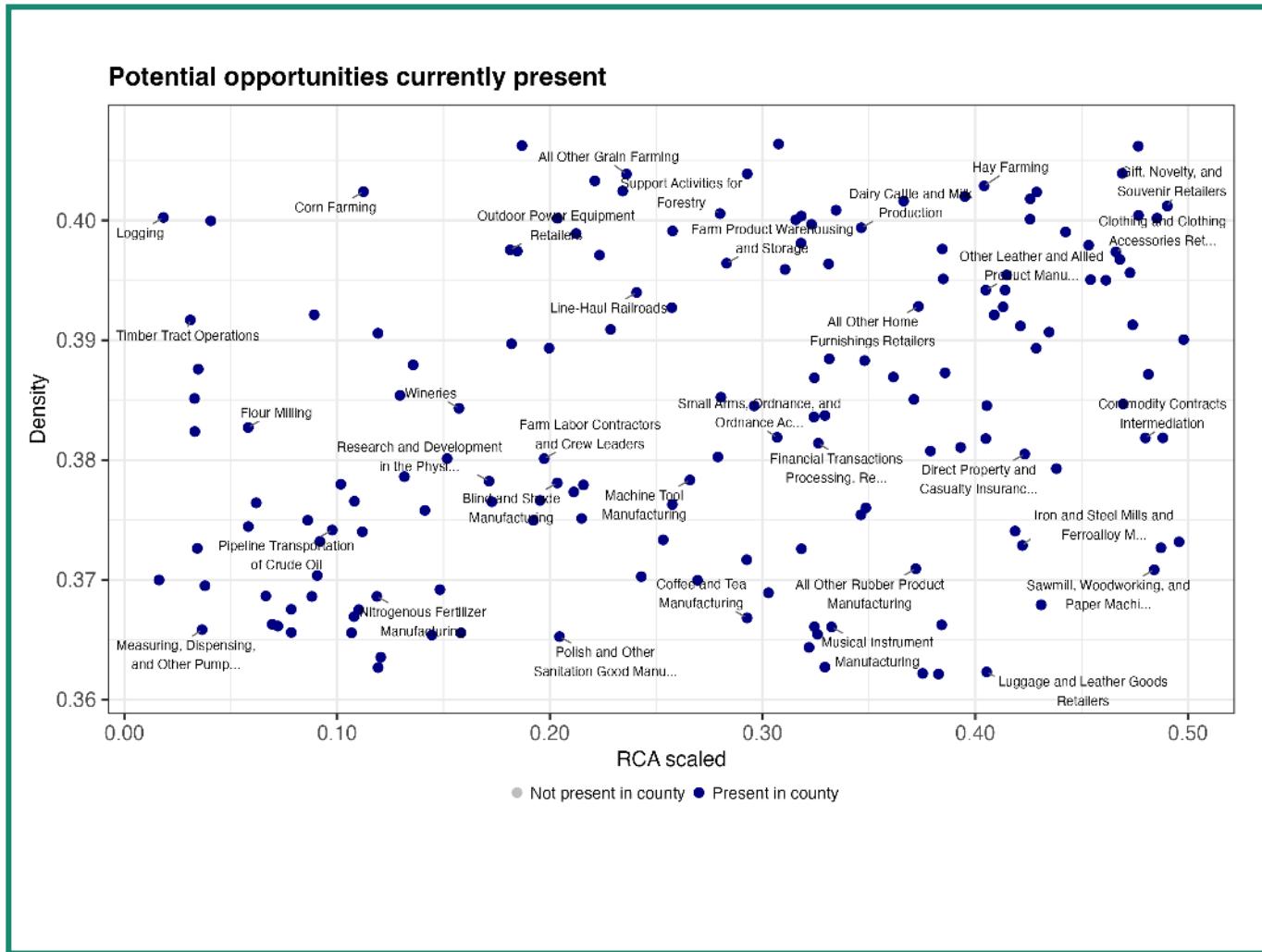
Industries in the top-right quadrant already have a strong foothold in Doña Ana (RCA > 1 or RCA scaled > 0.5). A development strategy could focus on creating the right conditions – such as infrastructure, skilled workforce, and supportive policies – to help them grow and thrive even further.



## **Potential opportunities currently present in the county**

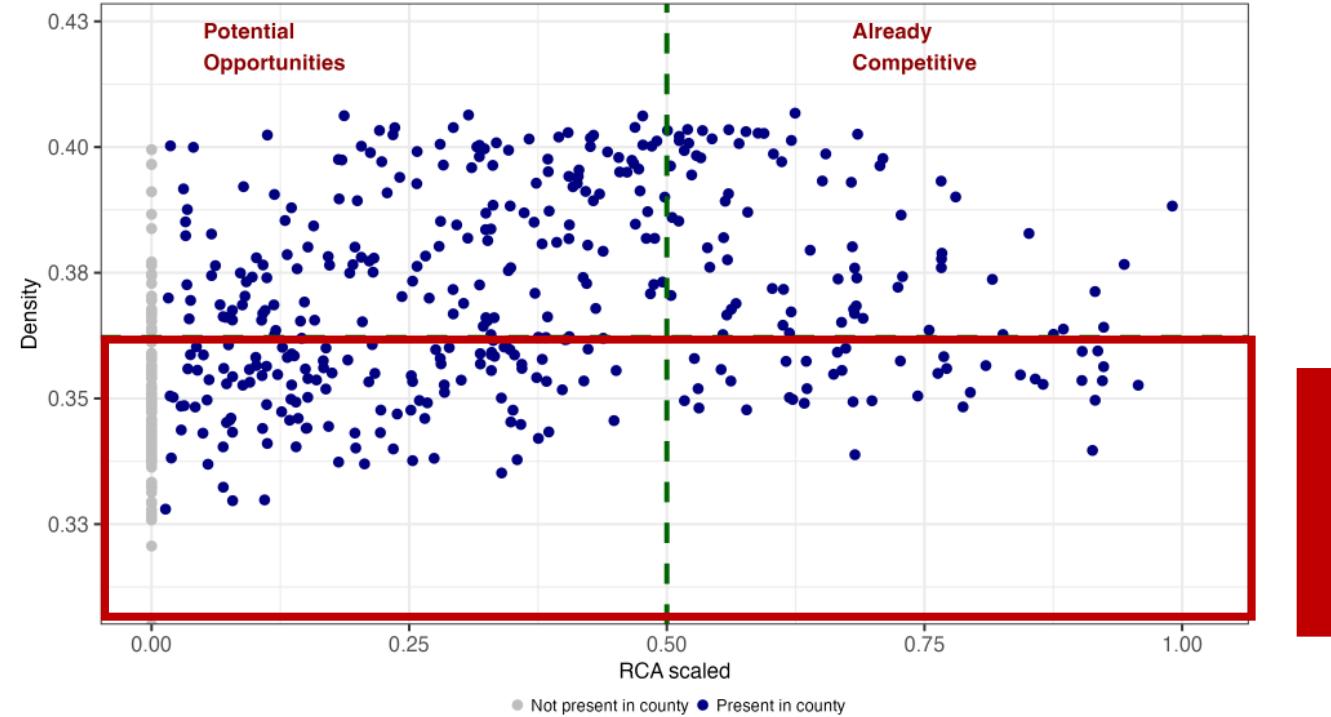


Industries in the top-left quadrant are particularly relevant for the county's development strategy because they already have some presence and are closely related to existing capabilities. In other words, they hold significant potential for growth. A development strategy could focus on creating the right conditions to help these industries flourish.



# Industries further away from Doña Ana's capabilities

Tradable industries in the county



The analysis does not focus on this set of industries because their requirements are not closely aligned with Doña Ana's current capabilities. Industries with little local presence are unlikely to take root, while those with a larger footprint but a weak fit are more likely to shrink or eventually leave the community.

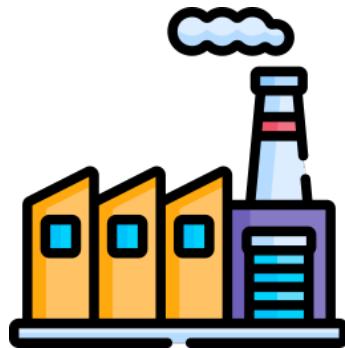
# We identify 189 industries with potential opportunities.

## Four major categories.



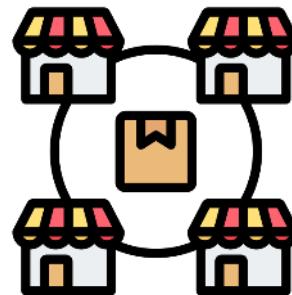
*Several industries in Doña Ana offer emerging and new promising opportunities for increased tradable income. While these industries are not yet as competitive in Doña Ana as in other parts of the U.S., they share capabilities with industries that are already strong locally. This means they could expand relatively easily if the right conditions are in place.*

### Manufacturing



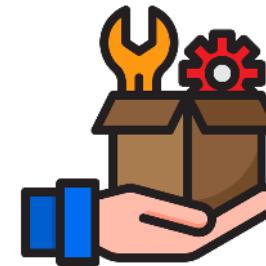
*78 industries as potential opportunities*

### Trade



*28 industries in retail and wholesale*

### Services



*37 industries across different sectors*

### Natural Resources



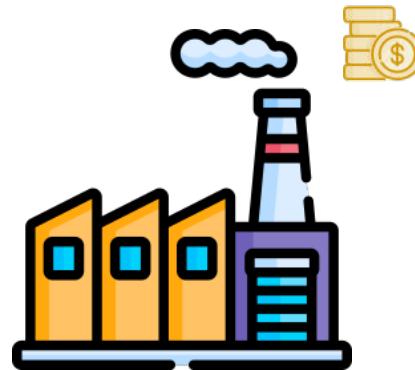
*46 industries in Agriculture and mining*

# Potential opportunities with high and medium level wages. 128 industries across categories



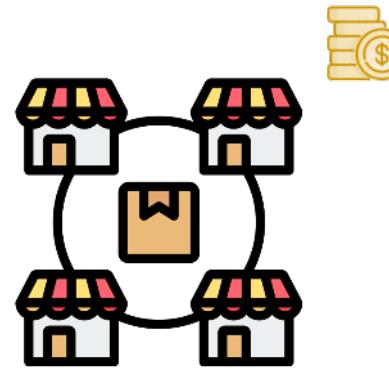
*Industries are grouped by wage levels using U.S. averages: the top 25% are classified as high-wage, the bottom 25% as low-wage, and the rest as medium-wage. The analysis focuses on high- and medium-wage industries, as these are more likely to provide quality jobs and stronger economic benefits for the community.*

## Manufacturing



*72 industries as potential opportunities*

## Trade



*10 industries in retail and wholesale*

## Services



*32 industries across different sectors*

## Natural Resources

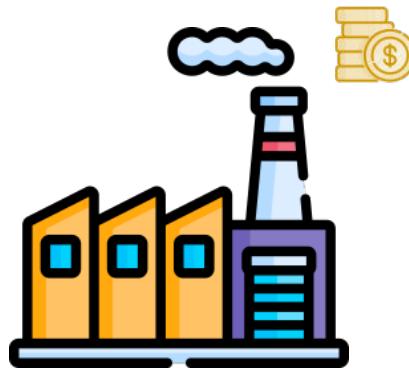


*14 industries in Agriculture and mining*

# Potential opportunities with high and medium level wages. 128 industries across categories

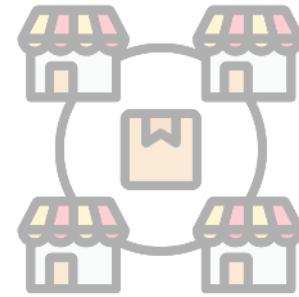
---

## Manufacturing

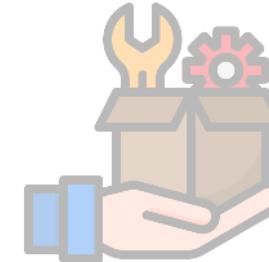


*72 industries as potential opportunities*

## Trade



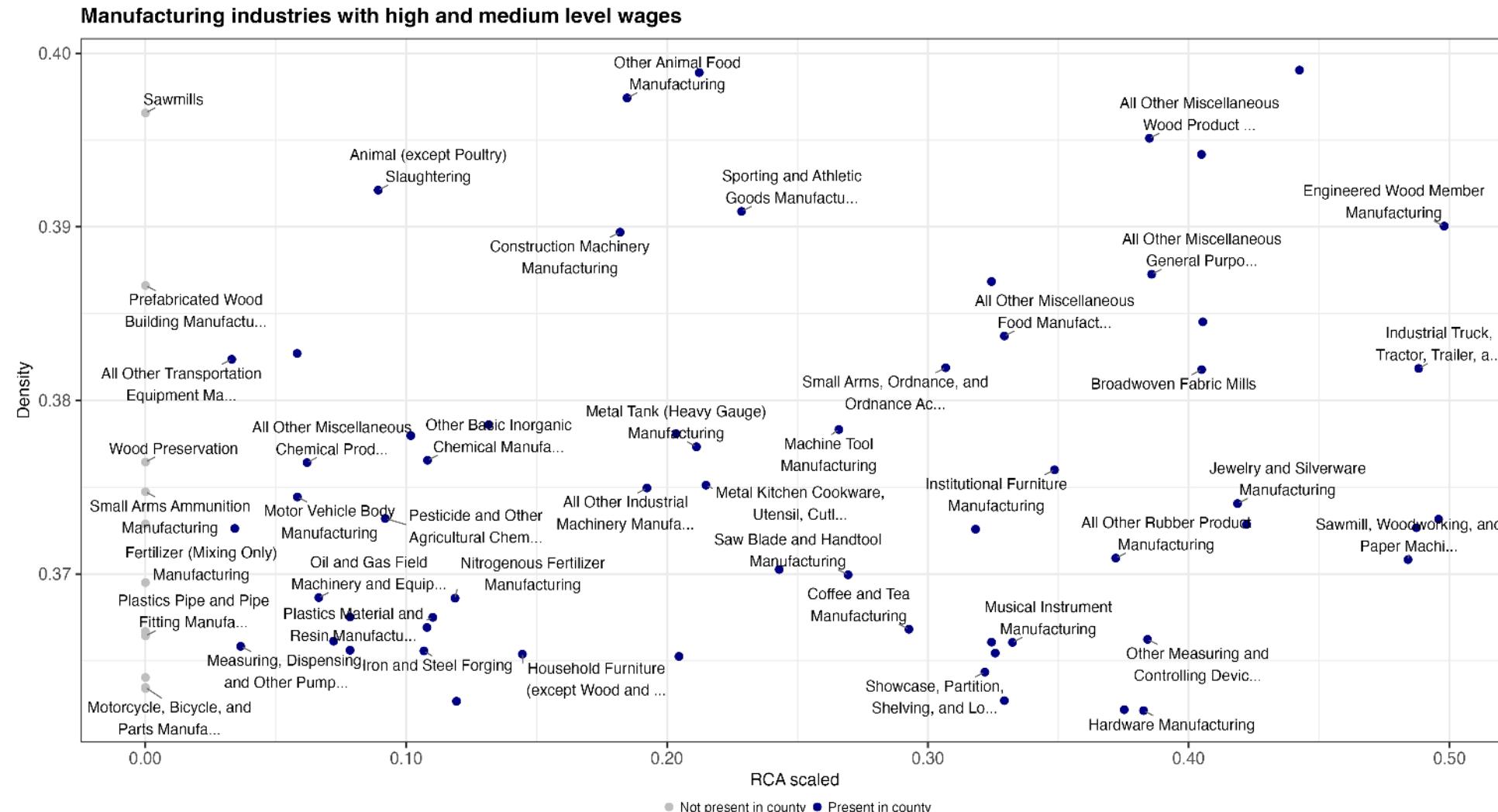
## Services



## Natural Resources



# High and medium wages opportunities. 72 manufacturing industries



Main sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and Dun & Bradstreet.

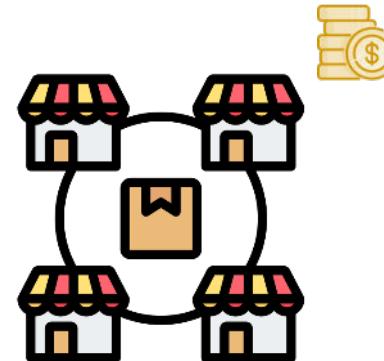
# Potential opportunities with high and medium level wages. 128 industries across categories

---

## Manufacturing

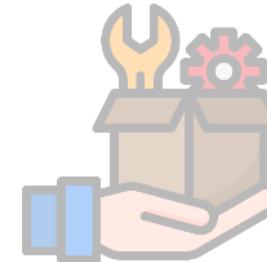


## Trade



*10 industries in retail and wholesale*

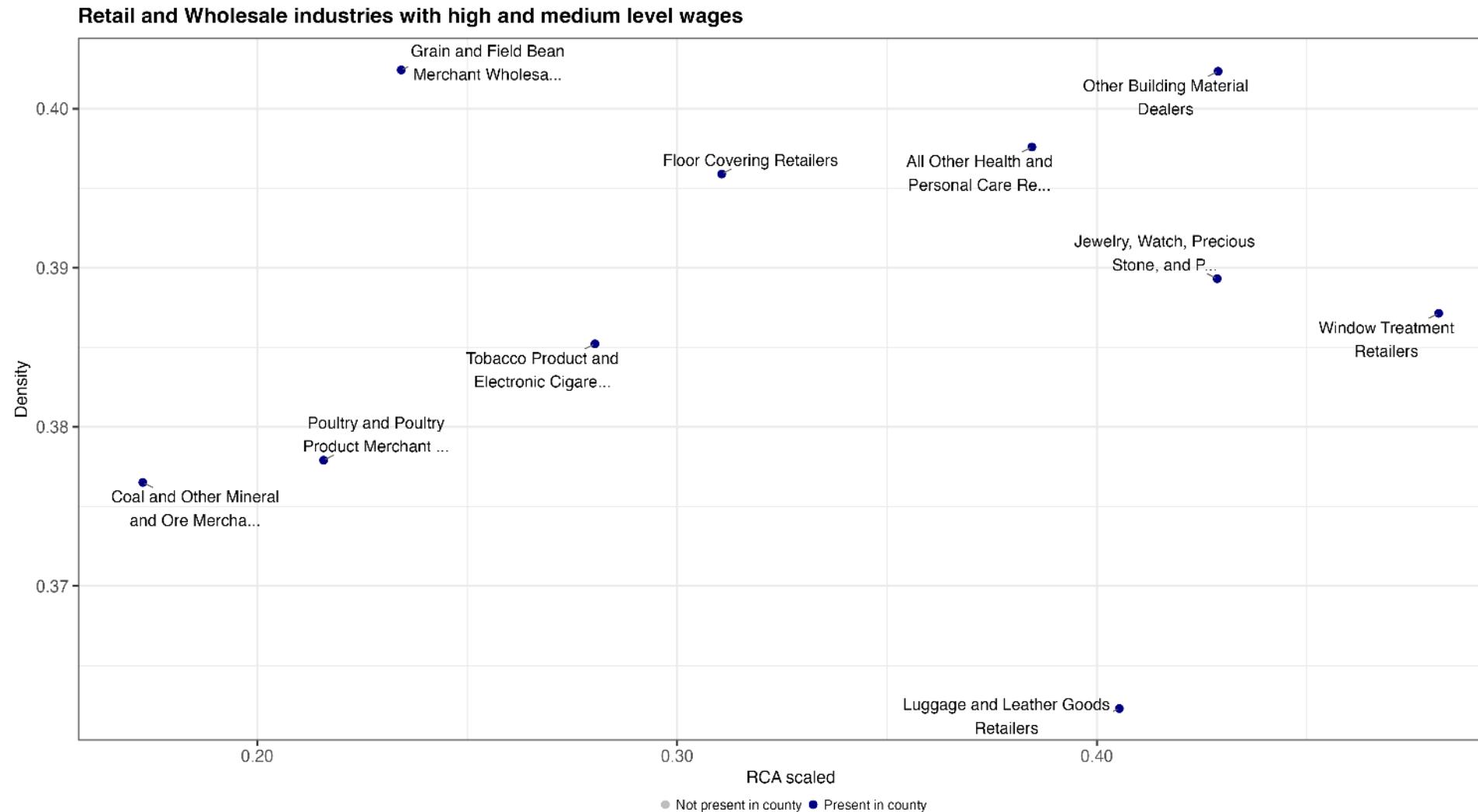
## Services



## Natural Resources



# High and medium wages opportunities. 10 retail and wholesale trade industries



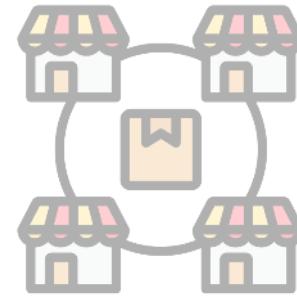
Main sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and Dun & Bradstreet.

# Potential opportunities with high and medium level wages. 128 industries across categories

## Manufacturing



## Trade



## Services

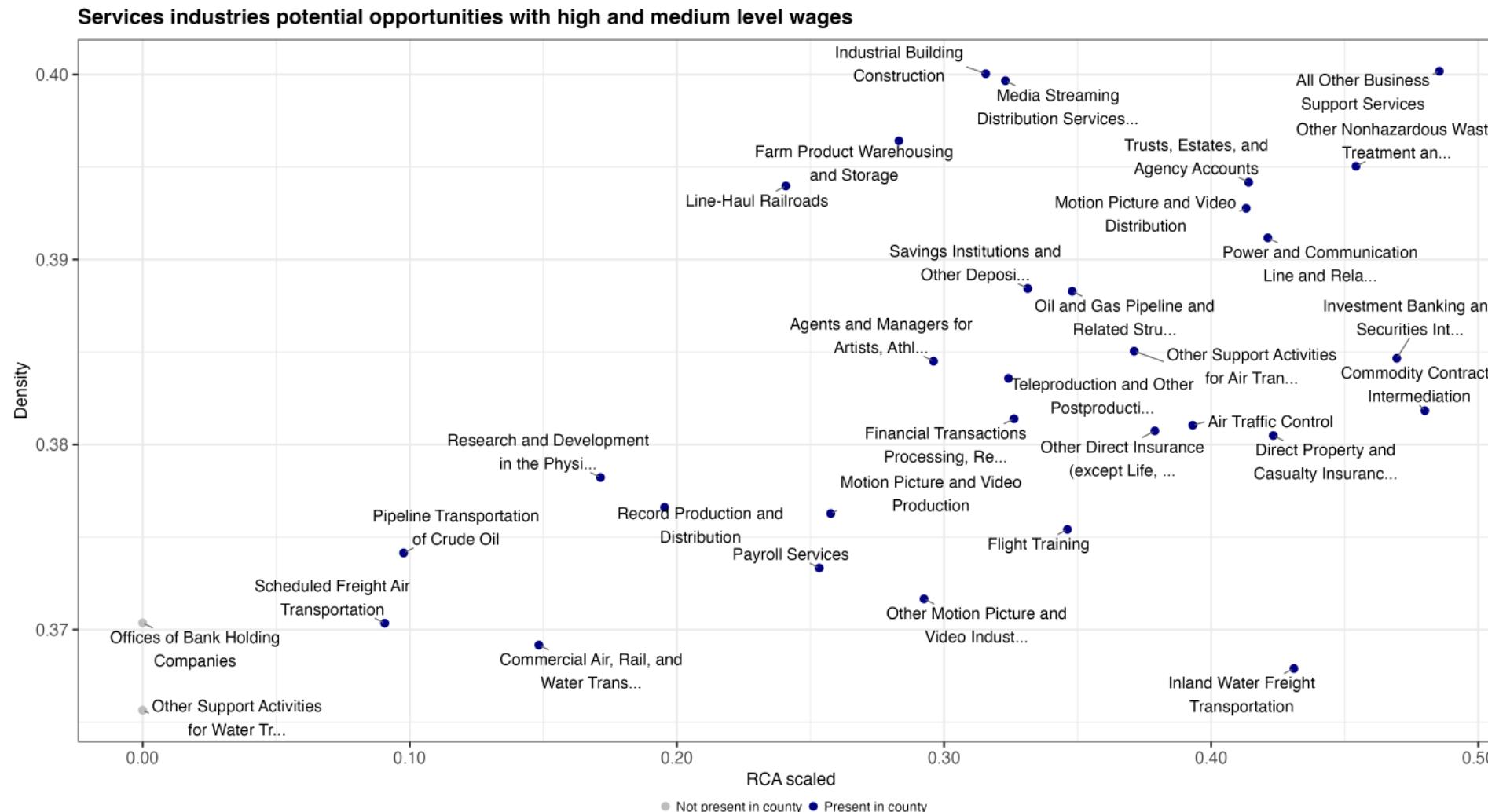


*32 industries across  
different sectors*

## Natural Resources



## **High and medium wages opportunities. 32 services industries**



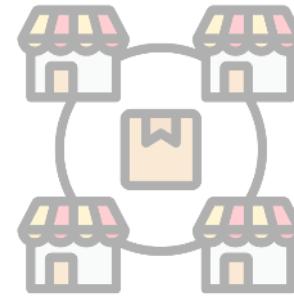
Main sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and Dun & Bradstreet.

# Potential opportunities with high and medium level wages. 128 industries across categories

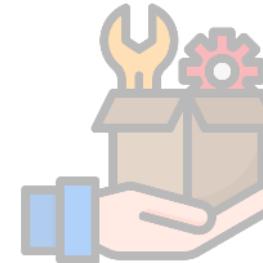
## Manufacturing



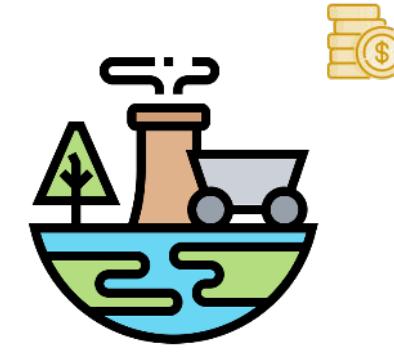
## Trade



## Services

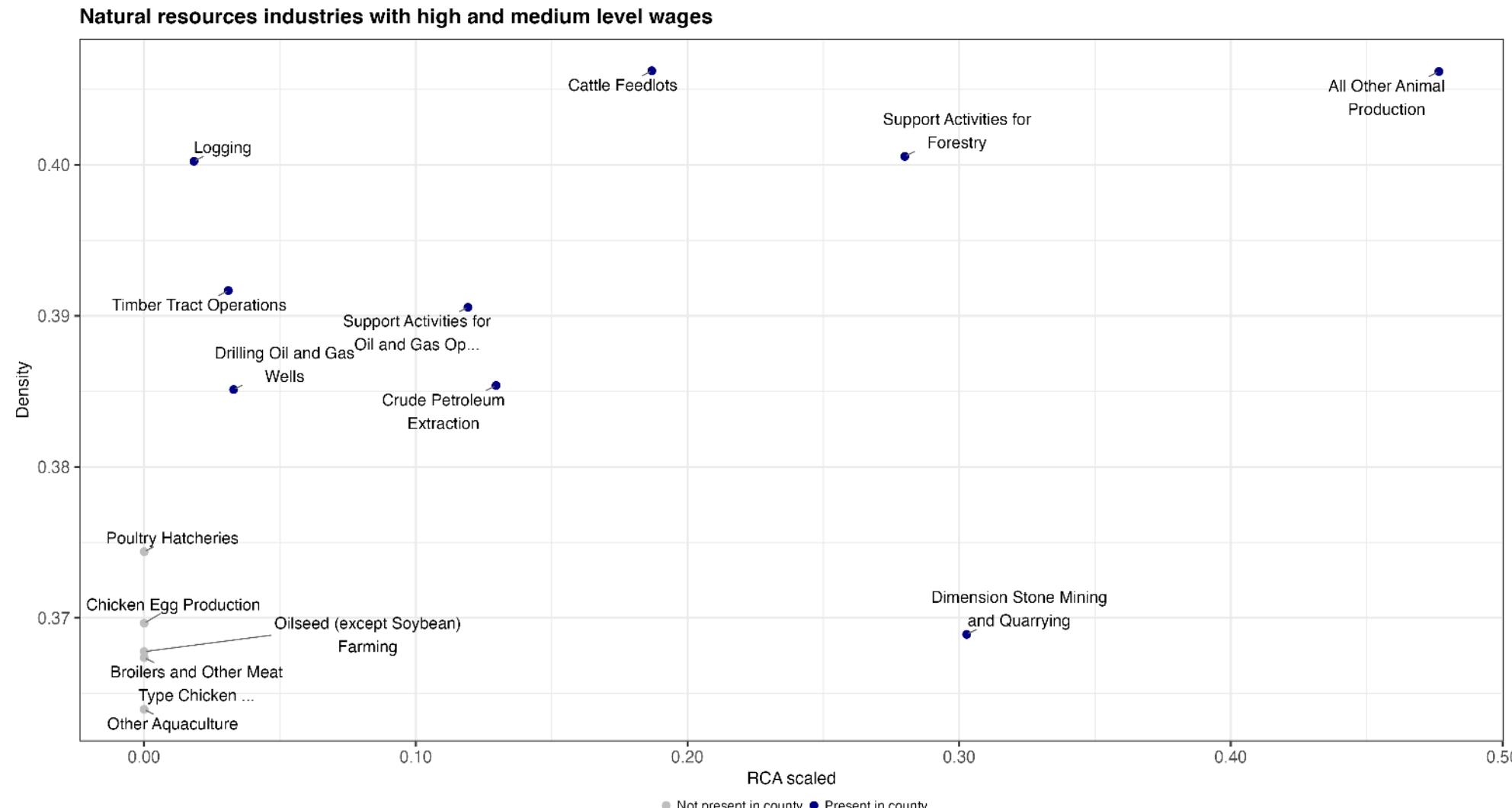


## Natural Resources



*14 industries in  
Agriculture and mining*

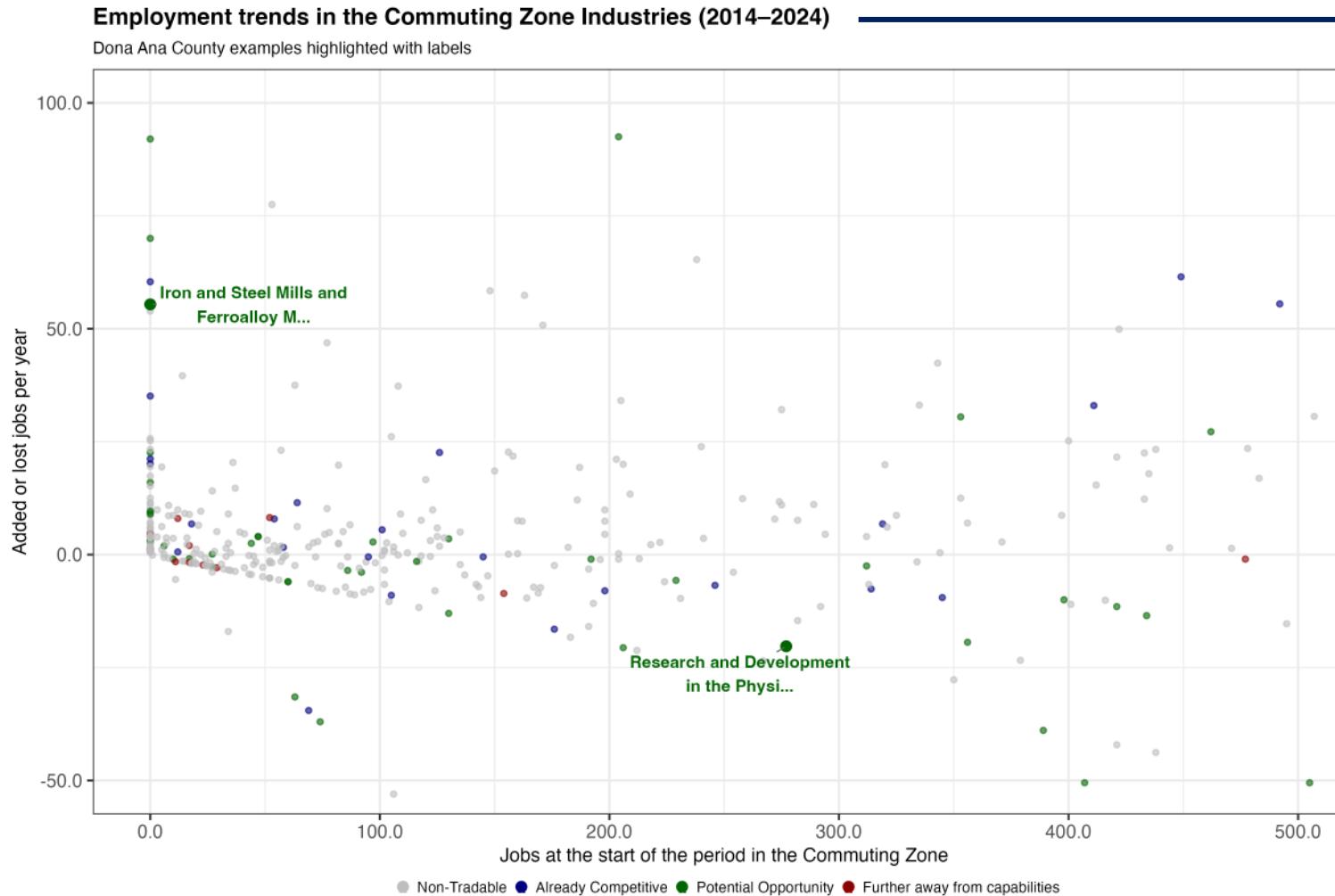
# High and medium wages opportunities. 14 extractive industries



# How to further assess the selected options

- **Background.** After selecting a list of industries that feel particular relevant or attractive, the next step is to figure out which are the missing capabilities and what can be done, if anything, to provide them.
- **Dataset as a reference.** The dataset provides useful information about potential gaps in productive capabilities, such as electricity needs or supply chain positioning, but it is not meant to offer all the answers. Instead, it serves as a starting point for further questions and discussions among local stakeholders. For instance, while the data show which industries have added or lost jobs in recent years, understanding the underlying reasons requires local and industry insights.
- **Examples as guidance rather than prescription.** External analysis cannot replace local insight or dictate which industries to target. The following slides highlight selected industries and explore various dimensions of each, not to prescribe priorities, but to demonstrate how to use the dataset's variables to prompt questions and guide decision-making. The examples focus on "Potential Opportunities" with medium or high wages that already have some local presence. The industries are drawn from sectors highlighted in the previous section, such as Professional Services or Transportation, and Manufacturing because this sector offers additional variables to consider.
- **Review process.** The examples start by comparing job trends at the local, regional, and state levels to provide an overview of growing industries and to prompt consideration of the factors enabling or hindering growth. For some industries, job data may not be available. In these cases, reaching out, perhaps with help from the local Economic Development Organization (EDO), to firms already active in the industry can offer valuable qualitative insight. The examples then explore additional variables that assess industry attractiveness and specific requirements.
- **Build your own story.** Apply this approach to other industries of interest by examining all available variables in whatever order makes the most sense for your context. Engage local partners early and often to provide further insight and complement the analysis. The aim is to use this process to spark productive questions, identify the most promising opportunities, and guide actionable next steps for supporting industry growth in the community.

# Are local conditions favorable or holding this industry back?

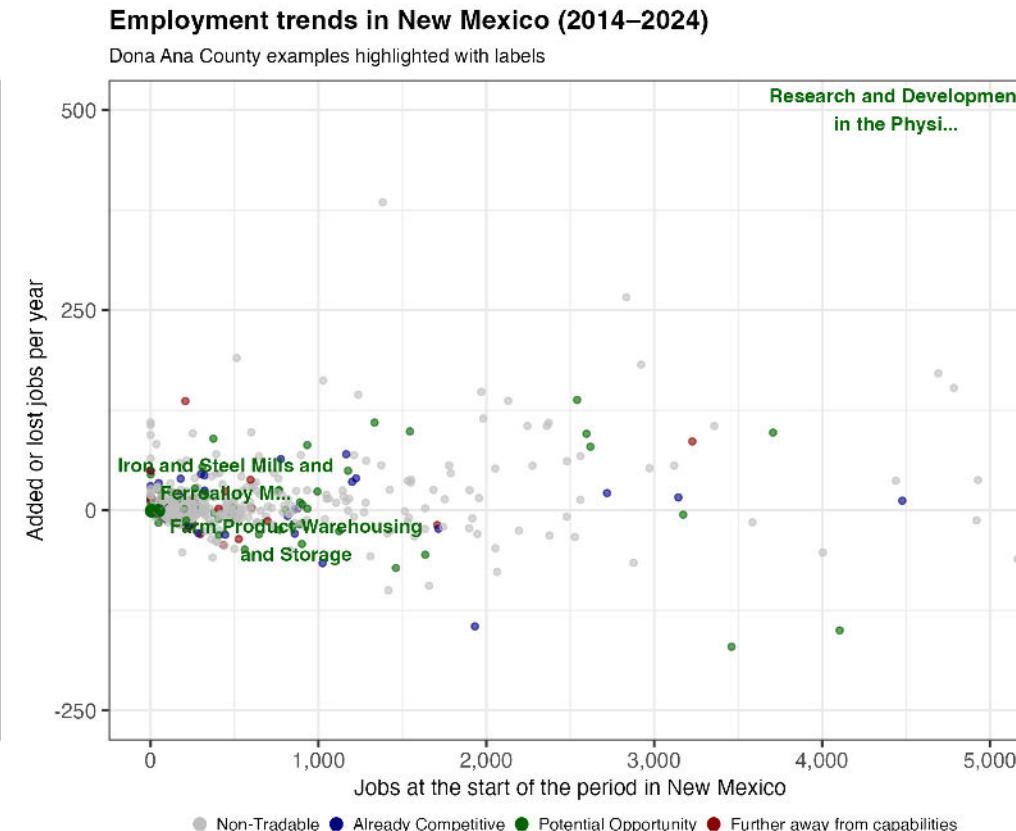
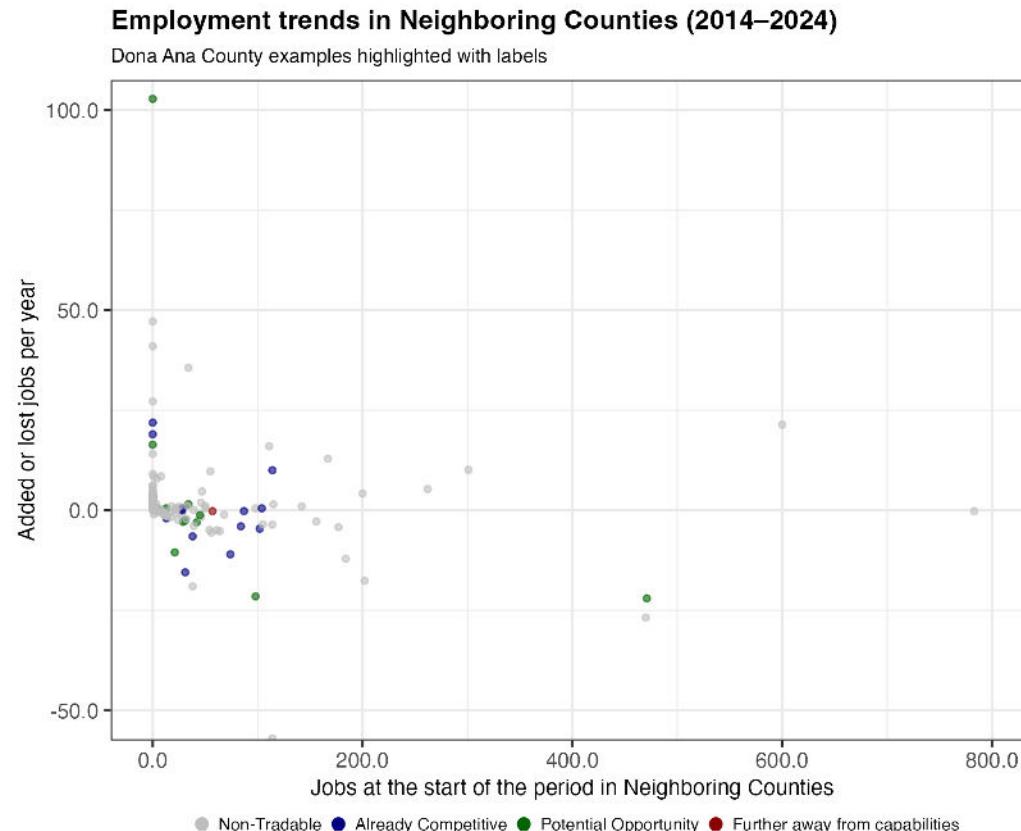


In this graph, the x-axis shows the number of starting jobs in each industry, providing a sense of the industry's initial size and its potential contribution. The y-axis displays the average number of jobs added or lost per year, rather than growth rates, since several industries began with zero employment. The total was divided by the number of years between the earliest and latest data points for each industry. The axes were capped to improve visualization.

In contrast to Iron and Steel Mills Manufacturing, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences has been losing jobs in the commuting zone. A key question for further exploration is to identify the specific local obstacles and unique unfavorable conditions this industry faces in this area.

# Is the industry facing a different situation elsewhere?

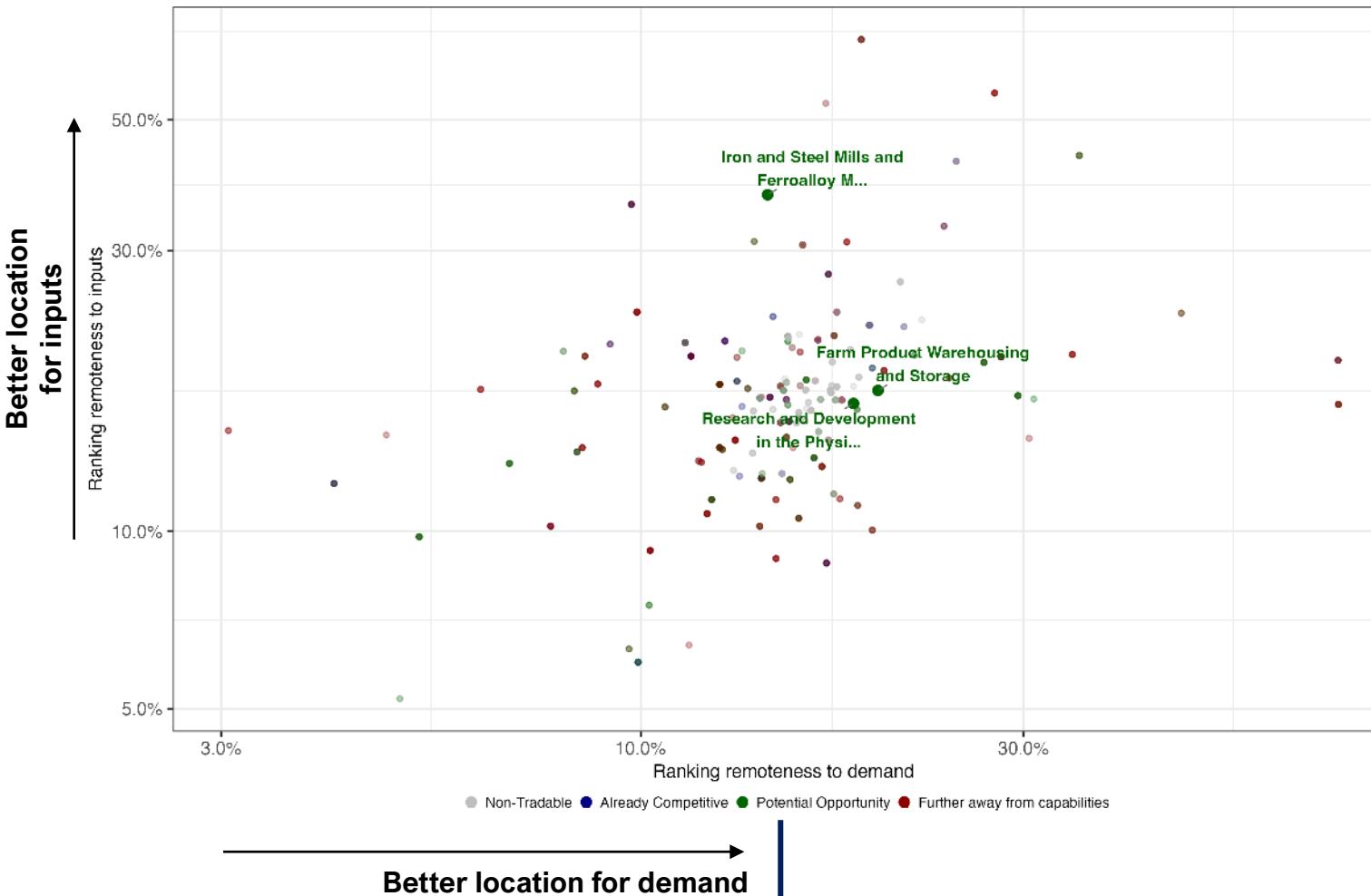
Same axes as the previous graph but for different regions. For neighboring counties, only those that share a border, whether in-state or out-of-state, and are not part of the commuting zone were included. In this case, the selected counties are Otero and Luna in New Mexico. In contrast to the commuting zone, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences is adding jobs in other regions. What are the factors that hold back growth in Doña Ana but support it elsewhere? While these barriers may not be obvious for every industry, they could be more evident in some cases than in others.



# How attractive is Doña Ana's location for the industry?

Dona Ana County location attractiveness by industry

Dona Ana County examples highlighted with labels

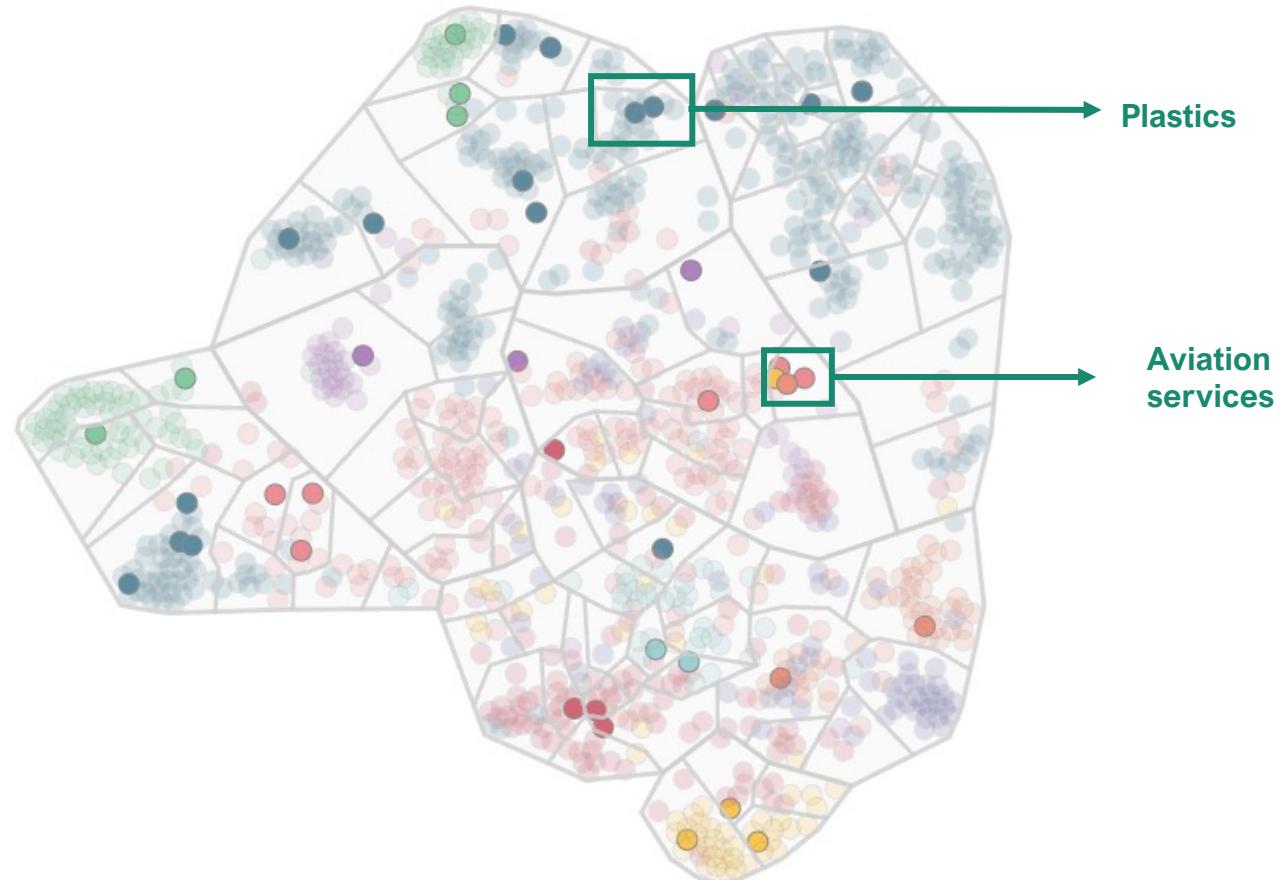


The competitiveness of some industries depends more on proximity to inputs, while others rely on being close to consumers. By identifying each industry's main inputs and where they are produced and then calculating the driving time from the county to those locations, a "remoteness to inputs" score is created. A similar score for demand is based on the location of main consumers. Together, these scores allow the county's position to be ranked relative to others in terms of access to both inputs and markets.

Doña Ana's commuting zone is closer to the required inputs for "Farm Product Warehousing and Storage" than just over 17% of U.S. counties, and closer to the demand for it than almost 20% of the counties.

# Which other opportunities is this industry related to?

In the industry space, industries that require similar productive capabilities (know-how, skills, infrastructure, and other inputs) are clustered together. This highlights natural themes for development, where strengthening shared foundations can benefit multiple sectors. The focus can be further narrowed by targeting clusters that are adding jobs in neighboring counties or statewide. This approach helps move from a single industry to a set of emerging local opportunities.

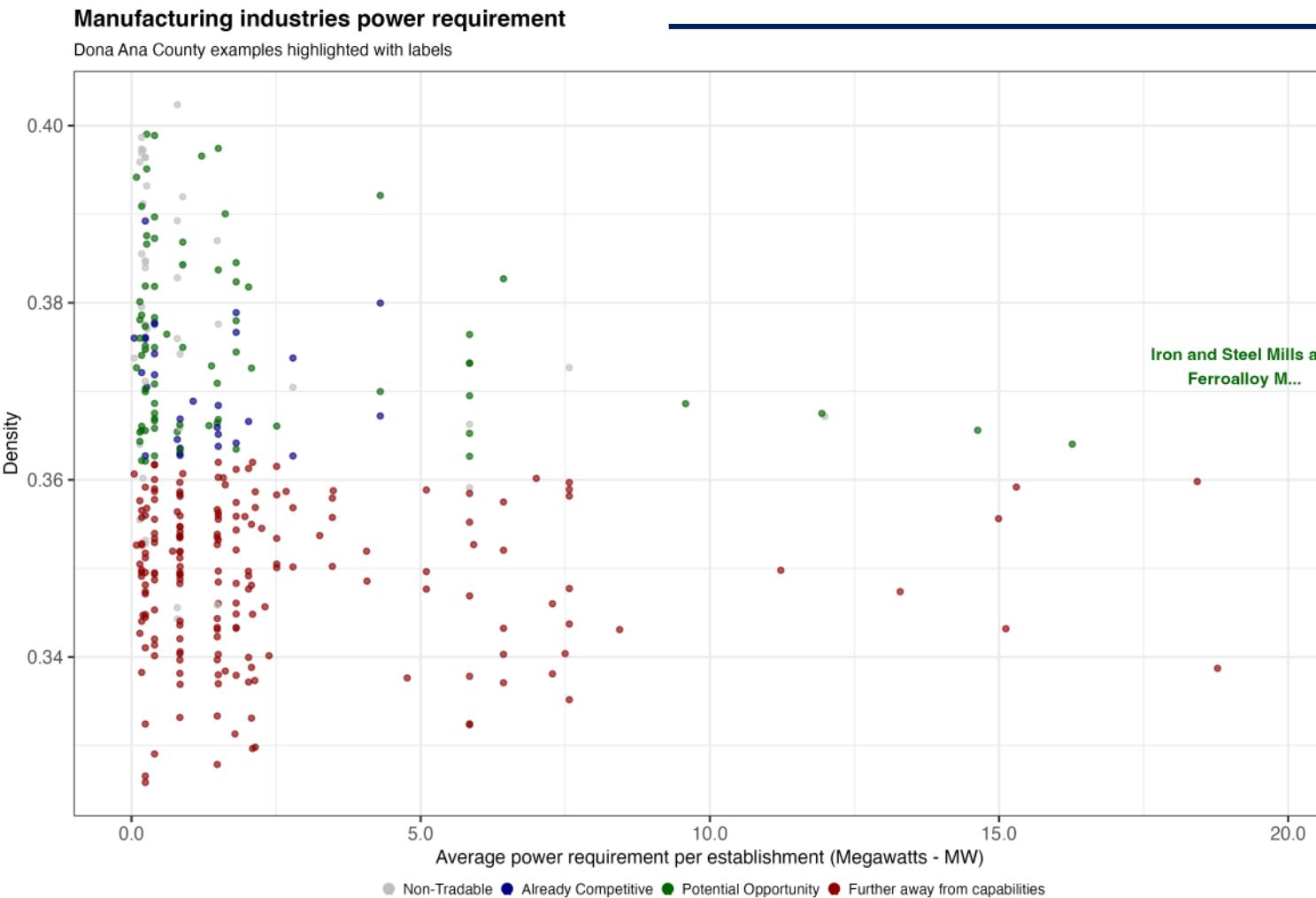


Source: Growth Lab using Dun & Bradstreet

Note 1: Only medium and high-level wages industries ("Potential Opportunity" or "Already Competitive" are included)

Note 2: Explore the name of the cluster in Metroverse - <https://metroverse.hks.harvard.edu/city/196/industry-position>

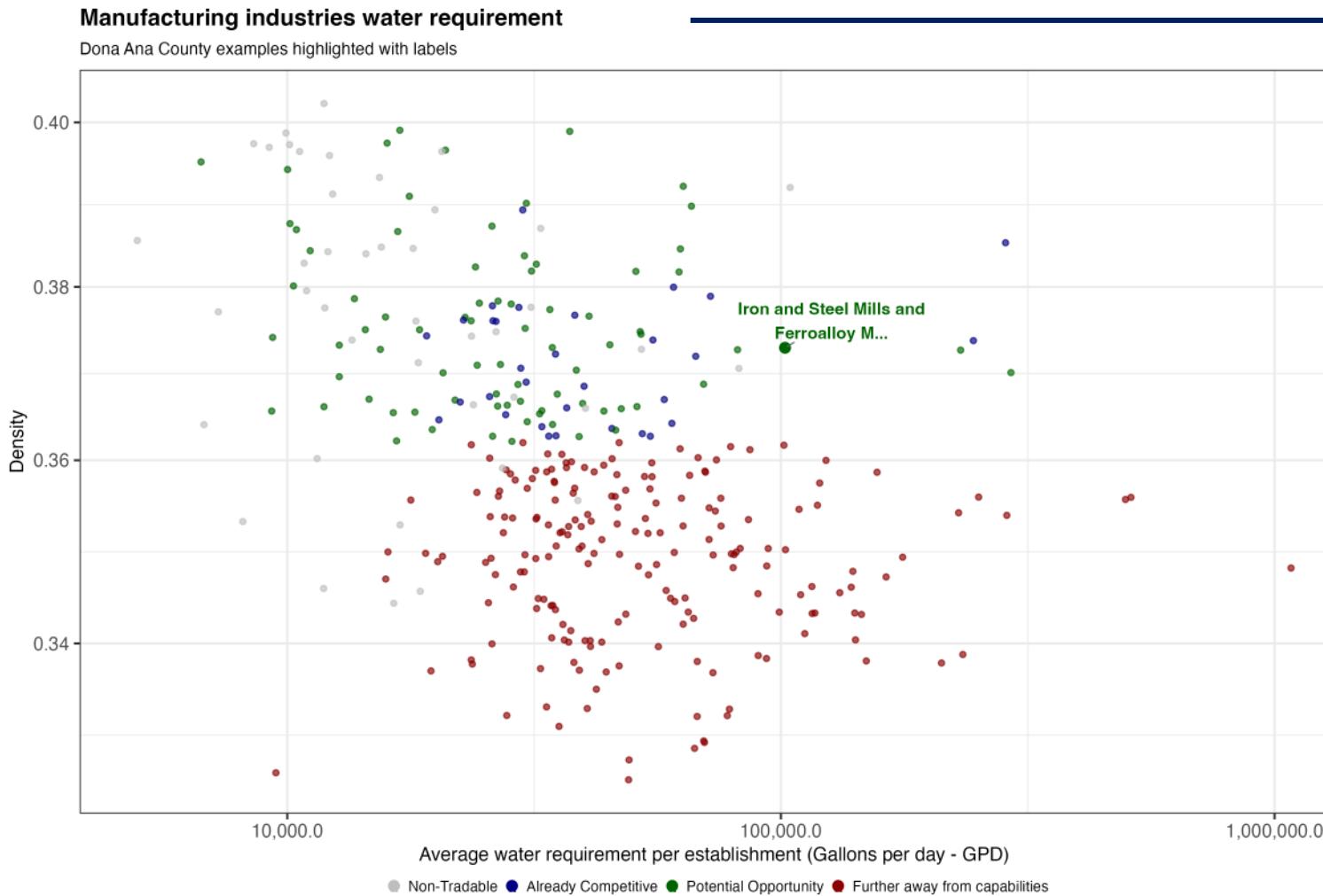
# Can Doña Ana meet the electricity needs of the manufacturing industry?



The x-axis shows the average power demand per establishment (in megawatts) for each manufacturing industry. Measuring in MW provides a standard metric to compare how much electricity a typical facility would draw from the grid during operating hours. Only manufacturing industries are included due to data availability.

“Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing” has a high electrical load (more than 38MW) compared to other manufacturing industries. Some industries may be feasible with existing capacity and others could require major upgrades or entirely new infrastructure.

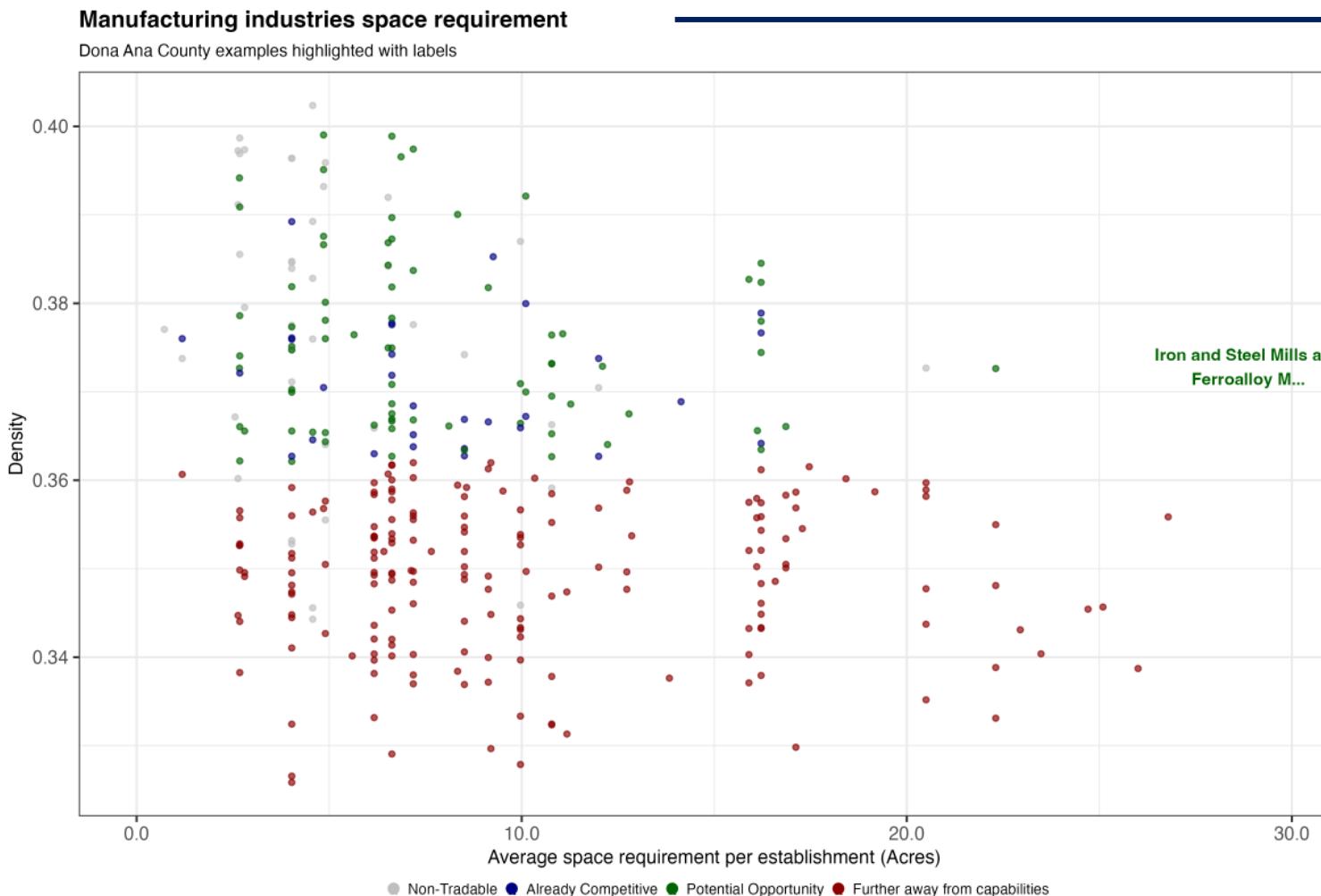
# Is Doña Ana equipped to supply the manufacturing industry with enough water?



The x-axis shows the average daily water use per establishment (in gallons per day) for each manufacturing industry. Only manufacturing industries are included due to data availability.

“Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing” also has a high water demand (slightly above 100,000 GPD) compared to other manufacturing industries. This further decreases the likelihood that existing capacity can support them.

# Can Doña Ana provide the necessary space for the manufacturing industry?



The x-axis shows the average land needed per establishment (in acres) for each manufacturing industry. These estimates assume low-density facilities, typically single-story buildings that are more spread out and need extra space for parking, trucks, and outdoor operations.

“Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing” require, on average, around 54 acres. Beyond utilities, communities must have suitable sites ready to host new or expanding businesses, with the right access to essential services.



Growth Lab

# **Identifying local opportunities: Doña Ana County**

January 2025