

Regional Profiles and Industry Cluster Analyses of Capital and North Delta Planning Districts

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Rationale and Justification

The proposed research supports one of the goals of University Center of conducting applied based research on the needs presented by various community stakeholders. Two of the general goals of the two planning districts are enhancing regional collaboration to promote economic development and improving education and workforce development skills to foster a more diverse economy that meet the needs of both existing and emerging industries. Among prioritized activities include identifying and supporting new and emerging industries and working with existing industries to identify workforce needs and deficiencies.

The aim of this study is to support the achievement of the goals by profiling the two region economies and conducting industry cluster analyses. Regional economic profiles are birds-eye view' of unique and shared characteristics across regions; achieved by mapping combined and comparable statistical data across regions. Industry cluster analyses involves identifying important local industries, resource dependent and nondependent industries, trades industries, and inter-related industries that drive wealth creation in a region. The analyses also involve identifying the ability of established and emerging businesses in an industry to interact in ways that create competitive advantages through the creation and incorporation of new knowledge into products and value adding activities.

Objectives of the Study

The general objectives are mapping the regional economic base and establishing existing inter-linkages. Specific objectives are: 1) capture and maintain inventory of assets, resources, incentives, and socioeconomic data of the region; 2) identify new and emerging industry sectors; and 3) identify workforce development needs and deficiencies to support new and emerging industry sectors.

Materials and Methods

We plan to use input-output data for 2007, 2009, and 2012 to establish overtime industry base, new and emerging industry sectors by analyzing growth and employment trends. This is in addition to computing three technical factors used in cluster analysis. The three factors are the Employment Concentration Factor, the Cluster Dependency Factor, and the Economic Prosperity Factor. The employment concentration factor indicates which industries export goods and services out of the region and bring wealth back into the region. The Cluster Dependency Factor indicates the direction and relative strength of the producer and value adding activities within clusters. Economic prosperity factor determine which of the export-oriented industries contain high paying jobs and measures of the economic significance of an industry in the regional economy.

Outcome and Impact

Produce two technical reports (one for each district) and distribute the reports to different stakeholders in the districts. Policy makers and planners will use the reports to diverse effective public policy options and development plans to support base, new, and emerging industry sectors.

Potential Future Research Related to this Study

Conducting value chain analyses of established, new, and emerging industry sectors to help these industries to capture market opportunities, obtain fair deals, and produce higher-quality products.