* Variables
  + **Cluster Strength**

Description: Percent of traded employment in strong clusters.

The term cluster strength was specifically defined in the paper [Clusters and Entrepreneurship](http://clustermapping.us/resource/clusters-and-entrepreneurship) (Delgado, Porter, Stern 2010). On this website, the strong clusters in a region are identified by the clusters that have High Employment Specialization in a region (in the top 25% of all regions by specialization, and also meeting minimum criteria for employment and establishment).

Industries located in regions with strong clusters (i.e. a large presence of other related industries) experience higher growth in new business formation and start-up employment. Strong clusters are also associated with the formation of new establishments of existing firms, and contribute to start-up firm survival.

* + **Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)**

Description: Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (MSAs, or metro and micro areas) are geographic entities that reflect population characteristics at the county level. They are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) based on U.S. Census Bureau data for use by federal agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. A metro area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more in population, and a micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) in population. Each metro or micro area consists of one or more counties: the counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core. Please note that cities are often a major part of a metropolitan statistical area.

* + **Year**

Description: Record year

* Source of Data
  + Clustermapping / U.S. Census Bureau
* Notes on how to update
  + Update annually