

# Site Selection Behind the Scenes and How Your Community Stacks Up

- Shelby Zaricor, [Global Location Strategies](#)

# Site Selection Behind the Scenes

And how your community stacks up





**Shelby Zaricor**

Senior Consultant





A group of approximately ten people are walking across a vast, open grassy field. They are dressed in casual business attire, including jackets and vests. In the background, a dense line of trees borders the field, and beyond that, rolling hills are visible under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of exploration and site assessment.

# A Global Partner for **Location Strategy**

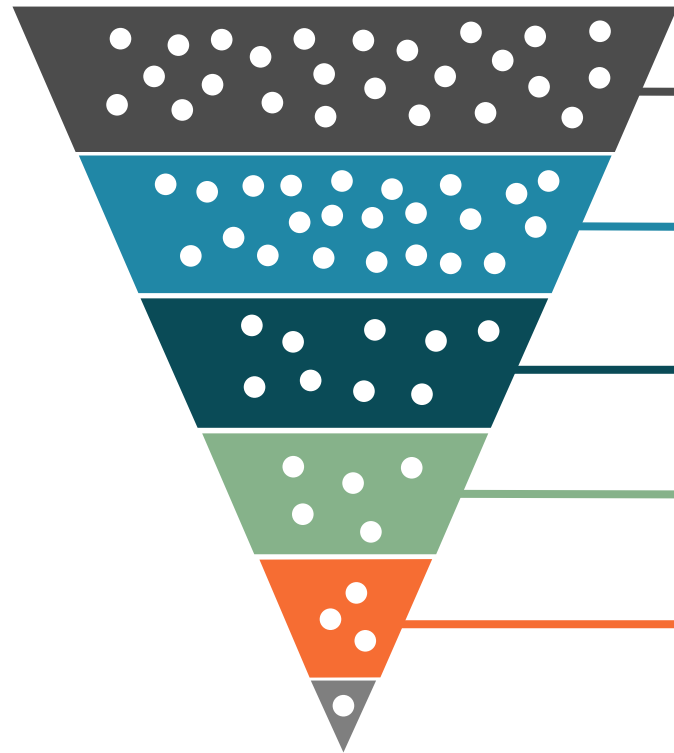
Since the 1970s, GLS has conducted location strategy, site selection, and incentive negotiations for world-class industrial and manufacturing corporations.



# GLS Process of Site Selection

A peak behind the curtain

# Site Selection Process



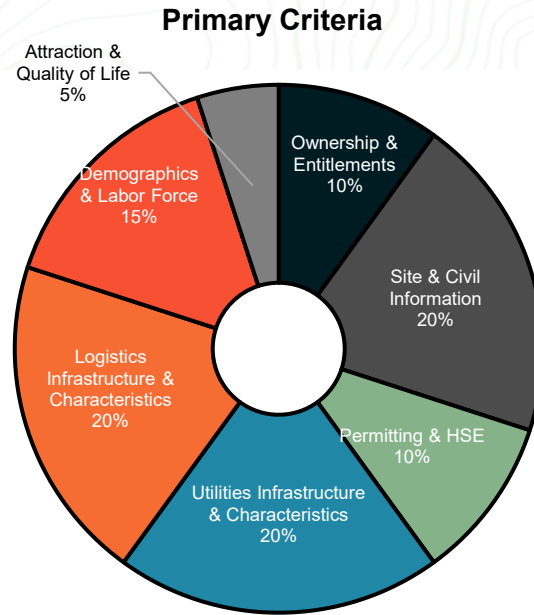
LOCATION  
SELECTION

## A TYPICAL GLS SITE SELECTION APPROACH

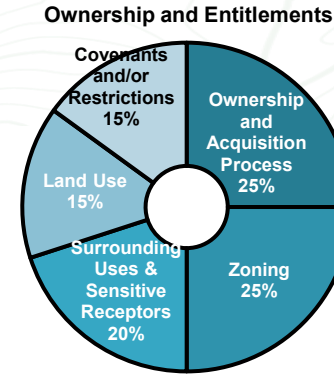
- Alignment + Project Definition
- Site Identification + Screening
- Virtual Site Visits + Desktop Evaluations
- Field Visits + Detailed Evaluations
- Incentive Negotiations + Due Diligence

# Conditional Analysis

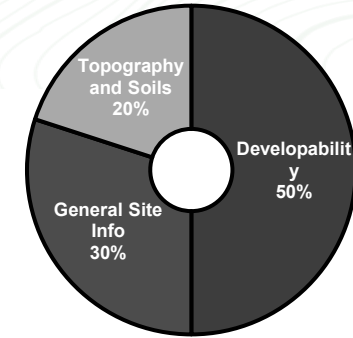
CONDITIONAL SCORING WEIGHTS



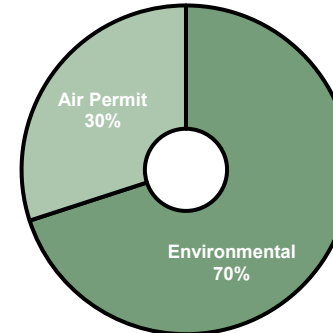
Secondary Criteria



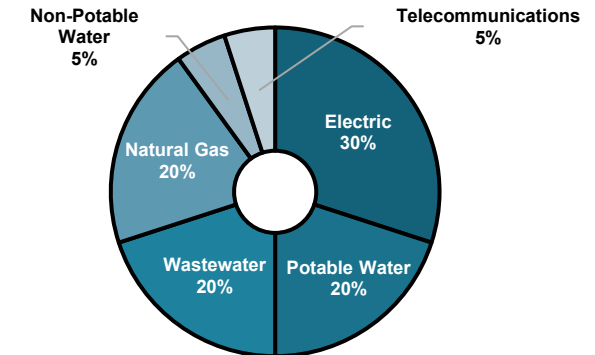
**Site and Civil Information**



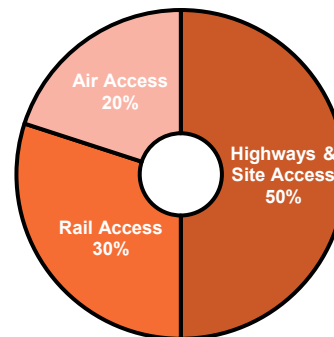
**Permitting and HSE**



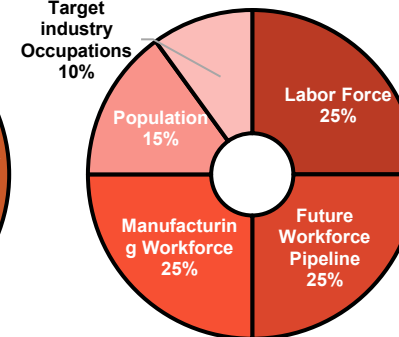
**Utilities Infrastructure & Characteristics**



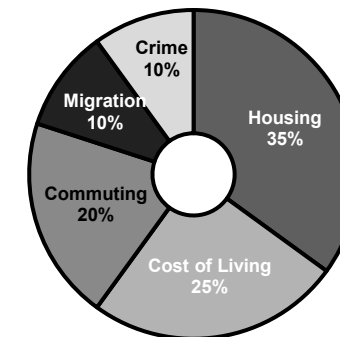
**Logistics Infrastructure & Characteristics**



**Demographics & Labor Force**



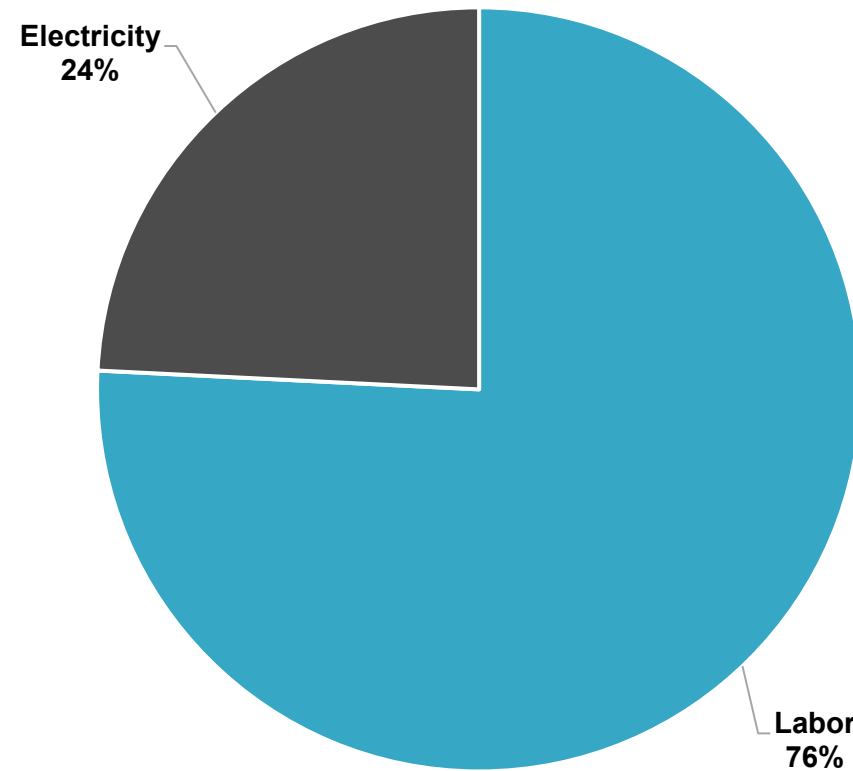
**Attraction & Quality of Life**



# Operating Costs

SITE IDENTIFICATION  
PRELIMINARY COST

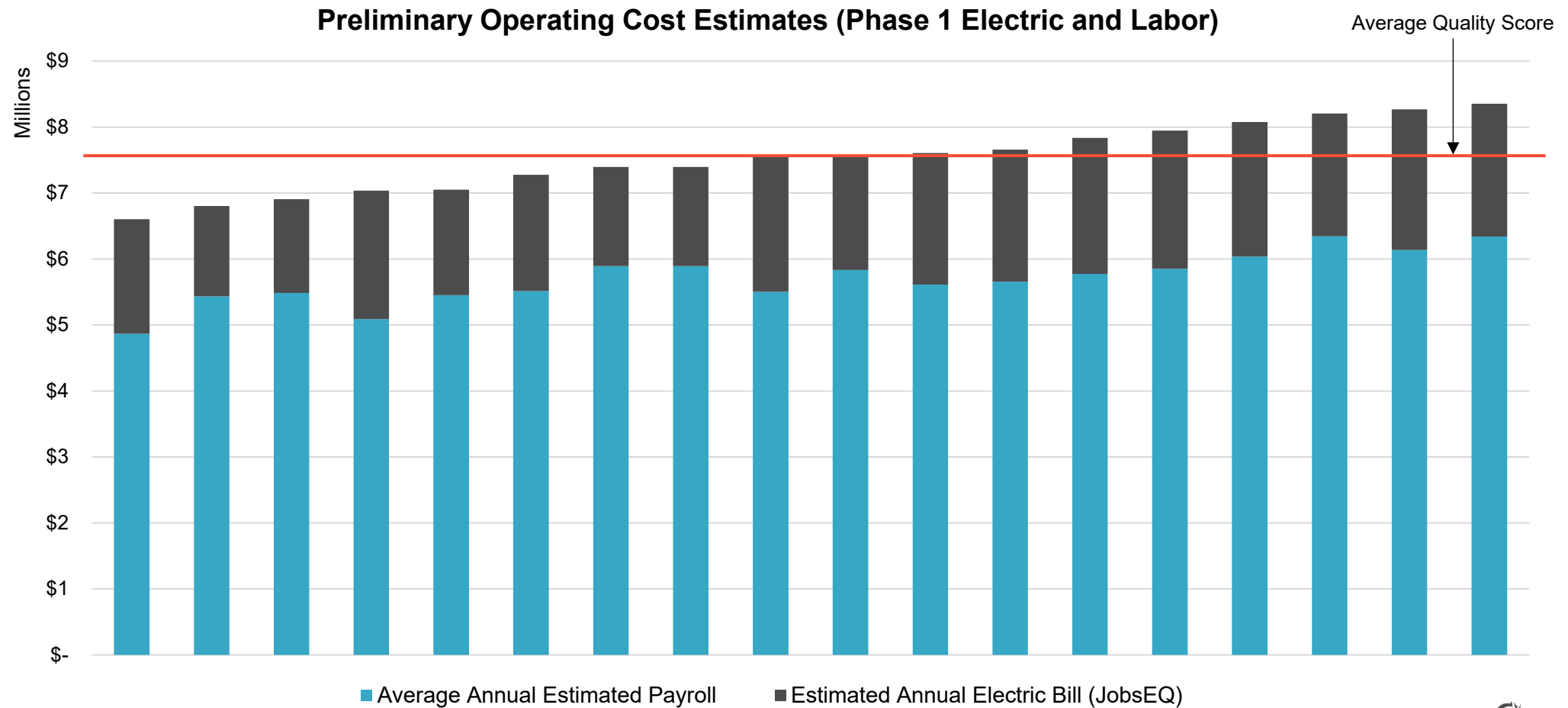
Average Distribution of Location-Dependent Operating Costs





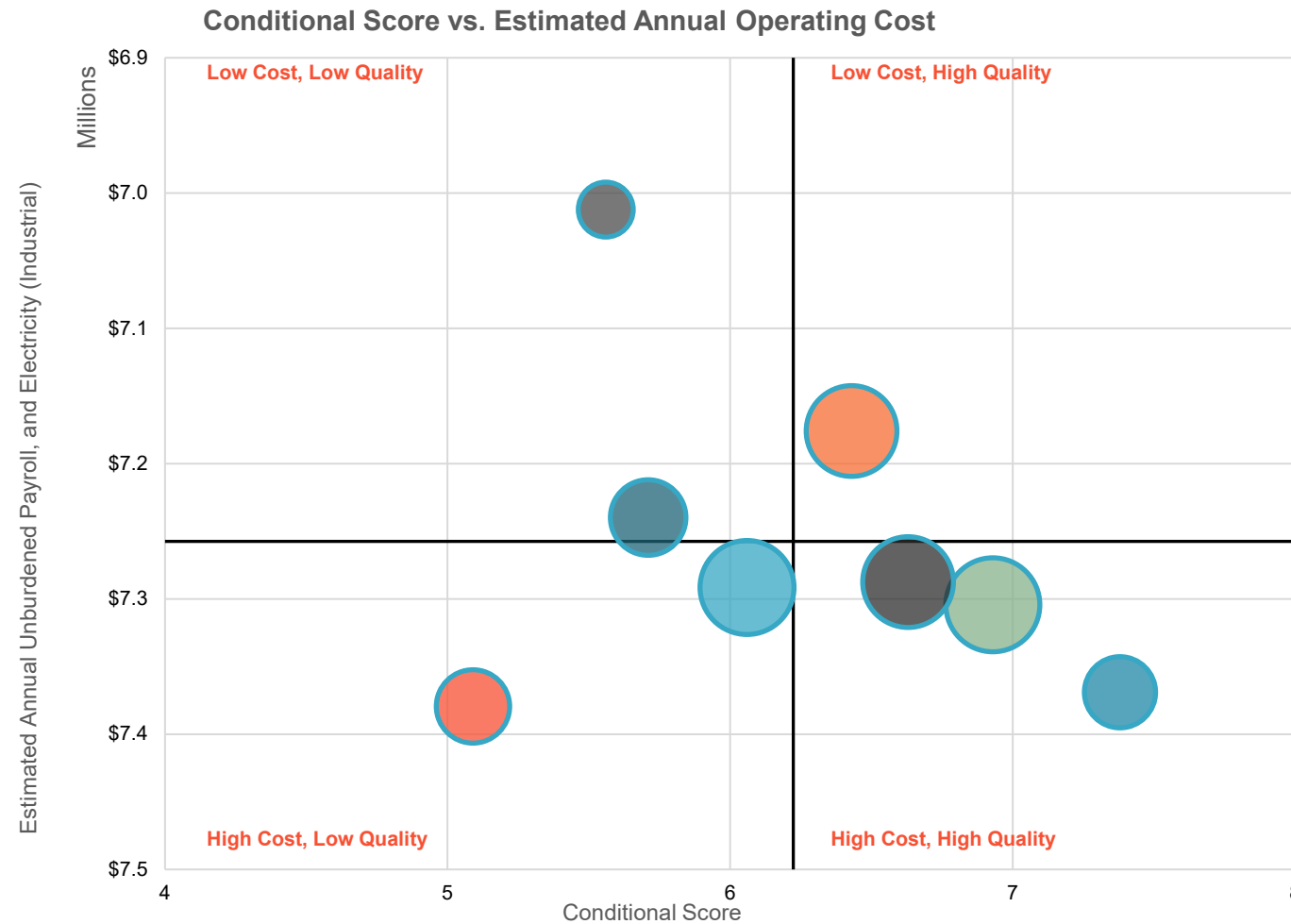
# Operating Costs

SITE IDENTIFICATION  
PRELIMINARY COST



# Composite Analysis Methodology

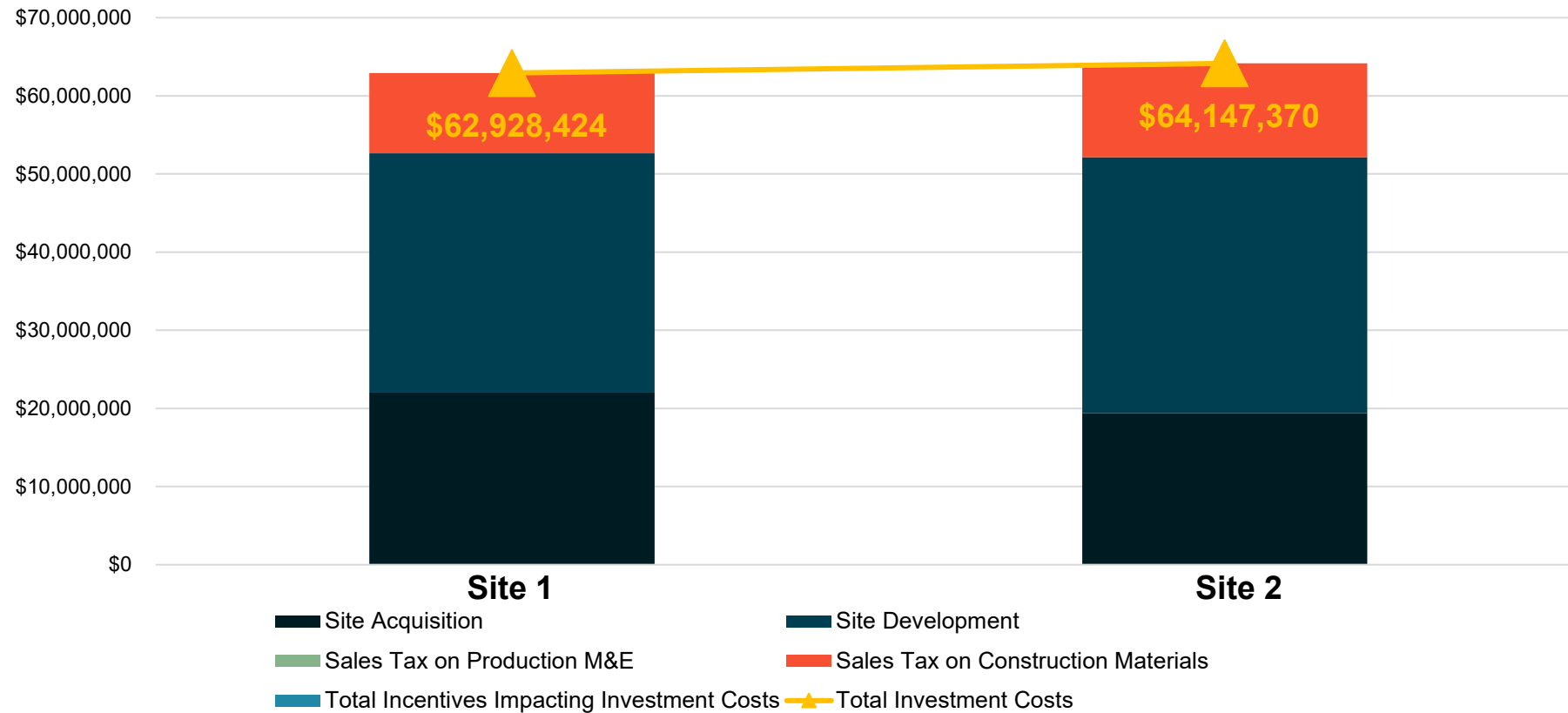
SITE IDENTIFICATION  
PRELIMINARY COST



# Case Study

SITE VISITS  
SITE-SPECIFIC COSTS

## Total Estimated Investment Costs

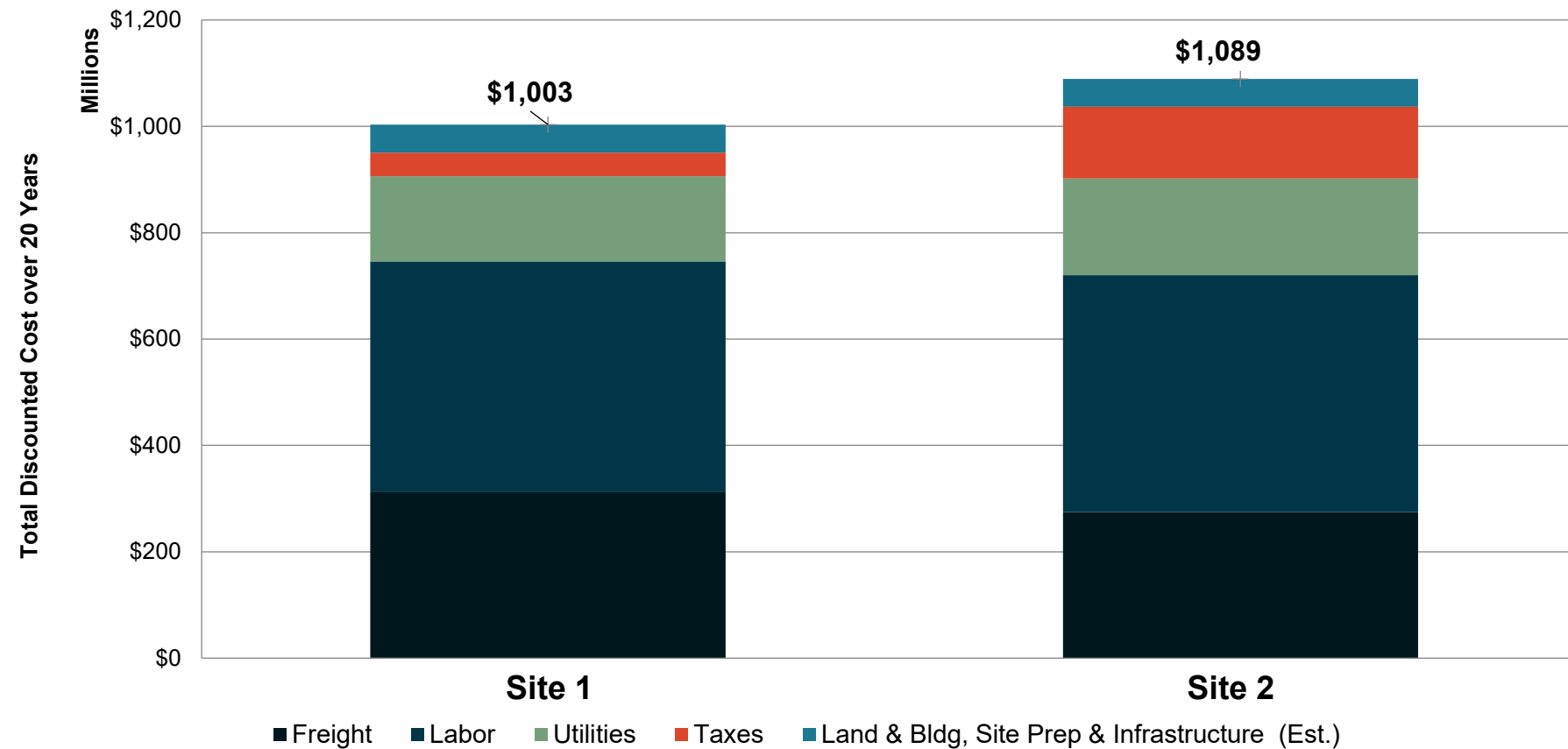




# Case Study

SITE VISITS  
SITE-SPECIFIC COSTS

## 20-Year NPV Before Incentives



# Industry Trends

How the Site Readiness Landscape is Changing

# **WARNING**

THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION MAY  
BE DISTURBING TO SOME VIEWERS.

VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.





**Demographic  
Collapse**



**Economic  
Woes**



**Increased  
Nationalism**



**Trade  
Wars**



**U.S.  
Drawdowns**



**Military Conflict**



**Energy Crisis**



**Covid-19**



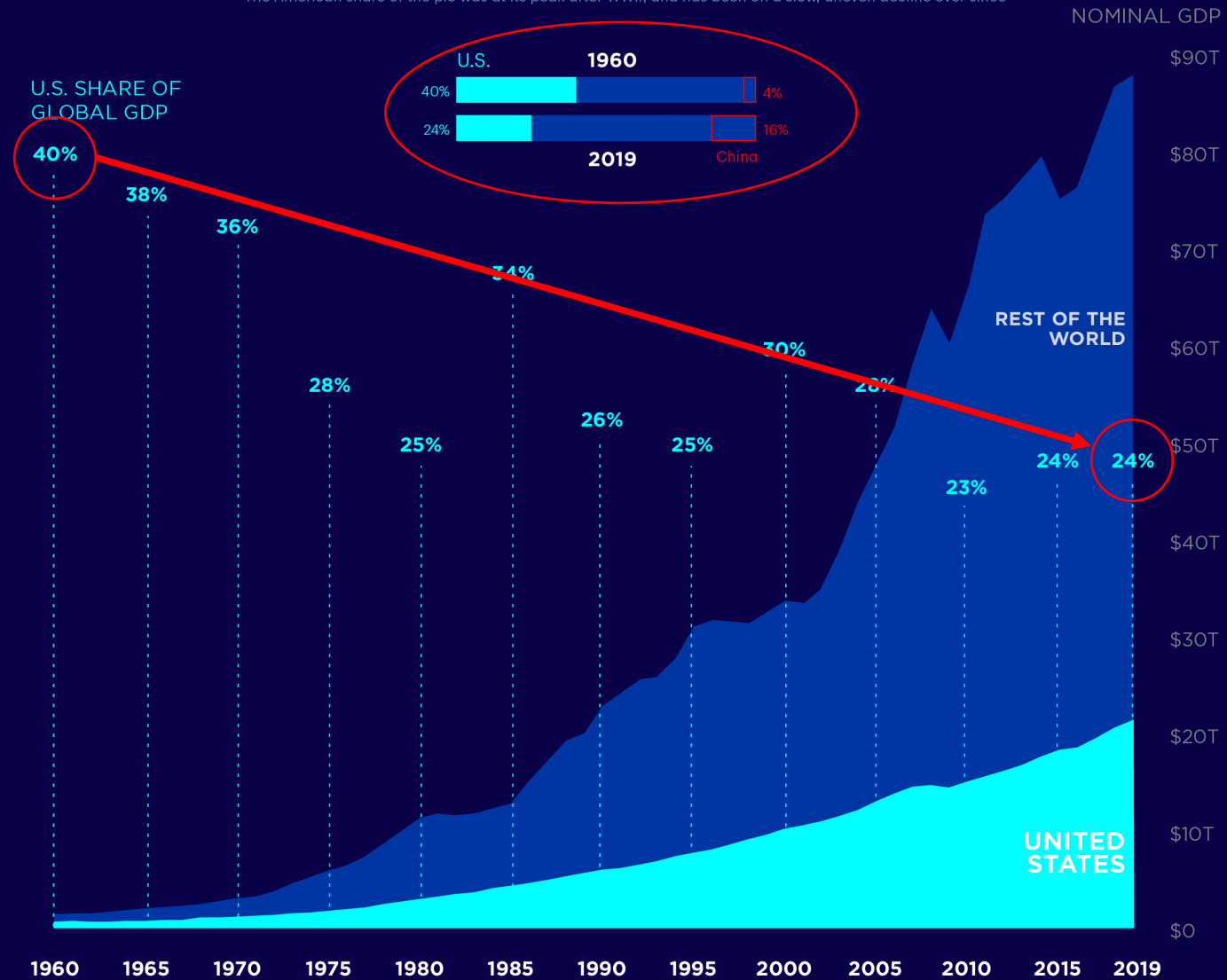
**Climate Change**



**Inflation &  
Interest Rates**

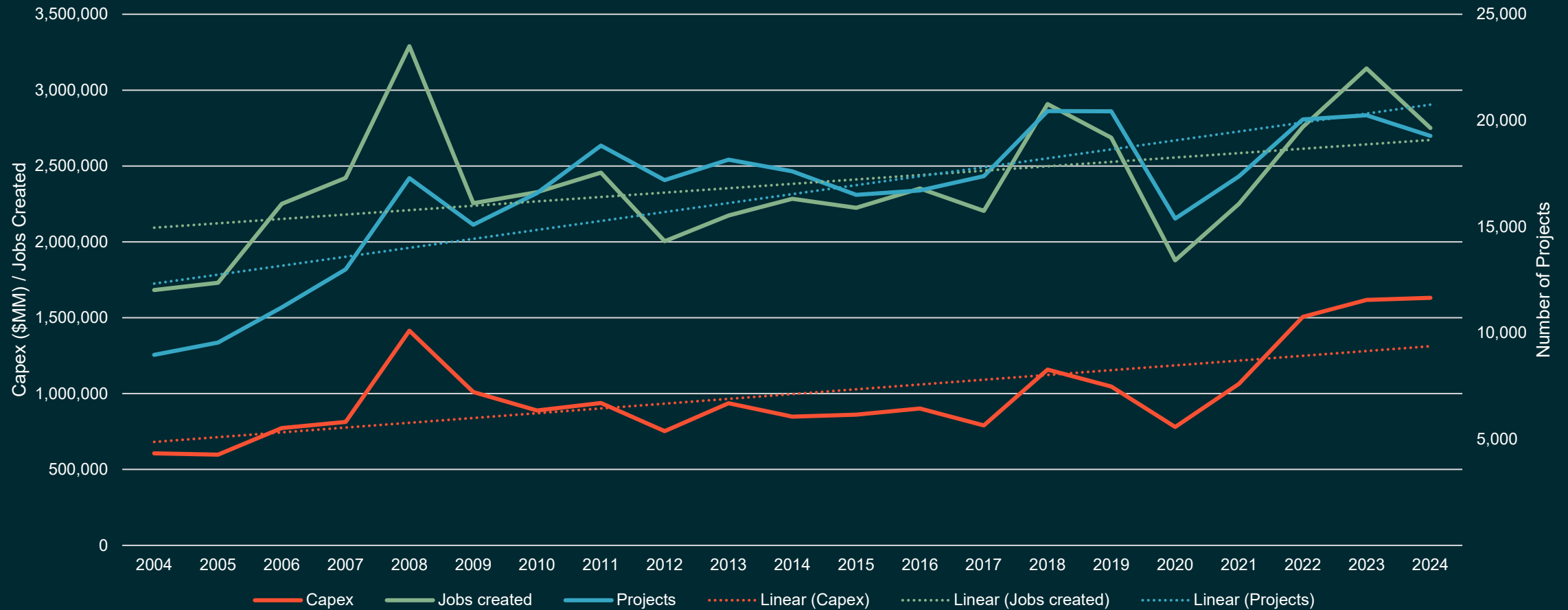
# THE U.S. SHARE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

The American share of the pie was at its peak after WWII, and has been on a slow, uneven decline ever since



# Global Investment Trends

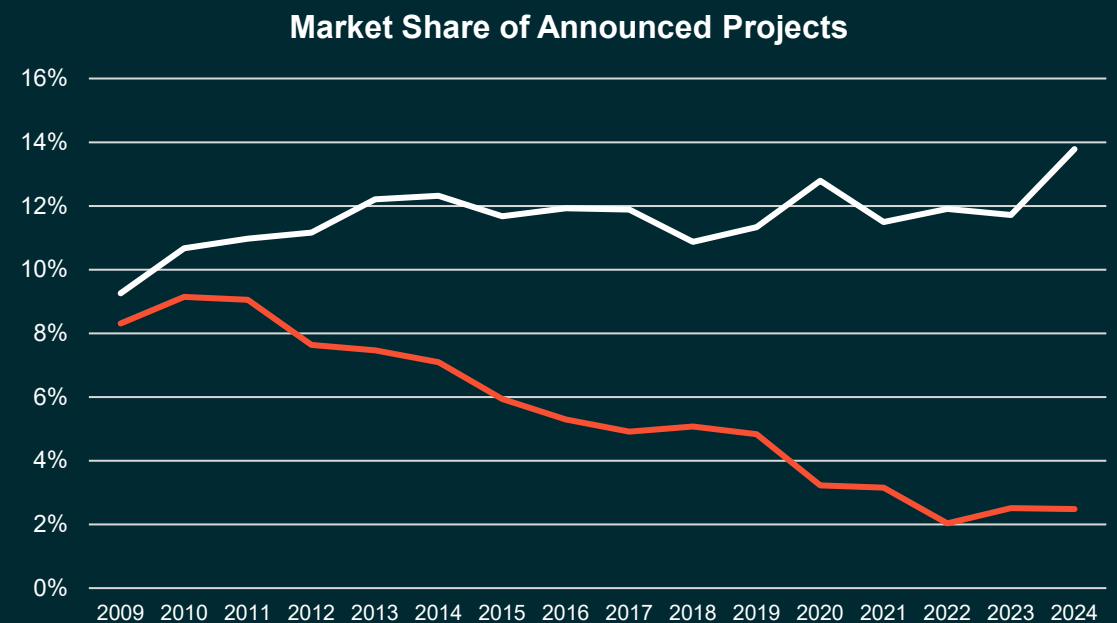
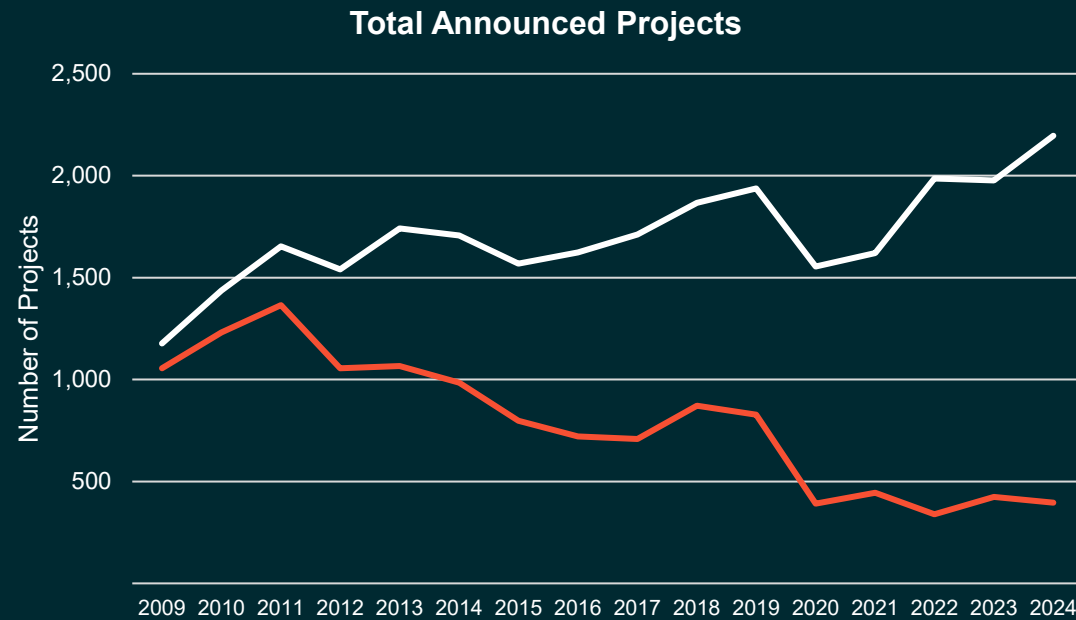
ANNOUNCED FDI PROJECTS





# Global Cross-Border Trends

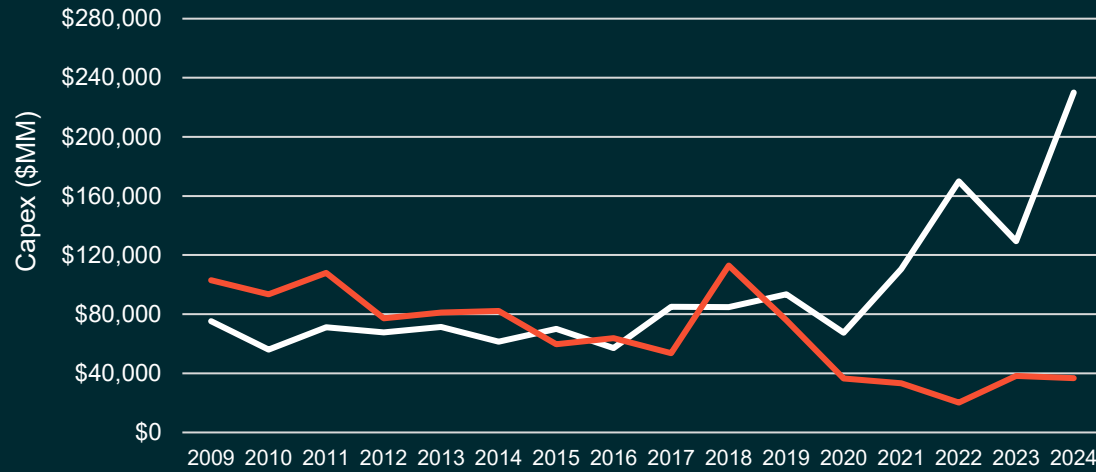
## ANNOUNCED PROJECTS



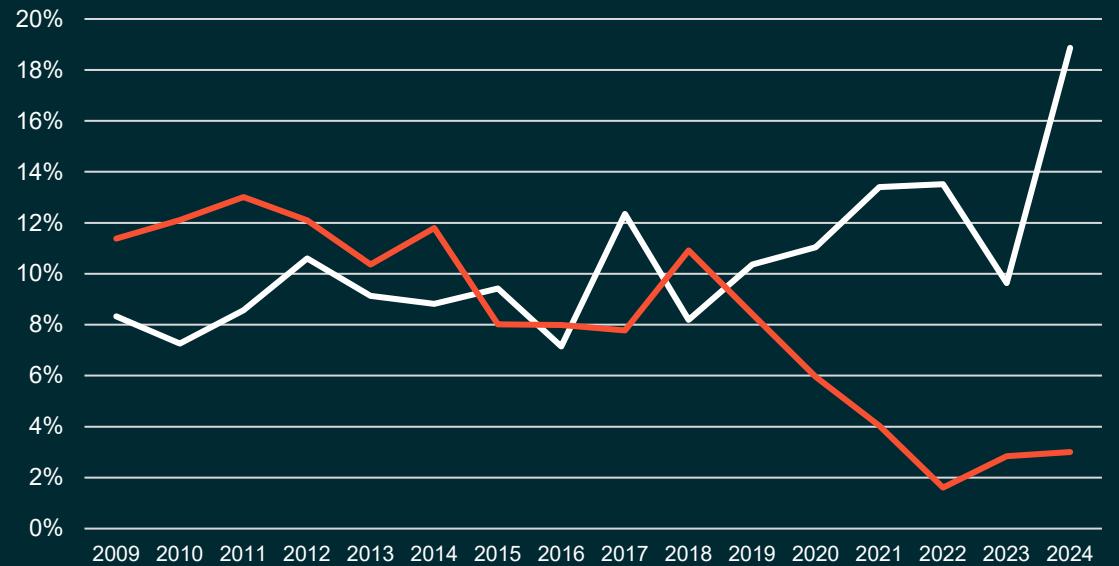
# Global Cross-Border Trends

ANNOUNCED CAPEX

## Total Announced Capital Investment



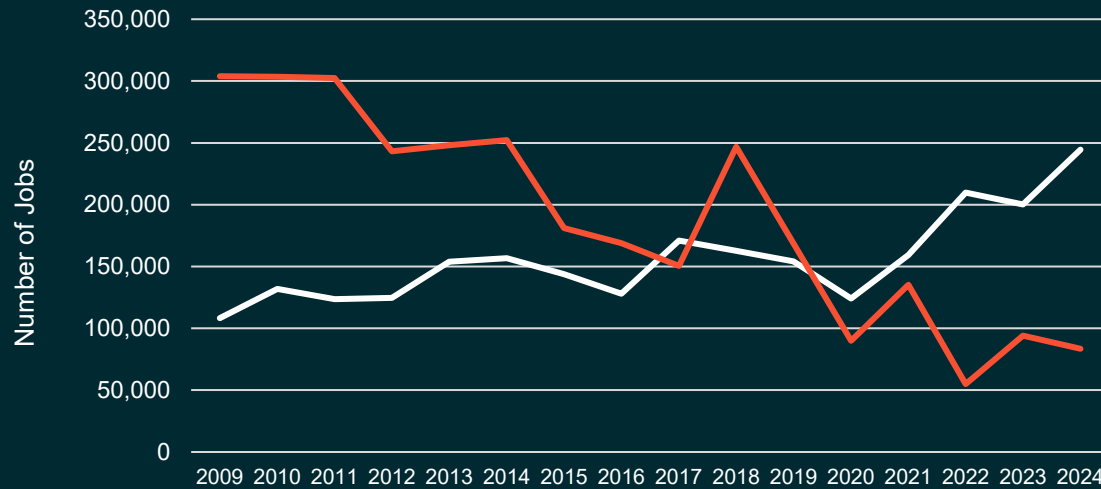
## Market Share of Announced Capex



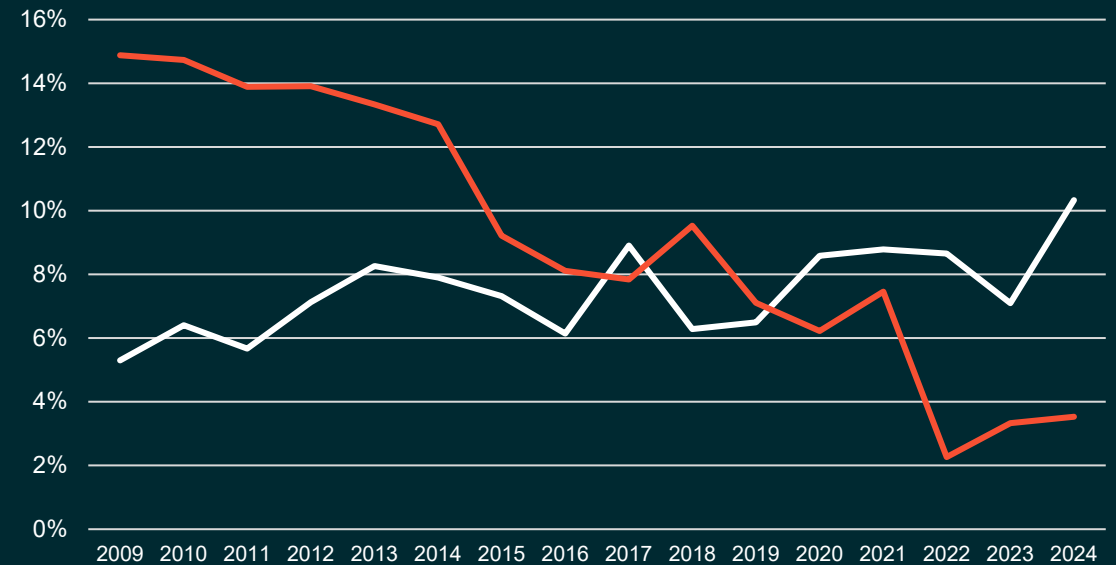
# Global Cross-Border Trends

ANNOUNCED JOBS

## Total Jobs Created



## Market Share by Jobs



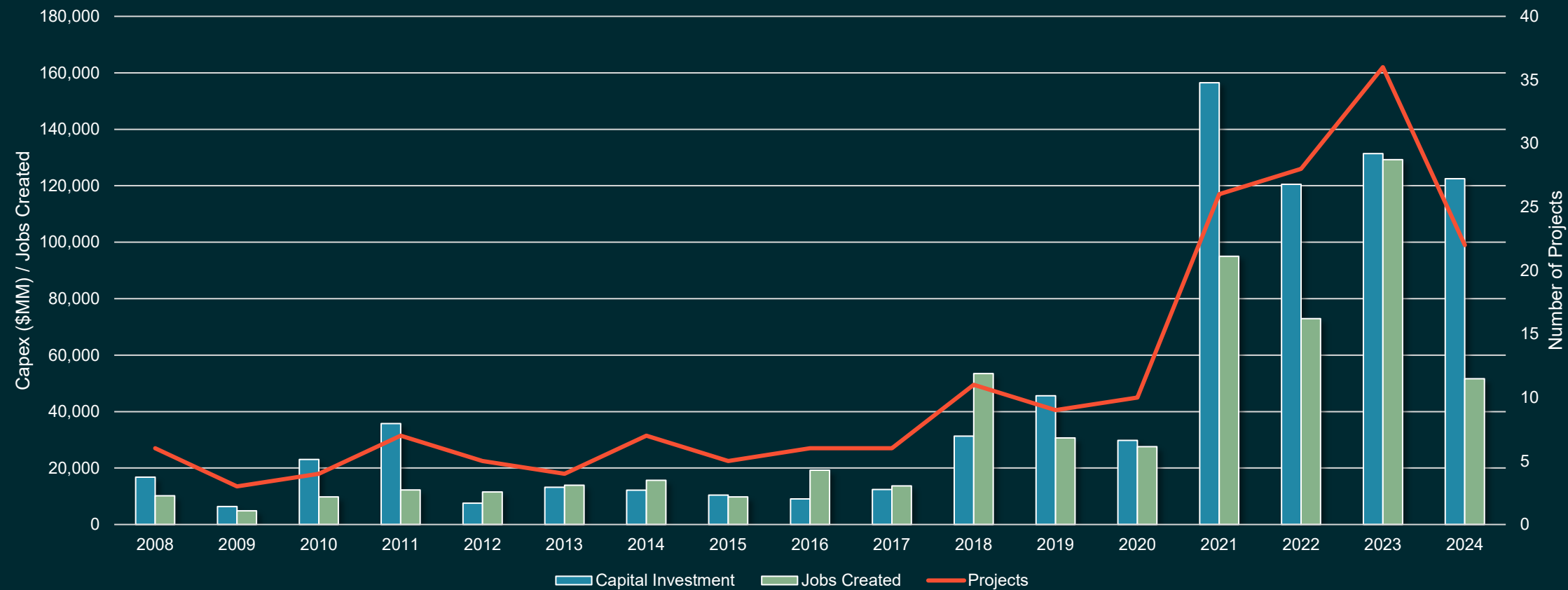


# Project Activity

Continued Investment Strength

# Mega-Project Trends

GLOBAL PROJECTS

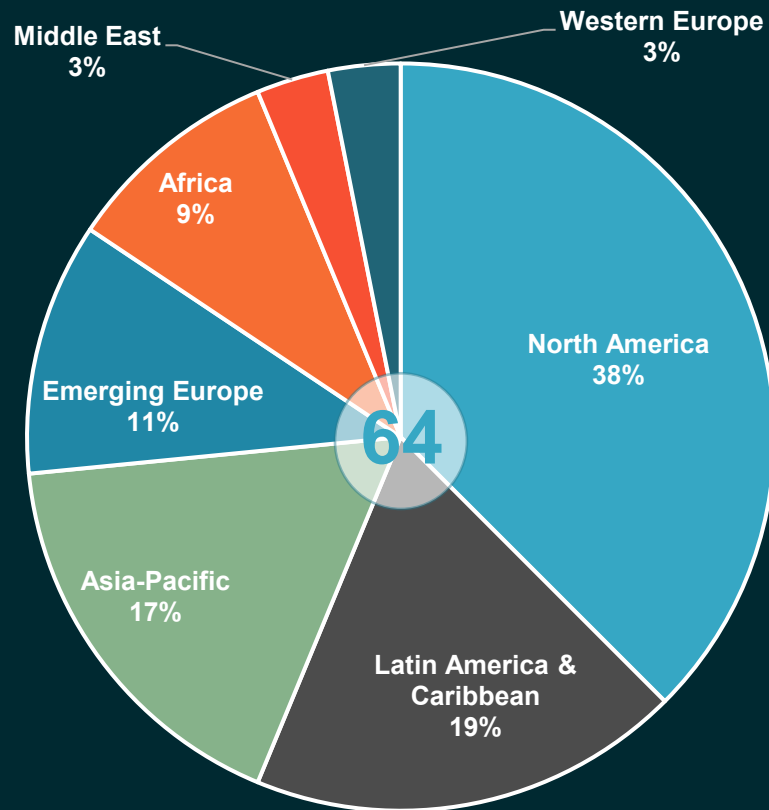


Greater than \$1 billion capex and 1,000 jobs Source: FDI Markets

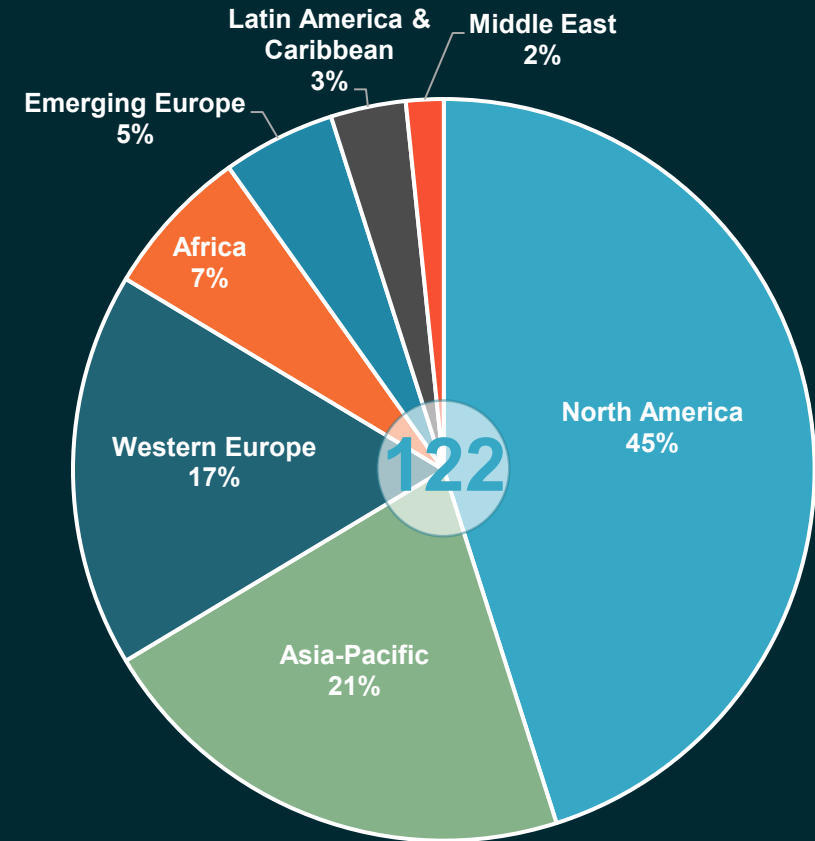
# Shifting Geographic Focus

GLOBAL PROJECTS

## Mega Projects 2010-2019

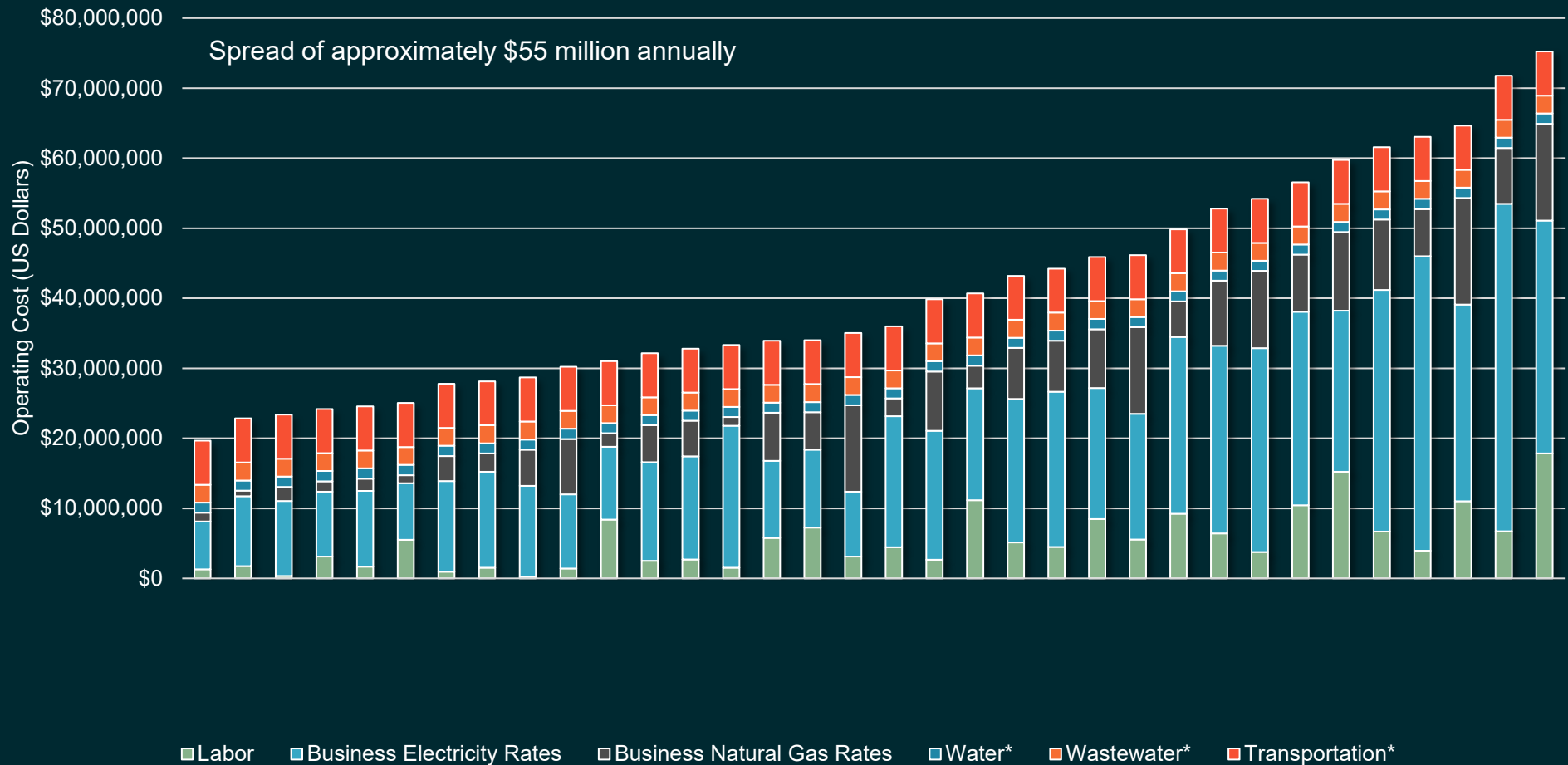


## Mega Projects 2020- 2024



Greater than \$1 billion capex and 1000 jobs Source: FDI Markets

# Global Location Dependent Operating Costs



Manufacturing operation:

- 200 employees
- 15 MW electric demand
- 100 mcf/ hour natural gas
- 500,000 GPD water
- 500,000 GPD wastewater

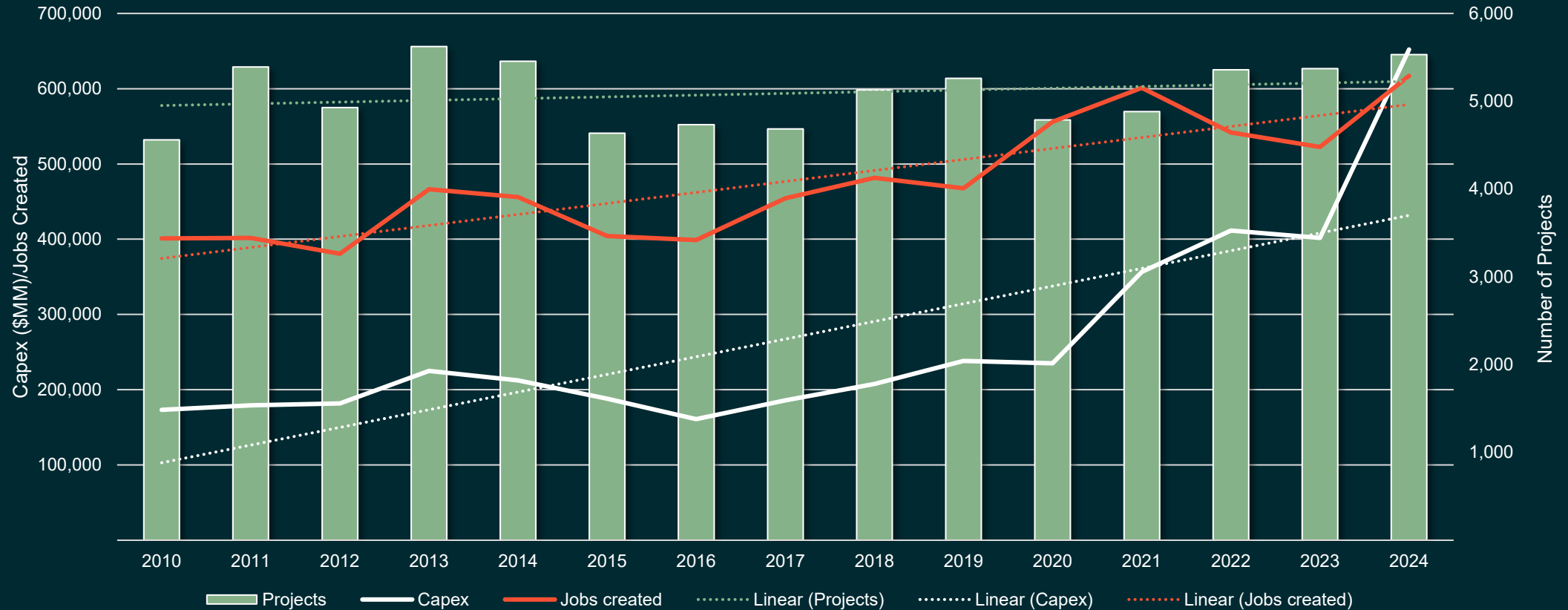
\*Plug numbers based on average costs.

Source: GlobalPetrolPrices (electric and natural gas rates for business through June 2024), Take-profit.org (monthly wages)

\*Plug numbers based on average costs.

# U.S. Announced Projects

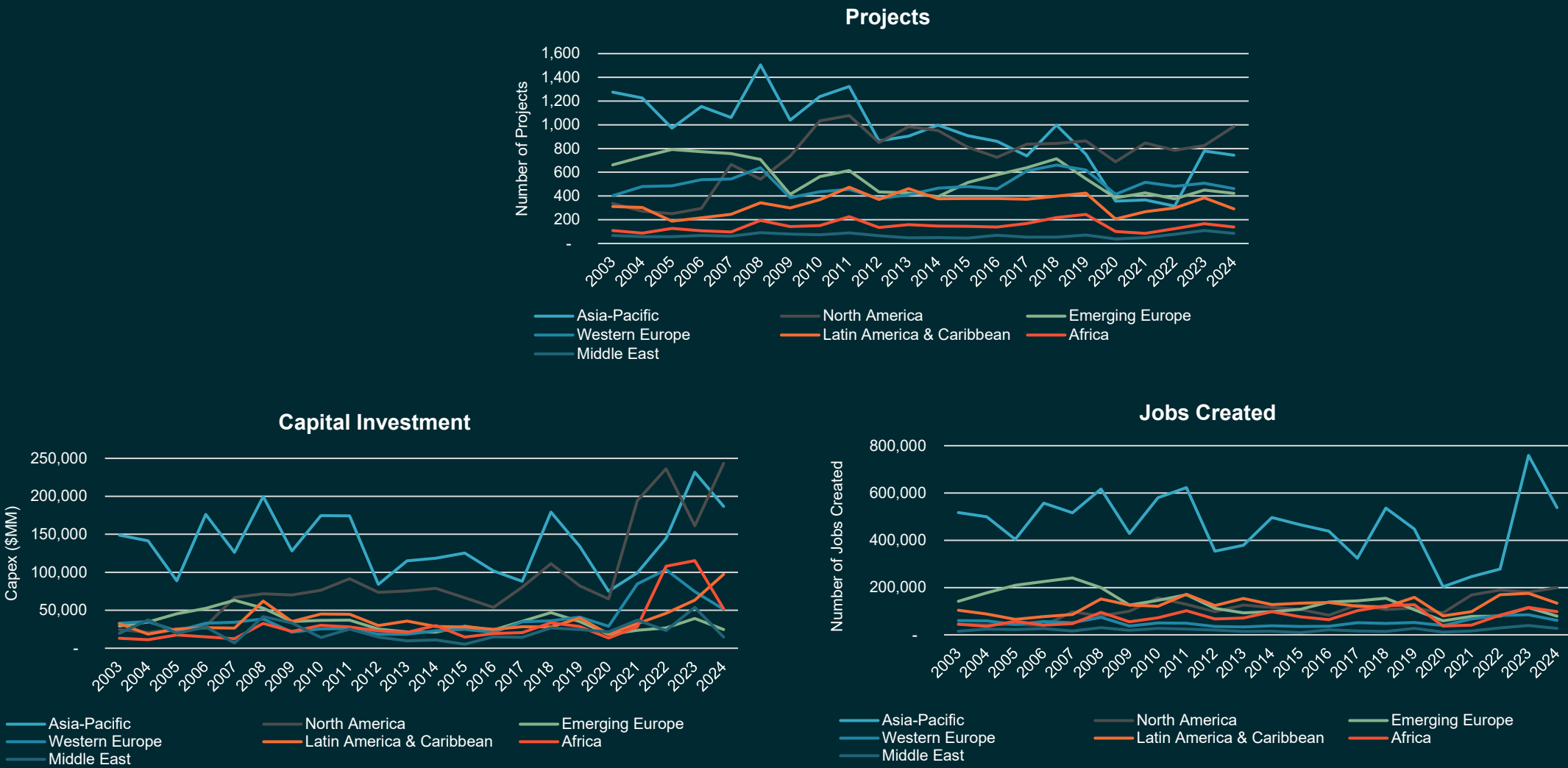
2010 - 2024





# Projects by Destination Regions

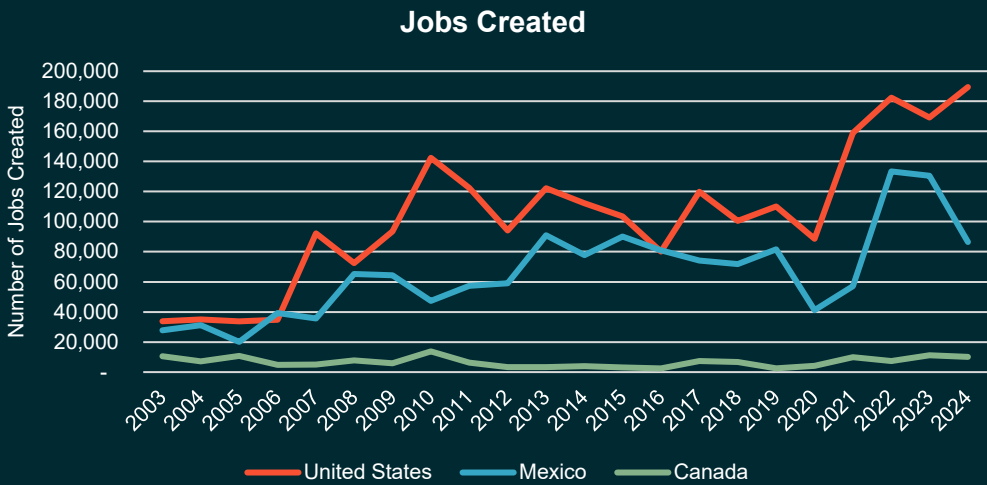
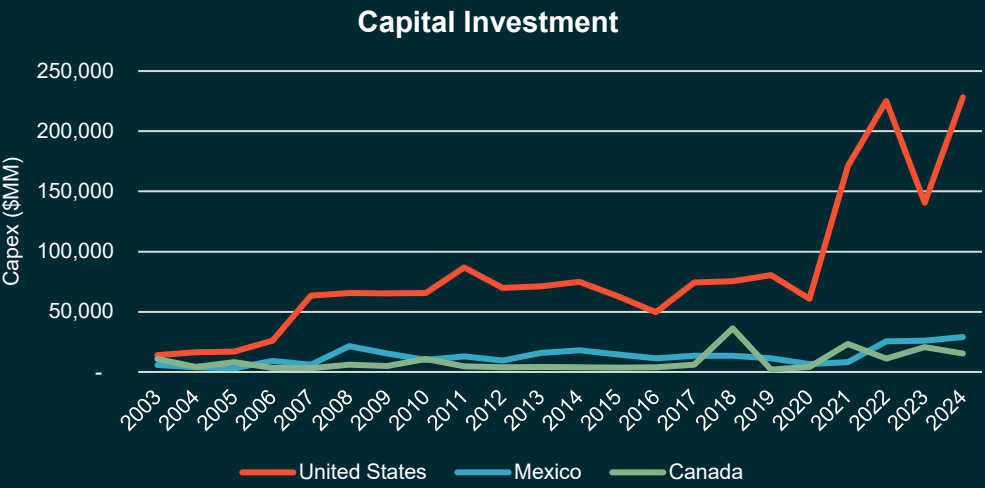
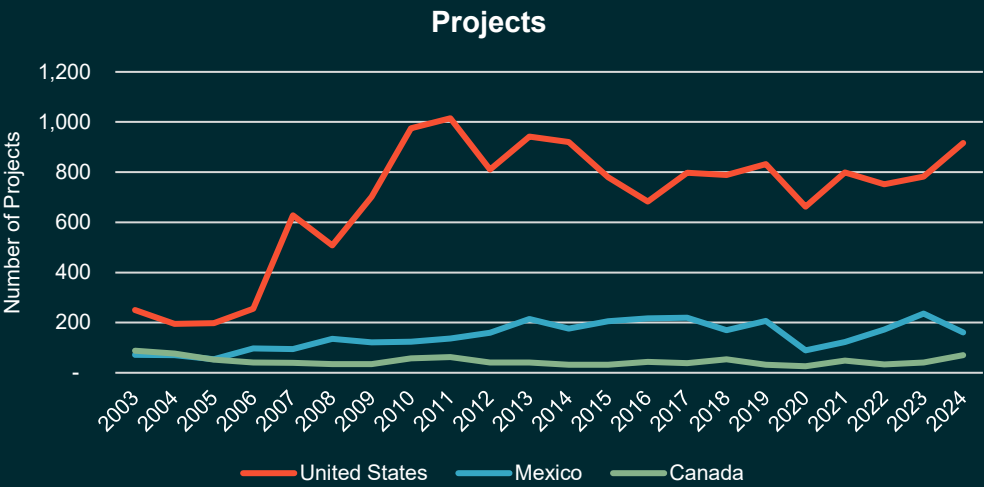
MANUFACTURING



Source: FDI Markets, 2003-2024

# Projects in North America

## MANUFACTURING

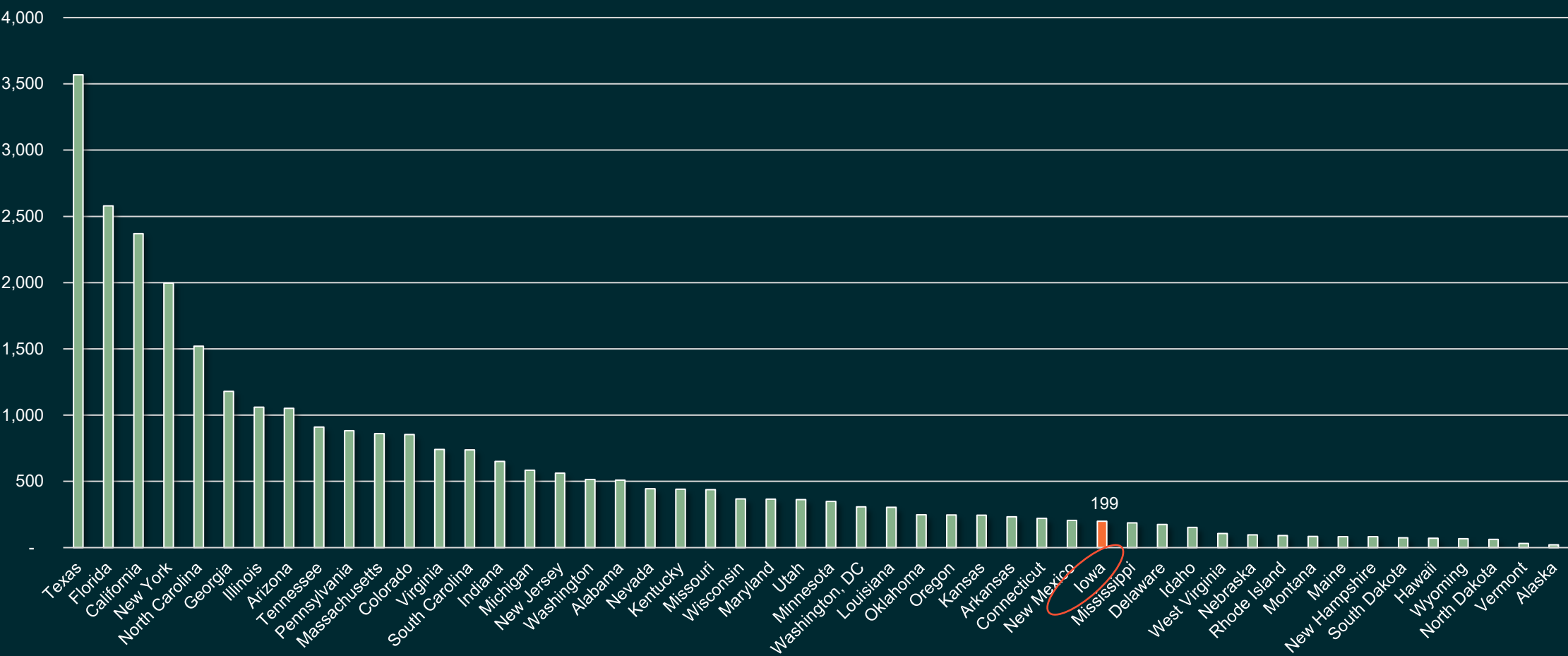


# Iowa's Announced Investment

ALL PROJECTS (JAN 2018 - JULY 2024)

## Iowa

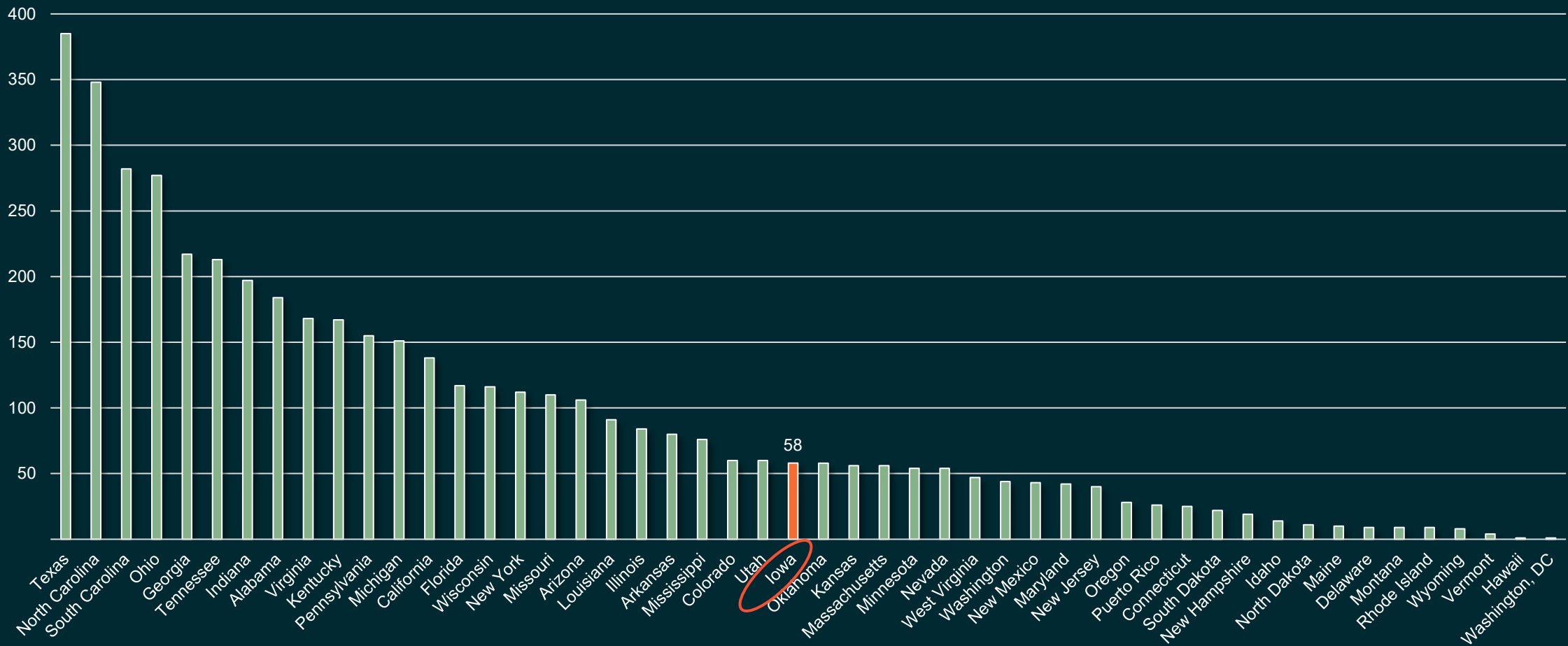
- 31<sup>st</sup> in Population
- 36<sup>th</sup> in Number of Projects



# Iowa's Announced Investment

MANUFACTURING (JAN 2018 - JULY 2024)

- Iowa:
- 31<sup>st</sup> in Population
  - 25<sup>th</sup> in Manufacturing Projects



# Path to Success

What does this all mean



# Challenges in Today's Economic Development Climate

01

## SITES

Dwindling inventory  
High activity levels  
Long lead time

02

## ENERGY

Strained infrastructure capacity  
Transformer delays  
High demand for renewables

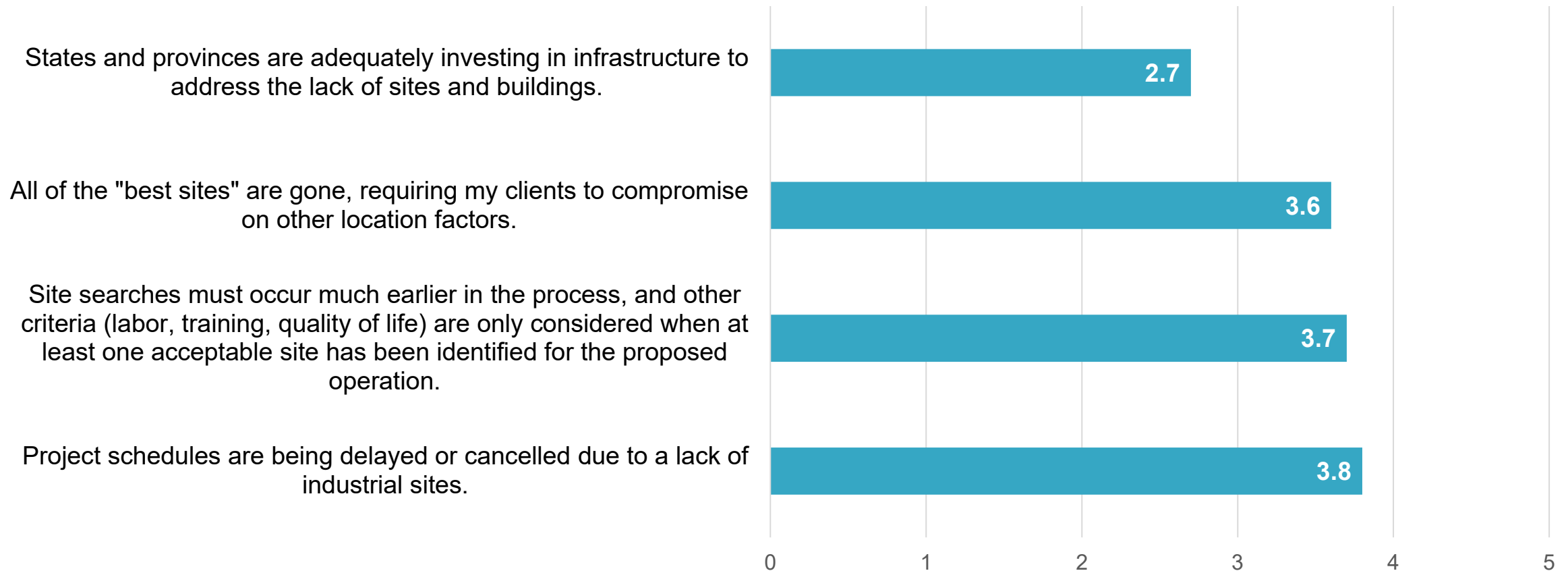
03

## LABOR

Low unemployment  
Low participation  
Aging workforce

# Industrial Projects: Agreement with Select Statements on Real Estate, Buildings, and Sites

( 1 = NO IMPACT, 5 = SIGNIFICANT IMPACT )



Source: State of Site Selection Report, Site Selectors Guild, September 2024

# Challenges in Today's Economic Development Climate

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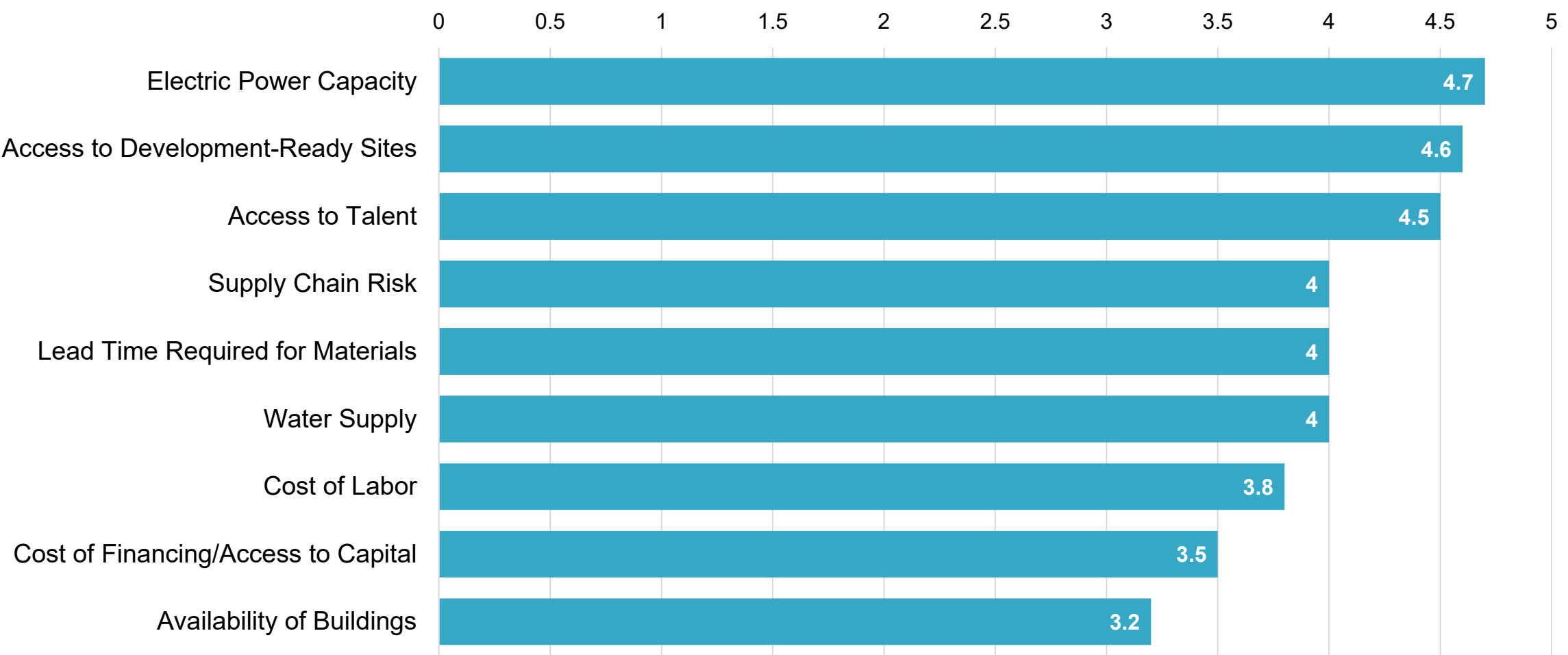


# 98%

**of Guild members believe access to sufficient electric capacity will significantly impact the future of industrial projects.**

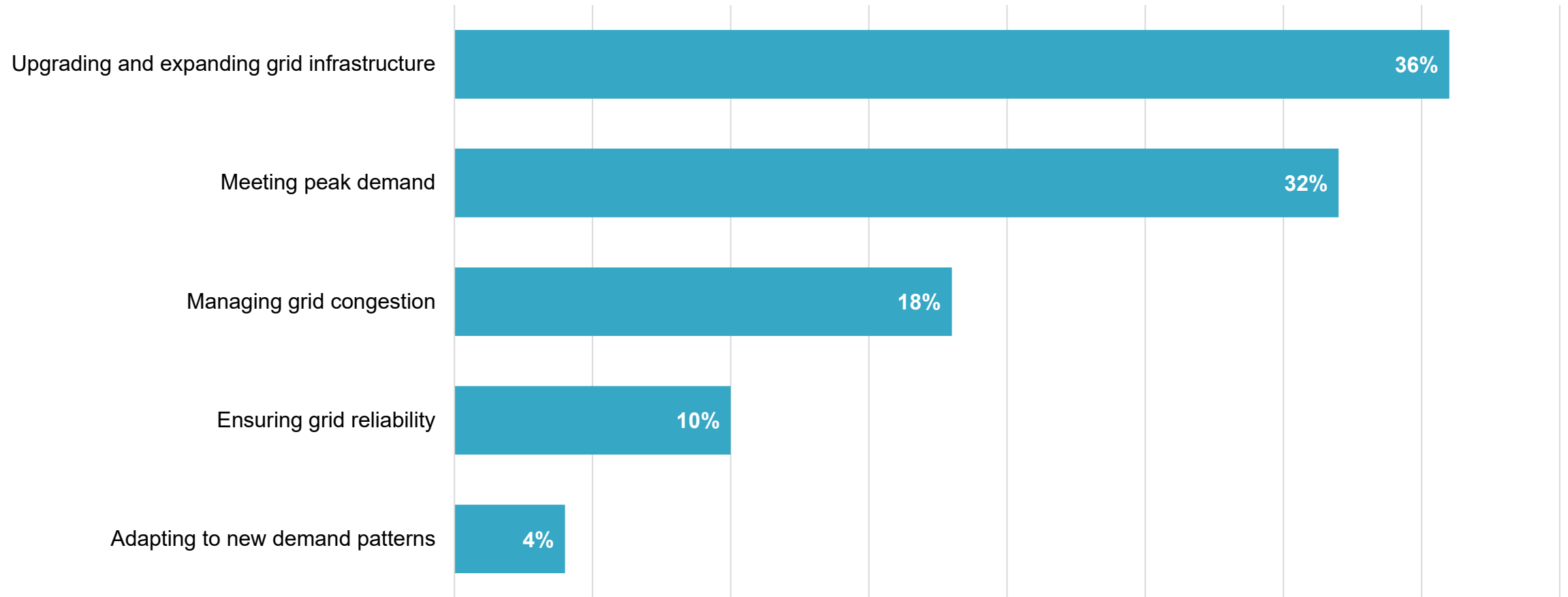
# Factors Most Impacting Industrial Projects

( 1 = NO IMPACT, 5 = SIGNIFICANT IMPACT )



# Significant Challenge for Utilities

Power and utilities respondents see upgrading and expanding grid infrastructure as their biggest challenge related to rising electricity demand

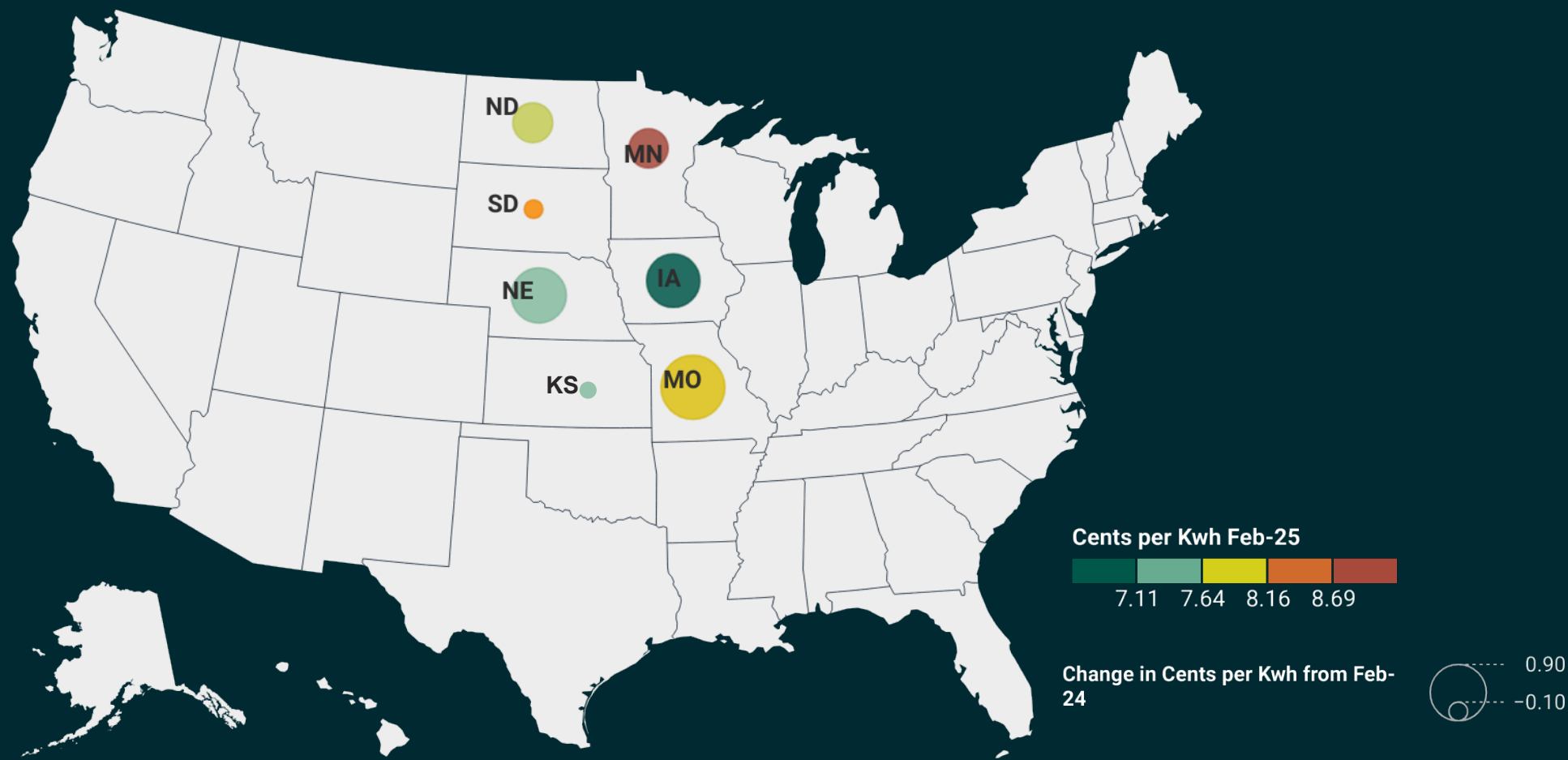


Source: Deloitte 2023 Power and Utilities Industry Survey



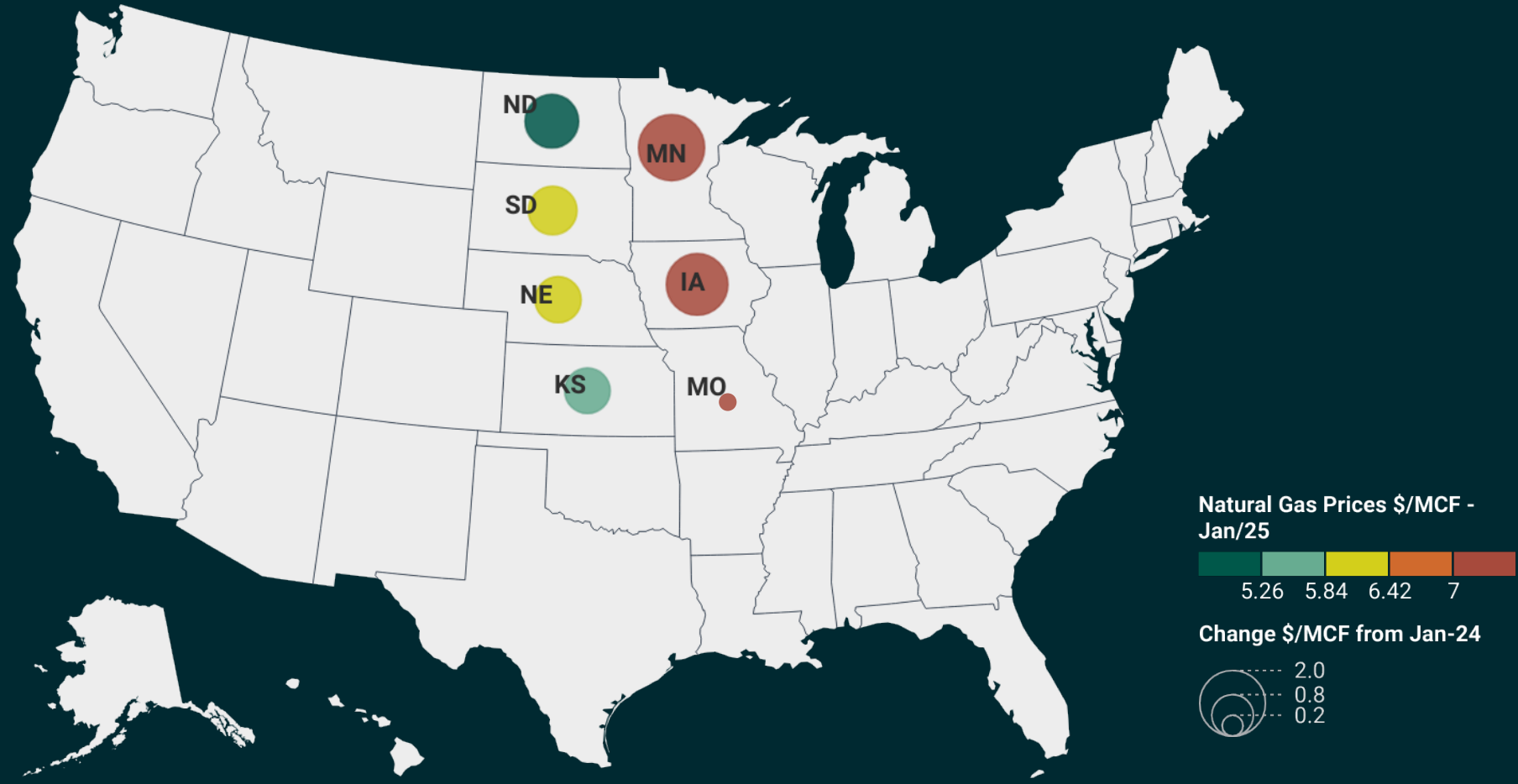
# Electric Rates Across the West North Central Region

TRACKING RATE SHIFTS: FEBRUARY 2025 vs. 2024



# Natural Gas Across the West North Central Region

INDUSTRIAL NATURAL GAS PRICES SHIFTS: JANUARY 2025 vs. 2024



Source: US EIA

**\*Note:** Natural gas industrial prices for Kansas in January 2025 were unavailable. The map reflects Kansas data from Nov-2024 vs. Nov-23.

# Challenges in Today's Economic Development Climate

01

## SITES

Dwindling inventory  
High activity levels  
Long lead time

02

## ENERGY

Strained infrastructure capacity  
Transformer delays  
High demand for renewables

03

## LABOR

Low unemployment  
Low participation  
Aging workforce

## **1. INCREASED DEATH RATES**

Elevated post Covid-19

## **2. AGING BABY BOOMERS**

Entering years of increased retirement and mortality

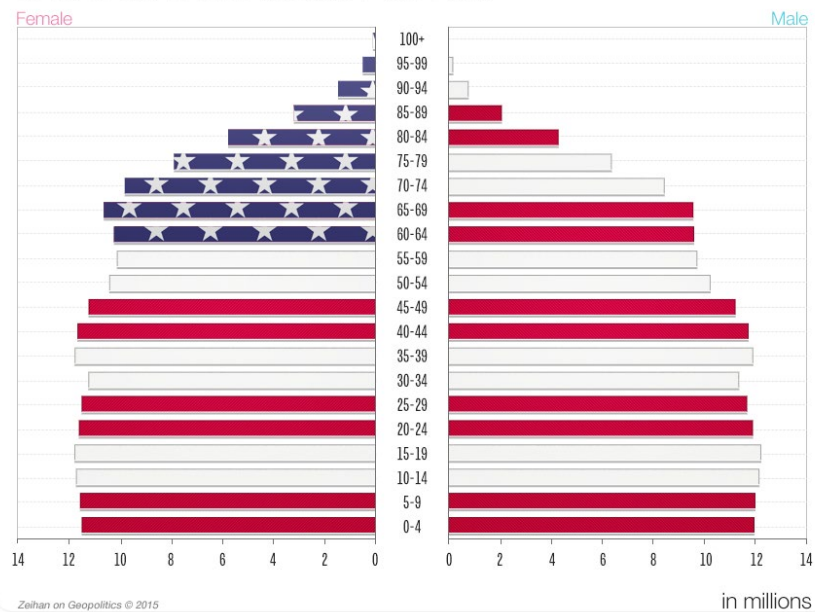
## **3. LOWER BIRTHRATES**

Birthrates below 2.1 replacement rate

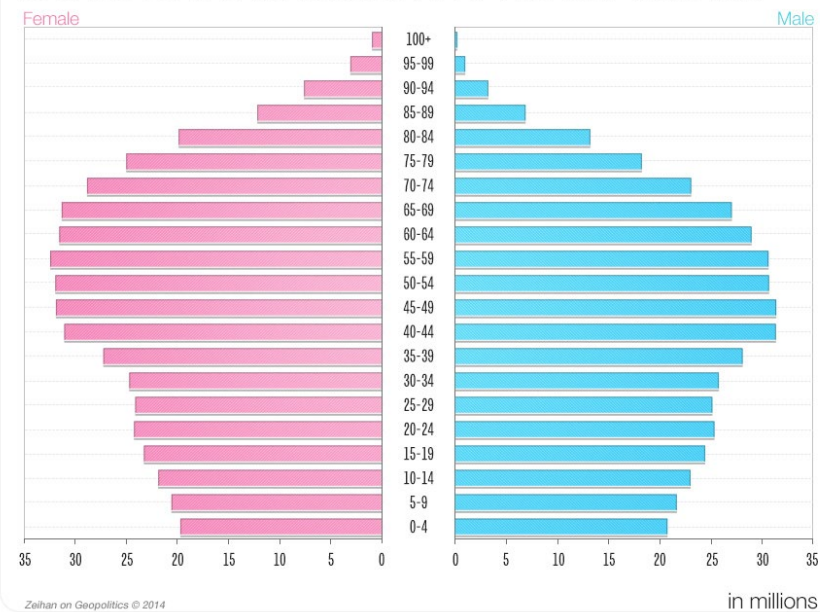
## **4. INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION**

Lower than historic norms

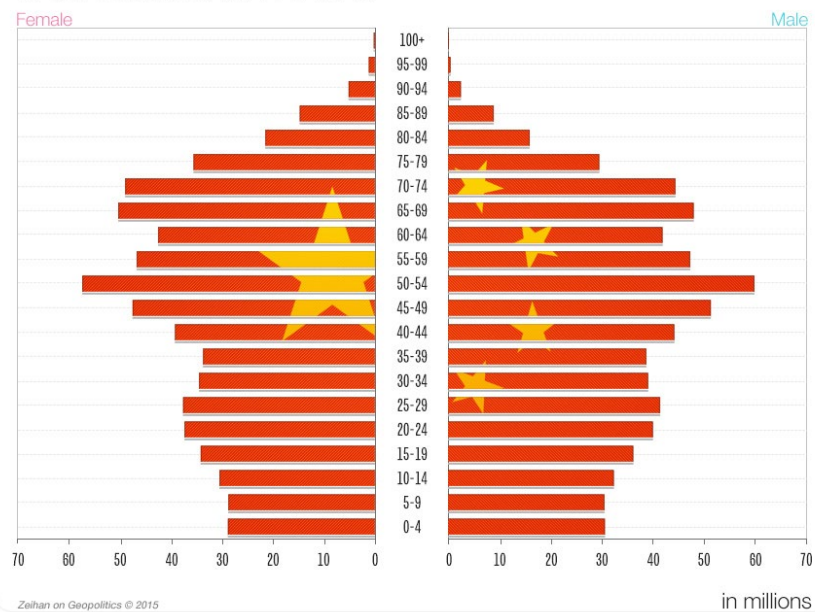
## UNITED STATES DEMOGRAPHY: 2030



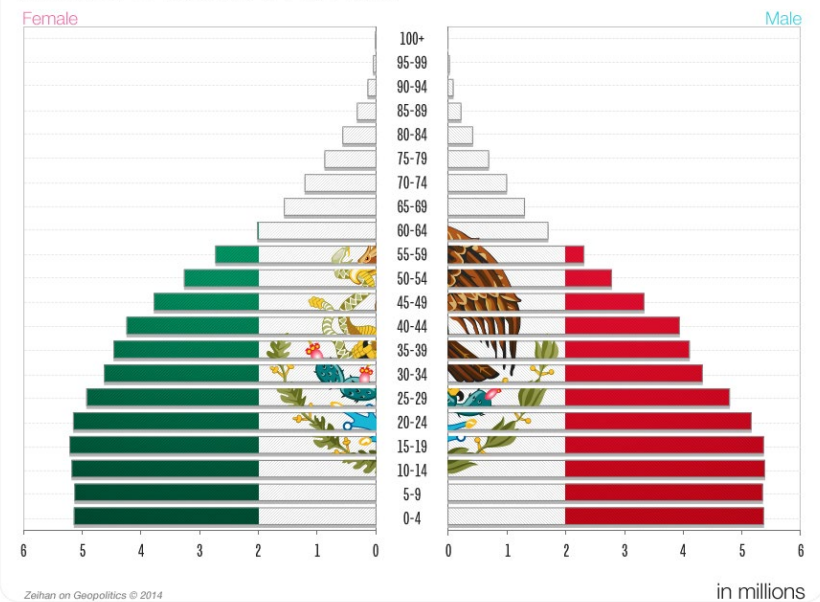
## DEVELOPED WORLD DEMOGRAPHY WITHOUT U.S.: 2030



## CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 2040

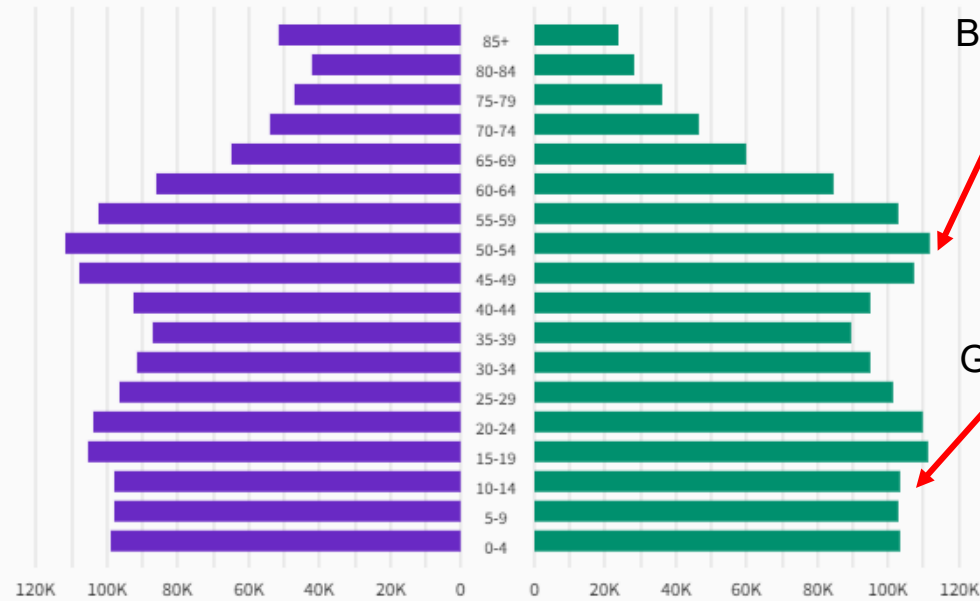


## MEXICO DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



# Iowa

Total population in 2010

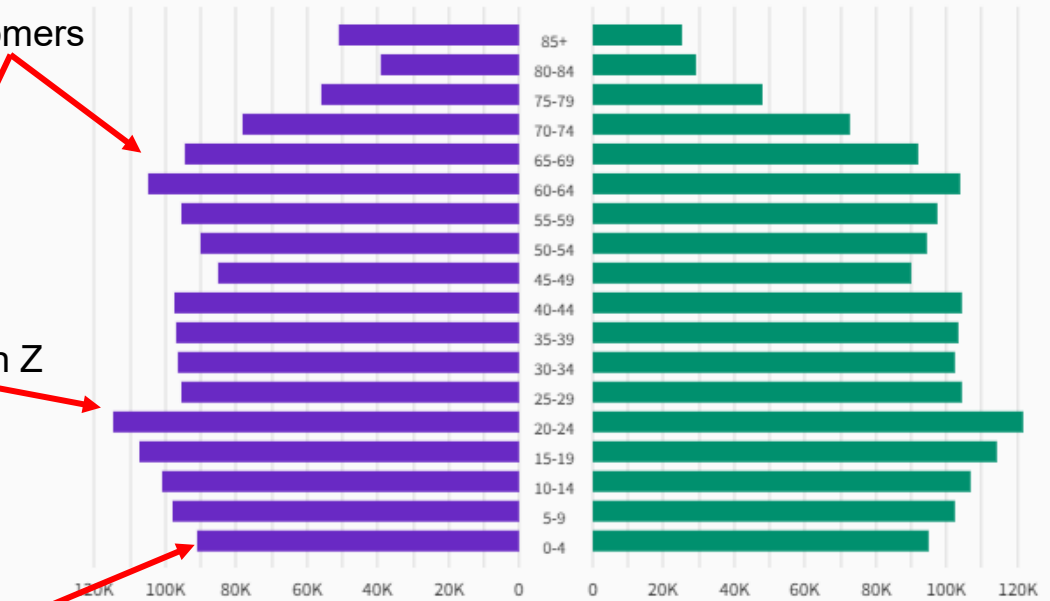


Total population in 2022

Boomers

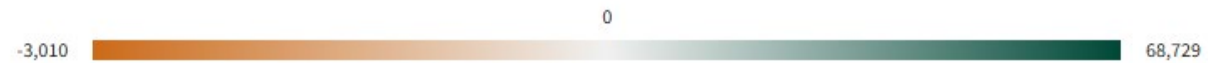
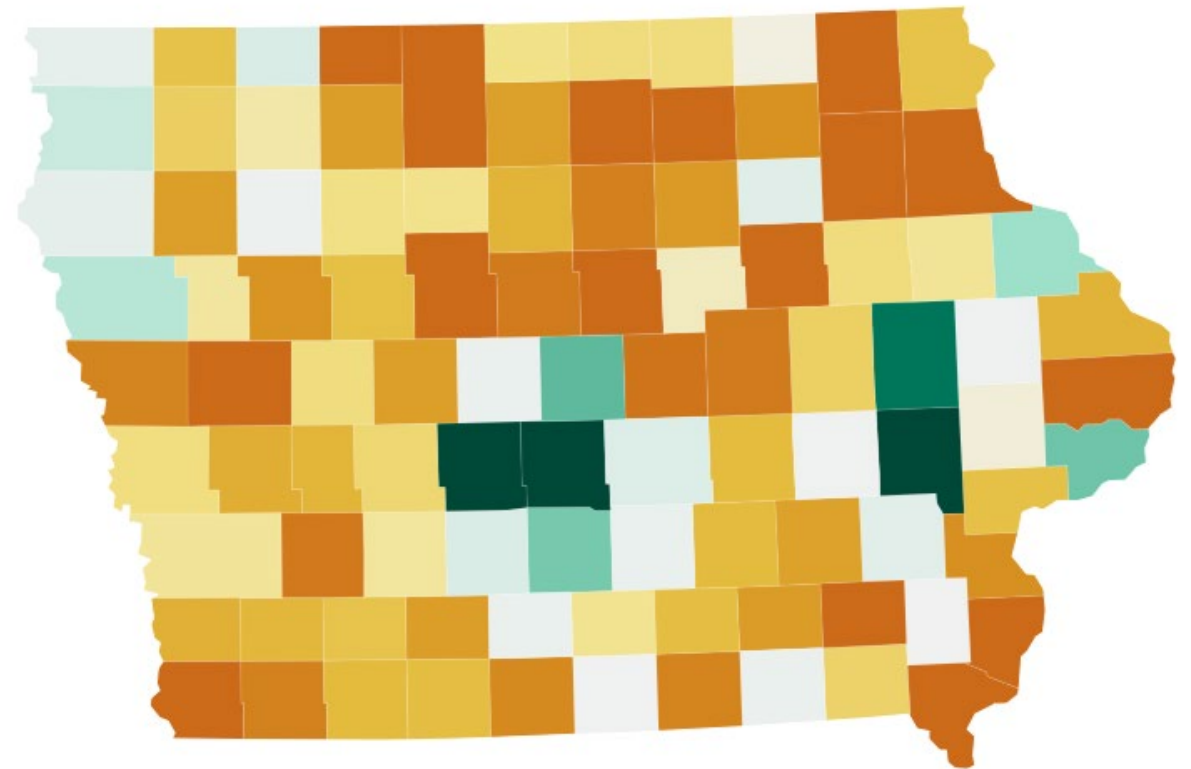
Gen Z

Uh Oh





# Iowa



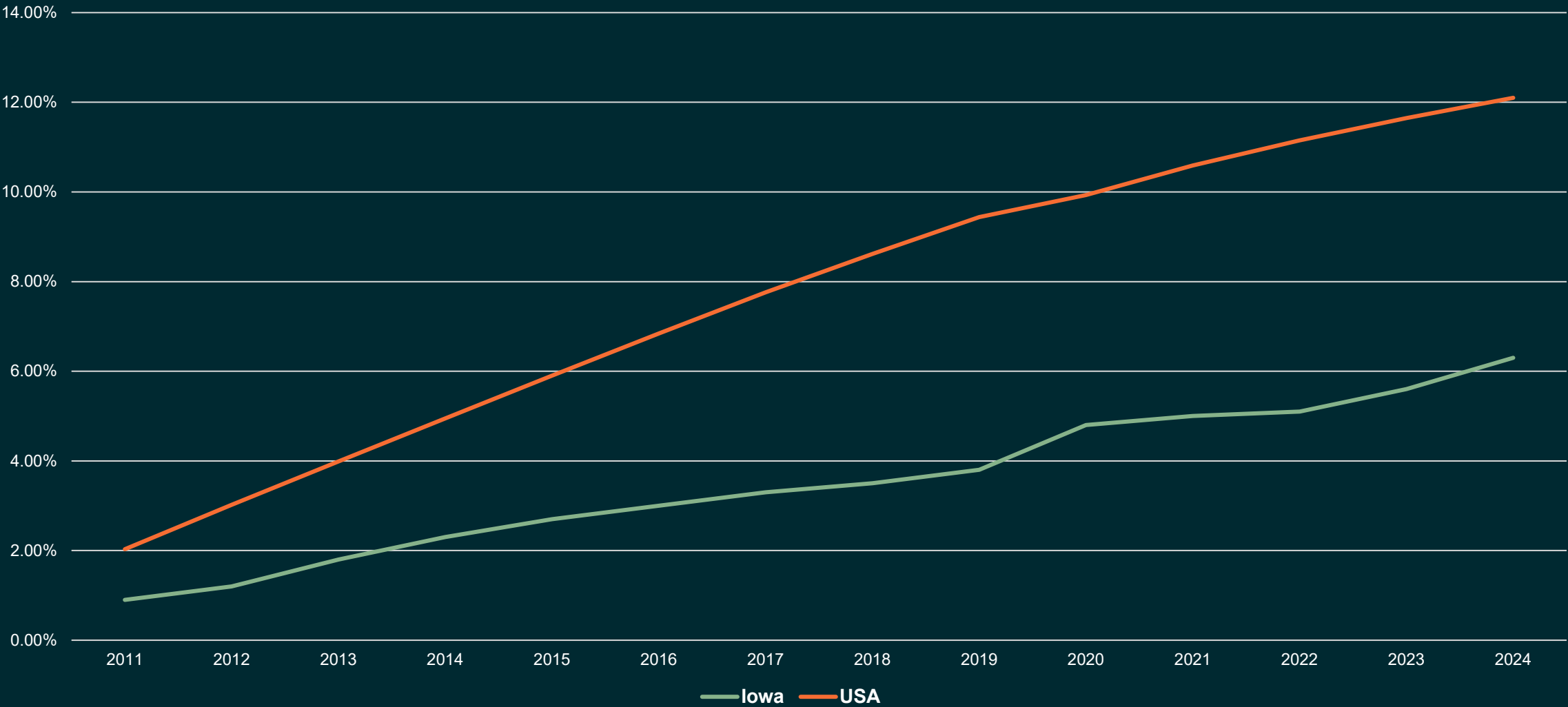
POPULATION CHANGE BETWEEN 2010 AND 2022

Demographics

How Do Iowa's MSAs Stack Up?

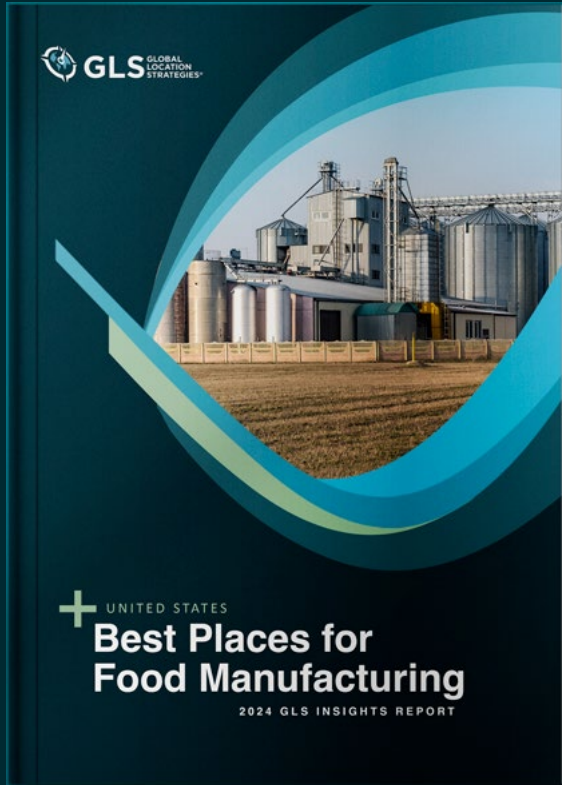
Category	Iowa MSAs	Iowa	USA
Population Annual Average Growth	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%
Median Age	36.9	38.6	38.7
Labor Force Participation Rate (civilian population 16 years and over)	68.5%	66.5%	63.3%
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate (civilian population 25-54)	87.6%	87.3%	83.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.6%	5.2%
Aging Population (Over 65 Years)	15.6%	17.8%	16.8%

# Iowa Population Cumulative Growth



# Path to Success

Know who to target



# GLS Insights

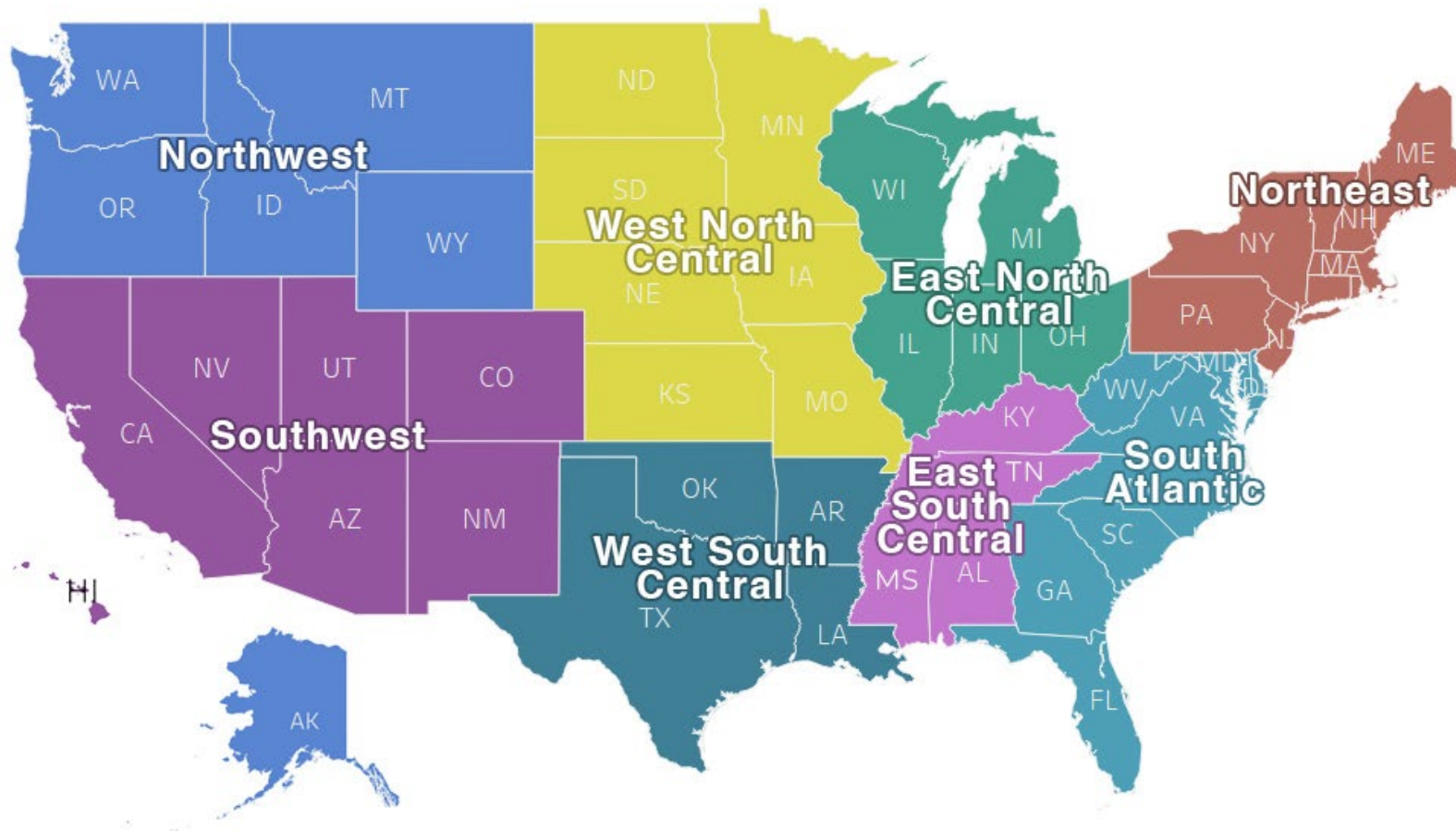
LOCATION BENCHMARKING REPORTS



How does Iowa stack up in:

- Food Manufacturing
- Primary Metal Manufacturing

[GLSInsights.com](https://GLSInsights.com)



To produce our GLS Insights rankings, we combine data from more than a dozen public and private data providers to analyze over 100 criteria in categories including demographics, workforce, logistics infrastructure, industry ecosystem, education, attraction and quality of life, regulatory environment, and operating costs.

# Food Manufacturing

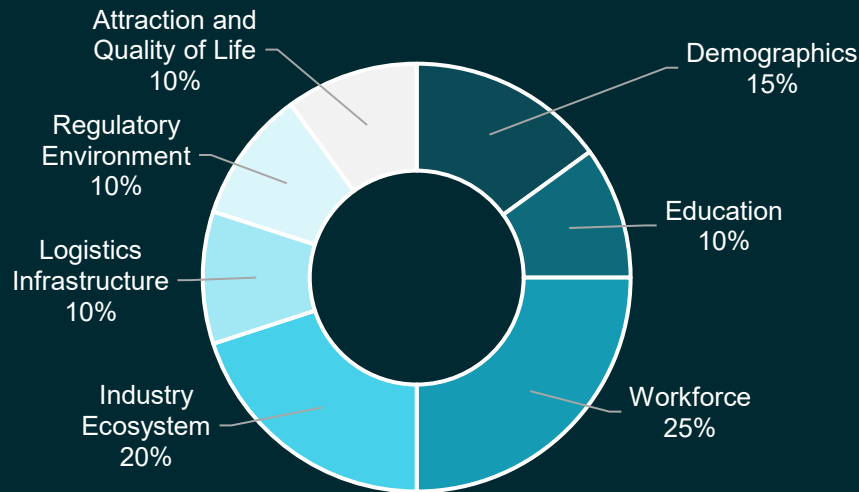
GLS Insights



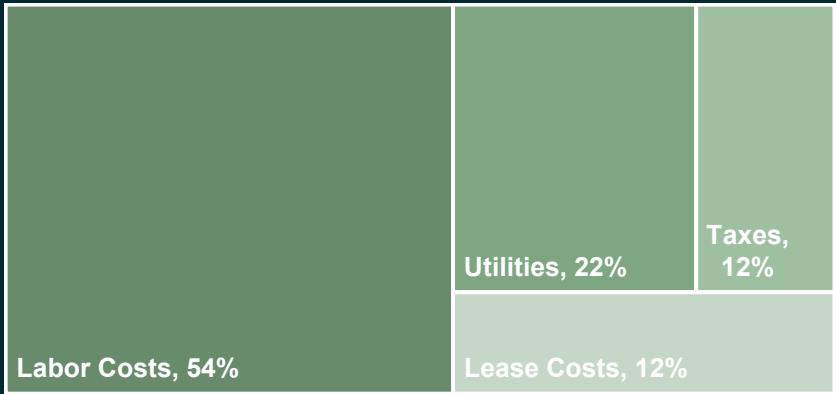
# Food Manufacturing Project Profile

REAL ESTATE	250K SF Building	30 Acres
INITIAL INVESTMENT + EMPLOYMENT	\$100MM Capital Investment	150 Employees
FINANCIALS	\$250MM Revenue	7% Earnings Before Taxes
UTILITY DEMANDS	5 MW Electric Load Factor 0.70	25 MCFPH Natural Gas
	200K GPD Water	150K GPD Wastewater

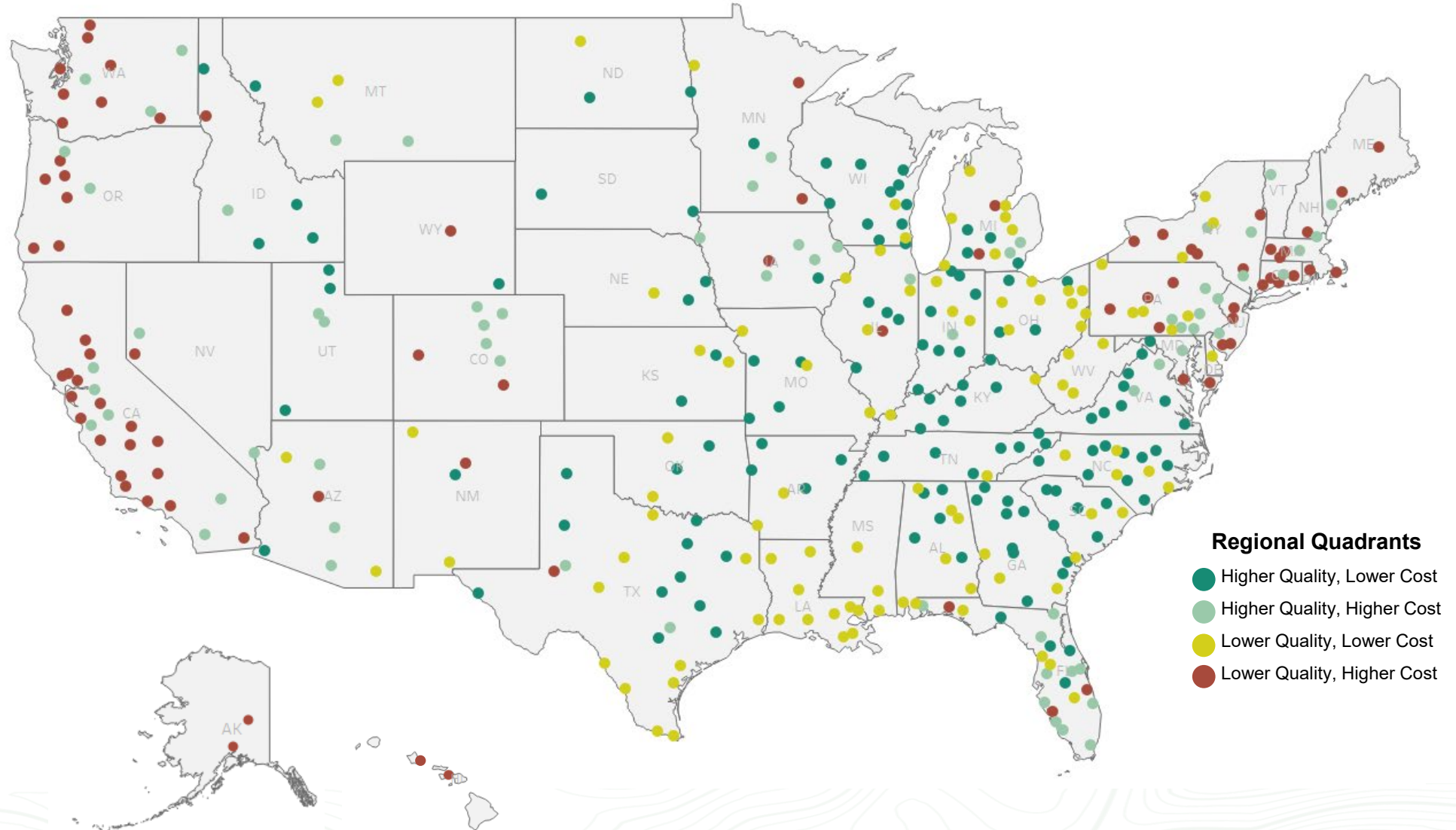
Primary Categories and Weights



Location-Dependent Operating Cost Distribution



# Composite Model National Quadrant Map



# West North Central Region

BEST PLACES FOR FOOD MANUFACTURING



**TOP PERFORMING**  
Kansas City, MO-KS

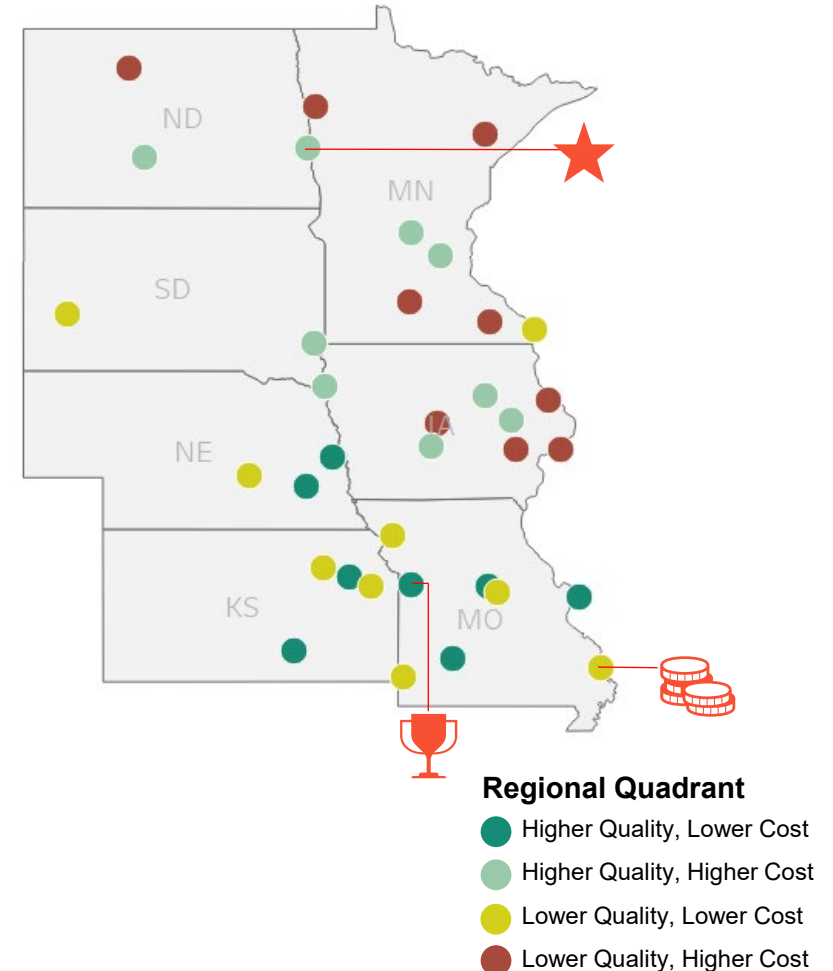


**HIGHEST QUALITY**  
 Fargo, ND-MN



**LOWEST COST**  
Cape Girardeau,  
MO-IL

2025 Regional Ranking	Metro	Metro Size	2025 Score	Regional Quality Ranking	Regional Cost Ranking	2025 National Ranking
1	Kansas City, MO-KS	Large	87.73	3	12	6
2	Fargo, ND-MN	Small	84.47	1	20	15
3	Sioux Falls, SD-MN*	Medium	84.10	2	19	18
4	Omaha, NE-IA*	Medium	83.90	5	13	19
T5	Springfield, MO	Medium	82.97	9	6	T25
T5	Wichita, KS	Medium	82.97	6	10	T25
8	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	Medium	74.90	4	30	T64
12	Sioux City, IA-NE-SD	Small	68.53	8	27	100
16	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	Small	60.67	14	26	141
21	Cedar Rapids, IA	Medium	53.77	15	34	176
24	Dubuque, IA	Small	48.97	18	31	195
27	Iowa City, IA	Small	46.83	23	25	206
29	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	Medium	43.97	26	22	220
31	Ames, IA	Small	38.03	25	32	255



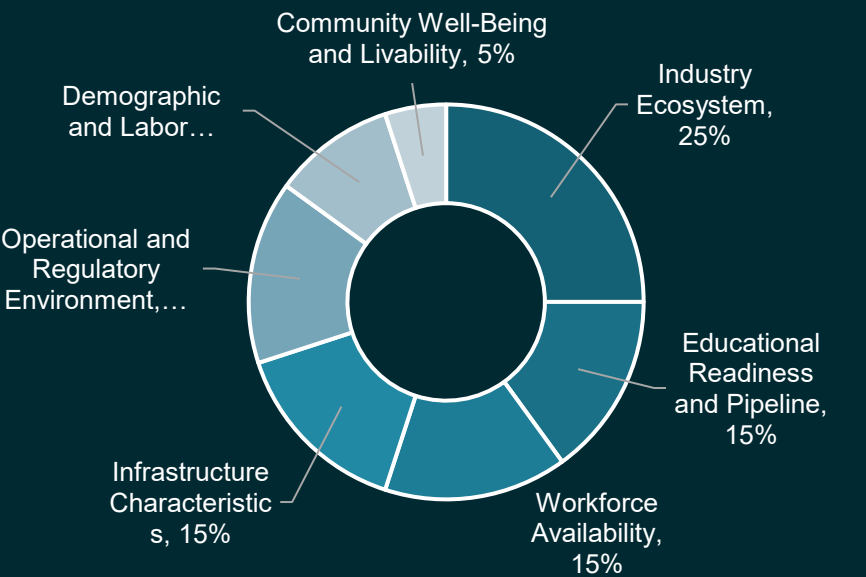
# Primary Metals

GLS Insights

Primary Metal Manufacturing Project Profile

Primary Categories and Weights

REAL ESTATE	350K SF Building	500 Acres		
INITIAL INVESTMENT + EMPLOYMENT	\$300MM Capital Investment	200 Employees		
FINANCIALS	\$200MM Revenue	10% Earnings Before Taxes		
UTILITY DEMANDS	45 MW Electric Load Factor 0.90	50 MCFh Natural Gas	250K GPD Water	200K GPD Wastewater

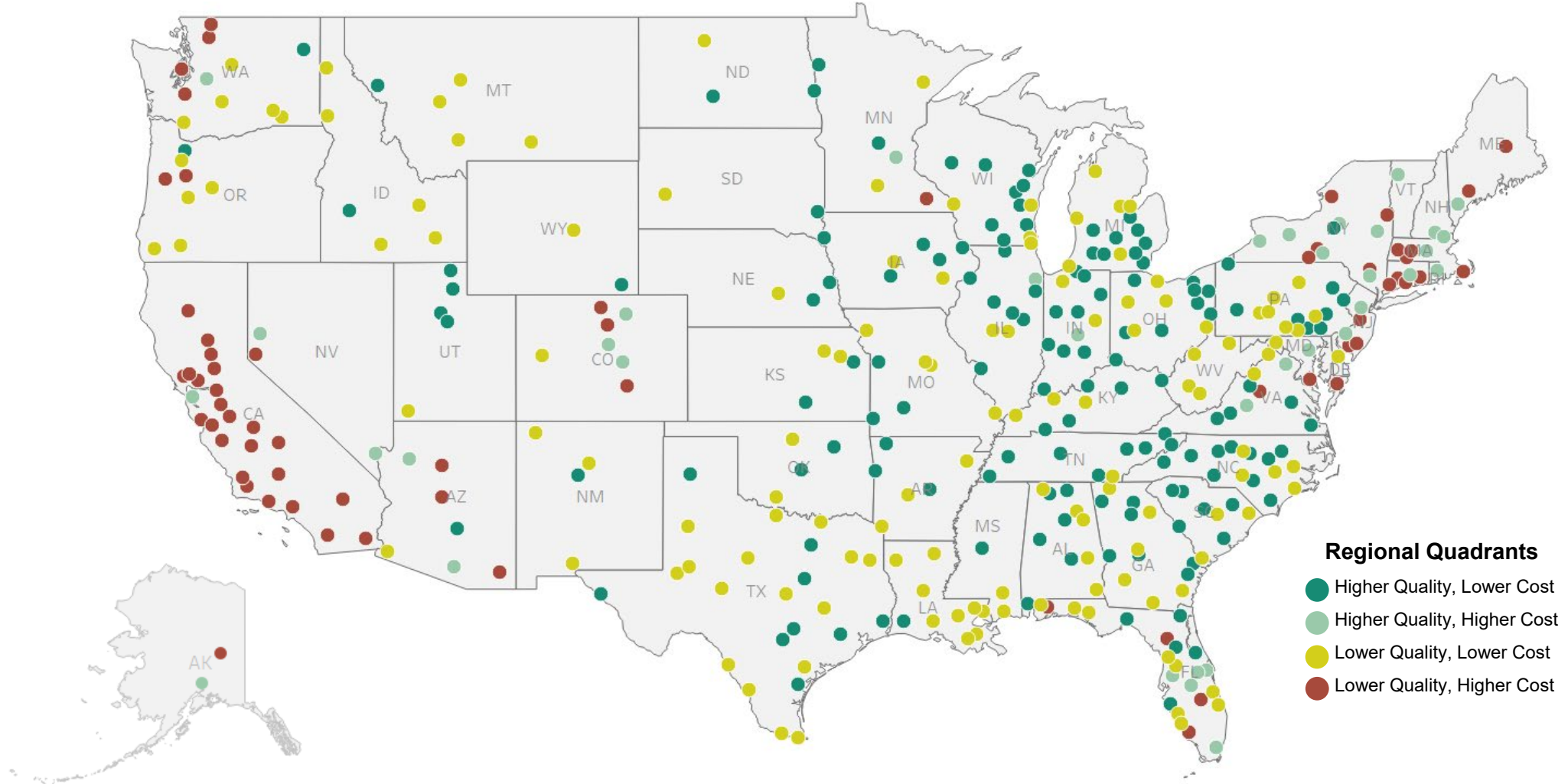


Location-Dependent Operating Cost Distribution





# Composite Model National Quadrant Map



# West North Central Region

BEST PLACES FOR PRIMARY METAL MANUFACTURING



**TOP PERFORMING**  
Fargo, ND-MN

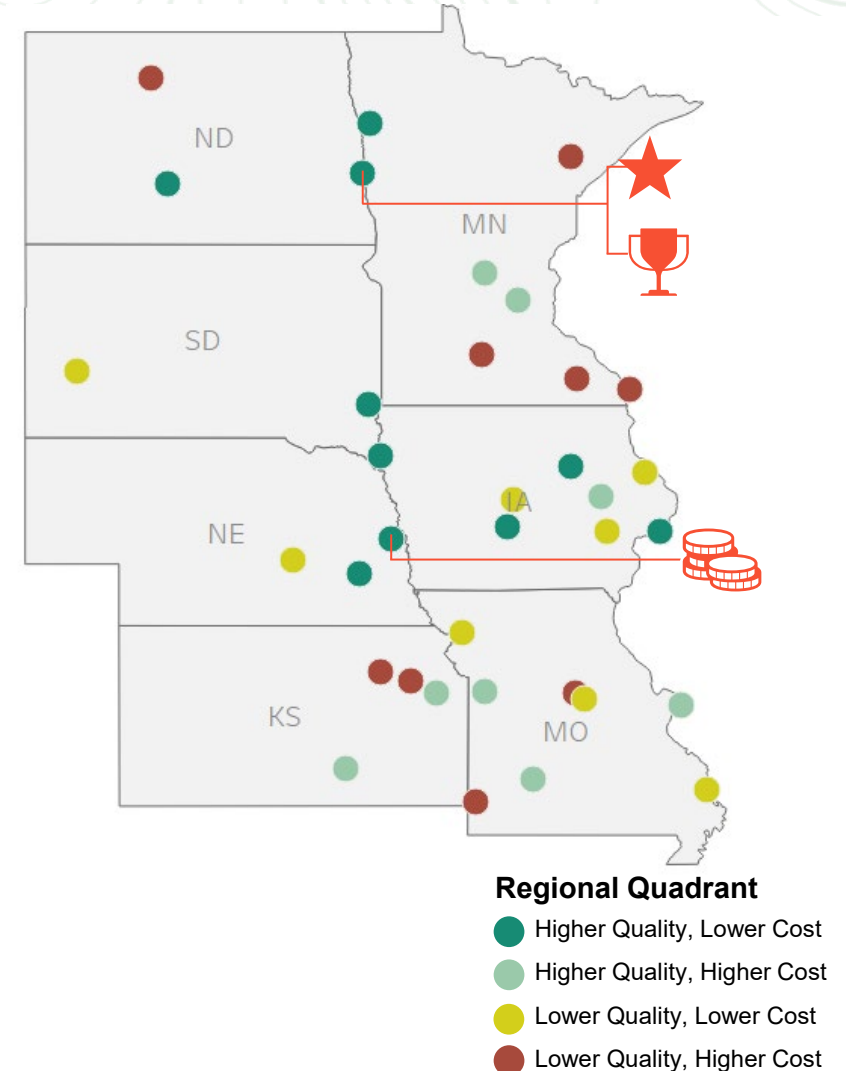


**HIGHEST QUALITY**  
Fargo, ND-MN



**LOWEST COST**  
Omaha, NE-IA

2025 Regional Ranking	Metro	2025 Score	2025 Regional Quality Ranking	2025 Regional Cost Ranking	2025 National Ranking
1	Fargo, ND-MN	85.17			16
2	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	80.30	8	4	34
3	Cedar Rapids, IA	79.37	2	20	40
4	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	77.40	9	5	48
5	Omaha, NE-IA	77.17	11	1	52
10	Sioux City, IA-NE-SD	69.63	14	10	93
12	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	67.43	16	3	107
18	Dubuque, IA	56.10	20	16	163
22	Iowa City, IA	47.80	26	2	203
26	Ames, IA	36.50	29	15	273



# Now What?

- **Knowledge is Power.**  
Know what your data says.
- **Harness Community Insights.**  
Gather the data that only you can access.
- **Tell Your Story.**  
Empower site selectors with your unique narrative.



# Case Study

Project Green Wave

# Project Green Wave

## Key Project Drivers

- Capital-Intensive
  - > \$1 MM invested per job created.
- Availability of greenfield site for industrial uses.
- Access to interstate highway and direct rail or intermodal/transload facility.

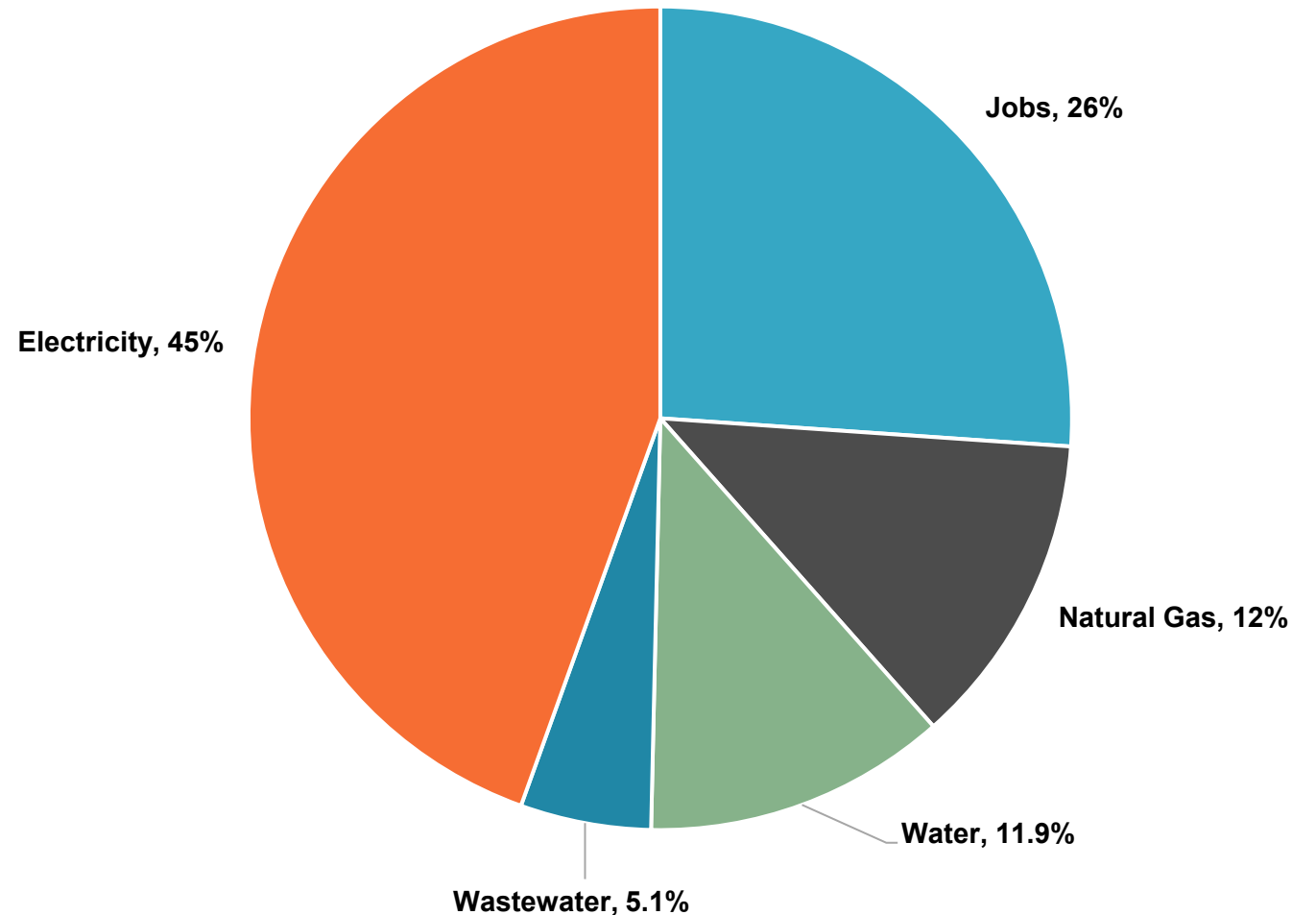
Requirements	Cumulative
Capital Investment	\$300+ MM
Direct Employment	70-100 Jobs
Site Size Required	30+ acres
Zoning	Industrial
Electrical Operating Load	14-27 MW
Electrical Load Factor	55-60%
Natural Gas	27-54 MCF/h
Water	792,000 GPD – 1.56 MGD
Sewer	224,000 GPD – 449,000 GPD
Interstate/Highway	Less than 25 miles preferred for truck traffic.
Rail	Rail is ideal but not required.
Intermodal/Transload	If direct rail service is not available, proximity to an intermodal/transload facility is preferred.

# Project Green Wave

## Annual Cost Impacts

- 1 cent per KWh  $\approx$  \$1.42 MM
- \$1 per mcf  $\approx$  \$473.0K
- \$1 per hour Wage  $\approx$  \$208.0K
- \$1 per 1000 Gallons water  $\approx$  \$569.4K

Average Distribution of Location-Based Costs

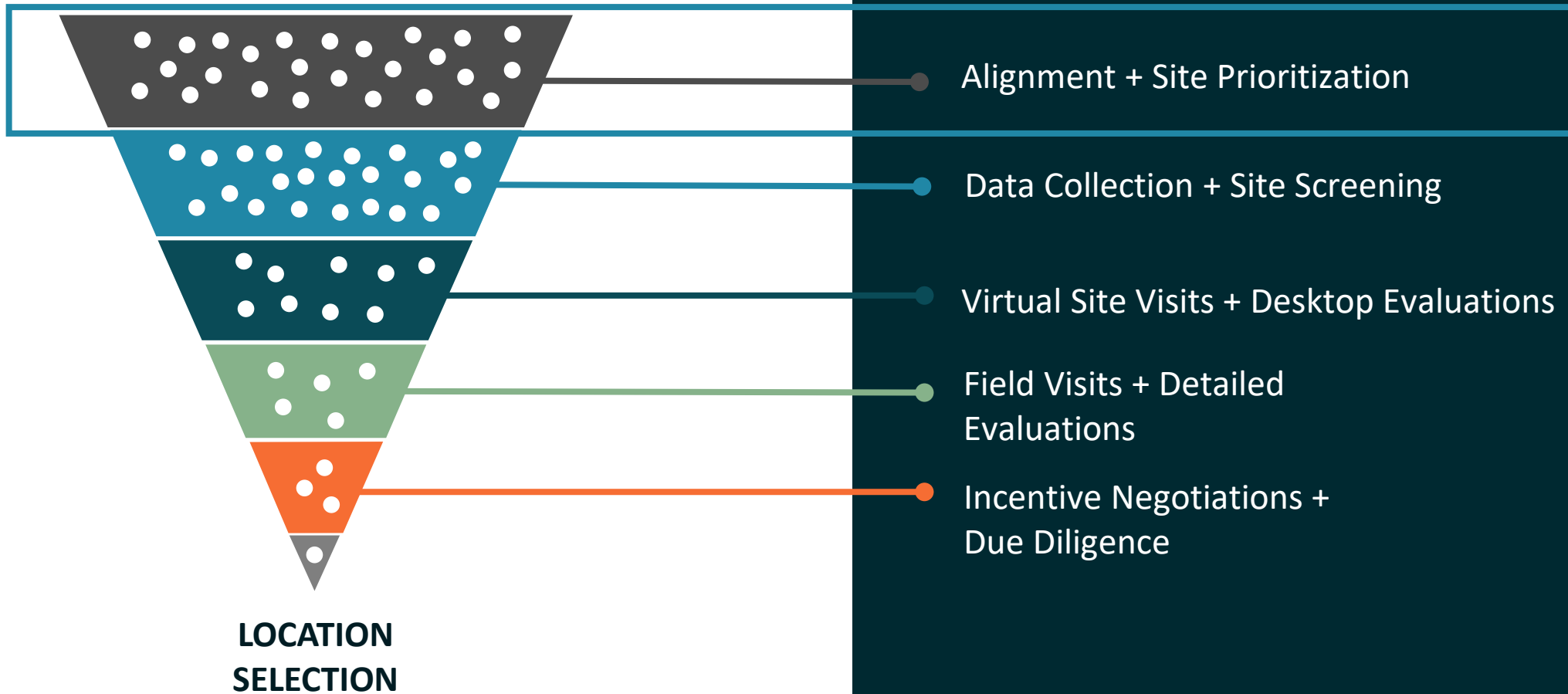




# Site Selection Process

PROJECT GREEN WAVE

SITE SELECTION APPROACH



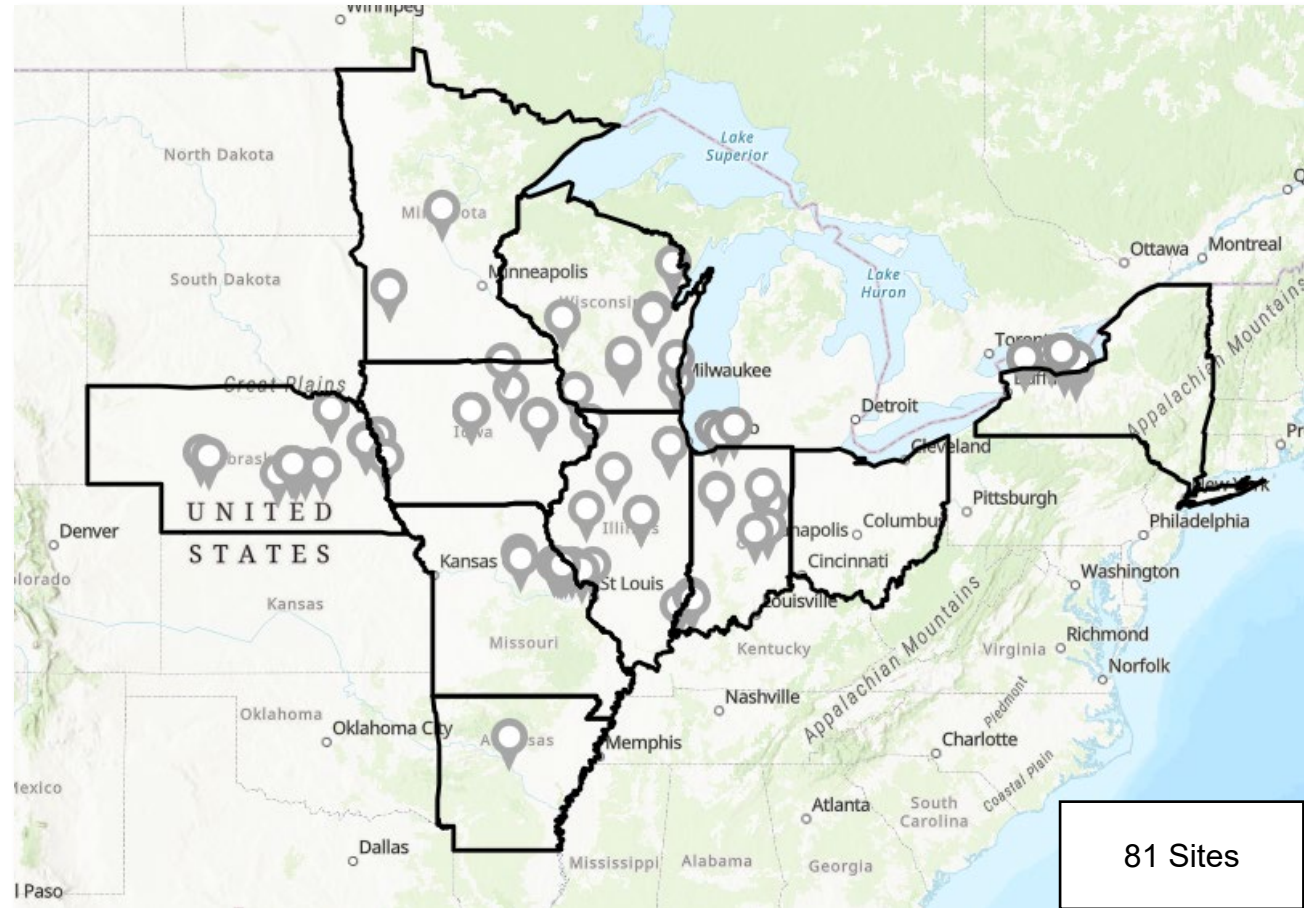
# Search Region

## Preliminary Screening Drivers:

- Competitive electric, natural gas, and water rates.
- Access to a source of dextrose.
- Availability of skilled labor.

## Search Region:

- 10 States
- 81 Sites Identified



Arkansas: 1

Iowa: 7

Illinois: 7

Indiana: 15

Minnesota: 4

Missouri: 11

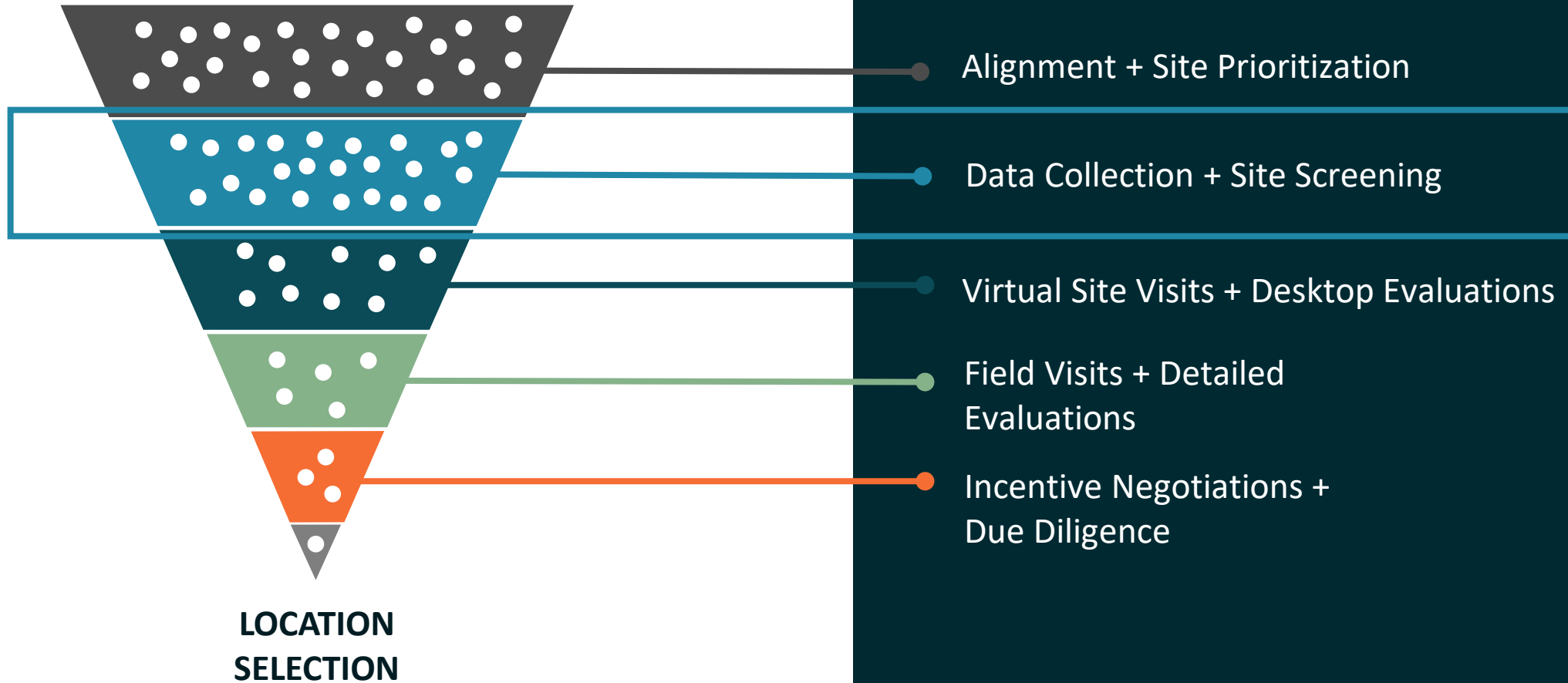
Nebraska: 13

New York: 6

Ohio: 0

Wisconsin: 16

# Site Selection Process



A TYPICAL GLS SITE  
SELECTION APPROACH



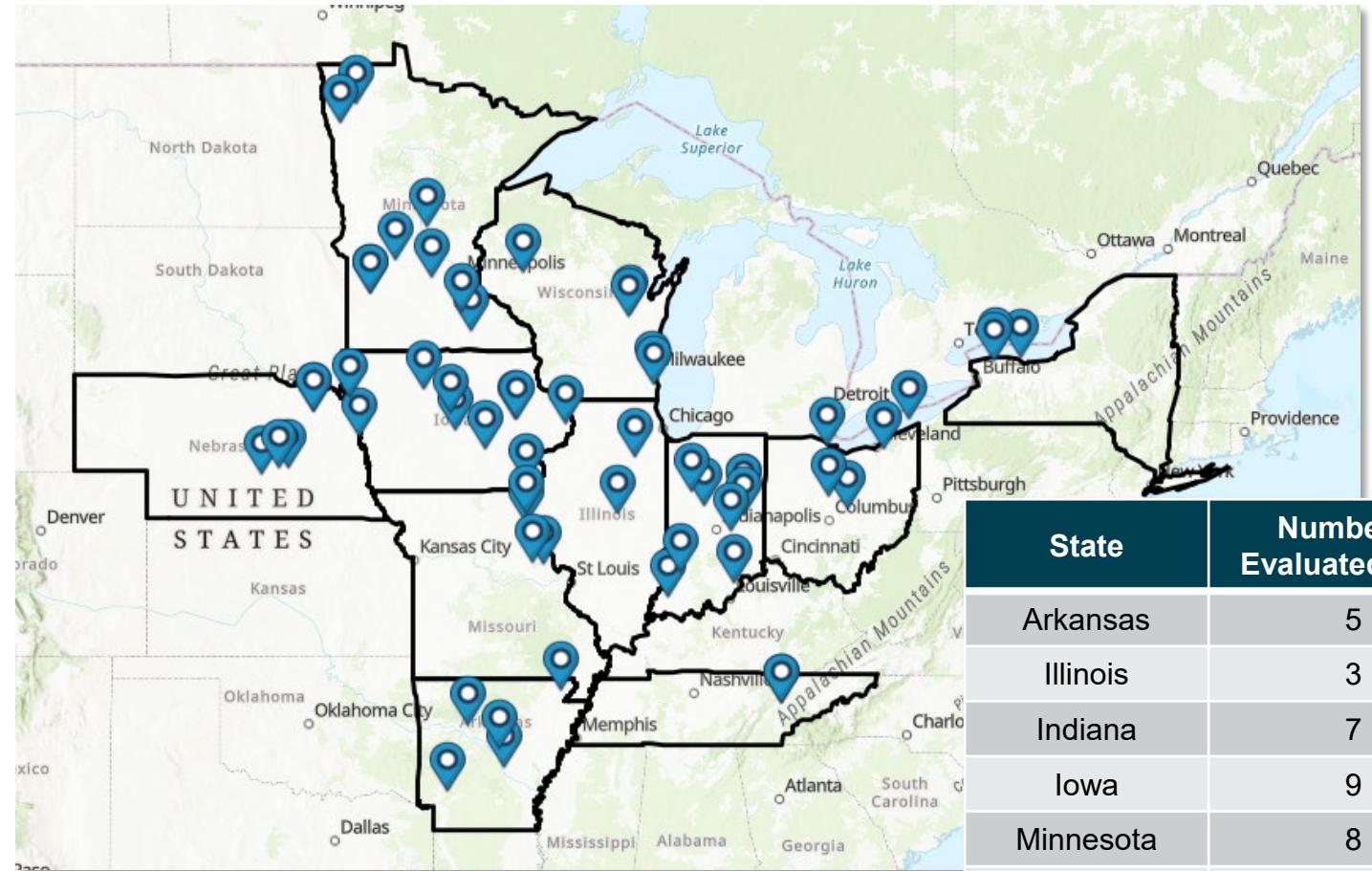
# Search Region

## Preliminary Screening Drivers:

- Access to a source of dextrose including potential co-location opportunities
- Access to interstate or high-quality highway transportation
- Positive business climate
- Developability characteristics (site size, wetlands, floodplain, proximity to sensitive receptors, etc.)

## Search Region:

- 10 States
- 117 Sites Submitted
- 60 Sites Retained (3 Co-location Sites)

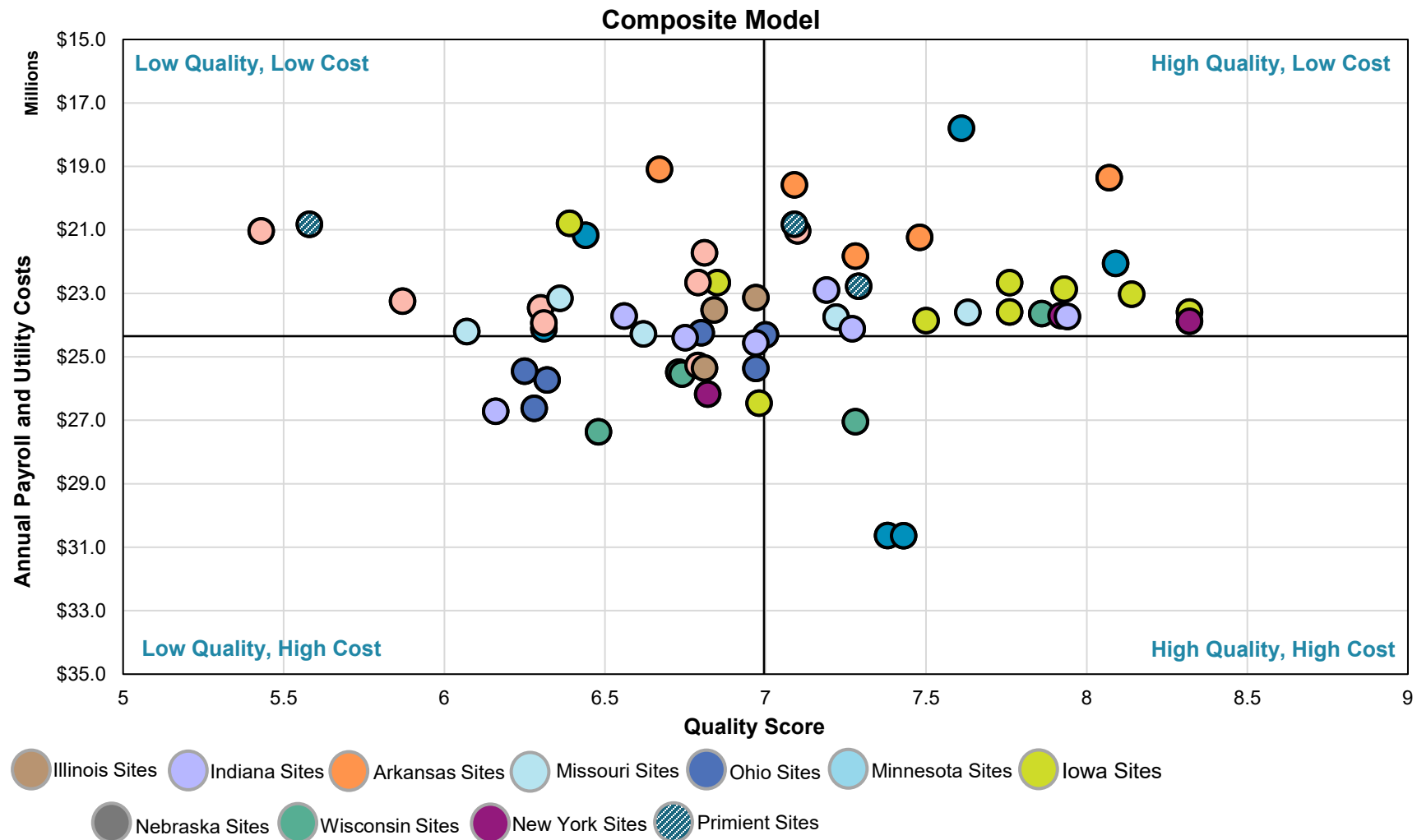


State	Number of Evaluated Sites
Arkansas	5
Illinois	3
Indiana	7
Iowa	9
Minnesota	8
Missouri	5
Nebraska	6
New York	3
Ohio	6
Wisconsin	5
Primient	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>



# Case Study

PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING



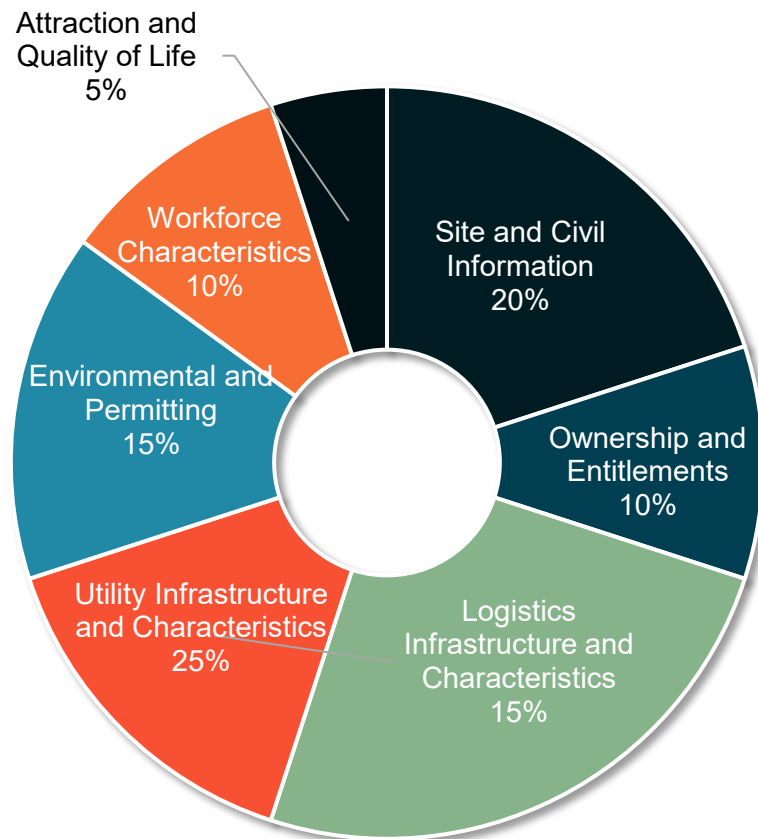
# Case Study

PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING



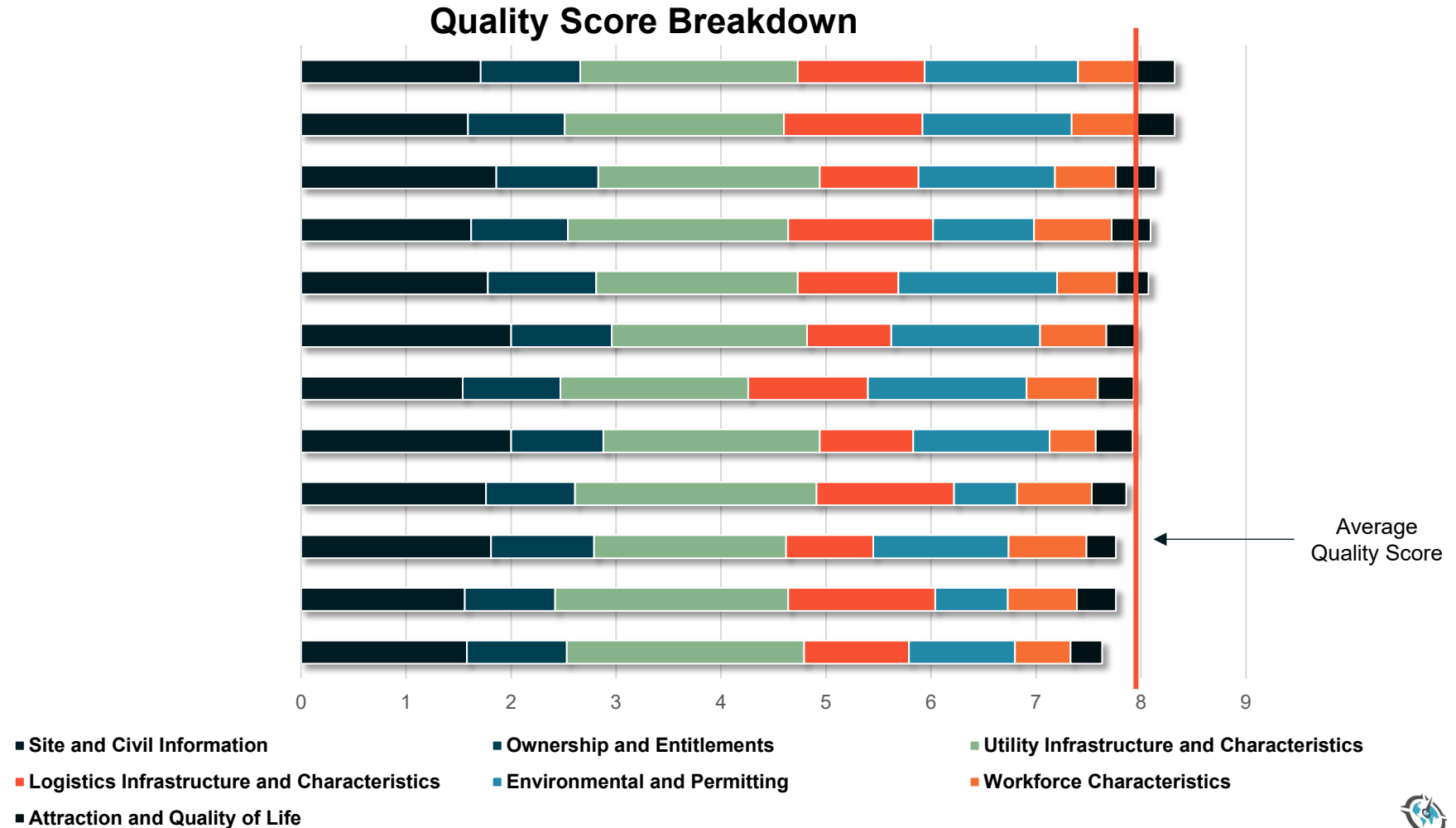
# Case Study

PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING



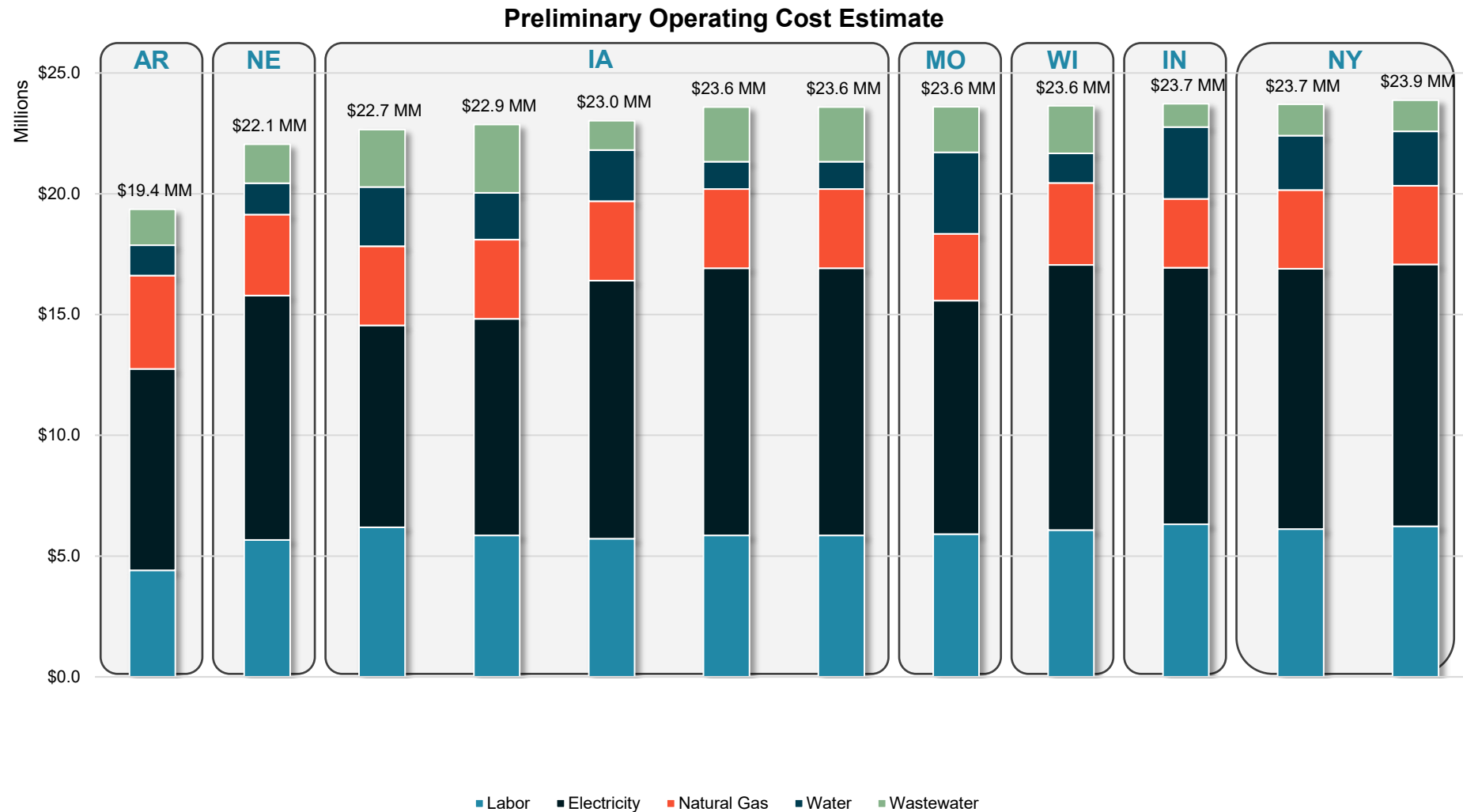
# Case Study

PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING



# Case Study

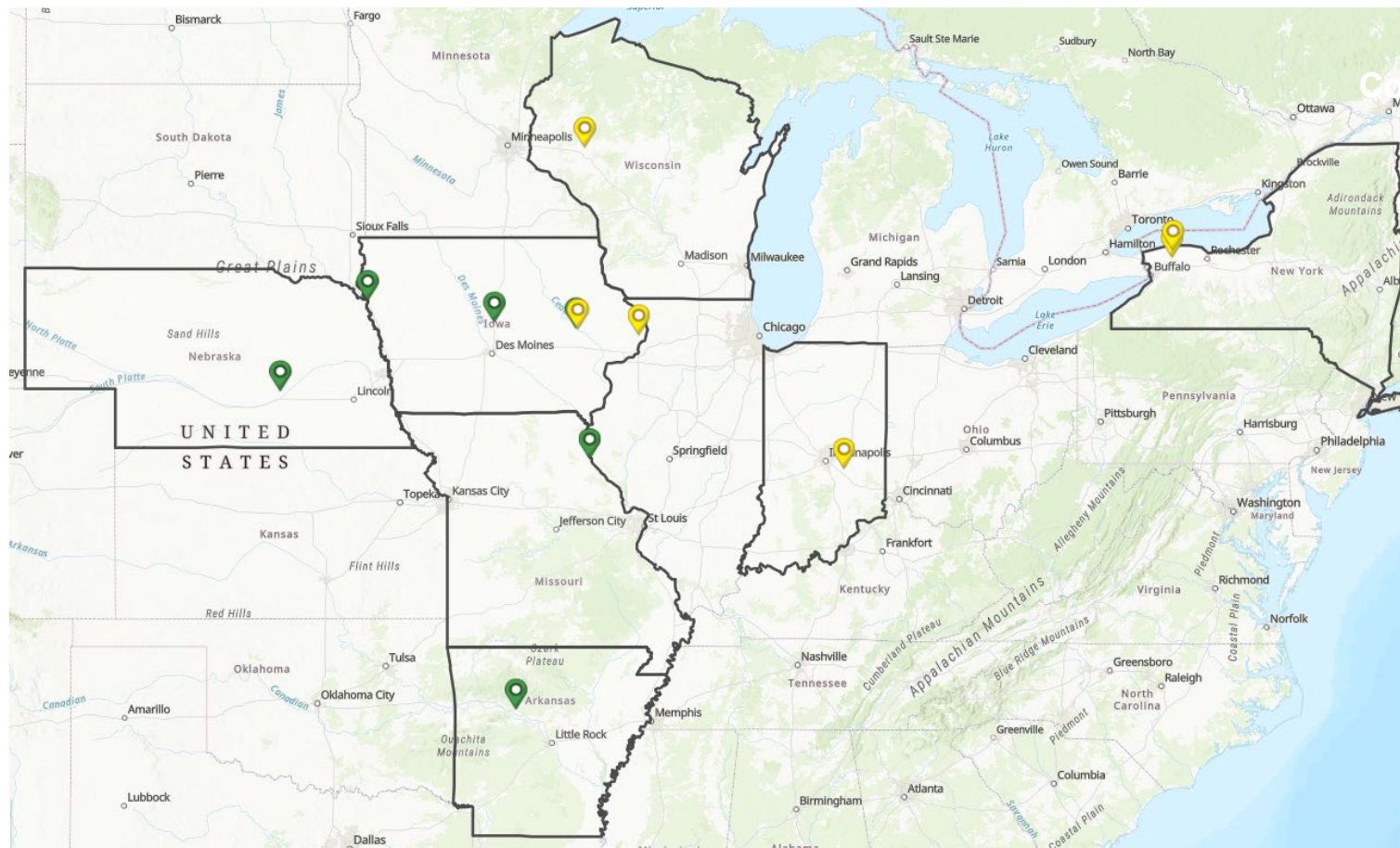
PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING







# Case Study

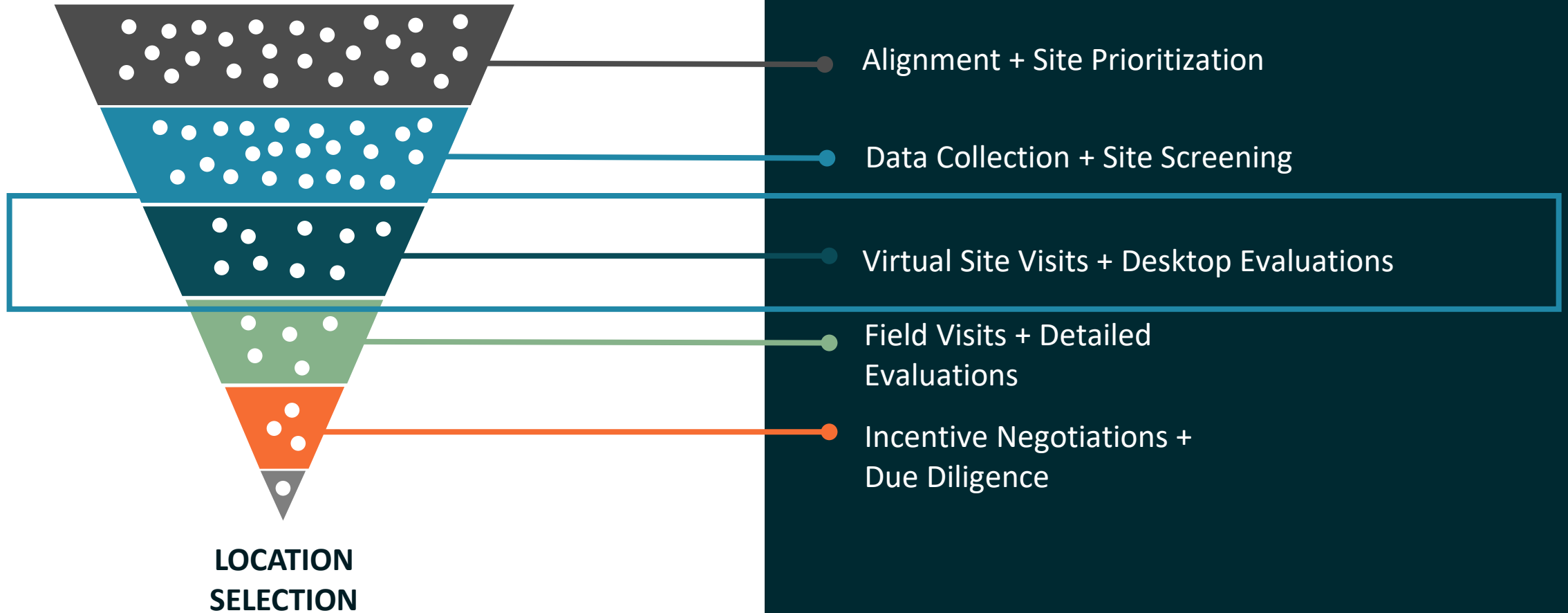
PHASE 02 DATA COLLECTION  
SITE SCREENING



 Recommended Site to Advance

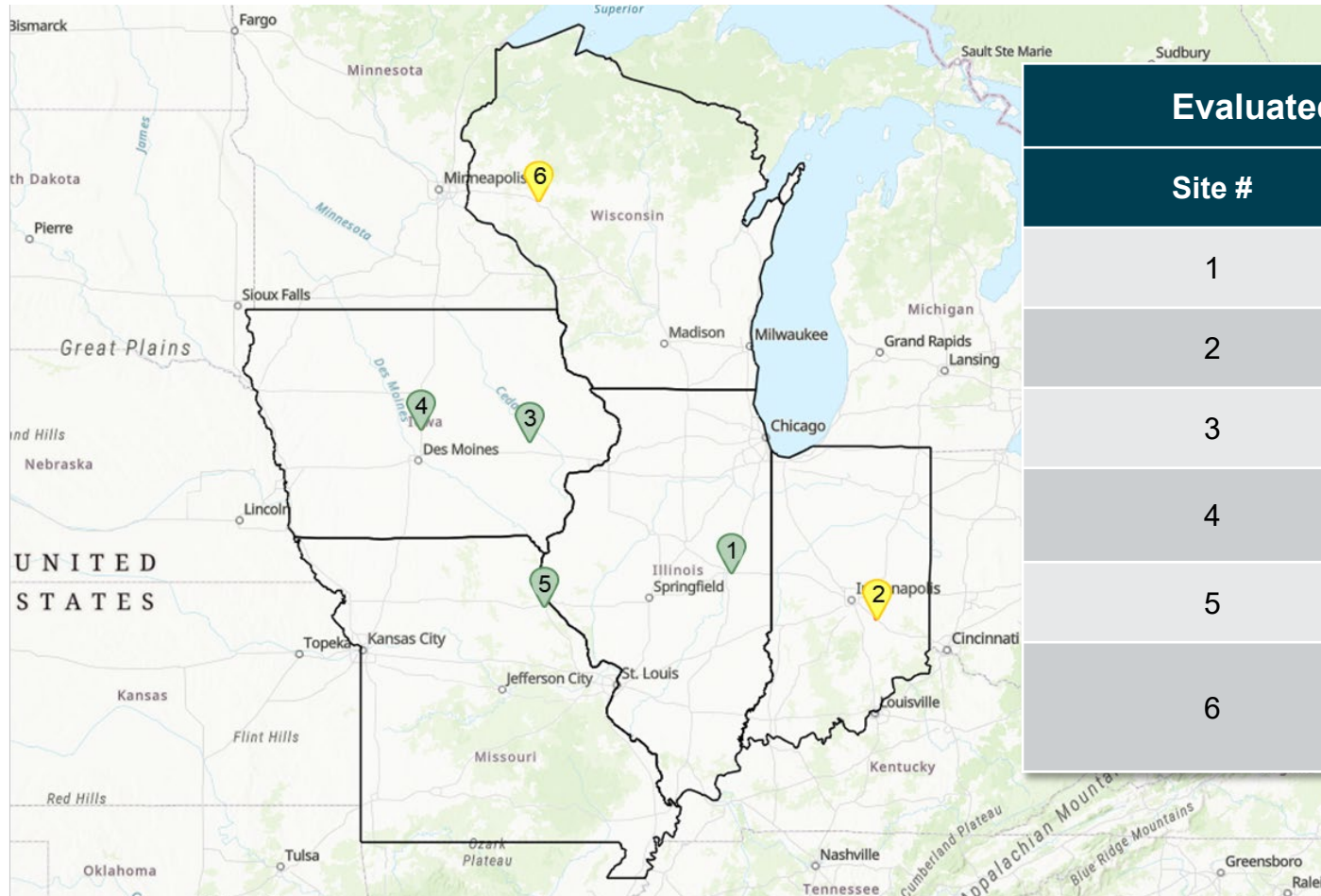
 Recommended Marginal Site

# Site Selection Process



# Case Study

## PHASE 03 VIRTUAL SITE VISITS DESKTOP EVALUATIONS



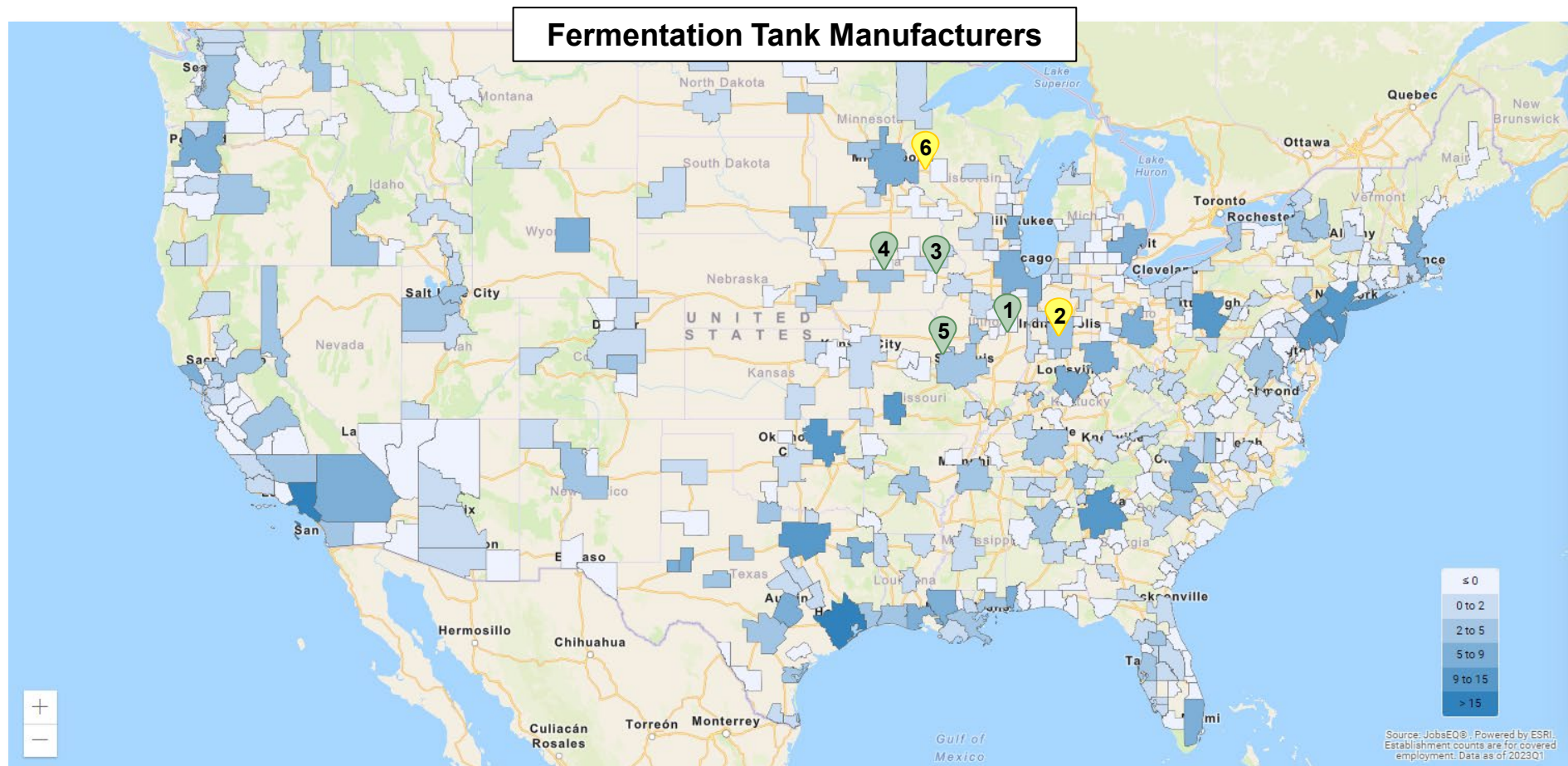
Evaluated Sites for Phase 03	
Site #	State
1	IL
2	IN
3	IA
4	IA
5	MO
6	WI

 Advance  Marginal



# Case Study

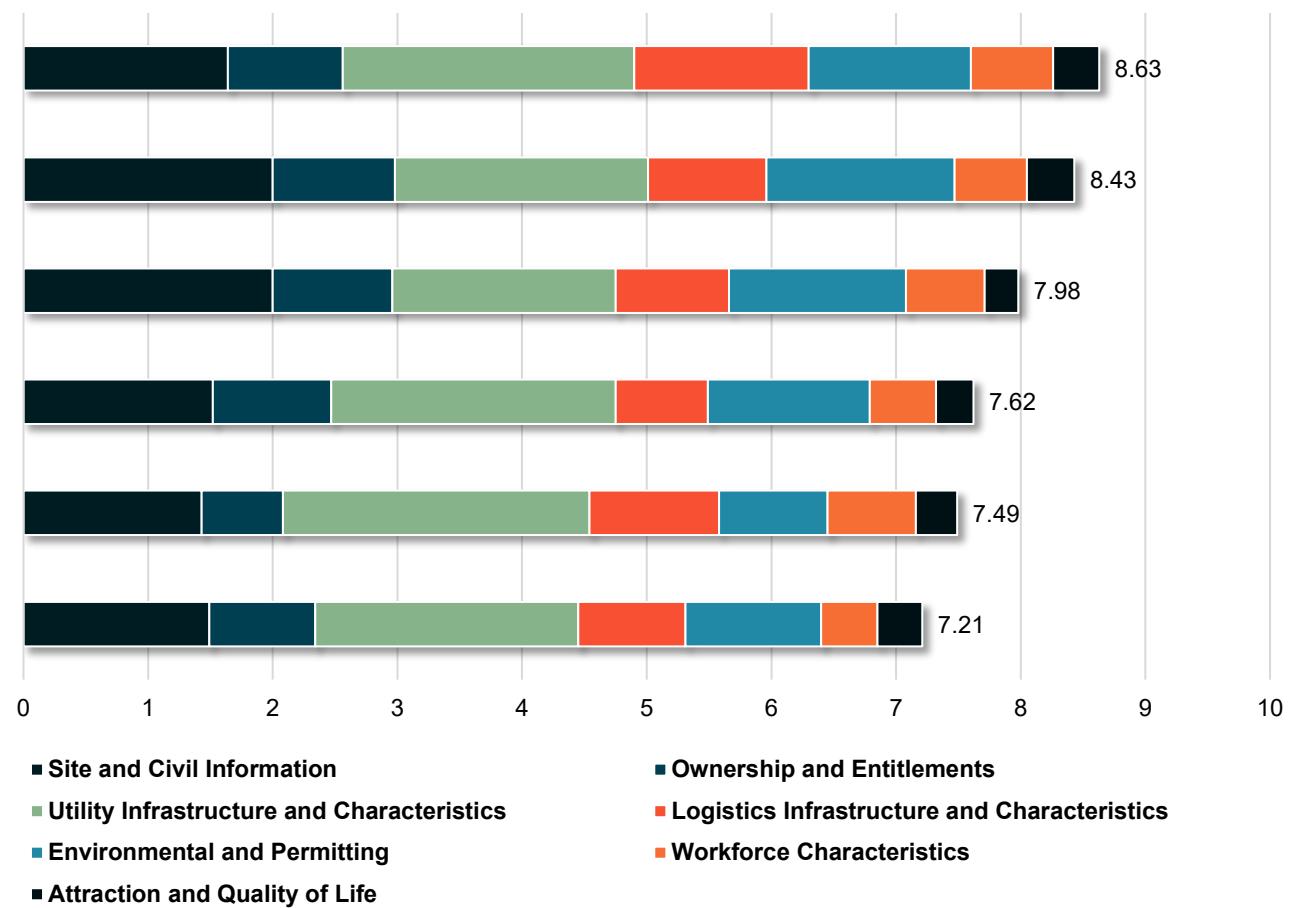
## PHASE 03 VIRTUAL SITE VISITS DESKTOP EVALUATIONS



# Case Study

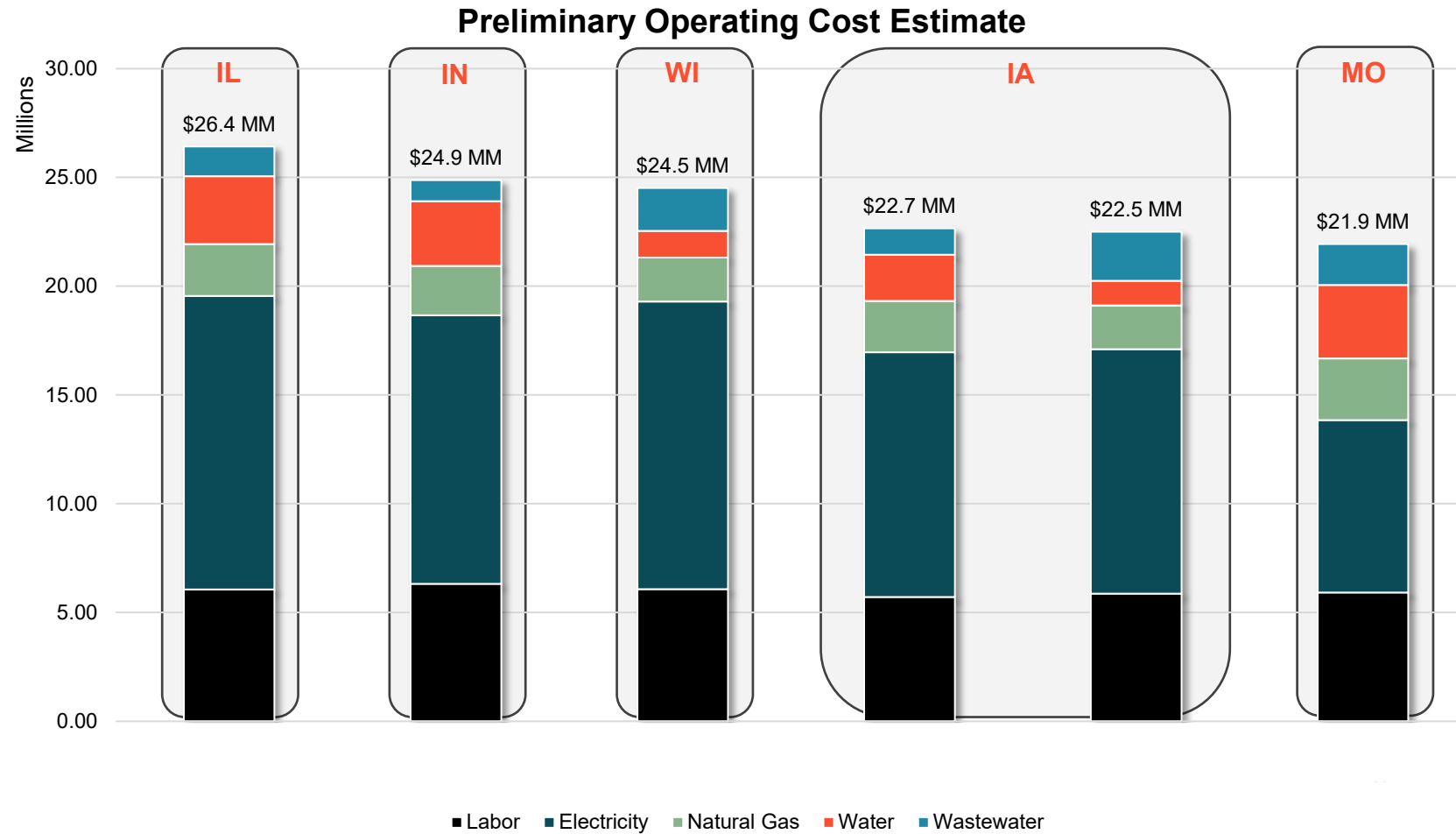
PHASE 03 VIRTUAL SITE VISITS  
DESKTOP EVALUATIONS

Total Quality Score



# Case Study

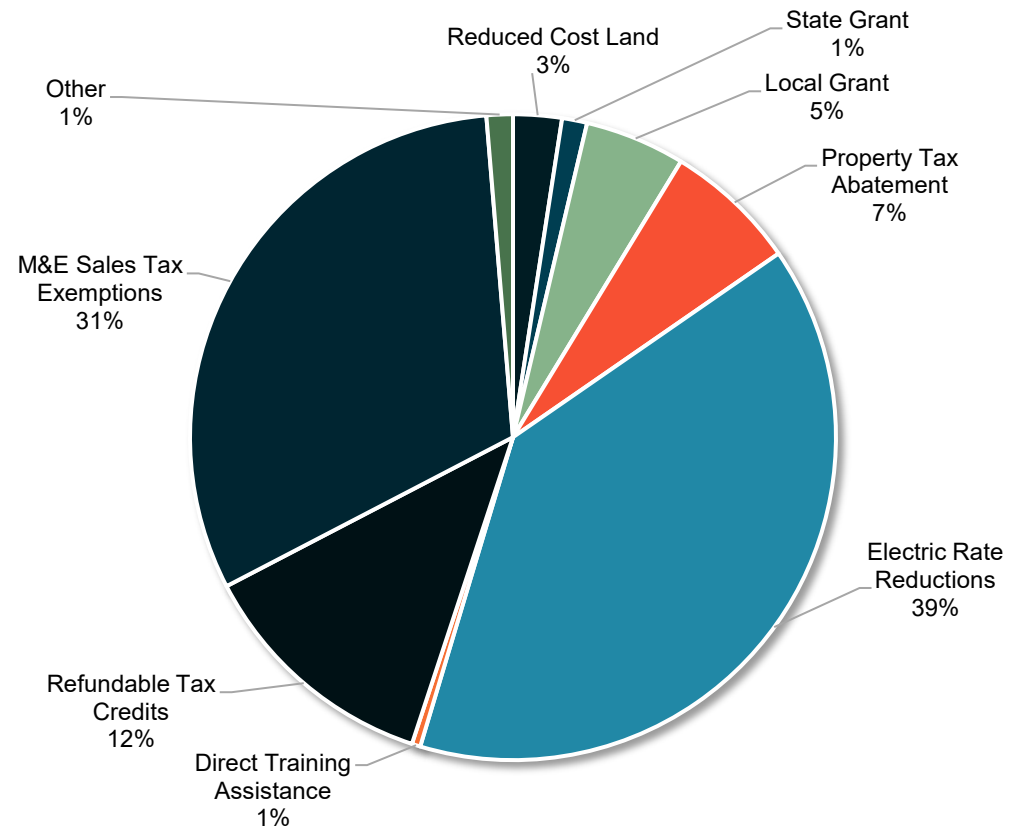
PHASE 03 VIRTUAL SITE VISITS  
DESKTOP EVALUATIONS



# Case Study

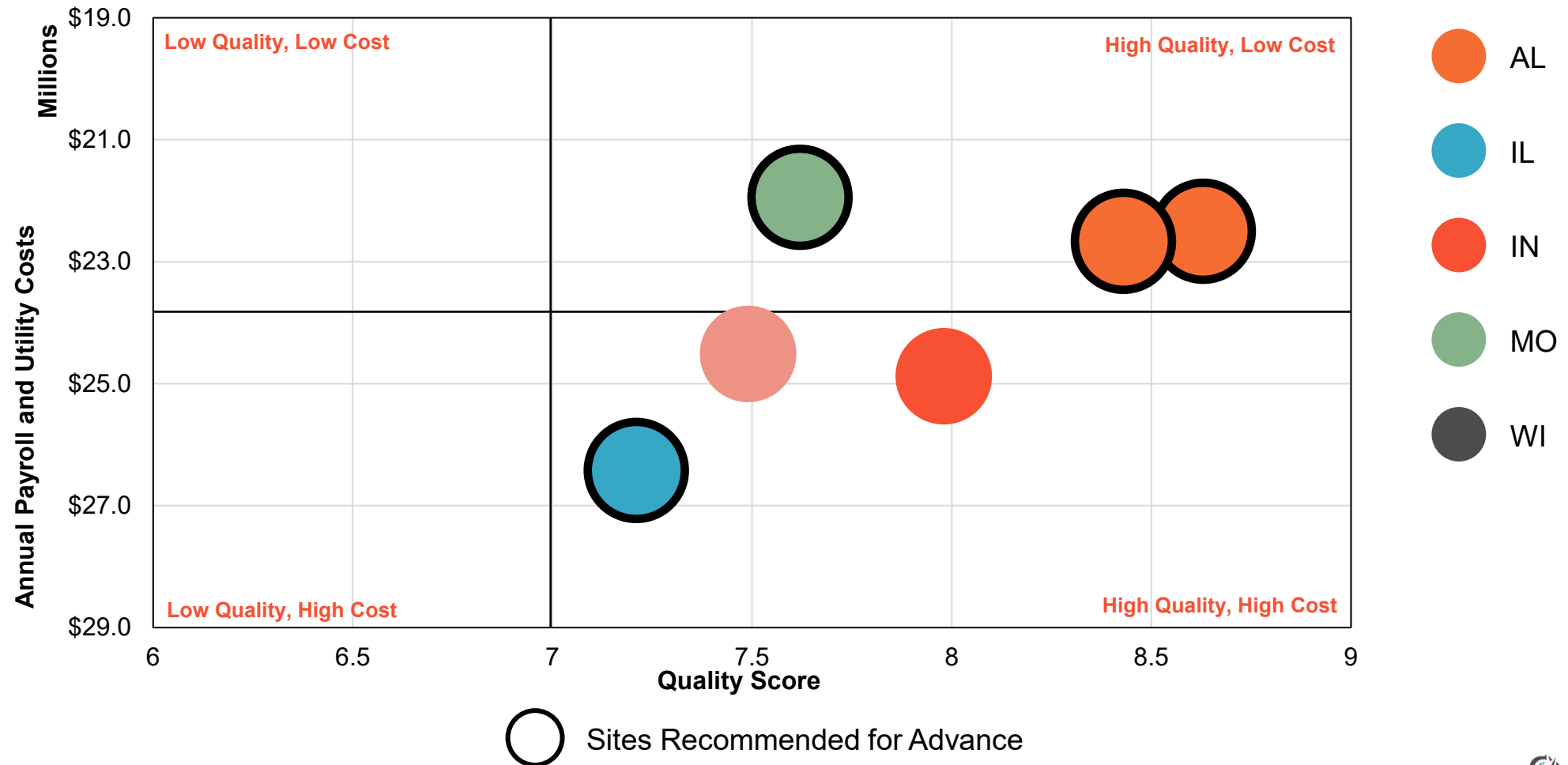
PHASE 03 VIRTUAL SITE VISITS  
DESKTOP EVALUATIONS

**Average Distribution of Estimated Direct Financial Incentives**

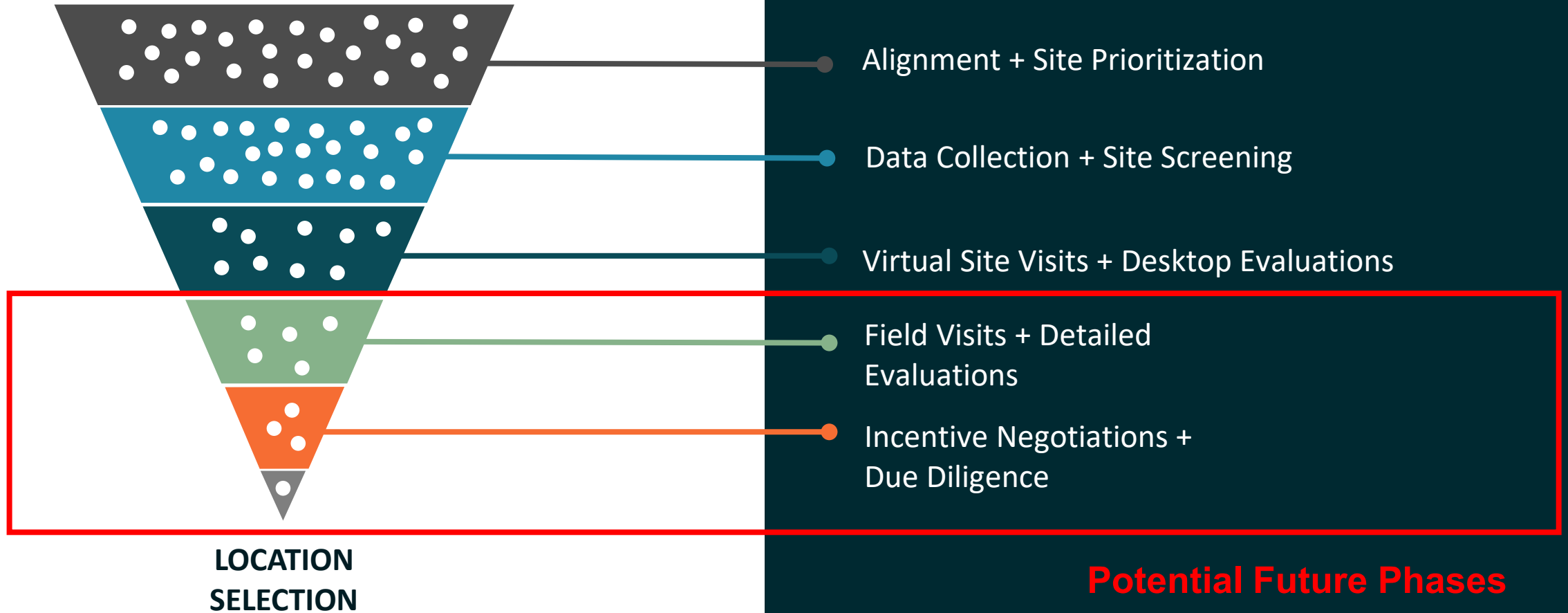


# Case Study

## PHASE 03 OVERALL RESULTS AND FINDINGS



# Site Selection Process





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