

# **Employment Migration: A Study of Job Flow Changes in the San Diego Region**

U.S. Census Local Employment Dynamics Partnership Workshop

Ron Landagan Liang Tian, Ph.D. September 4, 2025

# Agenda



**Findings** 

### **About SANDAG**

#### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

 Federal Designation: Transportation funding – Regional Plan

#### **Regional Transportation Planning Agency**

 State Designation: Transportation funding – Regional Plan

#### **Council of Governments**

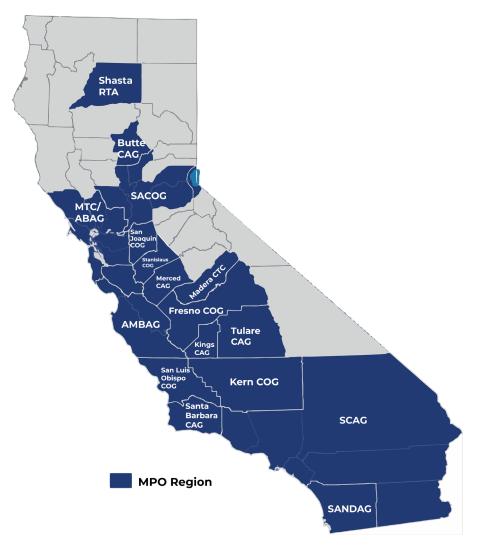
 State Designation: Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)

#### **Consolidated Agency**

State Law: Plan and build transportation projects

#### **Regional Transportation Commission**

TransNet Program: Oversight and funding



# San Diego Region

Overview



**3,290,423** total population



1,490,981 full-time and part-time jobs



**1,244,496** housing units



\$98,241 median household income

Pauma and Yuima os Coyotes La Jolla Reservation San Pasqual Reservation Carlsbad Mesa Grande Reservation Encinitas Cleveland Inaja - Cosmit Barona County of San Diego Solana Beac Poway Del Mar apitan Grande San Diego Ewiiaapaayp eservation Reservation Manzanita Reservation Reservation La Posta Reservatio Grove Jamul Indian Village Campo Coronado Reservation Vista UNITED STATES Imperial SANDAG San Diego Tecate, B.C.

Tijuana, B.C.

# **Objective**

# How has employment changed in the San Diego Region from 2018 to 2022?

- We will answer this through the lens of Employment Centers (ECs)
- Analyze changes in high-density employment clusters and compare them to the overall region

## **Employment Centers 2.0**

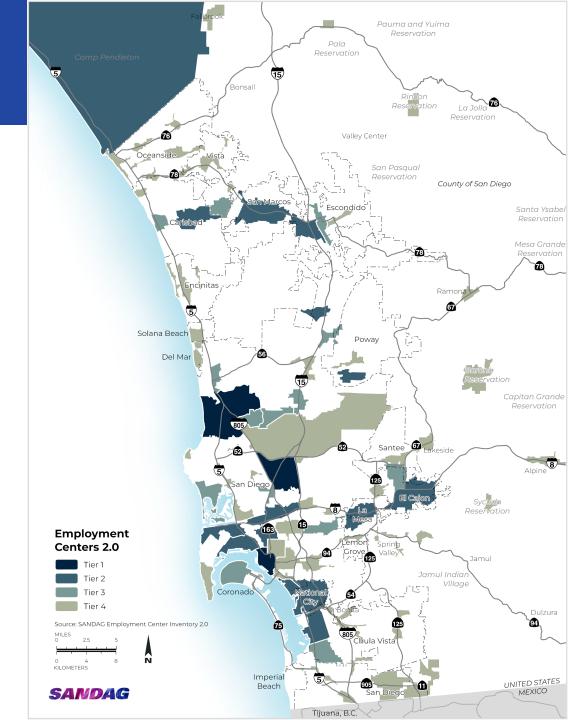
**Employment Centers** are areas with high densities of employment. There are **91 centers** in **four tiers**.

Tier	Count	# Employees	% of Region's Jobs
1	3	100K+	18.7%
2	15	25-100K	25.7%
3	14	15-25K	12.7%
4	59	2-15K	20.8%

SANDAG Employment Centers 2.0

SANDAG infobits: Employment Centers in the San Diego Region 2.0

SANDAG Employment Centers Resources





# Methodology and Research Findings

### **Data Sources**

- SANDAG Employment Centers 2.0 Boundaries
- LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) Version 8.0
  - Employment and residential areas
  - Census block level
  - -2018-2022 time period
  - —Origin-Destination (OD)
  - —Work Area Characteristics (WAC)
  - —Job Types
    - JT03 Private Primary Jobs



# **Analysis Process**

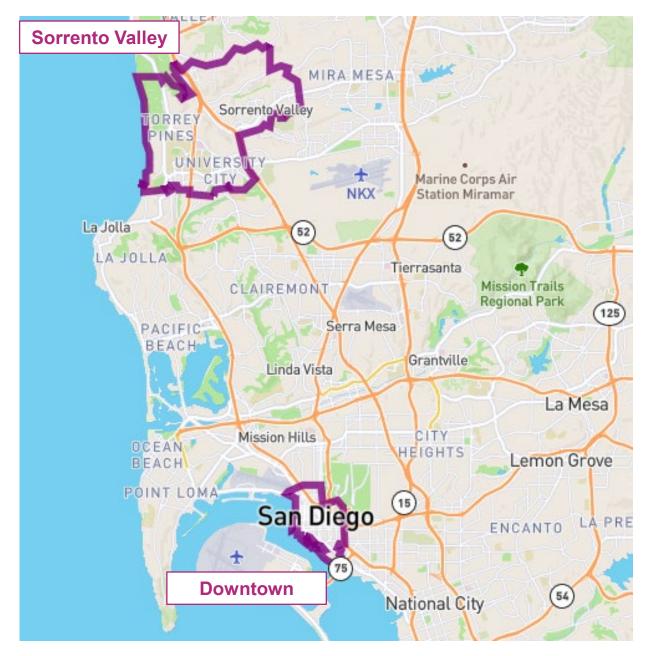
Select Employment Centers that have gone through major job growth/loss

To be consistent with EC methodology, we analyze **changes in primary characteristics** (Private Primary Jobs) for jobs and workers:

- Job growth/loss
- Industry Sector
- Job Earnings
- Worker Age
- Worker Origin

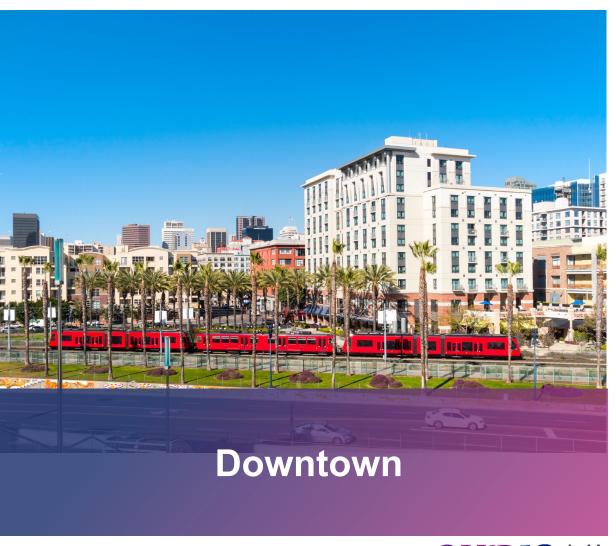
### Selected Employment Centers

- LODES8 Work Area Characteristics (WAC) data in 2018-2022 timeframe
- Largest Increase in jobs – Sorrento Valley
- Largest Decrease in jobs **Downtown**



# **Selected Employment Centers**

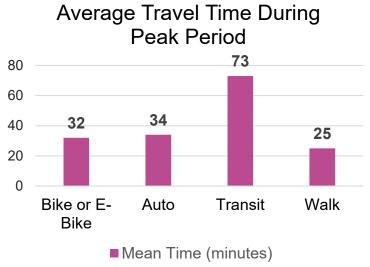


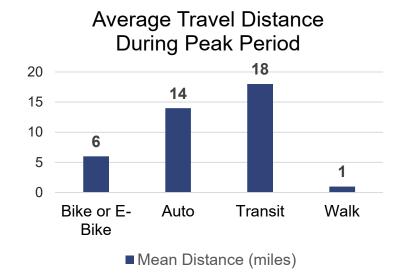


## **Sorrento Valley Transportation Facts**

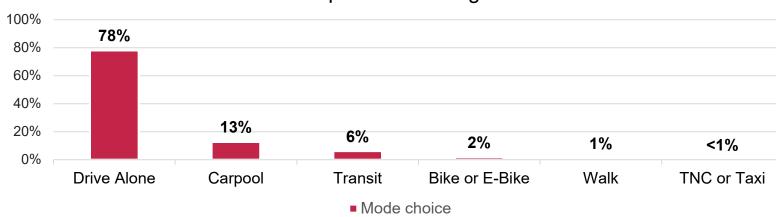


**Sorrento Valley** 

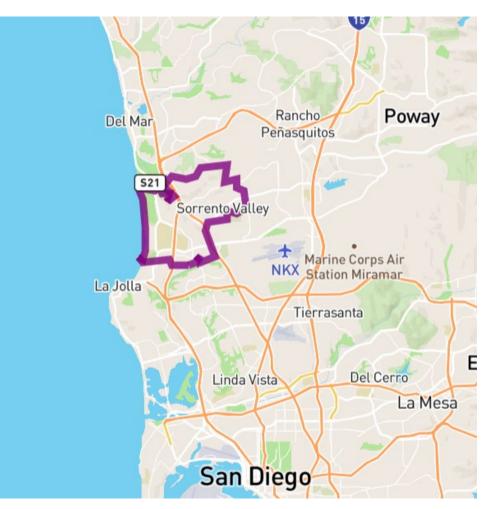


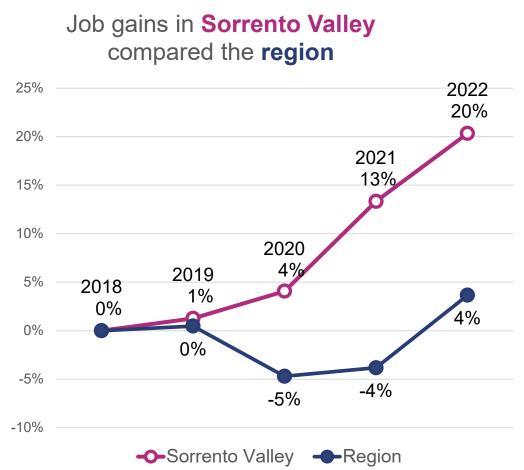


#### Mode of Transportation During Peak Period

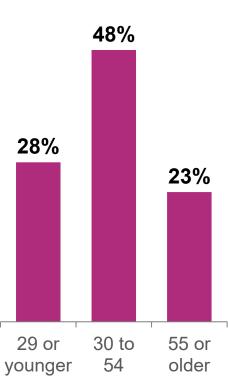


# Sorrento Valley had Accelerated Job Growth Compared to the Region





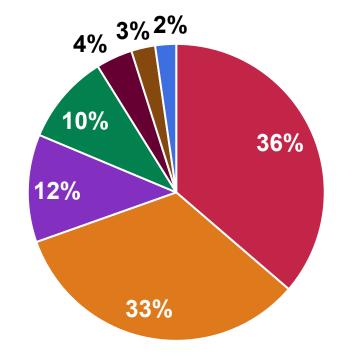


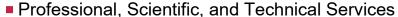


# Jobs Gained by Industry Sector

The majority of jobs gained in Sorrento Valley belonged to Tech, Administration, and Manufacturing sectors.

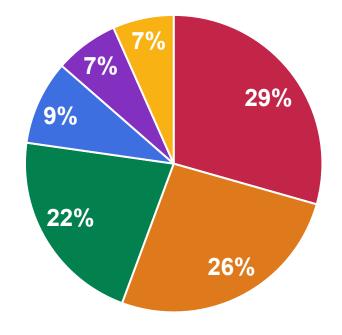
#### Sorrento Valley





- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Manufacturing
- Information

#### Regional



- ces
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management
  - Construction
  - Transportation and Warehousing
  - Wholesale Trade

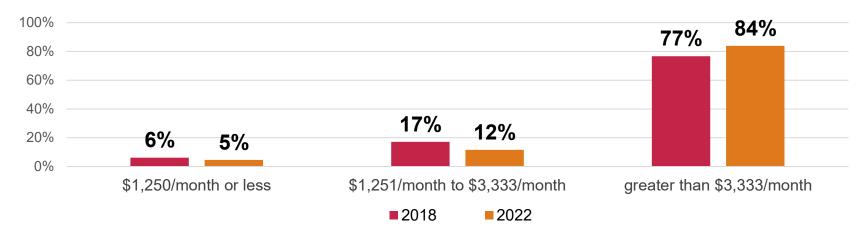
# Earnings Over Time Compared to 2018

#### Sorrento Valley

- Only jobs earning more than \$3,333/month has had steady increase from 2018 to 2022.
- Jobs paying more than \$3,333/month account for more than 80% of jobs in 2022.

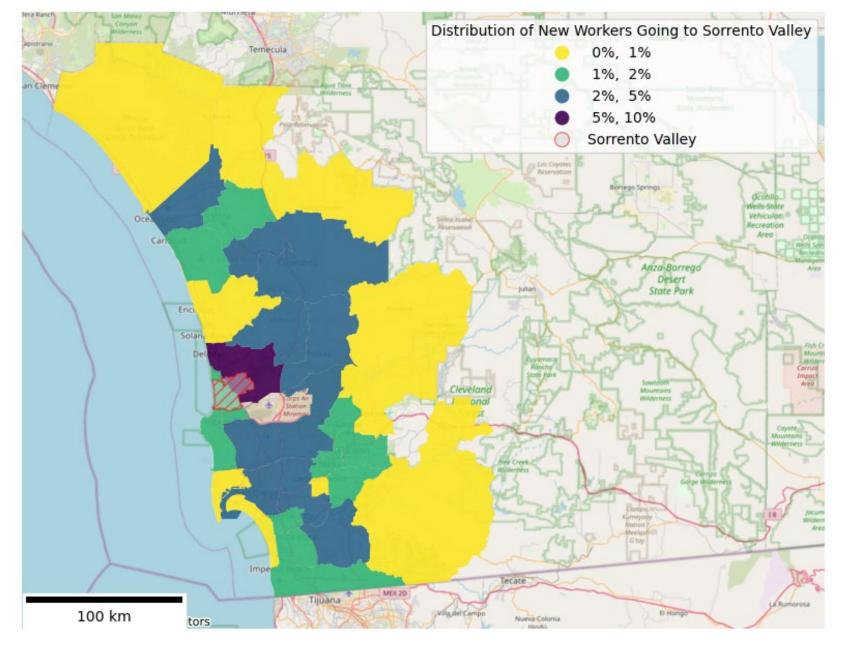


# Percentage of Jobs by Earnings in Sorrento Valley, 2018 to 2022

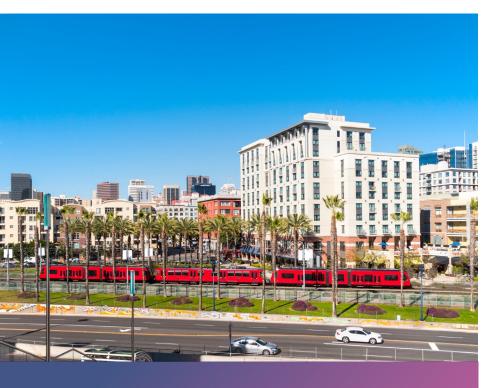


### Origin-Destination

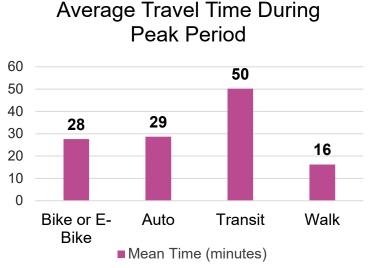
- Largest portion (6%) of new workers in the SD region going to Sorrento Valley are located around the Del Mar-Mira Mesa area.
- The Del Mar-Mira Mesa area only contributed to 2% of new workers going to the region overall.
- Outside of San Diego, large portion of new workers also live in Los Angeles County.

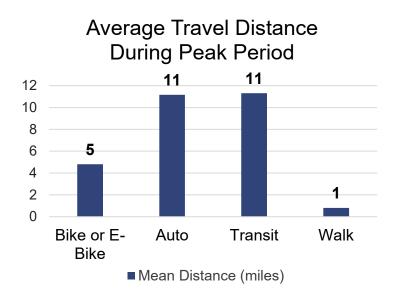


### **Downtown Transportation Facts**

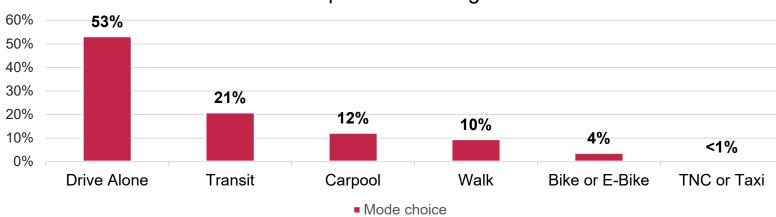


#### Downtown



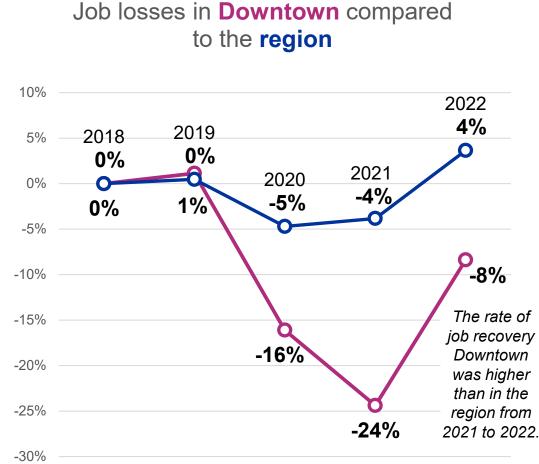


#### Mode of Transportation During Peak Period

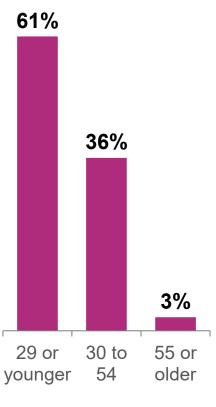


# Downtown Jobs Recovered Faster Compared to the Region





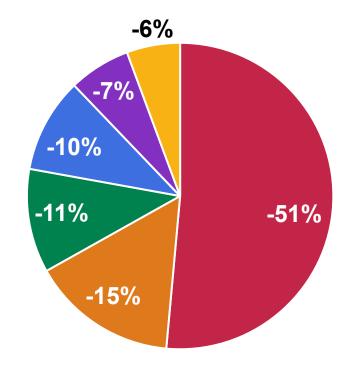




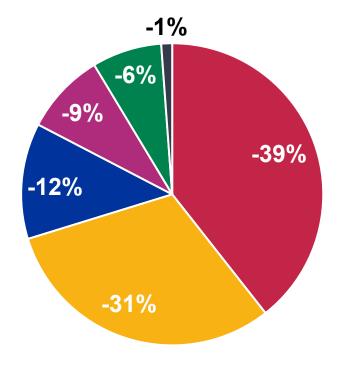
# Job Losses by Industry Sector

 Accommodation and Food Services had the majority of job losses in Downtown, 51% overall

#### Downtown







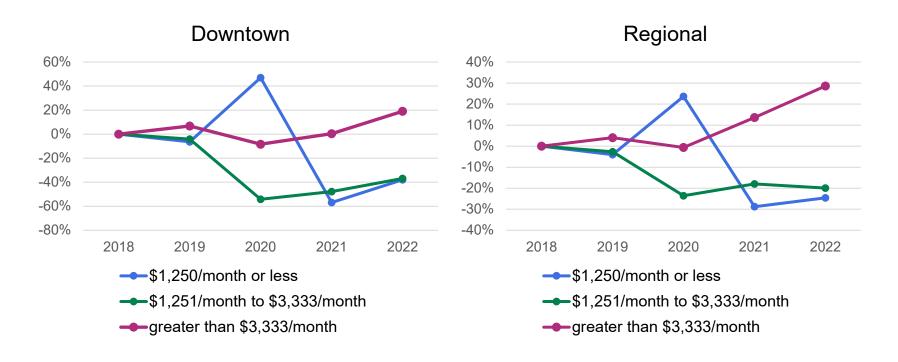
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Retail Trade
- Educational Services
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade

- Administrative and Support and Waste Management
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Other Services [except Public Administration]
- Transportation and Warehousing

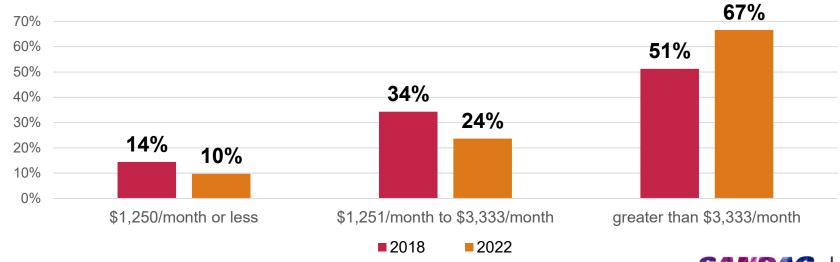
# Earnings Over Time Compared to 2018

#### **Downtown**

- Jobs paying more than \$3,333/month had the largest gain, **19%** from 2018 to 2022.
- Jobs earning \$1,250/month or less had the largest loss,
  -37.9% from 2018 to 2022.

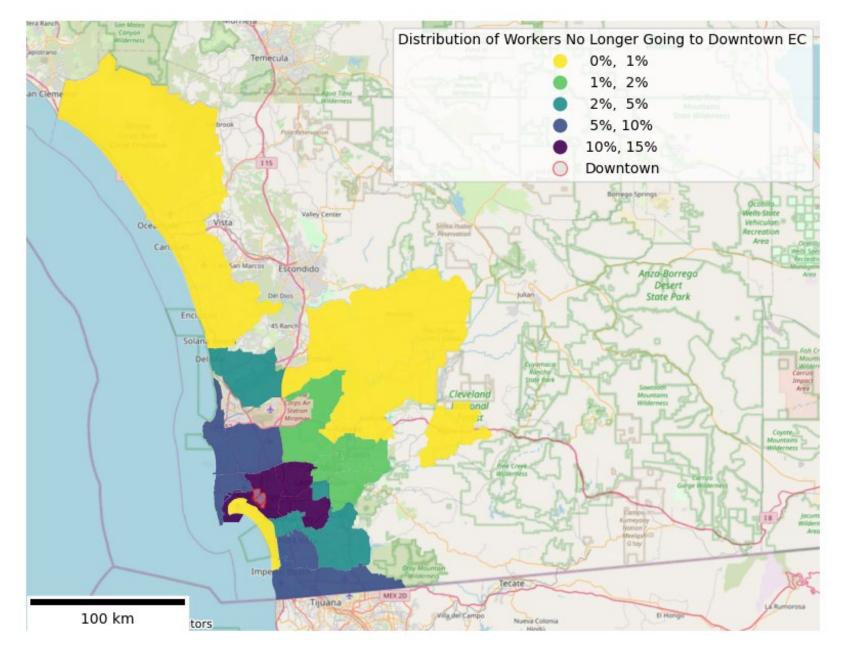


#### Percentage of Jobs by Earnings in Downtown, 2018 to 2022



### Origin-Destination

- Loss in workers going to Downtown concentrated around central San Diego.
- Similarly, the loss of workers in the region is located around central San Diego and along the coast.



# **Findings**

#### **Overall**

- Sorrento Valley leads the region with large gains in employment
- Downtown followed regional trends with a dip during COVID but faster recovery

#### Age

Downtown followed regional trends with a drop in jobs for younger people

#### **Industry Sector**

- Both selected ECs had gains in Technology and Administration jobs
- Downtown followed regional trends with a drop in Accommodations and Food Service jobs.

# Findings – Cont'd

#### **Earnings**

- Rise of jobs that pay more than \$3,333/month
- Drop of jobs in both other brackets, especially \$1,250/month or less.

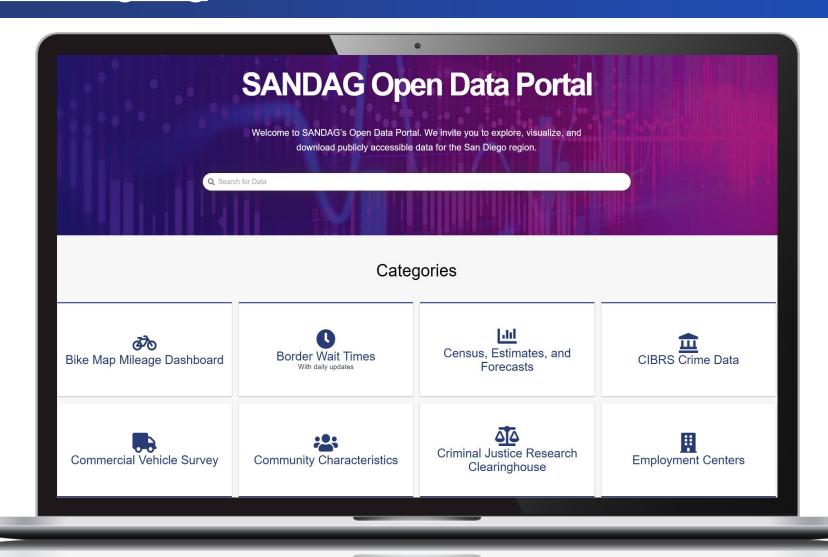
#### **Worker Origin**

- Sorrento Valley had new workers living across the region
- Downtown had lost workers living around central San Diego

# **Next Steps**

- Enhance SANDAG data products
- Inform transportation planning strategies
- Promote sustainable transportation
- Serve our diverse communities with options

# Resources on Data, Research, and Products opendata.sandag.org



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