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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Lewis Wong of Auratic Inc., Vice Minister of Commerce for China Wang Chao, Governor Bev Perdue, U.S. Rep. David Price Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez

Chinese delegation visits N.C. for investment pitch

China's President Hu Jintao is making a state visit to the United States, and Chinese government and business leaders are making a related visit to North Carolina as both countries aim to increase trade and investment opportunities.

Governor Bev Perdue, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, and U.S. Rep. David Price on Jan. 18 welcomed more than 100 Chinese entrepreneurs, investors and business leaders led by the country's vice minister of commerce to Research Triangle Park. The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the State of North Carolina hosted the event, which was organized by the China Investment Promotion Agency and the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of International Trade.

Deputy Director General, CIPA, MOFCOM Zhang Yingxin gave an introduction of Chinese investment in the United States. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco discussed North Carolina's vision. U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, U.S. Rep. David Price, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, and Governor Bev Perdue's Chief Advisor for Business and Economic Development Don Hobart were also involved in the event.

[Chinese delegation visits N.C. for investment pitch](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Jan. 18)

N.C. to receive \$46M in federal funds for small business loans

North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 14 announced that North Carolina will receive \$46.1 million in federal funds for the N.C. Capital Access Program at the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. The money, allocated through the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, will allow community banks to help leverage more than \$800 million in credit for North Carolina small businesses.

North Carolina is one of the first two states to have their applications approved by the U.S. Treasury Department. Perdue called on Congress to fund the Jobs Act in October, vowing that North Carolina would put the money to work immediately. Between 1994 and 2008, NC-CAP helped North Carolina lending institutions make 1,850 small business loans totaling more than \$103 million, helping save or create more than 27,000 jobs. NC-CAP is a loan loss reserve program that encourages financial institutions to make small business loans. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Charlotte Regional Partnership CEO Ronnie Bryant and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll

Charlotte and Commerce team up on energy cluster

On the Jan. 17, 2011 MLK Day of Service, members of the Charlotte Regional Partnership and the N.C. Department of Commerce spent the afternoon working together on growing energy cluster jobs and



(Left-right) Chamber Chair Pat Rodgers, Capgemini Managing Director Roy Stansbury, Governor Bev Perdue, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, Mecklenburg County Commission Chair Jennifer Roberts, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Crisco. In front, Charlotte Chamber VP of ED Kati Hynes.

Perdue announces 550 jobs with Capgemini

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 13 that [Capgemini](#), a consulting and information technology company headquartered in Paris, will establish a delivery center in the U.S. market to support its clients within the banking, insurance and capital market sectors by opening an office in Charlotte. The N.C. Department of Commerce's David Spratley was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 550 jobs in Charlotte over the next three years and will invest \$4.2 million. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"Once again, a top international company is bringing well-paying jobs to our state," said Perdue. "Capgemini is a perfect fit for Charlotte. They will quickly realize the value of the investments we make in education and worker training as they create 550 new jobs in North Carolina."

Capgemini has more than 100,000 people in 35 countries providing technology and consulting services to clients in industry sectors that include manufacturing and retail distribution, public sector, energy and utilities, telecommunications, media and entertainment, and financial services. [Read more.](#)

[Tech consultancy Capgemini to add 550 NC jobs](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 14)

Industry experts tout N.C.'s burgeoning video game sector

On Jan. 1, a new tax incentive aimed at North Carolina video game companies went into effect. The law, signed by Governor Bev Perdue last July, awards qualifying companies a credit of 15 percent of compensation and wages for full-time employees and other allowable expenses as well as a 20 percent credit for research expenses paid to a North Carolina university or participating community college. According to Site Selection magazine's article, "Digital Derby: More states are game for recruiting a high-paying industry," North Carolina is among 22 states that are vying for video game companies with tax incentives.

"Every one of our peer competitor states had an incentive, ranging from 10 to 25 percent in tax credits," Alexander Macris, founder and president of the Triangle Game Initiative, explained to Site Selection. "The lack of an incentive made us

investments in the Charlotte region. The work session was hosted by Charlotte Regional Partnership CEO Ronnie Bryant and included Ward Lenz, Larry Shirley, Ron Leitch and Dale Carroll from the N.C. Department of Commerce. [Learn more](#) about the energy sector in Charlotte. [Learn more](#) about energy in North Carolina.

Global Packaging to Bring 64 Jobs to Richmond County

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 14 announced that Global Packaging, Inc., a manufacturer of consumer packaging materials, will locate a new manufacturing facility in Richmond County. The company plans to create 64 jobs and invest \$1.7 million during the next three years in Hamlet. The project was made possible in part by a \$64,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ken Allen was the developer on this project.

"My number one priority is creating jobs, and not just in the big cities but throughout North Carolina," Perdue said. "Global Packaging's decision to locate in Hamlet is a testament to our nationally recognized business climate and our highly skilled workforce."

Pennsylvania based Global Packaging is a wide web flexographic printer. Global prints high-quality graphics on a variety of film-based substrates and converts the printed material into a bag or sells the roll stock products. Global Packaging will take over the recently closed Alpha Plastics facility in Hamlet. The new facility will manufacture the film product for internal use. In addition, Global will be installing printing and bag converting equipment.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$47,078 not including benefits. The Richmond County average annual wage is \$26,624. [Read more.](#)

U.S. economy ended 2010 on a strong note

The U.S. economy ended last year on an encouraging note, with all parts of the country showing improvements. Factories produced more, shoppers spent more and companies hired more - pointing to a stronger economy in 2011.

That's the picture that emerged from the Federal Reserve's survey of economic conditions released Jan. 12. Still, risks loom. Declining home prices and millions of foreclosures are depressing housing markets around the country, the survey said.

seem unattractive to CFOs who have responsibility for the bottom line. Now, we are playing on an even field." [Read more.](#)



North Carolina's Eastern Region President and CEO John Chaffee speaks during the State of the Region program.

Eastern Region holds 'State of the Region' program

[North Carolina's Eastern Region](#) held its annual State of the Region program Jan. 13 at the Hilton in Greenville. The program included a discussion of financial management in North Carolina by N.C. State Treasurer Janet Cowell, and new initiatives in cultural and heritage tourism by N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda Carlisle. Former U.S. Rep. Martin Lancaster was the panel moderator and chairman for a session on the defense/aerospace sector.

[Job creation hot topic at State Of The Region](#) (WITN-TV - Washington, Jan. 14)

Commerce, Raleigh Chamber discuss economic growth

On Jan. 14, Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Executive Ken Atkins and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll were interviewed by NBC-17 in Raleigh for a story about the top five growth industries for 2011 in the Triangle Region. Recent jobs announcements by Red Hat and SAS were featured in the story.

[Top five job-growth industries in 2011](#) (NBC-17, Jan. 14)

ITD participates in Global Business Development Conference in Charlotte

The [Business Innovation & Growth Council](#) and the N.C. Department of Commerce presented a conference entitled "Global Business Development" Jan. 13 at the Mint Museum Auditorium in Charlotte.

Keynote speaker Marco Fregenal of Evoapp (formerly founder and CEO of Carpio) opened the conference and led the way for panel discussions on targeting international markets. Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx and N.C. Department of Commerce Director of International Trade Jean Davis closed the day with a wrap up and call to action.

[U.S. economy ended 2010 on a strong note](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 13)



N.C. Museum of Art wins AIA award

The N.C. Museum of Art's new building, designed by the New York City-based Thomas Phifer and Partners, has been awarded a [2011 American Institute of Architects Honor Award](#), the AIA's highest recognition for building design.

The 127,000-square-foot, single-story structure--one of only 10 projects to receive the Honor Award for Architecture this year--was selected from hundreds of submissions worldwide.

The AIA announcement of the award notes the building interior's "gently luminous setting," the result of natural light that is filtered through hundreds of elliptical oculi in the ceiling, and the way in which its exterior, enclosed in matte aluminum panels, "continue[s] the discourse with the landscape" and offers "unexpected and scintillating reflections." [Read more.](#)

Energy Policy Council to meet Jan. 21

The N.C. Energy Policy Council will meet on Jan. 21 from 1-4 p.m. in the Board of Education Room, 7th Floor, New Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh. The council will discuss proposed recommendations to Governor Bev Perdue and the General Assembly as well as other matters that may come before the council. The council has also scheduled its February meeting for Feb. 25, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the same place.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout

Forum to focus on health care's regional economic impact

From biomedical device manufacturing to aging baby boomers, health care is a growing business in Charlotte. Health care costs -- and health-related jobs -- have been rising steadily for years. On Jan. 18, the Charlotte Regional Partnership will present an Investors Forum with regional experts weighing in on how they think local research and the 2010 National Health Care Act will impact area health care delivery.

Panelists will be Mark Billings, president of Presbyterian Healthcare, Don Bradley, chief medical officer and senior vice president for healthcare at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, Sheetal Ghelani, business development manager with the David H. Murdock Research Institute, and Russ Guerin, executive vice president of Carolinas HealthCare System. The forum, which is free for investors and \$25 for non-investors, will be 3-4:30 p.m. at the Harris Conference Center in Charlotte. [Learn more.](#)

December 2010 Economic Overview released

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning has released its Monthly Overview of North Carolina's Economy for December, 2010. Most of the latest state data is from November 2010.

National and state indicators have been slightly negative recently, with employment and other indicators dropping over the last two months. Despite the short term setbacks both state and national trends still indicate economic growth is occurring. While hiring in November has been sluggish in most sectors, there are some bright spots. The Finance, Education, Health Services, Information, and Other Services have added jobs this month. [Read the overview.](#)

Enrollment, course numbers up in '12 in 6' program

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce Development continues to track the progress of [Governor Bev Perdue's JobsNOW "12 in 6" initiative](#). The community colleges have been asked to provide monthly reports regarding the number of students enrolled, courses offered and the number of jobs created and maintained. The numbers through Dec. 31 show that 19,022 students are enrolled in the program (up from 18,488 as of Nov. 30), and 2,798 courses have been offered (up from 2,722 as of Nov. 30).

Durham among NYT's places to go for 2011

Durham ranks No. 35, alongside such international hotspots as Budapest and Santiago, Chile, in *The New York Times* list of "The 41 places to go in 2011." The newspaper touts the Bull City's downtown revitalization, including the transformation of former tobacco warehouses into mixed-use properties and the growth of award-winning eateries in the area. In a list of reader-ranked places Durham is No. 2.

[The 41 places to go in 2011](#) (*The New York Times*, Jan. 7)

the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - 17, 2011

New projects assigned:	9
Projects announced:	3
Jobs created:	611
Capital invested:	\$136M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	30
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	859

This week the Division also announced its total metrics for 2010

Total numbers for 2010

New projects assigned:	436
Projects announced:	155
Jobs created:	17,360
Capital invested:	\$3.9B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,724
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	22,001

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Advocates see worries and opportunity in merger of Duke and Progress](#) (*The American Independent*, Jan. 18)
- [Mooneyham: Alcoa tries different approach](#) (*The Salisbury Post*, Jan. 18)
- [Poultry firm still wants new location in N.C.](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Jan. 18)
- [Offshore energy meeting rescheduled](#) (*ENC Today* - Jacksonville, Jan. 17)
- [Elon University cuts greenhouse emissions](#) (*The Times News* - Burlington, Jan. 17)

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