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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Turbomeca Manufacturing President & CEO Matt Nelson, President of ATI Allvac and Executive Vice President of ATI Long Products Hunter Dalton, Monroe Economic Development Executive Director Chris Plate', N.C. Department of Commerce Aerospace Project Manager Rod Forsythe, and Goodrich Corporation Vice President and General Manager of Customer Services Bob Butz

Aerospace industry meets for annual forum

More than 70 business executives from North Carolina's growing aerospace cluster met with state and regional leaders in Monroe May 5 for the 2011 N.C. Aerospace Executive Forum. The annual forum brings industry executives together to build stronger business connections, identify supply-chain opportunities and to facilitate industry working groups addressing common areas of focus such as workforce development. The forum is an example of North Carolina's ongoing support for existing industries in the state.

Speakers at this year's forum included Paul Snyder, Goodrich Corporation's president of customer services and Dr. Robert Hocken from UNC-Charlotte's Center for Precision Metrology. Forum participants also toured Turbomeca Manufacturing's production facility in Monroe. [Learn more](#) about the state's growing aerospace sector.



Diane Nations of the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, and Drew DeVane of Hampton Inns of Asheville, joined the Tourism Day celebration at the I-40 West Welcome Center in Haywood County. North Carolina's nine Welcome Centers help drive visitors to attractions, accommodations and events in all 100 counties.

May 10 declared N.C. Travel and Tourism Day

Calling the travel and tourism industry in North Carolina "vital to our economic stability and growth," Governor Bev Perdue has proclaimed today (May 10) as N.C. Travel and Tourism Day, in conjunction with National Travel and Tourism Week, a collective effort to promote the power of travel through customized events in communities nationwide. The goal is to create better awareness of the industry's contribution to the state's economy and to recognize the cultural and social benefits created by travel and tourism while the legislature is in session.

In North Carolina, domestic visitors spent a record \$17 billion in 2010, sustaining nearly 200,000 jobs and supporting more than 40,000 businesses. Tourism generated \$947.2 million in state tax revenues and \$545.9 million in local tax revenues, saving each North Carolina household \$390 in taxes.

The N.C. Travel Industry Association has scheduled Tourism Day activities in Raleigh today. Booths in the Legislative Building will emphasize to lawmakers the importance of the tourism industry to the state, its tax base and its economy. A reception at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences will take place following the Tourism Day activities.

Best/Worst STATES for BUSINESS



Chief Executive magazine ranks N.C. No. 2 Best State for Business for third year

North Carolina continues to have a top-ranked, business-friendly climate. For the third consecutive year, more than 500 CEOs ranked North Carolina the No. 2 Best State for Business, according to the May issue of *Chief Executive* magazine.

According to *Chief Executive* Editor-in-Chief J.P. Donlon, the magazine "considered a wide range of criteria, from taxation and regulation to workforce quality and living environment, in our annual ranking of the best states for business. The charts and articles in this special report show how each state fares on the factors most essential for a business-friendly environment, as well as what states are doing to attract and retain companies in the increasingly competitive battle to win site selection." [Read more.](#)

DuBose Strapping to add 34 jobs in Sampson County

Governor Bev Perdue on May 3 announced that DuBose Strapping, Inc. a manufacturer of steel and plastic strapping for packaging applications, will expand its production facility in Sampson County. The company plans to create 34 jobs and invest \$10.5 million during the next three years in Clinton. The project was made possible in part by a \$138,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"One of the best ways to create new jobs in our state is to fuel growth among companies that already call North Carolina home," said Perdue. "DuBose Strapping's decision to expand in Sampson County reaffirms the national rankings North Carolina has received for its strong business climate and top-notch workforce."

DuBose Strapping is a manufacturer and distributor of steel banding and steel banding equipment. Located in Clinton since 1991, the company currently employs 93 people in Sampson County. The company plans to install plastic strap manufacturing equipment to expand the company's product offerings. The addition of plastic strapping to the company's existing steel products will position DuBose Strapping as a full line packing products provider. [Read more.](#)

[Sampson County manufacturer expanding, adding jobs](#) (*The Fayetteville Observer*, May 4)

The state's nine Welcome Centers have planned individual celebrations throughout the week, with partners from area attractions and accommodations greeting visitors at the Welcome Centers to thank them for traveling to North Carolina. I-40 West celebrated Tourism Day May 9; other events are May 11 - I-77 North; May 12 - I-26 East, I-95 North; May 13 - I-26 West, I-77 South, I-85 North, I-85 South and I-95 South.

Crisco speaks to Durham Chamber

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco spoke today (May 10) at the Local, State and Federal Government Committee meeting of the Durham Chamber of Commerce.



(Left-right) CarolinaWest President Andrew Tate, Consultant Bill Schaperkotter and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll

CarolinaWest holds annual meeting in Asheville

On May 6 the economic development marketing organization CarolinaWest held its annual meeting in Asheville. CarolinaWest comprises the seven-county economic development commissions in and around the Asheville-Hendersonville area, the City of Asheville and partners like AdvantageWest, AT&T, Duke Energy and Progress Energy. CarolinaWest President Andrew Tate, consultant Bill Schaperkotter and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll served as speakers at the meeting.



Charlotte Regional Partnership Senior Vice President for Economic Development Services Russ Rogerson (left) and Project Manager Juawana Colbert (right) accept an award from Site Selection magazine editor Mark Arend (center).

CRP among Top 10 economic dev organizations in the country

For the second year in a row, the Charlotte Regional Partnership has been named by *Site Selection* magazine among its Top Economic Development Groups of the year. Both the Partnership and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce were presented awards May 2 during a ceremony at the Industrial Asset Management Council's spring 2011 Professional Forum in Albuquerque, N.M.

"Although we are being honored, our success is the result not only of our efforts, but of those of the economic development professionals in our 16 counties," said Ronnie Bryant, president & CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership. "Our team aggressively markets our region throughout the world to keep it top of mind, but it is our state, county and city partners who close the deals. So, we all have a share in our regional success." [Read more.](#)

April economic overview released

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Policy, Research and Strategic Planning Division has released its economic overview for April 2011. Most of the latest state data is from March 2011. The purpose of the overview is to summarize and analyze important economic indicators. [See the overview.](#)

- County Unemployment: 99 counties had lower unemployment rates this March than they did last March (2010).
- Alternative Unemployment Measure (U6): An unemployment rate more inclusive than the traditional rate shows more than 17 percent of the people who desire full-time work currently do not have it.
- Housing: Since last month (February), foreclosure filings decreased and existing homes sold and building



USA Today: National BBQ Month mentions two N.C. sites

USA Today notes May is National Barbecue Month. When asking within its offices any style preference among North Carolina, Kansas City, Texas or Memphis barbecue, two North Carolina sites were mentioned: Allen & Son in Chapel Hill and Grady's Barbecue in Dudley.

[Who serves the nation's best BBQ? It's National BBQ month: Weigh in here](#) (*USA Today*, May 4)

Year-to-date Metrics

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

Jan. 1 - May 10, 2011

| | |
|---|---------|
| New projects assigned: | 138 |
| Projects announced: | 65 |
| Jobs created: | 6,900 |
| Capital invested: | \$1.03B |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 568 |
| Calls to Business Link N.C.: | 7,733 |

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Blaze at North Carolina wildlife refuge burns 20,000 acres](#) (The Virginian-Pilot - Norfolk, May 10)
- [Storm recovery focus of new N.C. legislative panel](#) (The Associated Press, May 9)

permits increased.

AdvantageWest, Mountain BizWorks hold Carolina Connect 2011 in Asheville

On May 5, AdvantageWest Economic Development Group and Mountain BizWorks held the Carolina Connect 2011 conference in Asheville. Speakers from across the country presented the latest information on developing business models, networking for success, commercializing technology and forming capital for entrepreneurs. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presented Governor Bev Perdue's priorities for small businesses during the conference, including the new N.C. Capital Access Program. [See the Carolina Connect program.](#)

OpenNet focuses on N.C.'s rural economy

On May 3 N.C. Rural Center President Billy Ray Hall, N.C. Farm Bureau Assistant to the President Peter Daniel and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll appeared on the OpenNet TV program, and took calls and e-mail questions from viewers from across the state about the rural economy. [Learn more.](#)

COIN roundtable to address nanomedicines

For its May 17 roundtable discussion, the N.C. Center for Innovation in Nanobiotechnology will focus on Nanomedicines and the Regulatory Path. The featured speaker will be Katherine Tyner, a chemist in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the FDA. The discussion will take place at the RTP Foundation in Research Triangle Park. [Learn more.](#)

- [Bill's aim is to protect environment, availability of Masonboro](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, May 8)
- [Stimulus czar: N.C. on road to recovery](#) (*The Charlotte Business Journal*, April 29)

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