

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Bev Perdue announces 150 jobs with AptarGroup in Lincolnton. (Photo courtesy of The Lincoln Tribune)

## Perdue announces 150 jobs with AptarGroup

Governor Bev Perdue announced May 16 that AptarGroup, Inc., a leading global supplier of customized dispensing systems (spray and lotion pumps, dispensing closures, and aerosol valves) for the beauty, personal care, pharmaceutical, household, food and beverage markets, will open its newest manufacturing facility in Lincolnton.

The company plans to create 150 jobs over the next five years with approximately \$50 million in capital investments in Lincolnton. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"The fact that corporations continue to bring these kinds of projects to North Carolina proves that our investment in education and job creation is paying off," Perdue said. "These are the kinds of jobs that are helping our state steadily climb out of the recession, and we welcome international companies like Aptar that are willing to invest in our state and position North Carolina as a leader in business." [Read more.](#)

[New plastics manufacturer invests in Lincolnton](#) (*The Lincoln Tribune*, May 16)



Governor Bev Perdue watches a welding demonstration at The Roberts Company.

## The Roberts Company to add 29 jobs in Pitt County

Governor Bev Perdue on May 13 announced that The Roberts Company, a provider of design, fabrication and installation services for the chemical, power, mining and pulp and paper industries, will expand with a new facility in Pitt County. The company plans to create 29 jobs and invest \$3.25 million during the next three years in Winterville. The project was made possible in part by an \$80,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Jason Sample was the developer on this project.

"The Roberts Company knows firsthand about our top-ranked business climate and skilled workforce, because the company has called North Carolina home for 34 years," said Perdue. "My top priority is creating jobs, and one of the best ways to do that is to fuel growth among the companies that are already here."

The Roberts Company works around the world for large heavy manufacturers and mining facilities to provide engineering, fabrication, construction and plant-start up services. The company specializes in fabrication and repair of complex ASME Code steel pressure vessels and heat exchangers. The Roberts Company has been in Winterville since 1986 and currently employs 460 in North Carolina. The company continues to grow and plans to open a second facility in Winterville.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be



(Left-right) N.C. Employment and Training Association Treasurer Billy Wooten, N.C. Department of Commerce Workforce Development Division Director Roger Shackelford, Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, N.C. Employment and Training Association President Bob Witchger

## Workforce Development Professionals Month recognition ceremony held

On May 11 the Governor's Commission on Workforce Development held a Workforce Development Professionals Month recognition event in Raleigh. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll thanked the workforce development professionals assembled from across North Carolina for the crucial role they play in economic development. The governor's proclamation designating May 2011 as "Workforce Development Professionals Month" was read by Commission Chair Chris Rolfe during the event.

"The economic success of our communities in the new global economy depends upon the quality and skills of the local labor force," said Governor Bev Perdue in a statement. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the hard-working and well-prepared professionals that enable us to produce skilled workers for a variety of industries. They are the troops on the ground as we fight against unemployment and the economic recession."

"The fast-paced change in the labor market, intensified by the recent economic recession, has put a strain on North Carolina's workforce development professionals, but their efforts have led the way to economic recovery for thousands of families across the state," said N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.



\$40,480 plus benefits. The Pitt County average annual wage is \$30,628. [Read more.](#)

## Crisco tours Asheville high school

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco toured T.C. Roberson High School in Asheville today (May 17) as part of Governor Bev Perdue's "Show Education Works Tour." The governor and her cabinet secretaries are visiting classrooms in public schools and community colleges around the state and talking to teachers, students and local leaders about the importance of education in our economic recovery.

[Perdue fuels pushback against NC GOP school cuts](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, May 16)

## N.C. ranks fourth as preferred summer travel destination

More Americans are planning to travel this summer despite rising gas prices, according to the latest American Express Spending & Saving Tracker (59 percent in 2011 vs. 51 percent in 2010). And North Carolina is expected to be the 4th Top U.S. Travel Destination, behind Florida, California and New York. Vacationing consumers plan to take an average of two week-long vacations, spending an average of \$1,200 per person, and three weekend-getaways with an average spend of \$300 per weekend. In addition, Americans with travel plans prefer quick getaways this summer to weeklong vacations (68 percent vs. 63 percent). Girlfriend getaways and "man"ications are on the rise compared to 2010 (15 percent compared to 10 percent). More than 40 percent of consumers said that getting a good deal on hotels, rental cars, flights, etc. is the most important factor in planning where they go for weekend getaways. Many also cited that they choose destinations based on where friends, family or significant others have decided (32 percent), diversity of activities (31 percent) and accessibility to a beach (29 percent). Research for the Tracker was completed online among a random sample of 2,025 consumers aged 18+. [Read more.](#)

## N.C.-China economic partnership launched

To promote job creation and trade between North Carolina and China, a diverse coalition

## Janesville acoustics to add 40 jobs in McDowell County

Governor Bev Perdue on May 11 announced that Janesville Acoustics, a leading supplier of acoustical and molded fiber products for the [automotive industry](#), will expand their manufacturing facility in McDowell County. The company plans to create 40 jobs and invest \$1.5 million during the next three years in Old Fort. The project was made possible in part by a \$120,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Bill Payne was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina continues to draw national recognition as one of the best places to do business, for both companies looking to move here and businesses that already call our state home," Perdue said. "Helping North Carolina employers expand is a major component of our job creation strategy. Companies like Janesville Acoustics are deepening their roots and increasing their investment in the state because they have confidence in North Carolina's strong business climate, excellent workforce and custom training programs."

Janesville Acoustics' world-class manufacturing operations produce a diverse range of fiber based products, from die cut insulators, to various decorative components and molded fiber products. In recent years, Janesville Acoustics has further expanded its capabilities to provide complete molded carpet/floor systems and molded trunk systems. The company has grown to become an industry leader and known for its fiber expertise, manufacturing capabilities and innovative product solutions. The company plans to expand its current facility in Old Fort by 7200 square feet to accommodate more manufacturing space. Janesville Acoustics currently employs 111 workers in McDowell County.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$32,750 plus benefits. The McDowell County average annual wage is \$29,224. [Read more.](#)

[McDowell manufacturer adding jobs](#) (WLOS - Asheville, May 12)

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## SBA and USDA increases continue through Q2

Continuing the trend of strong increases in government guaranteed loans, the Small Business Association and U.S. Department of Agriculture have posted an increased number of loans and loan volume for the first half of the 2011 federal fiscal year. The SBA increased the number of loans by 10 percent to 698, while the loan volume increased to \$281.9 million – a 64 percent increase over the same time period last year.

The USDA was affected by the late passage of the federal budget. While they had approved 24 loans totaling almost \$44.5 million, they had only received funding for 19 of those loans (\$39.7 million). The outstanding five loans were funded once the budget passed, and will be recorded as part of the third quarter. Including these 5 loans, the USDA loan volume increased 46 percent over the same time period last year.

For more information about government loan guarantees, see [CANisLending.org](#) or call [Business Link North Carolina](#), the small business service center at the N.C. Department of Commerce at 1 (800) 228-8443. [See the results.](#)

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of public- and private-sector groups have joined together to create the N.C.-China Global Gateway Platform for Investment and Economic Development. The purpose of the "Platform" is to develop a new model to bring investment into North Carolina and to strengthen North Carolina's exports across all of the state's industry sectors. In addition, the Platform aims to create jobs, accelerate development of [life sciences](#) in North Carolina and China, and showcase North Carolina's global life sciences, technology, business and economic development.

The N.C. China Global Gateway Platform consists of the N.C. Department of Commerce, [the North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Logistics](#), [the North Carolina China Center](#), the China Investment Promotion Agency, [Calvert Research LLC](#) and [The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences](#), through the new Hamner-China Biosciences Center.

"We are excited about this partnership and the opportunities it will provide for our state's biotechnology and life science companies," said Norris Tolson, president and CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. "A facilitated introduction between companies in North Carolina and China is a significant advantage for companies in both locations."

"With this Platform, we hope to attract additional campus development funding, expand existing life science partnerships in China and gain access to novel life science technologies developed by Chinese companies associated with the Platform," said Dr. William Greenlee, president and CEO of The Hamner. "It is a major element of our global initiative plans that can benefit many Americans and Chinese in the process."

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## James Beard Awards see 2 N.C. winners

The [James Beard Foundation Awards](#) were announced May 9, and two in North Carolina were among the winners. Andrea Reusing, with Lantern in Chapel Hill, was named Best Chef: Southeast, awarded to chefs who have set new or consistent standards of excellence in their respective regions. Crook's Corner, owned by Gene Hamer in Chapel Hill, was awarded an America's Classic Award, given to timeless, locally-owned restaurants that are known for their quality food that reflects the community.

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## 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

## Commerce participates in federal contracting and funding workshop

On May 9, the N.C. Department of Commerce participated in a Contracting and Funding Workshop with U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and U.S. Representative David Price at N.C. Central University in Durham. Participants included Assistant Secretary for Community Development Henry McKoy, Director of Community Assistance Vickie Miller, Energy Office Communications Director Seth Effron, Executive Director of Workforce Development Roger Shackelford and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

[10 great places to stand in the shade of historic trees](#) (*USA Today*, May 12)

## Tanger president rings closing bell at NYSE

Tanger Factory Outlet Centers Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Steven B. Tanger rang the New York Stock Exchange Closing Bell May 12 in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the company's founding. Tanger is a publicly-traded real estate investment trust headquartered in Greensboro that presently operates and owns, or has an ownership interest in, a portfolio of 34 upscale outlet shopping centers in 22 states. Three Tanger Outlets are located in North Carolina: Blowing Rock, Mebane and Nags Head.

## USA Today: Southern Pines among 10 Great

The boxed pines in Southern Pines are among *USA Today's* "10 Great Places to Stand in the Shade of Historic Trees." Many trunks bear carvings and marks from previous harvests for sap to turn into turpentine. "I've never seen anything like this in my life," Charles Birnbaum, president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, says. "These are witness trees to slavery."

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 17, 2011

New projects assigned:	143
Projects announced:	68
Jobs created:	6,991
Capital invested:	\$1.04B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	596
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	8,137

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Biotech company adds jobs for new business](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, May 13)
- [Leaders gather for RDU Terminal 2 dedication](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, May 12)
- [Durham County offers \\$225,000 package to crop giant for expansion](#) (WRAL TechWire - Raleigh, May 12)

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