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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz, N.C. Governor Bev Perdue and Georgia Department of Economic Development Director of International Trade Kathe Falls

N.C. participates in SEUS-CP conference

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco were among several U.S. and Canadian leaders who participated in the fifth annual conference of the [Southeastern United States-Canadian Provinces Alliance](#), which took place in Myrtle Beach, S.C. May 20-22. More than 200 Canadian and U.S. business and government leaders attended the three-day event.

SEUS-CP is an annual business-to-business conference among six southeastern U.S. states and seven Canadian provinces. Next year's event will be hosted by Nova Scotia, and in 2014 the conference will come to North Carolina.

Canada is North Carolina's largest trading partner. In 2011, North Carolina exported more than \$6.3 billion in goods and services to Canada. The state's main exports to Canada are machinery, electrical machinery, plastics and chemicals, and pharmaceutical products.

In the past five years, nine Canadian companies have announced relocations or expansions in North Carolina, creating 763 jobs and investing \$53.9 million. In total, Canadian companies employ more than 11,500 North Carolinians and have invested more than \$2 billion in the state. More than 115 Canadian companies call North Carolina home.



Mayor of Kayseri Province Mehmet Ozhaseki shakes hands with N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.

Commerce signs MOU with Turkish province

On May 22, the [Mid Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Association](#) and [Divan Center](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the social and cultural needs of Turkish and American friends living in North Carolina, co-hosted the Divan Center Turkish American Legislative Reception in Raleigh. During the reception, a memorandum of understanding concerning trade and economic development cooperation was signed by N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and the mayor of the Turkish province of Kayseri. The MOU is a direct result of a cultural mission by several N.C. state legislators to Turkey in October 2011.

Before the MOU signing, Crisco told the group, "We already have a healthy relationship with Turkey and export more than \$300 million in products to your country every year. That number has doubled in the past two years as demand for agriculture, fabricated metal products, paper, chemicals, machinery and other products has increased."

In honor of the Kayseri delegation's visit to the state, Divan Center hosted a dinner on May 21 in Raleigh. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary and COO Dale Carroll attended on behalf of the state.

Commerce participates in Asian trade mission



N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary and COO Dale Carroll is interviewed at the China Nanjing Biotechnology and New Medicine Industry Promotion Seminar. (Photo courtesy of Chinese American Biosciences Association in North Carolina)

Carroll speaks at Chinese biotech seminar

On May 23, the Chinese American Biosciences Association in North Carolina and the Chinese Association for Science & Technology - N.C. Chapter co-hosted a "China Nanjing Biotechnology and New Medicine Industry Promotion Seminar," which was sponsored by Nanjing government. The event introduced 180 attendees to the preferential policies concerning science and technology innovation and entrepreneurship in Nanjing, encouraged mutual understanding and collaboration between Nanjing and North Carolina, and promoted the development of the biotechnology and new medicine industries in Nanjing.

Held at the N.C. Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park, the event featured speakers from both the Nanjing and North Carolina governments, including N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary and COO Dale Carroll. Also on the agenda were executives of multinational pharmaceutical companies and Chinese companies, and representatives of the N.C. Biotechnology Center and the co-hosting organizations.

N.C. Department of Commerce International Trade Director Jean Davis was part of an [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) delegation that attended the Trade Winds -- Asia Forum May 14-22. The ARC delegation was made up of various small and medium-sized businesses from the greater ARC region, and included five North Carolina companies.

This official U.S. Department of Commerce business conference and multi-sector trade mission began in Malaysia and Indonesia and finished in Singapore, an ideal launching point for business expansion throughout the region. The Global Enabling Trade Report 2010 by the World Economic Forum ranked Singapore first for having the most open economy for international trade and investment. Conference participants were able to take part in business-to-business meetings, as well as to hear from U.S. Commercial Service senior officers from embassies and consulates throughout Southeast Asia.

North Carolina firms reported excellent meetings, and many will be travelling back to the region to follow up with new potential customers and to sign new distribution agreements.

In 2013, Trade Winds -- Asia will take place in early spring in China. The event will include a two-day business forum in Beijing as well as business visits to other cities in the country.

Small business taxpayer program reports big impacts

Not even a year after its launch, the Small Business Taxpayer Recovery Program - a joint effort of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Commissioner for Small Business and the N.C. Department of Revenue -- has already made significant impact on North Carolina's small businesses. SBTRP launched in July 2011 with three important objectives: to help delinquent small business taxpayers return to good standing, to collect delinquent state trust taxes, and to help participating firms improve their business operations.

More than 2,300 firms have been accepted into the program by the Department of Revenue. These firms had \$48 million in tax, interest and penalty liabilities. Repayment plans for \$36 million are currently in place, with \$19 million in delinquent taxes already collected. Additionally, \$21 million in current taxes have been collected. Businesses will save almost \$15 million in waived penalties and collection fees if they comply with the terms of the program.

The program also involves the UNC System's Small Business and Technology Development Center and the N.C. Community College System's Small Business Center Network.



Facilitated by the Statesville Downtown Development Corporation, a nationally accredited Main Street program, this façade improvement is of 109 East Broad Street, constructed circa 1880, in the Victorian Italianate style

N.C. Main Street communities receive national accreditation

The N.C. Department of Commerce Main Street Center announced on May 24 that 25 of the state's local Main Street organizations have been designated as accredited National Main Street Programs for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center.

North Carolina's 2012 accredited programs are Albemarle, Brevard, Burlington, Clayton, Concord, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Garner, Goldsboro, Hendersonville, Hickory, Lenoir, Lexington, Lincolnton, Monroe, Morganton, New Bern, Newton, North Wilkesboro, Salisbury, Shelby, Statesville, Wake Forest, Waynesville, and Wilson.

"We congratulate this year's nationally accredited Main Street programs," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco. "These cities and towns understand that a prosperous, sustainable community is only as healthy as its core. Even in these tough economic times, these cities are using a comprehensive strategy to keep their downtowns thriving."

"North Carolina's Accredited Main Street programs are to be honored for their achievement," said Director of Urban Development Liz Parham at the N.C. Department of Commerce, which oversees the N.C. Main Street program. "It's important to recognize the efforts of local Main Street programs that work every day to bring jobs and businesses to their downtowns, and, in turn, strengthen the overall economy of their communities." [Read more.](#)

Among other conditions of acceptance, businesses must agree to use the business counseling services of the SBTDC or SBCN. Small businesses that complete the required counseling and that file and pay all outstanding taxes are eligible for longer-term repayment plans than normal. In addition, all penalties and collection fees may be waived.

The SBTDC and SBCN have also reported important business improvement outcomes resulting from the program. Business counseling services have helped many companies identify and correct financial and business management conditions that led to the tax liabilities. These services have also helped improve financial controls and profit margins for many firms.

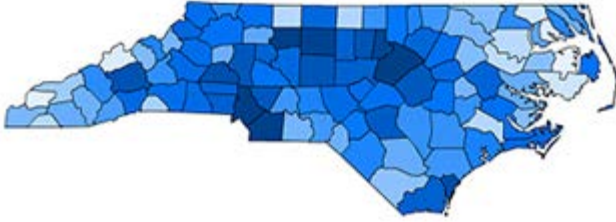
More information on this program may be found [here](#) or by contacting a local office of the Department of Revenue.

Durham's Full Frame's economic impact estimates up

The annual four-day [Full Frame Documentary Film Festival](#) that was held in Durham in April brought in \$320,000 more for the local economy than it did last year, for a total estimated economic impact of \$2.1 million. That's according to the [Durham CVB](#), which generates local economic impact estimates using studies from two market research firms along with data from festival organizers, said Shelly Green, the bureau's president and CEO.

The festival, a program of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, also generated around \$73,000 in tax revenue for the city. That total was up by about \$20,000 compared with last year. The festival drew more than 32,000 patrons with 38 sold-out events. Green said another benefit of the festival is its "billboard effect" for Durham -

Global North Carolina Heat Map
Statewide Snapshot



N.C. heat map released

[The Center for International Understanding](#) announced the unveiling of its N.C. International Heat Map at SAS in Cary on May 16. The interactive map displays the level of global engagement by North Carolina's citizens, businesses, and schools. Sponsors for the map include SAS, the Local Government Federal Credit Union, Triangle Community Foundation, and Quintiles. Over 100 partners and interested parties attended the event.

Meihui Bodane and Tammy Lester in the N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division provided data for the map and attended the unveiling, along with LEAD staffer Aubrey Incorvaia, Libby Smith of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance, and Derek Chen of Commerce's International Trade Division. The Heat Map can be found on [the CIU's website](#).

['Heat map' shows global influence on North Carolina](#)
(*Government Technology*, May 21)



Discovery Place's 'Mummies' exhibit lured \$6.6 million

[Discovery Place](#) announced last week the exhibit "Mummies of the World" brought in \$6.6 million of economic impact for the city of Charlotte. The exhibit closed April 8. According to the museum, Discovery Place has contributed more than \$27 million in tourism money to the local economy with special exhibits, including "Body Worlds," "A Day in Pompeii," and the "Mummies" exhibit. The museum said "Body Worlds" generated a \$12.6 million economic impact and the Pompeii exhibit contributed another \$8 million. Discovery Place partnered with the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority to conduct the economic impact studies.

[Discovery Place: 'Mummies' exhibit lured \\$6.6 million](#) (*WSOC TV*, May 22)

helping spread the city's name as the annual host of the event.

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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 29, 2012

New projects assigned:	178
Projects announced:	50
Jobs announced:	6,004
Capital investment announced:	\$1.69B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	547
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	8,544

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Airport continues string of upgrades](#) (*The High Point Enterprise*, May 24)
- [Charlotte v. Tampa: Convention city smackdown](#) (*CNN Travel*, May 24)
- [Manufacturing jobs rebound, but few qualified to fill them](#) (*Charlotte Observer*, May 22)
- [Mitsubishi marks opening of Charlotte nuclear office](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, May 22)

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