

May 3, 2011



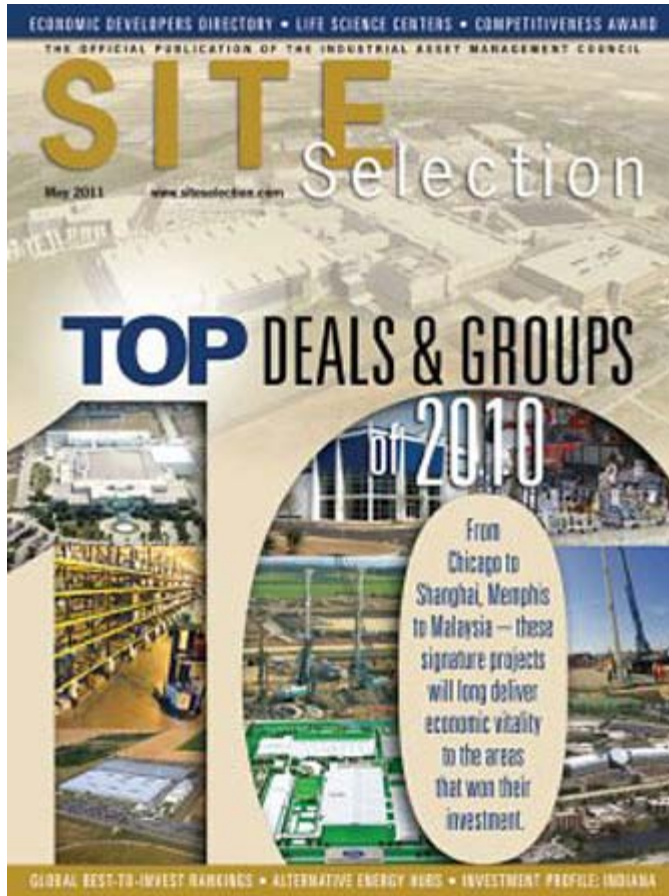
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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



New economic ranking again touts N.C.

Site Selection Magazine has again ranked North Carolina as one of the best places to do business in the country. A recently released ranking places North Carolina fourth place in its Competitiveness Award competition. In November 2010, the magazine [ranked North Carolina No. 1](#) for Business Climate.

Other states in the top five include Louisiana, Virginia, Texas and South Carolina, according to Conway Data Inc., which publishes the magazine. Each state was ranked based on points earned in a 10-factor index based mainly on the magazine's New Plant Database of new and expanded facilities. [Read more.](#) [See the latest North Carolina comparative rankings.](#)

[North Carolina ranks fourth in Site Selection rankings.](#) (Triangle



Tribeca Film Festival attendees work in the N.C. Lounge at the festival. The state's signature "rocking director's chairs" were on hand to help industry executives relax.

Film Office returns to Tribeca Film Festival

The [N.C. Film Office](#) returned to New York City's Tribeca Film Festival as a sponsor. The unique marketing opportunity had Film Office Director Aaron Syrett meeting with festival attendees to talk more about the opportunities that await filmmakers within North Carolina, including the state's revamped incentive program. In addition to the Lounge, the Film Office also hosted a reception for attendees that provided an intimate setting for filmmakers to discuss the state's incentive, crew base and infrastructure. The state's signature "rocking director's chairs" were on hand to help industry executives relax -- the current marketing campaign for the North Carolina, stressing the ease of filming in the state. Recognized as one of the world's top independent film festivals, Tribeca has screened more than 1200 films from more than 80 countries and attracted more than 3.25 million attendees.



Merck to build major expansion in Durham

North Carolina's pharmaceutical sector continues to expand. The latest announcement comes from Merck & Co. Inc., which will grow its Durham facility by 70,000 square feet. This expansion will house a live virus vaccine manufacturing operation where Merck will fill and finish pediatric Varivax vaccines for chicken pox.

According to plant manager John Wagner, the expansion at Treyburn Corporate Park will result in 270,000 feet dedicated to the production of bulk live virus and is the latest of several expansions for Merck at this site.

Since Merck first purchased the Treyburn Corporate Park property in June 2004, the company has undergone a series of expansions that total approximately \$900 million in investments and will cover 650,000-square-feet when finished. The completed facility will include the bulk production facility, two buildings to house the final stage of the vaccine production, a material and maintenance support facility, a warehouse and maintenance facility and a laboratory and office facility that will both meet LEED silver standards. [Learn more](#) about the Merck expansion, and about the [growing pharmaceutical industry](#) in North Carolina.

[Merck to expand facilities, add jobs](#) (The Herald-Sun - Durham, April 25)



(Left-right) Korea International Trade Association Chief Economist Chul Chung, U.S. Chamber of Commerce VP of Asia Tami Overby, N.C. Department of Commerce Business Development Manager Glenn Jackman, Republic of Korea Ambassador Duck-soo Han, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, U.S. Department of Agriculture Administrator for Foreign Agricultural Services John Brewer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Trade Adviser Leslie Schweitzer, Embassy of the Republic of Korea



N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll answers questions from N.C. Airports Association members

Carroll keynotes Airports Association meeting

On April 28 the [N.C. Airports Association](#) held its annual meeting in Greensboro. Attendance approached 300, and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll served as keynote speaker. Carroll presented Governor Bev Perdue's "JobsNow" priorities related to the aerospace and green energy sectors. He also discussed the crucial role that the 72 publicly owned and publicly operated airports in the N.C. Statewide Aviation System play in economic development.

N.C. is No. 10 in job gains

North Carolina ranks No. 10 in job gains, according to the latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. North Carolina had 3,651,000 nonfarm jobs as of March 2011, a gain of 36,500, or 0.95 percent, over the previous year.

[47 states and D.C. add jobs; three states continue to lose](#) (The Business Journals, April 25)

Crisco speaks to German American Chamber

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco spoke at the annual meeting of the German American Chamber of Commerce April 29 in Asheville.

"I believe it is a good time," he said. "In these transitional times and in times of austerity, we do some of our best work."

Crisco spent about 20 minutes touting the economic strength and sustainability of the state during his speaking engagement.

[N.C. Commerce secretary bullish on Asheville area](#) (The Citizen-Times - Asheville, April 29)

Crisco meets with Korean ministers

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll held a private meeting and later a roundtable discussion April 26 with a delegation interested in strengthening textile trade with South Korea. Attendees included Ambassador Duck-soo Han and Embassy of the Republic of Korea Counselor for Economic Affairs Won-Kyong Kim. Commerce participants were Business Development Manager Glenn Jackman, Asia Statewide Economic Developer Steve Brantley and Textile Sector Chief Analyst Tammy Lester.



Iberdrola Renewables Managing Director for Wind Business Development David Shadle delivers a keynote address at the 8th Annual Sustainable Energy Conference

Energy Division holds successful Sustainable Energy Conference

The 8th Annual Sustainable Energy Conference, sponsored by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Energy Division, was held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh April 26-27.

The conference included an opening address from former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, director of the National Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University, and a keynote from Iberdrola Renewables Managing Director for Wind Business Development David Shadle. [Learn more.](#)

[Sustainable Energy Conference wraps up](#) (News 14 Carolina, April 28)

Perdue declares May Workforce Development Professionals Month

Governor Bev Perdue has declared May 2011 to be "Workforce Development Professionals Month" in North Carolina to honor all professionals who play such a vital role in our economy. Workforce development professionals, organizations and partnerships are more critical than ever in a rapidly changing labor market that demands new skills and training programs.

"The economic success of our communities in the new global economy depends upon the quality and skills of the local labor force," said Perdue. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the hard-working and well-prepared professionals that enable us to

Carolina Connect to take place May 5 in Asheville

AdvantageWest's Carolina Connect conference for entrepreneurs and investors will take place May 5 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel. This year's conference will include a keynote address by PR and social media entrepreneur, consultant and author Peter Shankman. The conference will also include a panel of 30-and-under entrepreneurs plus sessions on cloud computing and innovation as a business strategy. [Learn more.](#)

Governor's Logistics Task Force tours Virginia Inland Port

On April 27, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll led members of the Governor's Logistics Task Force on a tour of Virginia's Inland Port. The Virginia Port Authority hosted the tour which included the Family Dollar Mid-Atlantic Distribution Center at Front Royal, Va. The Inland Port receives and ships cargo from and to the three State of Virginia-owned ocean terminals 220 miles away, five days a week via Norfolk Southern rail service. It is within one mile from I-66 and within five miles of I-81.

Unemployment drops in 99 of 100 N.C. counties in March

Unemployment rates decreased in 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties in March. The unemployment rate increased in Greene County. Rates declined in 98 counties when compared to the same month last year.

"Unemployment rates declined in nearly every county in March," said ESC Chairman Lynn R. Holmes. "We are beginning to see more counties drop below a rate of ten percent unemployment. This reflects the commitment by Governor Bev Perdue and our workforce partners to grow jobs in our state, and this agency remains focused on putting people back to work." [Read more.](#)

[Unemployment drops in 99 of 100 N.C. counties in March](#) (NBC17 - Raleigh, April 27)

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. [Read more.](#)

Windstream Hosted Solutions opens third data center in Charlotte

A mix of affordable energy, temperate climate and a highly skilled workforce has helped make North Carolina a hub for data centers. Companies such as Apple, Facebook and Google have all recently located large data centers in North Carolina. The latest company to open a North Carolina data center is Windstream Hosted Solutions.

The new 7,200-square-foot facility is Windstream's second data center in uptown Charlotte. The company also operates a data center near Charlotte Douglas International Airport as well as data centers in Raleigh and Cary. [Read more.](#)



N.C. focuses on Asia

North Carolina currently ranks 10th in the United States for employment supported by foreign direct investment, and 7th in manufacturing employment. Asian countries represent an important part of this success story, with Japanese firms alone bringing approximately 20,000 jobs to the state. North Carolina's commitment to market the state and service clients overseas has remained strong over the years. In addition to international specialists based in Raleigh, the state maintains international investment offices in Japan and China.

The state's Shanghai office opened in 2010, and recently a



Cleveland Plain Dealer spotlights SOBX and horses

In its April 24 Sunday Travel section, the (Cleveland, Ohio) *Plain Dealer* spotlighted the Southern Outer Banks. In addition to getting close to some of the Shackelford Banks horses, the writer touts kayaking and mentions diving along the Graveyard of the Atlantic as popular activities.

[Southern Outer Banks captivate with natural beauty, wild horses](#) (*The Plain Dealer* - Cleveland, April 24)

Orange County includes Commerce in planning workshop

On April 28 Orange County government held a planning workshop for all of its divisions. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll served as guest speaker to share background on the important role of local governments in economic development. County Manager Frank Clifton and EDC Director Gary Shope included Commerce in the county division directors workshop.

Scotland County approved for CDBG

The N.C. Department of Commerce has approved Scotland County for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$180,000 to Greenrite of Maxton for construction of a sewer line. The company has pledged to create 12 new jobs and invest \$500,000 dollars over a two-year period.

Green Business Fund awards \$4.6M for renewables and energy efficiency projects

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on April 25 announced that 16 North Carolina small businesses and organizations will receive awards from the North Carolina Green Business Fund, totaling \$4,580,686.45. These projects will result in a total of approximately 35 jobs being created or

new series of marketing materials and a new multi-lingual website have been launched to better serve clients in Japan, Korea and China. Consultants with clients in Asia can contact the office in their region or visit www.nc-asia.com for further information.



(Left-right) Golf Course Superintendents Association of America CEO Rhett Evans, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton, PGA of America CEO Joseph Sterenka

Perdue declares April 27 'Golf Day'

Golf course owners, managers and club professionals were in Raleigh last week to promote the game in North Carolina. Leaders of several golf-related organizations attended the General Assembly session April 26. They also met with Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges. They promoted North Carolina's 550 courses and golf's \$5 billion economic benefit to the state. Golf boosters offered demonstrations and educational displays behind the Legislative Building. Governor Bev Perdue proclaimed April 27 as Golf Day in North Carolina. [See the governor's proclamation.](#)



N.C. mentioned in *USA Today* aerotropolis story

The Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina was mentioned in a recent *USA Today* story on 'aerotropolises,' or airport cities. The story says that counties surrounding Piedmont Triad International Airport are working to standardize zoning

retained.

"Encouraging investments in the green economy is a centerpiece of our job creation strategy," said Crisco. "This fast growing industry holds vast potential for the future and we must continue to support its development in North Carolina."

The Fund, created by Governor Bev Perdue in 2007, is administered by the N.C. Board of Science and Technology. This is the fourth round of grants awarded by the Fund which has given out approximately \$8 million in grants.

[Read more about the Green Business Fund](#) and learn more about [North Carolina's green economy.](#)

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 3, 2011

New projects assigned:	129
Projects announced:	65
Jobs created:	6,900
Capital invested:	\$1.03B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	502
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	7,346

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Poultry plant worries Raleigh](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, May 3)
- [Protests planned as state House debates budget](#) (The Associated Press, May 3)

processes to expedite paperwork for companies interested in the region.

[Cities build airport cities — 'aerotropolises' — for growth](#) (USA Today, April 20)

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