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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue announces that Clearwater Paper Corp. will build a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Shelby.

## Clearwater Paper to create 250 jobs in Cleveland County

Gov. Bev Perdue announced June 10 that Clearwater Paper Corp. plans to invest \$260 million and hire 250 workers over the next five years to build a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Shelby. The plant will make private-label tissue products for retail grocery chains throughout the Southeast and along the East Coast. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Rod Forsythe was the developer on this project.

"Paper making is a heritage industry in North Carolina dating back to colonial times," said Perdue. "We remain a leader in this field and others because of our top-rated business climate, our outstanding workforce, and excellent infrastructure. We welcome Clearwater Paper to North Carolina."

Clearwater Paper (NYSE:CLW) makes pulp and paperboard, private-label tissue and wood products. Its Consumer Products Division supplies more than half of the retail grocery store brand bathroom tissue, paper towels, facial tissue and napkins in the United States.

The company has private-label tissue manufacturing facilities in the West and Midwest but not in the Southeast. This new manufacturing and distribution facility is intended to help the company serve the Eastern Seaboard more cost effectively and meet growing demand.

While individual wages will vary according to job responsibilities, the overall average wage for the 250 new jobs will be approximately \$38,000. That is higher than the

## Perdue: N.C. prepared if oil comes our way

Gov. Bev Perdue said today (June 15) that North Carolina is prepared if oil from the massive Deepwater Horizon leak in the Gulf of Mexico makes its way to our shores.

The governor reiterated in a press conference that North Carolina's beaches are fine and that she doesn't believe the spill will affect us, but that if it does, the state is prepared.

"Hope is not a course of action. North Carolina is very prepared for whatever comes our way," WRAL-TV quoted Perdue as saying during a meeting with legislative and local government leaders.

As of 1 p.m., [the governor's Web site](#) was featuring a live Emergency Management briefing for local officials on the state's response to the oil spill.

[Perdue: State is very prepared if oil comes to coast](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, June 15)

## Magna to add 327 jobs in Rowan, Caldwell and Catawba

Gov. Bev Perdue announced June 14 that auto parts supplier Magna Composites LLC plans to expand three plants in the western part of North Carolina and create 327 new jobs over the next four years. The expansion – in which Magna plans to invest \$10 million in facilities in Salisbury, Lenoir and Newton – was made possible in part by a state Job Development Investment Grant. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my number one priority, and this multi-county expansion is a win for the region and state," said Perdue. "North Carolina's commitment to education, workforce training and maintaining a top-rated business climate makes us well positioned to continue to add jobs and economic opportunities."

Magna Composites is a division of Magna Exteriors and Interiors, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian auto parts

Cleveland County average of \$31,200. [Read more.](#) [See video of the announcement from The Shelby Star.](#)

["Guys, we picked the right place": Clearwater Paper announces plans for Cleveland County facility, roughly 300 jobs](#) (The Shelby Star, June 10)

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## Perdue addresses tech conference

On June 2, Gov. Bev Perdue provided the luncheon keynote speech at the 12th Annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) SBIR/STTR Conference held at the Raleigh Convention Center. Attending the conference were more than 600 life science researchers and CEOs of energy technology businesses interested in research and development opportunities with NIH. The conference was hosted by the Small Business and Technology Development Center. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Commissioner of Small Business Scott Daugherty served as the program's master of ceremonies.

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## N.C. Military Business Center to host IT symposium

The N.C. Military Business Center (NCMBC) will host a North Carolina Federal IT Symposium at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on June 17. This symposium will provide information to North Carolina businesses about federal technology (IT) opportunities, federal contracting processes for IT goods and services, and subcontracting opportunities with major contractors providing IT services to the U.S. Dept. of Defense and other federal agencies. Major federal IT contract holders will attend. For more information, contact the NCMBC's [Mickey Finn](#) via e-mail or phone (703) 929-9930). [Learn more.](#)

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## Crisco, Joines participate in Beijing economic development forum

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, and Winston-Salem Mayor and N.C. Economic Development Board Chairman Allen Joines were part of a trade delegation that participated in a two-day economic development forum with Chinese commerce ministers in Beijing.

The delegation was composed of 39 representatives from nine states and territories representing the American South. The event was coordinated by the Southern Governors' Association (SGA), the oldest and largest of America's regional governors' associations.

The Beijing meetings will be the first of two formal gatherings between officials from the American South and China to begin discussions on the expansion of U.S. exports to China, how to increase Chinese investment in the Southern region and how to identify partnerships between Southern and Chinese companies. In late August, Chinese provincial governors will travel to Birmingham, Ala., to meet with their American South counterparts during SGA's 2010 annual meeting to continue the trade discussions. [Read more.](#)

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giant Magna International (NYSE: MGA). Magna International operates 240 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries.

Magna added the three North Carolina plants to its holdings when it purchased portions of Meridian Automotive Systems' composites business in June 2009. Since then, the company has increased employment at the three facilities, which currently provide jobs for 360 workers. [Read more.](#)

[Auto parts giant to add 327 jobs at three NC plants](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 14)

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## Metzger to direct Tourism PR program

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges has announced that Margo Metzger will direct the Division of Tourism's public relations program, effective June 21. Metzger, who has been director of the N.C. Wine & Grape Council since 2004, will work with domestic and international journalists and editors to generate editorial coverage and attract visitors to North Carolina. She replaces and reports to Wit Tuttell, who was recently promoted to director of tourism marketing. Metzger graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and mass communication. She is a native North Carolinian and has worked in state government for more than seven years. Metzger may be contacted via [mmetzger@nccommerce.com](mailto:mmetzger@nccommerce.com) or, after June 21, at (919) 733-7420.

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## Asheville wins SoCon Basketball Championships

The Southern Conference (SoCon) announced June 3 that Asheville has been awarded the league's men's and women's basketball tournament for 2012, 2013 and 2014. The city expects the economic impact of the tournament to be \$12 million over the three-year period. The tournament site was selected by the league's athletic directors as part of the conference's annual spring meeting held June 1-3. The 2012 tournament will mark a return to Asheville, site of the men's basketball tournament from 1984-95.



(Left-right) N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll, Cindy Carroll, Sandra Bryant and Charlotte Regional Partnership President and CEO Ronnie Bryant at Charlotte USA Annual Awards Luncheon

## Charlotte USA and Piedmont Triad Partnership recognize regional partners

On May 25, Charlotte USA held its annual awards luncheon and recognized US Airways, the community colleges in the region and outgoing Chairman Humpy Wheeler for their outstanding leadership.

On June 3, the Piedmont Triad Region held its Capstone Event to recognize its partners at the conclusion of the successful \$15 million Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development grant project (WIRED) from the U.S. Dept. of Labor. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll visited both regions to thank the two partnership CEOs for their outstanding efforts.

[Charlotte Regional Partnership honors US Airways, colleges](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 25)

[Leaders celebrate results of federal WIRED grant](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, June 4)

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## May Economic Overview released

On June 8, the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Policy, Research & Strategic Planning Division (PRSP) released its Monthly Overview of North Carolina's Economy for May 2010.

Among the findings:

- North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased to 10.8 percent; the number of employed workers and the labor force increased.
- Non-farm employment increased; five of 11 industry sectors increased in employment from last month.
- Closings/layoffs decreased in April and were below the four-month and 12-month averages.
- Home sales and foreclosures increased while building permits decreased.

[Read the full report.](#)

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## N.C. Sustainable Communities Summit happening June 28-29

The conference entertained proposals from six different cities: Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, Chattanooga, Tenn., Greenville, S.C., and Winston-Salem.

"We're thrilled to be returning to Asheville, a site where the Southern Conference enjoyed some of its most exciting basketball championships," said Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino. "The City of Asheville clearly demonstrated its enthusiasm and commitment to hosting the tournament in its presentation to the membership. We had six outstanding choices available, which illustrates the growing prestige of this event."

The 2012 men's tournament will be played in Asheville's Civic Center while the women's tournament will begin at UNC Asheville's Kimmel Arena. The women's tournament semifinals and championship game will be played at the Civic Center. As part of the city's bid, the local organizing committee has pledged \$3.2 million in capital improvements to the 6,300-seat arena which will be completed prior to the 2012 tournament.

[Welcoming back Southern Conference tourney](#) (The Asheville Citizen-Times, June 6)



(Left-right) N.C. Dept. Commerce Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson with Rajan Mittal in Raleigh.

## Indian delegation meets with Triangle business leaders

Amit Mitra, secretary general of the [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry](#) (FICCI), and Rajan Mittal, vice chairman and managing director of Bharti Enterprises, were in Raleigh June 7 to meet with North Carolina business leaders and state government officials. During a roundtable discussion moderated by Charles Hayes of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership, the Indian delegation discussed

The N.C. Sustainable Communities Summit will take place June 28-29 at Harris Conference Center in Charlotte. U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Sec. Ron Sims will be the featured speaker. The summit will also include a workshop on Understanding Work-Based housing and Family Transportation Costs. [Learn more.](#)

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## Public comments sought on JMAC amendments

Public comments are being accepted through July 1 on proposed amendments to the Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund Grants (JMAC) Program, which incorporate amendments to the statute that will become effective July 1 and clarifications of existing provisions of the statute. [Learn more.](#)

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## Amtrak adds midday service between Charlotte & Raleigh

The N.C. Dept. of Transportation and Amtrak have taken train travel in North Carolina another step forward with new midday service between Raleigh and Charlotte, increasing the state-sponsored passenger rail service to six trains daily between its two largest cities. The new service launch added two additional trains in the midday, giving business travelers and families more options to travel via rail. The new service is expected to attract 43,000 new passengers in its first year of operation. The new midday trains build upon the existing Piedmont service, which now operates morning and evening trains between Raleigh and Charlotte, a trip that is auto competitive at 3 hours and 12 minutes, with intermediate stops at Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis. [Learn more.](#)

[Midday train service now available](#) (The Salisbury Post, June 7)

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## N.C.'s Business Climate: A comparison of state rankings

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Small Business Commissioner Scott Daugherty recently compiled a listing of state business climate rankings and compared the criteria to determine what specific elements contribute to North Carolina's excellent results.

Specific criteria supporting North Carolina's positive rankings:

- High return on investment for government expenditures benefitting businesses
- Moderate business costs
- Low percentage of business taxes to gross state product
- Outstanding executive-level perceptions
- Excellent workforce
- Good quality of life
- Access to capital
- Moderate regulatory environment
- Strong technology and innovation
- Excellent transportation and infrastructure
- Low state and local property tax
- Unemployment insurance tax

And the supportive rankings:

- No. 1 2009 Best Business Climate (Site Selection

trade and business opportunities in infrastructure development with executives from Cisco, Tekelec, Red Hat, Tranzyme Pharma, and Innovative Emergency Management. Don Hobart, senior advisor to the governor on economic development, and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson also participated in the roundtable discussion.

FICCI is the largest and most influential business organization in India with a membership of over 83,000 companies. [Bharti Enterprises](#) is one of India's leading business groups with operations in 21 countries across the globe with interests in retail, telecommunications, and financial services. Wal-Mart recently formed a joint venture with Bharti group to enter the Indian retail market.

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(Left-right) Cherokee CEC team leader Gloria Rattler and AdvantageWest Board Chairman Tommy Jenkins

## Cherokee is Certified Entrepreneurial Community

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was recently awarded status as an AdvantageWest Certified Entrepreneurial Community (CEC). Among the participants in the ceremony were Cherokee CEC team leader Gloria Rattler and Boyce Dietz, representative for U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler, who read from the Congressional Record proclaiming Cherokee the first nation to become a Certified Entrepreneurial Community. Developed by AdvantageWest, the CEC program requires communities to complete a rigorous, five-step process to become certified, which recognizes a commitment to encourage and support entrepreneurship while improving the business climate for existing companies. The tribe joins Haywood, Transylvania, Watauga, Burke, Mitchell and Polk counties as certified communities. The CEC program, the first of its type in the country, has been presented twice before Congress and recognized at the National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education.

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## Division of Community

- magazine)
- No. 1 2010 Lowest State & Local Tax Burden on Business (Council on State Taxation and Ernst & Young)
  - No. 2 2010 Best States for Business (Chief Executive Magazine)
  - No. 3 2009 Pro-Business State (Polina Corporate Real Estate)
  - No. 3 The Best State for Business, 2009 (Forbes)
  - No. 9 America's Top State for Business, 2010 (CNBC)
  - No. 12 2009 Boardroom Guide to the Best states for Business (Directorship Magazine)

## Nominations open for N.C. Small Business of the Year

June 18 marks the final day that nominations will be accepted for the Business North Carolina Magazine Small Business of the Year award. The award, which is sponsored by BB&T, honors the contributions small businesses make to North Carolina's economy. [Read more.](#)

## Nominations open for Fast 50 awards

Nominations for The Business Journal of the Greater Triad's 12th Annual Fast 50 awards are now open. The awards honor the Triad's 50 fastest-growing privately held companies. Qualifying companies are ranked based upon a formula that takes into account both dollar growth and percentage rate of growth over the company's three most recently completed fiscal years. [Learn more.](#)

## N.C. joins 9 Eastern states in Wind Energy Consortium

U.S. Dept. of the Interior Sec. Ken Salazar, Gov. Bev Perdue and the governors of 9 other East Coast states on June 8 signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formally establishes an Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium to promote the efficient, orderly and responsible development of wind resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. Salazar said the establishment of the consortium will promote safe and environmentally responsible development, enhance the nation's energy security, and create jobs. He explained a regional renewable energy office has been set up to coordinate and expedite the development of wind, solar and other renewable energy resources off the Atlantic coast. Salazar in April authorized the nation's first offshore wind farm off Cape Cod. In addition to North Carolina, the other states are Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia. [Read more.](#)

[10 eastern states join wind energy consortium](#) (Bloomberg Businessweek, June 8)

## Assistance to move

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance will move into its new offices June 21-25. The new address will be 100 E. Six Forks Road, Raleigh 27609. The main phone number will be (919) 571-4900.

## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry (B&I) 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 - June 14, 2010

New projects assigned:	208
Projects announced:	55
Jobs created:	7,582
Capital invested:	\$1.14B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	611
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	11,209

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Asheville airport sees uptick in travelers](#) (The Asheville Citizen-Times, June 14)
- [Triangle entrepreneurs to convene at Charlotte awards](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 14)
- [The cutting edge](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, June 14)
- [N.C. House passes renewable-energy bill](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, June 14)
- [N.C. House passes bill to boost renewable energy](#) (Triangle Business Journal, June 11)

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