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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Russ Sawchuck of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Canada office, developers Garret Wyckoff and Donna Phillips, and Secretary Keith Crisco at the 2011 BIO International Convention

N.C. hosts life science executives at BIO 2011

As part of the N.C. Department of Commerce's ongoing program to market the state to [life science and biotechnology](#) decision makers, the Department is hosting the North Carolina Bio Reception tonight (June 28) in Washington D.C. The reception, one of the signature events each year at the BIO international convention and trade show, is made possible by the Friends of North Carolina organization. Governor Bev Perdue and Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco are expected to host more than 300 leaders from this vital business sector.

Commerce is also hosting visitors to the N.C. Pavilion, located in Booth 3519 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. More than 90 sponsoring companies are participating in this year's state pavilion, showcasing the many aspects of North Carolina's biotechnology, pharmaceutical and life sciences industry. Crisco and other Commerce officials will be meeting with company executives over the course of the four day conference. Planners from the Biotechnology International Organization expect over 15,000 executives will attend the convention which opened June 27.



(Left-right) Clark Duncan of the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County; Charlie Diehl, member of the Governor's Logistics Task Force and consultant for N.C. Department of Transportation; Daniel Findley, senior research associate at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education; Josh Hallingse, Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development; John Franklin of the Transportation Department Volvo; and Bill Payne of the N.C. Department of Commerce

Henderson County manufacturers participate in Regional Transportation Alliance

On June 1, more than 40 transportation and logistics professionals, representing companies from Henderson and Buncombe counties, convened for the Western North Carolina Transportation Alliance's Spring Meeting. Daniel Findley, a senior research associate at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at N.C. State University, served as the keynote speaker. Findley has been involved in a recent project to develop a statewide logistics plan for North Carolina and is currently a member of the team working on the Seven Portals Study, a project designed to identify long-term economic, mobility and infrastructure needs for the state. As a specialist in transportation-related infrastructure, Findley's past work has played a significant role in measuring the economic impact of North Carolina's transportation systems including highways, airports and ports. [Read more.](#)



Governor Bev Perdue and Clearwater Paper Shelby Plant Manager Vince Reese during the plant's grand opening.

Clearwater holds grand opening

On June 21 Clearwater Paper held a grand opening for its 250-employee, \$260 million plant in Shelby. Governor Bev Perdue toured the new facility and delivered the keynote address during the luncheon event.

Clearwater announced on June 10, 2010, that the company planned 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. Department of Commerce's Rod Forsythe was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

[100 New Jobs: Clearwater Paper celebrates grand opening](#)
(The Star - Shelby, June 22)



(Left-right) Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corporation Director Robert Carney Jr., N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Mooresville Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Carney, Niagara Bottling Executive Pamela Anderson Cridlebaugh, Chairman of the Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corp. Ron Johnson, President of the South-Iredell Community Development Corporation Woody Washam, Niagara Bottling Executive Derieth L. Sutton, Charlotte Regional Partnership Executive Juawana Colbert

Bottled water company to bring 66 jobs to Iredell County

On June 22, Governor Bev Perdue announced that Niagara Bottling will build a new 66-employee, \$45 million production and distribution facility in Mooresville. The project was made



Guy Gaster (left) of the N.C. Film Office accepts a marketing award at the PGA Produced By Conference and Association Film Commissioner International membership meeting

Film Office accepts Marketing Award

Guy Gaster from the N.C. Film Office accepted a marketing award on behalf of the office and the Wilmington Regional Film Commission. These awards were given at the PGA Produced By Conference and Association Film Commissioner International membership meeting. This marketing award was given to the Film Office for its outstanding work on digital and interactive media marketing for 2010, and to the Wilmington Regional Film Commission for outstanding logo design. This marks the ninth marketing award since 2008 for the Film Office.

Forbes Ranks Raleigh No. 1 in U.S. for increase in young families

The number of young families in North Carolina's Triangle area is growing faster than anywhere else in the U.S. According to a recent study by *Forbes*, Raleigh has experienced the biggest increase over the last 10 years in adolescents ages 5 to 17. Charlotte ranked No. 4 in the U.S. for the fastest growth of young families. Both Raleigh and Charlotte were recently ranked as two of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S. by *Forbes*.

Forbes, in conjunction with demographer Wendell Cox, determined the regions with the most family growth by using data from the Census. [Read more.](#)

SEUS-CP strengthens trade ties between N.C., Canada

This year's SEUS-Canadian Provinces event took place in Fredericton, New Brunswick,

possible in part by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

Other partners include the Charlotte Regional Partnership, N.C. Community Colleges, Duke Energy, the Town of Mooresville, Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corporation and Iredell County.

"International businesses looking for new locations can set up shop wherever they want," Perdue said. "But companies like Niagara are choosing North Carolina for a clear reason: a ready-to-go workforce that is educated and trained, thanks to our investments in our schools, community colleges and universities."

Niagara Bottling, LLC, a family-owned, private-label, bottled water manufacturer, is headquartered in Ontario, Canada. Since 1963, the company has grown to operate nine plants around the country. The company provides high-quality, low-cost bottled water for grocery, club store, convenience and wholesale customers. Niagara will open its tenth plant in Mooresville to serve the Mid-Atlantic region. The plant will be totally vertically-integrated; meaning it will produce both its own caps and bottles, as well as fill and package bottles of purified and spring water. [Read more.](#)

[Niagara Bottling to create new jobs with new plant in Mooresville](#) (WBTV - Charlotte, June 22)

N.C. 'clean energy' firms jump by 700 to 1,800 in less than year

Passage of the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard law in 2007 by the N.C. General Assembly and incentives from the federal government are helping create a growing "clean industry" in the state, according to the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association.

North Carolina is now home to 1,792 companies focused on renewable energy, and the state is the site for 1,829 renewable energy systems, according to a new report from the association.

The number of companies jumped from 1,100 last fall to nearly 1,800, based on data gathered by the group as of March. And these numbers could be low, according to the report's authors.

[N.C. 'clean energy' firms jump by 700 to 1,800 in less than year](#) (WRAL Techwire, June 22)

N.C. cited as a 'winner' in nation's economic realignment

North Carolina was cited as a winner in a recent *USA Today* article examining each state's gross domestic product to determine how the country's economic output has shifted within its borders. The data, recently released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, reflect both population growth and income increases - in short, the economic weight of each state. North Carolina was ranked No. 9 on the list. [Read more.](#)

Developers travel to WNC for industrial site visits

Developers from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Raleigh

Canada. More than 225 delegates were in attendance. The conference focused on renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and innovation. North Carolina delegates from government, academia and business took part in the conference. Dana Hicks, North Carolina's Honorary Consul for Canada, served as head of the delegation. A key part of the event was a business to business matchmaking session where more than 400 meetings took place. Next year's SEUS Canada event will take place in May 2012, in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Troop buildup an economic boon for Fort Bragg area

The June edition of *Business N.C.* magazine analyzes how troop buildup and new Army commands at Fort Bragg are helping area communities economically. Because of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Act, Cumberland and surrounding counties will see an influx of 40,000 service members, family members, defense contractors and others dependent on the military. The article looks at the economic impact from this influx, and traces Fayetteville's evolution from gritty Army town to a community now known as the most military-friendly in the nation.

[The troop buildup and new Army commands at Fort Bragg are creating an economic windfall for communities around it](#) (Business N.C., June 2011)

Stock car racing now N.C.'s official sport

On June 21, Governor Bev Perdue signed into law a measure that made stock car racing North Carolina's official sport. The law makes official the state's close and longstanding connection with the popular pastime. The [law](#) notes that North Carolina's motorsports industry creates more than 20,000 jobs in the state and is home to racing greats such as Richard Petty and Junior Johnson.

[Governor giving green light to N.C. stock car label](#) (The Associated Press, June 21)

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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

office recently visited several industrial sites in Western North Carolina. The group visited Ferncliff Industrial Park, located adjacent to the Asheville Regional Airport. The site has received the certified industrial site designation and is readily available for industry to locate. Ferncliff is a unique industrial park in that an agreement has been reached with the Asheville Regional Airport for "through the fence" access, so that industries that locate in the park will have immediate access to the airport and runway. That aspect of the park would be especially important for aviation companies or companies that have an air transport component to them.

The group also visited Davidson River Village in Transylvania County, formerly the old Ecusta Paper Mill. The 540-acre property was acquired by Renova Partners LLC and is now being redeveloped for retail, residential, hospitality, and industrial development as well as open public space. Buildings visited closer to Asheville included the headquarters facility for Volvo in Biltmore Park. The 40,000-square-foot shell building in Asheville Commerce Park was toured as well. It is located close to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Situated on six acres, the building is expandable to 80,000 square feet and consists of 22-foot-ceiling height.



Video: Siemens on N.C.'s quality of life

Mark Pringle, director of operations for Siemens Energy in Charlotte, discusses the quality of life in North Carolina.

"If we are trying to recruit folks to come here, all we have to do is get them here to see the area," Pringle says. "I haven't met anybody yet that hasn't liked it once they're here." [See the video.](#)

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 - June 28, 2011

New projects assigned:	181
Projects announced:	85
Jobs created:	7,870
Capital invested:	\$1.33B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	817
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	9,846

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Governor schedules military summits](#) (*ENC Today*, June 28)
- [N.C. coastal jetties construction bill to become law](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, June 27)
- [Report: Casino benefits local economy](#) (WUNC, June 27)
- [Smartgrid startup PlotWatt lands \\$1M in funding. GE Challenge](#) (WRALtechwire, June 23)

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