

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



## IBM to bring 600 jobs to RTP

Gov. Bev Perdue announced on July 8 that IBM Lender Business Process Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of International Business Machines Corp., will hire 600 workers during the next two years and invest \$3.7 million to open a managed business process service center in Research Triangle Park. A state Job Development Investment Grant helped make the project possible. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Vivian Powell was the developer on this project.

"IBM has been a major employer in North Carolina providing thousands of skilled jobs for more than 30 years. We value this company's ongoing commitment to North Carolina and Research Triangle Park," said Perdue. [Read more.](#)

## Building materials maker to bring 89 jobs to Person County

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 13 announced that CertainTeed Gypsum Inc., a manufacturer of construction materials, will build a wallboard manufacturing facility in Person County. The company plans to create 89 jobs during the next three years in Roxboro. The project will benefit from a \$300,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

Tampa-based CertainTeed Gypsum Inc. is a leading North American maker of gypsum wallboard and related products used in commercial and residential construction.

CertainTeed plans to build a highly efficient gypsum wallboard manufacturing facility in Roxboro, with a planned investment of \$160 million over three years. Salaries for the new jobs will vary by job function, but the annual average wage for the new jobs will be \$55,247, not including benefits. That is above the Person County average annual wage of \$30,524.

## Industrial contractor to bring 43 jobs

## June Economic Overview released

On July 7, the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Policy, Research & Strategic Planning Division released its Monthly Overview of North Carolina's Economy for June 2010.

Among the findings:

- North Carolina's unemployment rate decreased to 10.3 percent; the number of employed workers increased.
- Both urban and rural counties experienced decreases in unemployment rates since May of last year.
- Total non-farm employment increased; five of 11 industry sectors increased between April and May.
- Home sales and foreclosures increased while building permits decreased.

## Office of Science and Tech highlights nanotech efforts

Building on the momentum generated by the recent N.C. Nanotech Commercialization Conference, the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology continues to be involved in the state's vibrant nanotech community.

Office of Science and Technology Executive Director John Hardin was interviewed by [nanotech.org](http://nanotech.org), a unique global portal for the nanotechnology community with 55,000 unique visitors each month. The topic of the interview was the progress of the industry in North Carolina over the past two years and plans for the future. [Read the full text of the interview here.](#)

Also, on July 1, Hardin delivered welcoming remarks at a kickoff nano networking event hosted at the Research Triangle Park headquarters, during which the Research Triangle Environmental Health Collaborative formally launched a [Guidance Document](#) addressing the environmentally responsible development of nanotechnology. Hardin is a member of the collaborative's executive committee.

## to Elizabeth City

Gov. Bev Perdue announced on July 7 that AMARK Corp., an industrial contractor, will expand with a new fabrication facility in Pasquotank County. The company plans to create 43 jobs and invest \$1.9 million, including lease payments, during the next three years in Elizabeth City. The project was made possible in part by a \$126,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Tim Ivey was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my number one priority and North Carolina continues to be attractive to strong, growing industrial service companies," said Perdue. "Our skilled workers, custom training programs and top-rated business climate remain top draws for companies nationwide looking for the best location to succeed."

AMARK Corp., headquartered in Virginia, fabricates steel and pipe for multiple uses in both general and industrial construction applications. The company plans to expand operations into North Carolina by leasing the former Davis Yachts building in Elizabeth City. The currently vacant site will be converted into a fabrication shop to cut, weld and fabricate steel structures as well as miscellaneous metals. [Read more.](#)

[New plant bringing 43 jobs to Elizabeth City](#) (The Virginian-Pilot, July 8)



*N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll speaks in Troy.*

## Montgomery County EDC holds annual meeting

On June 29 the Montgomery County EDC held its annual meeting in Troy. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll presented Gov. Bev Perdue's 2010 Agenda for North Carolina. The EDC launched its new website and recognized the winners of its business plan competition during the meeting.

## DB Schenker lands at Global TransPark

DB Schenker, a logistics service provider headquartered in New York, has signed a five-year renewable lease for one-half of a warehouse building at the N.C. Global TransPark and expects to eventually fill as many as 40 full-time jobs.

DB Schenker executed the lease after signing a contract for SLI to provide advanced logistics services for Spirit

Finally the N.C. Dept. of Commerce launched a new LinkedIn group, [N.C. Nano](#), to provide a central location for those interested in nanotechnology to contribute ideas, links, job postings and discussions geared towards growing the nanotech community in North Carolina.



*(Left-right) U.S. Dept. of Commerce Under Secretary Francisco Sanchez with N.C. Dept. of Commerce Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson in Washington.*

## Commerce participates in India seminar

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson participated in a conference, "Accelerating Inclusive Growth: The Future of U.S. – India Commercial Relationship," held June 30 in Washington, D.C. The event was designed to help business executives from small and medium-sized enterprises boost sales potential in India.

With rapid economic growth, the Indian demand for U.S. goods and services is strong, and bilateral trade between the two countries is increasing significantly. A panel discussion examined the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises in lesser known but growing cities like Pune, Nagpur, Ghaziabad, Indore, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, and Kochi. Francisco Sanchez - under secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce delivered the keynote speech. He said the U.S. is targeting India as one of the most promising global markets, and the small and medium-sized enterprises initiative will help the United States meet President Barack Obama's goal of doubling exports in the next five years.

[U.S. to target investment to smaller Indian cities](#) (The Economic Times, July 1)

AeroSystems, the anchor tenant at the TransPark and leading supplier of airplane assemblies and components.

Darlene Waddell, the GTP's executive director, commented, "DB Schenker's arrival at the GTP signals the continuing impact of Spirit's opening, as well as the GTP's potential to expand as an aerospace center."

The new tenant will occupy space in the building known as GTP 2.

As a third-party logistics supplier for Spirit AeroSystems, DB Schenker's work at the Global TransPark will be patterned after a similar project Schenker operates at Spirit's Wichita, Kan., site. The scope of work will include product receipt and put away; pick, pack and sequenced line feed to "point of use" locations. [Read more.](#)

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## Stewart reappointed as Ports Authority chairman

Gov. Bev Perdue has reappointed Carl J. Stewart Jr. of Gastonia as chairman of the N.C. State Ports Authority for a six-year term. Stewart, former speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives, was originally appointed as chairman in 2004. He served in the House of Representatives from 1967 through 1980, representing the 38th District. Stewart also served on the N.C., Board of Transportation from 1981 until 1983, and was a member of the Economic Development Board and the N.C. Board of Technology from 1999-2001. Currently, he practices law in Gastonia.

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## Washington Post suggests Blue Ridge Parkway, visits Mast Farm Inn

The Washington Post recently included the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, among three roads in its "Take the Slow Road," roads where you'll want to downshift, meander and absorb the scenery. Before it was called the Blue Ridge Parkway, it was called the Appalachian Scenic Highway, or The Scenic for short, and to preserve the vistas, no billboards or commercial signs are allowed. Neither are commercial vehicles, except for tour buses. Conceived as a New Deal project that would put people back to work, the road is actually an elongated park with 264 scenic overlooks plus countless picnic areas, campgrounds, hiking trails, waterfalls, streams and more. [Read the article.](#)

Also in the same edition, the same writer visited the Mast Farm Inn in Valle Crucis, telling some of the inn's history but also noting its modern amenities and fine dining. [Read the article.](#)

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## Rural Center to offer entrepreneurship seminar

The Rural Center's Institute for Rural Entrepreneurship is offering an intensive daylong seminar Aug. 17 in Pilot



Eddie Lynch

## Lynch elected chair of N.C.'s Northeast

Eddie Lynch was recently elected chair of the [N.C.'s Northeast Commission](#) board. He was appointed in 2007 by N.C. Speaker Joe Hackney. Lynch, who retired in January as a CenturyLink public relations manager/lobbyist, will work with the Northeast Commission and other board members on economic development opportunities including marketing to potential companies, assisting with business relocation, leveraging grant funds for economic development, and working with county economic development groups in the 16-county region.

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## 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 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 - July 12, 2010

New projects assigned:	246
Projects announced:	65
Jobs created:	9,188
Capital invested:	\$1.43B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	720
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	12,796

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

Mountain. "Energizing Entrepreneurship Express" is designed to help rural leaders in central and western North Carolina promote entrepreneurship in their communities.

The upcoming seminar will be held at the Pilot Center at Surry Community College. It will involve community-based teams of four to seven rural leaders who work to build support networks for entrepreneurs. Participants are expected to include professionals from economic development organizations, chambers of commerce and Small Business Centers at local community colleges. [Learn more.](#)

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## Enrollment continues to climb in '12 in 6' program

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Workforce Development continues to track the progress of Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW "12 in 6" initiative. The community colleges have been asked to provide monthly reports regarding the number of students enrolled, courses offered and the number of jobs created and maintained. The numbers through June 30 show that 13,777 students are enrolled in the program (up from 12,347 as of May 31), and 2,091 courses have been offered (up from 1,923 as of May 31).

- [Expert upbeat on Triangle economy](#) (The Herald-Sun, Durham, July 8)
- [Marines, state join forces to keep N.C. military-friendly](#) (The Sun-Journal - New Bern, July 6)
- [State seeks money to lure businesses](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 6)
- [The nanoschool gets real](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, July 6)
- [Centuries-old N.C. 'Mother Vine' is ailing](#) (The Charlotte Observer, July 6)
- [New model needed to attract business](#) (Carteret County News Times, July 2)

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