

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



Gov. Bev Perdue speaks at a press conference July 20 announcing 338 new jobs planned at Continental Teves in Fletcher. (Photo courtesy Hendersonville Times-News/Patrick Sullivan)

## Continental Teves to add 338 jobs in Fletcher

Gov. Bev Perdue announced July 20 that brake systems and components manufacturer Continental Teves will expand its operations in Henderson County. The company, a wholly owned subsidiary of global automotive supplier Continental, plans to invest \$30.1 million and create 338 jobs in Fletcher during the next five years. Perdue made the announcement at the plant in Fletcher.

"North Carolina ranks 10th nationally in automotive-related jobs thanks to the commitment of such international leaders as Continental and its subsidiary in our state," Gov. Perdue said. "Established companies continue to grow here because they know the value of our top business climate and skilled workforce."

Continental has its North American headquarters in Michigan and operates two facilities in North Carolina. The Fletcher manufacturing plant currently employs 288 workers, while a plant in Morganton has 367 employees. The overall average wage for the 338 new jobs in Fletcher is expected to be \$36,179, not counting benefits, which is higher than the Henderson County average of \$31,252.



Sec. Keith Crisco speaks at the N.C. Aerospace Alliance Supplier Conference

## Conference promotes N.C. aerospace supplier industry

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco gave the opening welcome remarks at the inaugural [N.C. Aerospace Alliance Supplier Conference](#), held July 14 at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh. The event provided an opportunity for many smaller North Carolina companies to meet and network with aerospace defense contractors who land big military contracts.

More than 380 people attended the conference, which included an exhibit area featuring 55 booths for one-on-one interaction with contractors, manufacturers and suppliers. The event was organized by the N.C. Aerospace Alliance Foundation, which is a Golden LEAF-funded initiative committed to growing jobs in the state. Commerce's International Business Development Manager Jim Roberts and Economic Developer Rod Forsythe also participated in the conference.

## Editorial: Yet again, N.C.'s economy will adapt

*The following editorial was originally published in The News & Observer (Raleigh) on July 9. It is partially reprinted in SYNC with permission from The N&O and author Dr. Michael L. Walden. Dr. Walden is a William Neal Reynolds distinguished professor at N.C. State University and author of*



(Left-right) Sen. Joe Sam Queen, Henderson County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Moyer, Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll, Sec. Keith Crisco are shown at the announcement at the Continental Teves plant in Fletcher.

Continental Teves is part of German giant Continental AG, often referred to by the nickname "Conti." Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco met with Conti officials during a visit to Germany as part of the department's European economic trip in June. Fletcher plant manager Bobby Nelon also attended that meeting. Commerce's Bill Payne was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

[338 jobs announced in Fletcher](#) (Times-News - Hendersonville, July 20)



Visit Charlotte Executive Director Mike Butts, Charlotte Area Hotel Association Executive Director Sid Smith, Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing & Global Branding Lynn Minges, Sec. Keith Crisco, NASCAR Hall of Fame Executive Director Winston Kelley, International Business Development Manager Derek Chen, Asheboro City Council member Walker Moffitt, Commerce intern William Pugh.

## Crisco tours future NASCAR museum

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges toured the future [NASCAR Hall of Fame](#) July 15 following a meeting of the Charlotte Area Hotel Association in Charlotte. Scheduled to open in May 2010, the Hall of Fame will be a state of the art facility with a theater, a restaurant, space for inductees to be honored, a transponder simulator and a newsroom.

"North Carolina in the Connected Age."

It's easy to feel hopeless in today's economy. North Carolina's unemployment rate is the seventh highest in the nation, and it's likely headed higher. We've lost almost a quarter million jobs since the recession began. Families barely touched by previous recessions have seen this one decimate their savings, pound their home's value and create worry about what's next.

The recession will eventually end. Most economists now think the downturn will stop at the end of this year or the beginning of 2010. However, a recession's ending doesn't mean everything immediately returns to where it was before the recession began. It simply means the economy stops going in reverse and begins moving forward. But the time it takes to get back to where we were may be long -- some have said two years or more.

So then why am I hopeful about the economy?

I'm optimistic because we in North Carolina have successfully dealt with economic adversity before. Over the past 30 years the state's economy has been literally remade and transformed.

Recessions create opportunities for economic rebirths and renewals. Because we've created a "new North Carolina" many times before, we are in an excellent position to push our economy to new heights in the years ahead. [Read more.](#)

## Eastern Region approves workforce grants

[North Carolina's Eastern Region](#) (NCER) has announced that it will award grants to two groups for WorkKeys Certification and Profiling. The recipients of this year's awards are Assessing Skills for Performance in a Rebounding Economy (ASPIRE) and Turning Point Workforce Development Board. ASPIRE is an alliance of community colleges serving Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pitt and Wayne Counties. ASPIRE received \$225,626 in grant funds which will be used to develop a model for job profiling and testing of adults and high school students.

Turning Point Workforce Development Board, serving Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson Counties, received a grant award in the amount of \$58,000. With these funds, Turning



(Left - right, seated) Piedmont Triad Partnership Chairman James Morgan, AdvantageWest Chairman Tommy Jenkins, N.C.'s Southeast Chairman Jane Smith, N.C.'s Eastern Region Chairman Calvin Anderson, and N.C.'s Northeast Chairman Ernest Burden. (Left-right, standing) Eastern Region CEO John Chaffee, consultant Lawrence Bivins, Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll, Northeast Commission President Vann Rogerson, Charlotte Regional Partnership CEO Ronnie Bryant, attorney Don Donadio, Research Triangle Regional Partnership CEO Charles Hayes, Southeast Commission Director Steve Yost, AdvantageWest CEO Scott Hamilton, Piedmont Triad Partnership CEO Don Kirkman, and Spirit AeroSystems N.C. Site Operations Director Rick Davis. (Photo courtesy of Cindy Carroll)

## Crisco, Carroll speak at NCPED meeting

The [N.C. Partnership for Economic Development](#) (NCPED) held its quarterly meeting in Greenville July 16 - 17. Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was the after-dinner speaker on July 16. Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll and Spirit AeroSystems N.C. Site Operations Director Rick Davis were the presenters during the board meeting on July 17. Carroll gave an update on Gov. Bev Perdue's economic development priorities related to the life sciences/biotech, green energy, military supply chain and financial services sectors. He also briefed the seven regions on the status of the recovery program, including Commerce's management of federal funds through the Workforce Investment Act, Department of Energy, and the Community Development Block Grant program.

## N.C. jobless rate dips slightly for June

North Carolina's unemployment dipped slightly to 11 percent in June, down 0.1 percent from May, according to figures released July 17 by the [N.C. Employment Security Commission](#) (ESC). However the data also shows that the labor force declined by 10,347, signaling that many workers gave up looking for a job.

According to a release by [The Rural Economic Development Center](#), North Carolina's rural unemployment rate continued to exceed the state average in May, the latest month for which county figures are available. Rural counties overall experienced an unemployment rate of 11.7 percent, according to data released from the ESC. That's a slight rise from the previous month and more than a percentage point higher than the urban rate. Rural unemployment has exceeded 11.4 percent for all of 2009. Among individual counties, Scotland County recorded the highest unemployment rate in May, at 17.2 percent, followed by McDowell County at 16.5 percent.

[N.C. jobless rate dips to 11 percent](#) (The News & Observer -

Point will work closely with three community colleges to profile jobs and improve high school student participation with the ultimate goal of increasing the total number of students achieving career readiness certification. These grants will also be used to target job sectors in the regional economic clusters, including aerospace, marine trades, construction, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing.

## Union County on CNN list

Union County is No. 10 on CNNMoney.com's "Where the Jobs Are" list. The list profiles 25 U.S. counties that have experienced the most job growth since 2000. Pinal County, Ariz., was No. 1. The write-up on Union County mentions its proximity to Charlotte and plans for a 5,000-acre business industrial park being planned for the eastern part of the county. [Read more.](#)

## Four appointed to NCED Board

Gov. Bev Perdue recently appointed the following people to the [N.C. Economic Development \(NCED\) Board](#): Sue W. Cole, principal of Granville Capital Inc., Greensboro; Cy Rich, farmer and investor, Edenton; Raiford Trask III, president of Trask Land Co. Inc., Wilmington; and Dicky S. Walia, founder and owner of the Soleil Group, Cary.

The North Carolina Economic Development Board oversees state economic development research and planning and makes policy recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce, the governor and the General Assembly.

## N.C. in line for green appliances funds

Gov. Bev Perdue announced July 15 that North Carolina is in line to receive \$8.8 million in federal funds to help homeowners purchase energy-efficient appliances, from furnaces and room air conditioners to refrigerators and dishwashers. The money for ENERGY STAR rated appliances would be distributed through a program to be developed by the Energy Office along with the N.C. Office of Economic Recovery and Investment. The funds are part of nearly \$300 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act being distributed nationwide by the U.S. Department of Energy. [Read more.](#)

## Metrics from B&I Division

## State grant helps Yale Industrial Products expand in Wadesboro

Gov. Bev Perdue announced July 17 that Yale Industrial Products Inc., a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of material-handling products, will expand operations in Wadesboro. The company plans to invest \$3 million and create 65 jobs during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$116,300 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer.

Yale Industrial Products Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbus McKinnon Corp. of New York (NASDAQ: CMCO), which makes powered and manual hoists, trolleys, cranes and other material-handling equipment for diverse applications worldwide. Columbus McKinnon also owns Duff-Norton, a separate manufacturing facility in Charlotte. [Read more.](#)

## Military task force releases draft of regional growth plan

The Military Growth Task Force (MGTF), a special committee of [North Carolina's Eastern Region](#), has released its draft Regional Growth Management Plan. Mike Alford, chairman of the MGTF, stated, "The development of the plan represents another milestone in the MGTF's mission of managing the process of planning for the infrastructure and services that will be needed for the estimated 11,477 Marines and 9,501 dependents that will arrive in the region by the end of 2011."

The county commissions of the seven-county MGTF region, along with the city councils of Jacksonville and Havelock, have received a copy of the draft and will now have an opportunity to provide input and comments. The MGTF region comprises Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties. It encompasses almost 7,000 square miles and approximately one million residents. [See the plan.](#)

## State enables private partnerships for highway improvements

Gov. Bev Perdue has signed into law new legislation paving the way for the N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NC DOT) to forge partnerships with private developers on highway projects. The new law permits the NC DOT to enter into contracts with private developers related to the engineering, design or construction of improvements to the state's highway system. [Find out more.](#) [View the legislation.](#)

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the 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.

January - July 20, 2009

New projects assigned:	247
Projects announced:	59
Jobs created:	6,029
Capital invested:	\$1.772B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	944
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	14,737

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Stimulus seeps into Smokies](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, July 20)
- [Energy efficiency effort a boost to N.C. jobs](#) (Wilmington Star-News, July 19)
- [Visitors still flocking to N.C. Zoo during recession](#) (The Associated Press, July 17)
- [N.C. crane, hoist plant to expand and add 65 jobs](#) (The Associated Press, July 17)

# (919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)  
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

Building Location:  
301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:  
4301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

