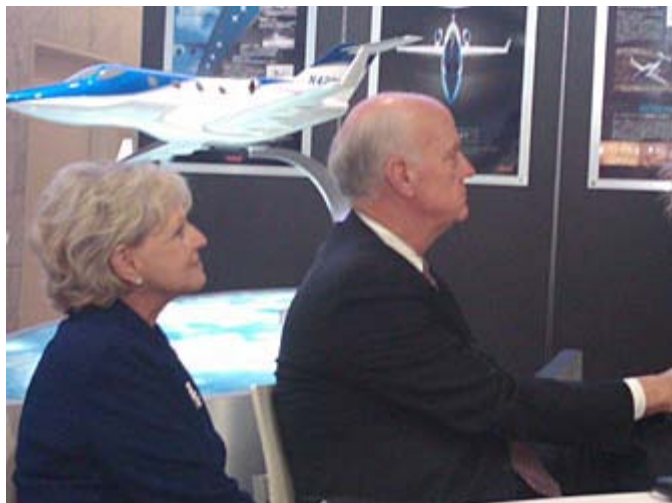


syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue and Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco are shown during a meeting with executives from Honda. Honda Aircraft Company, Inc., a subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., announced in 2007 that it would build its new HondaJet at Piedmont Triad International Airport.

Crisco joins Perdue on Asian mission

Sec. Keith Crisco joined Gov. Perdue for the 2009 Asia Business Development Trip. The mission will include official visits to Japanese and Chinese dignitaries and events, a number of client meetings and participation in the 33rd Annual Joint Southeast-U.S. Japan (SEUS) Conference. In a recent interview, Perdue said the trip underscores her No. 1 priority of creating and saving jobs. "As second and fourth largest trading partners, China and Japan represent significant growth opportunities for our state - especially in an economic downturn," she said. "When this recession ends, North Carolina must be poised to come out with strong economic relationships that allow us to create jobs in this state. This trip will help us do just that." Commerce officials and Governor's Office staff left for Japan and China last week and are expected to return Oct. 27. Read the governor's [blog post](#) on her trip to Asia.



Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll at the NCEDA Fall Conference in Concord

Commerce participates in NCEDA conference

Commerce representatives attended the N.C. Economic Developers Association Fall Conference in Concord Oct. 13-14. Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll presented an update on Commerce's activities as part of the program. The theme of the conference was "Connecting to Key Industry Sectors" and presentations included "Connecting to the Energy Sector," "Connecting to the Biotechnology Sector" and "Connecting to the Aerospace/Defense Sector." [View the update by Deputy Sec. Carroll.](#)

Perdue addresses Global TransPark Board

On Oct. 13, Gov. Perdue addressed the Global TransPark Authority Board, underscoring the importance of projects like the state-owned industrial park created in 1991. Aircraft manufacturer Spirit Aerosystems broke ground last year on a new production facility and plans to hire more than 1,000 employees within the next three years. "I think with Spirit and the other smaller companies coming, we are really on our road to success," Perdue said.

Report: N.C. is top state in which to build a data center

North Carolina is the top state in the nation, and the United States is the No. 2 nation in which to build a data center, according to a



(Left-right) Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory; Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Chair Jennifer Roberts; Carolinas HealthCare System President and CEO Michael Tarwater; Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll; Premier Inc Chief Administrative Officer Jena E. Abernathy; Premier Inc President Susan DeVore

Premier to add 300 jobs in Charlotte

Gov. Bev Perdue on Oct. 14 announced that [Premier Inc.](#), the largest healthcare alliance in the nation, will move its headquarters from California and expand in Charlotte, adding 300 jobs over the next five years and investing \$17.7 million. The project was made possible in part by a state Job Development Investment Grant.

Premier is owned by more than 200 not-for-profit hospitals and healthcare systems - ranging from small and rural to large inner-city facilities - which share clinical knowledge and leverage purchasing volume to improve healthcare quality while reducing costs. The alliance provides services to more than 2,200 U.S. hospitals and more than 63,000 other healthcare providers.

The company currently employs more than 750 workers in North Carolina. The 300 new jobs will pay an overall average wage of \$69,400 a year, not including benefits. That is higher than the Mecklenburg County annual average of \$49,400.

[Read more.](#)

[Premier Healthcare bringing 300 jobs to Charlotte](#) featuring interview with Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll (WCNC - Charlotte, Oct. 15)



(Right-left) Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and Assistant Sec. for Community Development Joe Crocker join local elected officials and Southern Power executives for the groundbreaking in

report by Tishman Technologies Corp. The United States is ranked just behind Iceland. North Carolina favored highly for low energy cost, favorable labor and fiber optics. [Read the report.](#)

sportsnc.com launched

The Division of Tourism last week launched [sportsnc.com](#), a new website to serve as the authoritative resource on the vast array of North Carolina sporting event facilities and venues. The site features North Carolina's world-class sports destinations and facilities in big cities and small towns. With a long and colorful sports history and a proven track record of hosting successful sporting events and organizations, North Carolina is the winning choice for sports-events suppliers at every level of competition. The site, developed in collaboration with the N.C. Sports Association (NCSA) and N.C. Amateur Sports (NCAS), lists sports venues and events across the state -- big and small -- for organizers and visitors to use for planning purposes. With the help of industry partners, the Division of Tourism is working to get the word out about the immense diversity of sports venues and opportunities in the state. Take a look at www.sportsnc.com.

Weather Channel features N.C. foliage

The Division of Tourism's PR team secured a live broadcast on North Carolina fall color viewing sites and waterfalls on the Weather Channel Oct. 15. The broadcast from the Pisgah National Forest in Transylvania County was highlighted on the Weather Channel's morning programming from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. A link to two of the segments from the broadcast can be found at [Blue Ridge Parkway Segment](#) and [Dr. Leaf Explains Fall Color](#). The second story features Dr. Howard Neufeld, who is VisitNC.com's fall color viewing expert. This story aired nationwide bringing positive coverage to Western North Carolina at a critical travel time.

N.C. unemployment remains unchanged

The N.C. Employment Security Commission reported Oct. 16 that the state's unemployment rate remained at 10.8 percent in September. The report listed an additional 9,700 people working, but nearly 2,900 out of

Cleveland County.

Southern Power breaks ground on Cleveland Co. plant

Southern Power, the subsidiary of Southern Company that acquires, builds, manages and owns generation assets that have been constructed for the wholesale market, on Oct. 13 broke ground on an electric generating plant near Grover, in southern Cleveland County. Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and Assistant Sec. for Community Development Joseph Crocker participated in the groundbreaking.

The plant will, in part, provide electric power to the company's wholesale customers through long-term contracts with two North Carolina power companies: North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1.

The generating plant, owned and operated by Southern Power, will consist of four Siemens F Class gas turbine units and will be able to generate approximately 720 megawatts at the summer peak. The units will be built on a portion of the 275-acre site, leaving the potential for future expansion. Commercial operation of all four units is expected in early 2012. [Read more.](#)

[Groundbreaking investment: Southern Power looking at \\$1.2 billion](#) (Shelby Star, Oct. 13)



Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, right, jokes with N.C. Rep. Efton Sager, left, and former representative Louis Pate following the Oct. 13 meeting of the Goldsboro Rotary Club.

Crisco speaks to Goldsboro Rotarians

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was the guest speaker Oct. 13 at the Goldsboro Rotary Club's fall meeting. Crisco spoke on industrial development in the state amid the changing economy. Crisco told the Goldsboro Rotary Club and guests that, while there's no crystal ball to see the future, he believes the state is moving in the right direction to position itself for success when the economy turns around.

[Commerce secretary: Economy getting help](#) (Goldsboro News-Argus, Oct. 14)

work.

ESC spokesman Andy James was quoted on WRAL.com as saying the state added 13,000 governmental jobs, mostly teaching positions. However the state lost 6,500 transportation, trade and utilities related jobs.

[North Carolina unemployment remains 10.8 percent](#) (Oct. 16, 2008)

Commerce participates in BIOJapan

Foreign Trade Representative Sumio Shibata participated in the [BioJapan 2009](#) trade show Oct. 7-9 in Yokohama, Japan. The three-day event also featured a GreenBio pavilion to focus on this emerging sector.

McBrierty named to Science and Technology Board

Gov. Bev Perdue has named Mike McBrierty of Chapel Hill to the [N.C. Board of Science and Technology](#). McBrierty is senior manager of public affairs at Biogen Idec in Research Triangle Park.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by The 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 - Oct. 19, 2009

New projects assigned:	355
Projects announced:	90
Jobs created:	10,138
Capital invested:	\$2.25B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,199
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	20,883

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Oyster restoration projects provide jobs](#) (Outer Banks Sentinel, Oct. 19)
- [Hire ground? Triad sees some uptick in](#)

Commerce participates in wireless trade show

Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson participated in the International [CTIA Wireless 2009](#) trade show Oct. 6-9 in San Diego. Seven North Carolina companies exhibited their mobile products and met with industry experts. The event brought together manufacturers, developers, carriers and users to share ideas and debate the economics and future of the wireless business - from health and wellness applications to mobile marketing and entertainment applications.

Northwest N.C. Visitor's Center now open

The Northwest N.C. Visitors Center is now open in Wilkesboro. This is the state's first environmentally friendly rest station, featuring solar panels, geothermal wells for heating and cooling, and a rain-water collection system, which N.C. Dept. of Transportation officials hope will collect enough to operate the on-site lavatories. People can even monitor the center's energy usage [here](#).

[N.C. DOT opens 'green' rest station](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Oct. 12)

Enrollment up in '12 in 6' program

The 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 Sept. 30 show that 1779 students are enrolled in the program (up from 1055 as of Aug. 31), and 235 courses have been offered (up from 111 as of Aug. 31). [Read more](#).

[job growth](#) (Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Oct. 16)

- [Stimulus may aid N.C. buyers](#) (The News & Observer, Oct. 16)
- [N.C. reports 24,442 jobs created or saved by stimulus money](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Oct. 16)
- [Charlotte firm plans biomass power plant](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Oct. 15)

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